

The setting:

A non-Valentine, Valentine's weekend in the mountains. Gary came out for a long weekend to visit many of his California friends. It was the perfect opportunity to have another writing party.

Writing began on Sunday evening. Earlier in the weekend the group had watch a video by Dr Malkmus, a proponent of an 85% raw food diet filled with barley greens and carrot juice. His "Hallelujah Acres" retreat is a place where folks can go and rid themselves of toxins, built up from the Standard American Diet. There is so much more to be said about his presentation and research. But the best that can be said is that this program worked for him. I was diagnosed with cancer and refused traditional treatments - looking instead for a natural cure. He has lived a few decades longer thus far, than expected.

The writers:

Deanna, Emelly, Barbara, Bill, Mike, Janean, Gary, and Todd. Gaby took a nap downstairs...

Deanna

One sunny morning in the high mountains of Colorado an old man sat on a rickety old rocking chair smoking a long cigar. On his wrist was a silver and gold Goldstar watch. He looked down at his shiny new watch and...

Todd

...remembered the day when his Goldstar Terra Firma Glider had been new too. Oh what places he'd gone, or should I say "floated" to. Even when it was raining he could travel without hitch to any destination. In fact, the best trip had been when his crack-head junkies had brought a whole suitcase of shrooms. Oh how they "floated" all the way to old town Tucson. If Chip hadn't tried to catch that gunfighter falling from the roof in the stunt show, they would've maybe never come home...

Gary

...but as it was, the gunfighter was so grateful for what chip had done that he gave them a free "ride" back. But the acid he gave them was tainted and they didn't even get to Santa Fe before Chip was as high as he'd ever been. As he soared among the clouds chatting with eagles, he suddenly remembered that he hadn't remembered to wind his watch. This was going to cause problems...

Mike

...He had no idea when he left town, or even what town it was. Time was very important for the whole system to work right. The mushrooms fueled the glider, and his watch set how far he would go. For instance, if he wanted to go to Denver he'd only set his watch for 1: am, 3:00 am for Salt lake City, etc. But now without even a passing eagle to tell him the time he could only hope where (or when) he was! Then, suddenly a thud...

Janean

...he knew it meant out of fuel. But why did a glider have fuel anyway? Oh well, he figured he'd find out why someday. He slowly let the glider float down to the ground. But then it got faster and faster, then BOOM! They hit the ground. He knew he had to be dead. So he got up, found Larry, took off Larry's watch, noted that it was digital and took it. He figured that if he was dead, what did it matter if you steal. It was like being starving and taking bread. He simply needed to know the time, No matter if dead people didn't need time. He knew he was different. So he placed the watch on his wrist and began the new journey. This time...

Emelly

...he decided to stay away from gliders. It made sense since it had cost him one of his lives. He left Larry behind and set a trajectory for Hallelujah Acres where he heard that a diet change could do wonders for poor health. This diet had brought people back from "near" death. Maybe it could help him too. Soon, he realized that walking was not the preferred way of travel. He decided to rent a car. But, when he walked into the car rental shop, the woman behind the counter wouldn't help him. "Duh!" he thought, "I'm dead." Well, he would just have to hitch a ride to Hallelujah Acres with someone going that way. "this ought to be easy since no one can see me." he decided. So, he hopped into the

backseat of the next car that stopped at the stoplight and headed...

Barbara

...down Main Street with with an old woman who looked as if she could use the Hallelujah diet too. "Perhaps I could share my plan to visit Hallelujah acres wit her and she could take me all the way," he thought. Then he realized that if the lady at Hertz hadn't seen him, this little old lady would probably not be able to see him either. And he didn't want to frighten her as she looked quite frail. Besides, he didn't even know where Hallelujah Acres was. And if nobody recognized his voice to answer his questions, he was sunk. What to do? If he only had a body people could see, so that they would talk to him!

Bill

As luck would have it, he found a fit, strong, black man and took over his body. Running from the Hertz rental counter to the ticket counter he jumped over seats and passengers. He boarded the plane and was whisked away. Landing he ran like a football player running from a murder scene all the way to Hallelujah Acres. Breathlessly explaining his recipe for liquid mushrooms and how it could be added to their diet program...

