



3-Word Eye-Hop

From
SuperReading®

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EYE-HOP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Pivot from your elbow and actually HOP from group to group of words.
2. Slide the page up with your left hand as you go. ("Left-handers reverse directions if desired")
3. Go as fast as you can WHILE MAINTAINING COMPREHENSION.
4. Actually "HOP" from group to group!
5. Do at least five minutes of Eye-Hop at a sitting,
6. Wait about TWO HOURS between sessions. This is very flexible.
7. Practice several times per day. Do as many sessions as you can!
8. Lay the Eye-Hop Exercises flat in front of you when you practice.
9. It's okay to know these stories very well. Their purpose is to get you to understand groups of words at a glance. Even if they seem memorized, it's just fine. If you feel differently, make your own!
10. When your hand moves from group to group so fast that it blurs, or seems to get in your way, move up to the next level. Once you move up, do NOT move back to the previous level, even if you slow down in the new level.
11. It's okay to preview these stories the first time through.

You can make your own Eye-Hops:
www.superreading.com/hopify

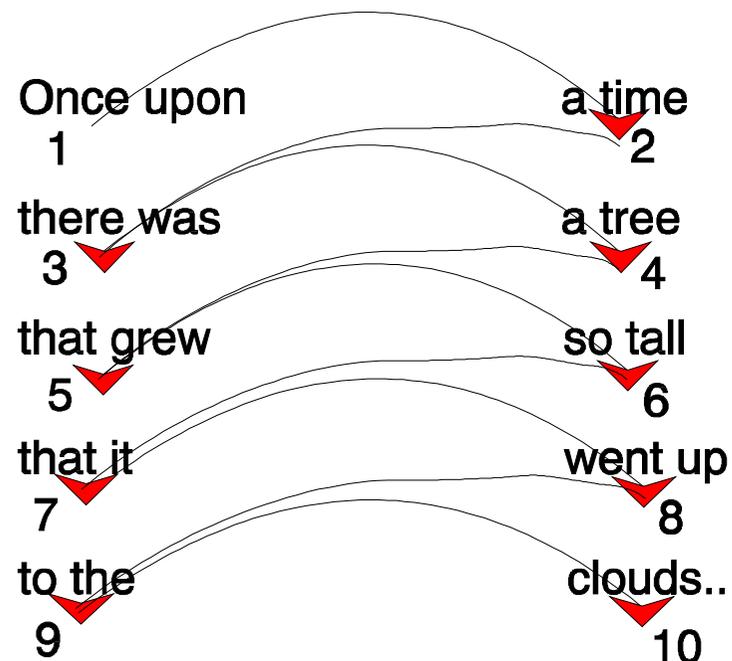
English as a Foreign Language:

You may want to read some of these stories twice in a row before moving on to the next story. Or use Novel Previewing.

Do as much Eye-Hop as you can. It will help later with your speed!

Remember to TRACK your homework progress!

The diagram below shows how your finger comes off the page when hopping.



THE COUNTRY MOUSE

A Country Mouse
an intimate friend,
visit and partake
As they were
Plough lands, eating
roots pulled up
the Town Mouse
"You live here
The ants,
house is the
I am surrounded
and if you will
as I wish
shall have ample share
The Country Mouse
and returned to town
On his arrival,
placed before him
dried figs, honey,
last of all,
piece of cheese
The Country Mouse,
at the sight of
expressed his satisfaction
and lamented his
Just as they were
the door opened,
ran off squeaking,
to a hole
two could only
it by squeezing.
begun their repast
else entered to
of a cupboard,
more frightened

AND THE TOWN MOUSE

invited a Town Mouse,
to pay him a
of his country fare.
on the bare
wheat-stalks and
from the hedgerow,
said to his friend,
the life of
while in my
horn of plenty.
with every luxury,
come with me,
you would, you
of my dainties."
was easily persuaded,
with his friend.
the Town Mouse
bread, barley, beans,
raisins, and,
brought a dainty
from a basket.
being much delighted
such good cheer,
in warm terms
own hard fate.
beginning to eat,
and they both
fast as they could,
so narrow that
find room in
They had scarcely
again when someone
take something out
whereupon the two,
than before,

ran away and
At last the
almost famished,
"Although you have
such a feast,
you to enjoy
It is surrounded by
to please me.
plough lands and roots
where I can
and without fear."

THE LION

A Lion roaming
saw a Dolphin
from the waves,
that they contract
that of all the
to be the best
one was the king
on the earth, and
the sovereign ruler
of the ocean.
consented to this
afterwards the Lion
with a wild bull,
the Dolphin
The Dolphin,
give him assistance.
to do so,
by any means
The Lion abused him
The Dolphin replied,
blame not me,
while giving me

hid themselves.
Country Mouse,
said to his friend:
prepared for me
I must leave
it by yourself.
too many dangers
I prefer my bare
from the hedgerow,
live in safety,

AND THE DOLPHIN

by the seashore
lift its head
and suggested
an alliance, saying
animals they ought
friends, since the
of the beasts
the other was
of all the inhabitants
The Dolphin gladly
request. Not long
had a combat
and called on
to help him.
quite willing to
was unable
as he could not
reach the land.
as a traitor