Deanna

...I decided to take over his body immediately. Cuz, I needed to get to Hallelujah Acres and get back to my own self. So I jumped inside of this man. I then realized I or he was being chased by the police. "Oh what do do?" Thank goodness the man I had overtaken had a friend waiting in a white Ford Bronco outside the airport for me/him. We drove the freeway for a long time at a very slow pace. All I wanted was to be myself again and get to that Hallelujah Acres to get back to myself again. As the story goes I/he went through a court case for many months - wasted my time and everyone else's. We (he/I) was found not guilty. but I know the real truth. I finally got him to Hallelujah Acres and became myself again. He gave me this Goldstar watch to keep my mouth shut. And that's the real story.

Emelly

It was a sunny day in San Francisco. I had just taken my last finals and I didn't have a care in the world. I decided to head up to Lombard Street and just sit watching the evening traffic wind down the road like a snake. As I was walking in that direction, I felt compelled to go stop by my friend Ezra's house to see if he wanted to come with me. He worked at a small photo shop on the corner and should be off work by now. I stopped in and asked for Ezra. He was in the back. He came out and said "Hi Juliana" with a smile on his face. Suddenly...

Barbara

...we heard the sound of a diesel engine rumbling past outside the shop door. But San Francisco only has cable cars on the streets, so I knew it had to be an earthquake. As film canisters tumbled off the walls and the glass showcases shattered, sending fine shards everywhere, we ran for the street. At least outside there was less of a chance of being trapped under the rubble in case the entire four-story building collapsed. As we dashed through the doorway...

Bill

...all hell broke loose. "Ezra!" I turned and saw Ezra come through the doorway as the building collapsed. My knees buckled underneath me and - falling to the ground - smashed my face. Ezra managed to pick me up. The quake seemed to last for several minutes. I could hear explosions throughout the city. I was in my first year of med school...

Deanna

...I knew that I didn't have much knowledge about taking care of others let alone myself. As Ezra carried me through the streets of San Francisco the only thought that kept going through my mind was that I knew basic first aid and should be able to help some of those people back at that building. So I tried to reason with Ezra to let him know that I needed to go back and help, but he wouldn't let me go. He kept saying, "but you look terrible so you must feel terrible and I'm taking you to get some help for yourself. There is no way you will be able to give anyone any of your services in your condition." But I wasn't going to let him take me further away from those people in need so I...

Todd

...told him that anyone named after a prophet should at least do one good thing a day. He took that rather offensively, dropped me on the sidewalk, and went walking off muttering about all the Davids, Marys and Pauls of the world. As he rounded the corner a block away he screamed back, "Good thing my mother didn't name me Judas!" Now what the heck did that mean? The wails of sirens and people then began to mix into a cacophonous harmony which reminded me of my task at hand. Step number one of first aid is to tap the injured and ask "are you o.k.?" I began finding people and tapping them. "Are you o.k.? Are you o.k.?"

"Lady," one man asked, "I'm o.k. are you o.k.?"

Gary

"No, I'm Juliana."

"Nice to meet you Juliana. My name is Judas. How would you like to go for some coffee and biscotti?"

"Why, that sounds just divine!" exclaimed Juliana, and they went off arm in arm. However, all the local coffee shops were now flat as pancakes.

"Oh, this will never do" cried Judas, and he ran over to a pile of rubble that used to be a Starbucks and started picking through the rubble. He seemed to find something, and after a few minutes, Juliana saw Judas walk off arm in arm with another female victim. Juliana was shocked she turned around and saw Ezra standing right behind her. He was pointing a gun at her...

Mike

..."OK! OK! I've done my good deed! See, I took this gun way from a looter. You want to see..."

BANG! The gun went off, but fortunately the bullet missed Juliana and nailed Judas right in the back, sending him sprawling to the ground.

"Oh, my!" Now what have I done! I didn't mean to do that, really! I only wanted to do good like you told me!"

"Just shut up Ezra! What about Judas?"

"Oh, he was a very bad person in the Bible. He..."

Janean

...Oh never mind, you wouldn't understand. Let's get out of here Juliana."

"But Judas, we need to help!" said Juliana.

"Juliana, I'm Ezra, not Judas, you need some help." replied Ezra. After 30 minutes of discussing Ezra, Judas, good deeds, and bad deeds, Juliana finally conveyed to Ezra that he had shot a man named Judas, completely depriving him from doing his bad deed for the day. By that time, he was dead and - in loving memory - Juliana and Ezra decided to do Judas' bad deed of the day for him. They came up with a plan of betrayal that would make Judas proud. So they left his bloody dead body and returned back to the photo shop...

Emelly

...But, Juliana and Ezra looked around and realized that San Francisco was up in flames, people were in misery and that with a name like Judas he had probably already done his bad deed for the day. So they changed their minds and started helping people. Besides, they reasoned - What's in a name?

Barbara

Along the eastern edge of Lake Geneva lies a castle which once belonged to a Lady whose favorite past-time was to read romance novels. One morning she was sitting in a tree reading with the bright morning sun beating down on her and along came a knight in shining armor. Thinking she was dreaming, she pinched herself...

Bill

..."Ouch", she said realizing it was no dream. "Excuse me Mr Knight, " she said raising her arm in an effort to flag him down. He rode up to her and raised the face protector on his helmet.

"Lancelot at your service my lady."

"Come down off your horse." He dismounted his steed and clanked over to her. She unclipped his helmet and lifted it carefully off his head. Leaning forward she kissed him deeply and passionately. Suddenly she felt a hardness raise up from the knight and come between her legs.

"Lancelot!" she gasp, "is that your sword or are you just happy to see me?"

Deanna

"Well to tell you the truth. I have a bit of a problem, I was down at the riverbed fighting off the dragons when I looked up and a beautiful lady - much like yourself was running by. She wasn't wearing a stitch of clothing. So I tried to pinch myself to see if I was dreaming and when I reached my hand down...

Todd

...to lift my shield, a small marmot dashed up my leg and hid under my arm. I tried to get him out but only succeeded in making the sounds of flatulence. He was shivering and I thought it would be the least I could do to let him warm up. Upon nearing you, he must've been fearful due to that atrocious odor you are emitting and hidden in my lower sector. "

"Oh! And I'm sure the smell there is fragrant!"

"Well, a rose for your nose it ain't, but since it's Valentine's day, I can assume you'll pretend." Disgusted with the obnoxious knight, she spun on her heel and left him in a green cloud...

Gary

...All the servants in the hallway immediately stopped and held their breath and covered their noses.

"Nobody is going to really be happy to see her until she does something about that stench," one of them said under their breath.

The orange cloud which followed her ate bits of paint off the wall. She walked into her bedroom and slammed the door shut. Thirty seconds later the door opened and a marmot came out gagging and choking clawing at his eyes and nose. He shrieked, did a beautiful pirouette and landed on his back, one leg sticking straight up in the air, dead as a door knob. No, this castle was going to be lonely place. "Unless..."

Mike

...my true love comes and sweeps me off my feet. and..." She again pinched herself. "Ouch! Yes, I'm only dreaming again!"

Just then, a knock came to the door. "Who might that be?" she wondered. She opened the door and found a little man in a servants outfit.

"Yes?" she signed, disappointed that it wasn't her hero.

"My lady, I am here to escort you to your weekly therapy at the Excess Flatulence and Over-Pinchers Anonymous Association."

Janean

She replied, "Try across the street, I think you're at the wrong castle." At that she slammed the door and ran through the castle to the secret trap door. Once in the secret room, or so she thought, she settled in for her usual tomato juice bath. Once again, she would get rid of the stench which always stayed close to her. As she got settled in, dreaming of the next knight she might meet, she heard a slam. It sounded like the trap door. She jumped up, grabbed her towel, just in time to see a handsome young man walk towards her. She immediately reached up to check her hair, knowing it must be a mess, and altogether forgetting she was covered in tomato juice and was clothed only by a towel. He broke the silence by...

Emelly

...introducing himself. "Princess," he said, "I am your only hope. If you want to get rid of this terrible stench that you emit, you must follow my directions exactly."

The princess quickly got dressed and said "I'll do ANYTHING to get rid of this awful stench."

"Well," said Dr. Malkmus, the first thing that you've got to do is stop poisoning your body with meat, dairy, sugar, salt, and other unnutritious foods. Then, buy a carrot juicer and some barley green and..." SPLASH! The princess threw the doctor into the tomato bath. It was those servants again trying to get her to stop eating those delicious Mexican beans. NO WAY! If they wanted to convince her, they would have to be more creative than this. But, then she sank again into depression and the green cloud that floated around her. What could she do? Should she reconsider going to the Excess Flatulence and Over-Pinchers Anonymous Association?

Barbara

No, she decided, this was something she must deal with herself. Perhaps she could work with her diet, systematically eliminating the foods which upset her the most. Or perhaps this was all a dream and she would wake up any moment to find herself still in her favorite tree, sunburnt, but reassured.

Yes, this had all been a dream. And a very strange dream at that. What could it mean? That smell, "Oh yes, I did have haystacks for lunch, didn't I." she remembered. "I'll have to be more careful of my diet before lounging in the sunshine after this," she realized. And with that she climbed down from the tree and went in to use the latrine.

Bill

Her red hair stood out in the crowd. "Women of Jerusalem," she said, "Don't come between my lover and I."

But they asked, "What is so special about your lover that we should let him be for you only?"

She thought for a moment - what indeed. He was not wealthy. Not a man of position in the society. But he was hers.

She said, "He is handsome, His eyes are black as night, his teeth are perfect doves lined up in a row..."

Deanna

...and his thighs are like beef steaks. He works night and day to build them up. That is why I love him."

"But what does he do for you, that you should want to keep him for yourself?" they asked.

She again thought for a moment, but this moment was shorter than the last, because she knew the answer she would give them. This would surely keep these women of Jerusalem away from him and probably her as well.

She said, "He always..."

Todd

...glows at night right before falling asleep. Then, if I seem to have nightmares, I merely have to touch his arm and he glows again." The townspeople were perplexed.

"Why does he calm your nightmares and how?" They remembered back in '56 when she had collapsed the coal mine, torched the city hall, and driven an 18 wheeler through Furr's cafeteria. All this had happened in one fitful night of terror when she transcendently sought to loose the town of oppressiveness. But how did his glowing cure this psychotic frenzy?...

Gary

...The little yellow creature inside his brain grinned mischievously. "If they only knew!" He said to himself. This wasn't the first time he had worked a woman with a head of flaming hair. He wasn't sure why it was that the women in red so obsessed him. But with this human male host as his instrument, unremarkable though it seemed, he could do remarkable things. No woman who had sampled him would ever be satisfied again. No, the women of Jerusalem were justified in their desire. But it wouldn't matter. Right now, she was his. And with her he was going to...

Mike

... "show these people what true love really is!"

"So? Will you tell us? Why does his glowing calm you?" they again asked her.

"Why don't you ask him? He's of age." she answered.

It was then that they drew their attention to the young man sitting beside her.

"Oh no!" thought the creature, "they'll find me out!" And with that the man began to glow...

Janean

... "I must tell you my secret," he began. "I always felt as a child that I was different. I couldn't put my finger on it until one day when I asked my mom why everyone picked on me and treated me different. With tears in my eyes, my mother told me that the reason my nickname was 'glow worm' was not because glow worms were the most popular toy, but because when I was hugged, I began to glow." The women of Jerusalem gasped. He continued, "I decided that from that moment on, I would only reveal my special powers to those with an open heart and who would accept me. I kept my glow on the inside. This was painful, as I did not hug any person for years. Until..."

Emelly

... one day, I was at the fruit market in the center of town. A beautiful red-headed woman was walking along, weighed down by all of her bundles she carried. I saw that she was going to step directly into a ditch. I wanted to reach out and catch her before she fell, but I knew that I could not - for this would reveal my power. But, against my will, I did. She grabbed onto me for balance as her bundles fell to the ground and, as I predicted, I began to glow. But, even though I glowed a fluorescent yellowish green, she did not reject me. This impressed me and I have remained with her ever since." All the women sighed with oohs and aahs. The little yellow creature laughed mischievously. "I have deceived these women of Jerusalem." he thought. But he was wrong. His identity was soon to be discovered because there was one woman who saw through it all.

Barbara

And this woman was the gorgeous red-head he thought was totally under his control.

You see, true love has more to it than most people realize. In this woman, he had found someone whom he could trust implicitly. Through he didn't know a yellow creature controlled him. He was able to share enough of his past and his nightmares that this friend began to suspect something out-of-the ordinary was in control of him...

Bill

...Civil war broke out in his mind and body - his contortions were wretchedly grotesque. Suddenly fluorescent yellowish green ooze, shot out his nose and ears. Retching violently the ooze spewed from his mouth and he soiled his pants in the very same ooze. For several moments he lay motionless. Then he sat up.

"Women of Jerusalem" the red-haired woman spoke, "It is true love which calms my nightmares. It is true love which heals the war inside us. Women of Jerusalem! It is true love that binds my lover and I."

Mike

A bright light burned my eyes. "What was that?" I thought. My groggy mind took time to gain its bearings. "Oh," I thought, "Its the sun." It was noon and the sun bore down on my head creating beads of sweat that trickled down my neck. "Oh my head!" It throbbed. The lump on my forehead bore witness to the struggle I had had a few hours before.

I dipped my hand into the creek just next to me and splashed water on my face...

Janean

...I began to recount what had happened. I remembered the sound of a car, blackness, and then the beating. I could see bits and pieces flashing through my head. But why? Who? I could see them standing over me, but their faces were a blur. As a matter of fact, where was I? Who was I? I remember that it is June, or July, well, I'm not sure after all. I decided I must find some help. I looked around. Hmm...a stream, some trees, and a vast meadow in the distance. I began walking towards the tree, noting the footprints on the ground. I followed the prints as best I could, and immediately...

Emelly

...turned left at a tree that I thought I recognized. I tumbled along, aimlessly it seemed. My head still throbbing, I heard a drum beat in the distance. Was it a drum or my head? I couldn't tell, but the noise was getting louder. As I got closer, I realized that the bushes were following me.

"Man," I thought, "I'm really out of it". But, it was true. The bushes were moving. I didn't know it, but I had wandered onto the Holy land of the last man-eating tribe in Arkansas. "Great." I thought. What to do.

BAM! - everything went dark. When I woke up, I was handcuffed to a baby elephant's leg and I couldn't move. Now, I had two bumps on my head, and I could remember everything I had forgotten earlier. I was a criminal, yes...a criminal that had stolen a black Mercedes...

Barbara

...I remembered well now. Back in New York I had worked on Wall Street as an up-and-coming broker in a prominent firm. Then something happened. I still wasn't sure why I had run into so much trouble, but it soon became bad enough that I lost my apartment, my car, and my job all in three days. Not sure where I would go, I found the black Mercedes with the ignition key sitting on the seat and helped myself, heading west out of the city as quickly as possible. Knowing the police would soon be looking for me, I drove a random sequence of freeways, back roads and city streets until...

Bill

...a midget stood up on the back seat and put a gun to my head. "Pull over." So I did. "Get out." Said the midget. So I did. Midgets emerged from the car like a swarm of cockroaches. The one with the gun spoke to me. "Mortal man - you have just one chance to live. Answer me falsely and you will die."

I swore on everything I could think of that I would answer truthfully.

"Who stole the Portuguese Blue Spotted Turtles?"

What!?!?!?! I knew I was a dead man now...

Deanna

...I had no idea who stole the Portuguese Blue Spotted Turtles, I couldn't even remember things that were important like who I was. I wracked my brain trying to remember where I had heard about Portuguese Blue Spotted Turtles. All of a sudden it hit me. I had been at one of those all-star movie cast writing parties. I was asked to start a story that someone else was going to finish. Now why would someone want to do that if they themselves could finish the story and get all the royalties when it became a movie. But I then thought what the heck maybe someone here will like the beginning of my story and I'll be a hit. So I looked across the room and saw a lady who had a black dress with Portuguese Blue Spotted Turtles hanging on...

Todd

...FOOMP! What was that I wondered, snapping back to reality. Suddenly I smelled it. Just moments before the ooze began to slide down my back. The baby elephant had ripped one, a truly wet one and all the jokes I'd ever cracked in elementary school came to haunt me. The chief of the Arkansas man-eaters began jumping up and down, hollering and waving his arms. Within minutes I was cut loose and thrown into a pond, the pond of state. This was my chance. The tribesmen were yelling at me and each other. I looked left. I looked right. And...

Gary

...started running. I ran straight into the sister of the chief of the Arkansas man-eaters. Or maybe it was his wife. Probably both. But never mind. I ran. Soon the Arkansas dudes calmed down from the flatulent event and they realized I was gone. So they sent out the killer alligators to chase me down. It didn't take them long to catch me. They cornered me near Ol' Slick Will's house (he doesn't live there currently).

The alligators questioned me: "Are you the one we are looking for?"

"That depends on how you define looking!"

Mike

Suddenly, the alligators transformed into tiny midgets "The one who knows about the Portuguese Blue Spotted Turtles. We were told that renegades from our planet approached you regarding them. They are very dangerous and must be stopped. Did they hurt you?"

"No, and I never told them anything about my dealings with the Portuguese Blue Spotted Turtle Trading Company of Las Vegas."

With that they hopped into their white BMW and vanished, leaving me covered in elephant dung and swamp muck. What a day!

Janean

As the mist drenched her long brown hair, she dreamed of being back safe and dry at home. Nothing seemed as important now than making it back home safe. The mission had been a success, she had also proved she was capable. Somehow she couldn't convince herself deep down that she was so capable, she chalked most of it up to luck. She drew near to the check point and sent up the flare. The helicopter would be there to pick her up in ...

Emelly

...five minutes or so. She was very careful with the small cage that she held in her hand. In it, she contained two small chimpanzees. After months and months of searching in the remotest regions of South America they had succeeded in capturing these two animals. It was quite an accomplishment since when they arrived, she didn't even know if this chimpanzee really existed. But, now, she had two. And she had found them before all the other teams that had also been looking she had to keep her discovery top secret for fear that another scientist would steal them and claim her glory for their own. You see, all the searching scientists knew that these chimpanzees contained a special cell in their bodies that would provide...

Barbara

...the long awaited cure for this horrid disease which had reached epidemic proportions in the northeast and would soon threaten New York City. But before she could get the animals home and begin to retrieve the necessary cells, she had to get it back to her lab at home. Finding it had been challenge enough. Now transporting the chimps was becoming more than she had bargained for. What was that sound in the distance? Was it the familiar sound of chopper blades or...No, it sounded more like...

Bill

...a thundering waterfall. Her heart sank. Suddenly however a helicopter appeared and landed a short distance from her. The "thump thump" pounded through her chest. Duke was at the controls and welcomed her with a big grin. Duke looked the part of a tough jug-head military jerk. But he really wasn't all that bad. She had been out in the jungle for several months and he would bring her supplies and news from home. One time she just jumped him and wrestled him to the ground...It was a bit rough but oh so satisfying...

Deanna

...All I wanted was the chocolate bar that he had in his pocket. It was a "watchamacallit" and I hadn't had one of those since I came on this mission. I saw a corner of the wrapper sticking out of Dukes front left pocket and I - I asked him what he had in his pocket and he said "Nothing." I knew what it was so I quickly set up an attack plan in my head. As soon as Duke would set down the supplies I would come up behind him and then WHAMMO - knee him in the butt and grab the "watchamacallit" candy bar as he flew forward. I would turn and run. But...

Todd

...before I could do anything, the chimpanzee jumped off my shoulder, grabbed the candy bar, and skittered up the nearest tree. Duke was infuriated. He reached into the chopper, pulled out an AK-47 and started showering the jungle with ammo.

"Stop! Stop!!" I screamed just moments before a spear whistled past my head, pinning Duke to the side of the helicopter. In moments he was dead and the jungle began to come alive as tribal head hunters emerged from the underbrush...

Gary

...The headhunters looked at Duke, she heard them say "No good, No hair." They turned and looked at her. She could see the sparkle in their eyes as they approached her. They stopped only a few feet away.

"This isn't good," she thought.

She was still holding the cage which now only had one chimp in it. The chimp was cowering in the corner. Suddenly, it was raining coconuts. The head hunters turned and ran as coconuts began pelting them in the noggin. There was a loud racket and the 2nd chimp ran into the clearing with 100 other chimps following. The chimp in the cage, apparently quite impressed, darted out of the cage to greet her friend. She thanked him...

Mike

...for saving her from the head hunters, but no amount of coaxing could get either of them into the cage again. Without her dart gun, there would be no way to capture the precious chimps.

"But why bother with fame, and the scientific recognition, when I can have this multi-million dollar helicopter!!"

She jumped in, strapped herself to the pilot's seat and away she went.

Janean

Almost immediately, she remembered her friend the chimpanzee. She quickly lowered the helicopter, called to the chimp, and he jumped into the helicopter "It's just you and me kid" she said as they flew off into the sunset with their newly acquired helicopter.

Gary

His boots made a slurping sound as he walked through the green goo that seemed to make up most of the surface of the planet. Eerie sounds emanated from the pink and purple translucent objects he took to be trees. Mookie was a little frightened. Not that he liked to admit it, but he was a realist. His spaceship had crashed and sunk into the goo and he was now stranded here. He squished along until he saw...

Mike

...the blob. It was making its way directly toward him. It was huge and purple, and almost seemed to be luminescent as it glooped his way. Mookie had to act fast. Only a few yards left! He tried his blaster, but some sort of green slime gummed up the trigger mechanism!

Gloop, gloop, gloop came the blob ever closer. "Maybe if I'm totally still," he thought, It was worth a try, anyway. As luck would have it, it worked! The purple slime ball lost interest and glooped away.

Janean

Mookie was ready to jump back in the spaceship, afraid of what was out there, As he turned around, a bright glimmer caught his eye! Beautiful scenery, interesting objects, even a beautiful woman could not entice Mookie. But Mookie had a weakness - shiny objects. He immediately turned and ran, well, glooped, as fast as he could towards the object. He began to think that it might not be so bad here, especially if there were more shiny objects like this one. As he glooped along, Mookie didn't notice that the purple blob had returned. This time it...

Emelly

...came with a small army of other purple blobs. But these blobs were smaller. Mookie realized that these must be the purple blob's children. So Mookie went to his spaceship and brought out some purple blob baby toys (he just happened to have some with him) and quickly befriended the purple blob family that had seemed to have adopted Mookie. Then, Mookie remembered the shiny object he had seen and was once again drawn toward it in a trance. When the purple blob children realized that Mookie was slopping toward the FORBIDDEN SHINY OBJECT, they tried to get in his way. They spit purple slop balls at him in hopes to distract him. But they couldn't get Mookie to turn away. As Mookie got closer, the object got shinier and brighter.

"Come to Me Mookie" emanated the Forbidden Shiny Object. Mookie reached out his hand to touch the shiny object and then ZAP!! Mookie lay unconscious in the green slop, or was he dead?

Barbara

Seeing Mookie laying tin the green slop, the purple blob parents came toward him, concern showing in their purple countenances. They carefully examined Mookie to see if his "life force" was still with him (they didn't know how else to see if he was dead). He seemed fine, maybe just stunned. Or perhaps he was just entering some other form of life - like a phase his kind went through from time to time. Why was the FORBIDDEN SHINY OBJECT forbidden anyway? This thought was echoed in the minds of the purple

blob children. Perhaps there really was nothing bad about the object. Their parents might have had no reason to forbid it.

Bill

The FORBIDDEN SHINY OBJECT (FSO for short) spoke, "Didn't I tell you that you wouldn't die. Your friend has entered into an existence of increased knowledge he is like the Supreme Blobness. Come, see my shine! It is pleasant to the touch."

But the elder purple blobs wouldn't come near. The baby blobs turned and squished away.

The FSO spoke , "Get up Mookie..."

Deanna

...and stand before your maker! I've tried to bring you my way for a very long time and you are finally here. What took you so long? Actually, no don't tell me because I forgot that I am all knowing and I know what took you so long. It was those damn boots that you wore when you went through the green goo on the planet. If you would have called on me I would have given you these special...

Todd

...moon boots that some crackhead named Chip tried to sell me but I didn't fall for that so I didn't have them to give you." Mookie just sat there staring hypnotically at the shiny object.

"What are you?" he asked.

"Who? is a better question, Mookie. Most people call me FSO. But my real name is Yul Brenner. After playing the evil Pharaoh in "The Ten Commandments" no one would hire me. I was cast into a world of recluses and forgotten. It has been years since I've even seen a mortal and the last one was some guy who only said, 'WHAT IF MOM HAD CALLED ME JESUS?!?'"

Gary

So I have had to live out my life here on this - Green Planet of Goo. I don't get many visitors except for Charly Heston. But he couldn't stay long and had to go back to planet Ben Hur. The purple blobs are nice enough, but they leave stains when they touch me. That's why I don't let them touch me. They seem to have taken a liking to you. Since I am the King, I think I'll just take your spaceship and leave. I proclaim you FSO Jr.!"

And with that Yul left Mookie to his admiring fans of purple blobs.

Todd

Late Sunday night, the cabin was filled with warmth. Except for downstairs that is. Gabby was alone in the cold room with only the book and that mirror that wasn't a mirror. Each turning page seemed louder as the chill set in around her. "Goodness fiddlewink. It's cold!" She threw on a coat and went outside to find the furnace. "Was the pilot light out?" Just as she began to turn the knob to the cellar door she heard a quick shrill...

Gary

...fart. "What was that?" she asked aloud.

"Why, it's just little ol' me," replied a little green pig.

"Well, you're gross!" Gabby exclaimed.

"Perhaps," he answered, "but at least I'm warm!"

That was true, as Gabby realized the pig was wearing a green sweater, which greatly accentuated his subtle skin tones. "Can I get a sweater like that?" Gabby asked. "I'm cold and the furnace doesn't seem to be working."

"Sure," snorted the pig. "But you'll have to..."

Mike

...follow me to the pig sweater store where I bought it! Ha, Ha, 'snort', Ha! I'm really a funny pig! I'd like to do stand-up some day. Hollywood is my big dream. 'snort'"

But what about the sweater?" said Gabby "Where did you get it?"

"It was knitted by my cousin in Kansas."

"Your cousin, a pig?" asked Gabby.

"Why yes. 'snort'" said the pig, "She was always very good with her pigs feet and knitting." Just then they were interrupted by...

Janean

...a smaller pig.

"Pappy, I'm cold," said the little green pig. Gabby wondered why the little pig didn't have a sweater. It looked even more miserable than she felt.

"Son, how many times have I told you you had to earn a sweater?"

The little pig replied, "Well, I'm so little and never fit into the clothes you bring. Why that last man was so big there was no way..."

Pappy pig suddenly interrupted, "This is no time to discuss such details when we have company," Gabby pondered the little pig's comment and wondered how it would have been finished, along with the strange look on Pappy pig's face. Could the sweater have really been, no, thought Gabby, it was just a harmless little green pig...

Emelly

...But as Gabby thought more about it she realized that she really hadn't ever seen a green pig - even more interesting was that she had never heard pigs talk. Gabby realized, quite suddenly, that she was in grave danger. These pigs were not normal. She said a quick "good-bye" to the big pig and little pig and made her way back to the cellar door, calmly (so as not to reveal her fear) but rapidly. She had decided that she would rather suck it up and be cold then stay with these pigs. When she reached the cellar door, she turned the knob, but it was locked. Terror overcame her. "Stay calm" she told herself.

She slowly turned around and looked at the two pigs. As she analyzed her situation, it dawned on her that the sweater that pappy pig was sporting had actually belonged to Old Joe, a neighbor from down the road. Old Joe had mysteriously disappeared years ago and everyone assumed that he had gone to California to follow his dream of becoming an actor, but maybe...

Barbara

...this green pig had befriended him with his "stand-up actor in Hollywood" line and...well, she didn't want to finish that thought, wherever it was going. Right now she simply wanted to get out of the present situation.

"Excuse me, pigs," she said ever so politely. "I don't mean to be rude, but I must go now. I promised my friends that I'd meet them for supper and I don't want to be late." And with that, she quickly took off for the driveway, feeling in her pocket for the keys to her car. She really wasn't planning to meet her friends. In fact, she didn't even know where they were.

Bill

Her keys weren't in her pocket but in the house, the pigs squeaked in behind her. Realizing the hopeless situation she invited them in for dinner.

She had a big fireplace and rummaged around for kindling and a match. The big pot-bellied kettle sat in the fireplace. The green pig eyed Gabby as she picked up little pig with her right arm. She tickled his ears. "Giggle, snort" went the little pig. By now the fire was going and Gabby looked at Green pig. her gaze was steely and cold.

"So what book were you reading?" asked green pig nervously.

Deanna

"I was reading a book about eating healthfully so that I don't get sick."

Oh really" the pig said, "So what did the book talk about?" trying to keep the conversation going with Gabby so that she wouldn't even think of eating him.

"Well it was about not eating meat or cooked foods or anything but carrot juice, carrots, barley greens and fresh fruits and vegetables, including avocados. I was really getting into the book when I realized that I was freezing cold."

So do you think you can stay on this diet of NO MEATS!!, fresh fruits and vegetable, uncooked foods, carrot juice and barley greens?"

"Well..."

Todd

...at first I might be sick a while. But I heard that goes away after a week or two." The pigs seemed to relax when suddenly a spear came whistling past Gabby's head, skewering both pigs. Gabby took her cue and bolted from the cabin. Everywhere, purple blobs, green pigs, small elephants, and chimpanzees were scurried, slooped, and tromped. Spears were flying, shiny objects were talking, midgets were demanding something about blue turtles from Portugal. AAAAAAAAAAH!

She awoke suddenly. A glow came from nearby and her thoughts of maniacal terror began to fade. She knew the glow was from upstairs where her friends were writing. "I'll go join them," she thought, "its gotta be more comforting than this." THE END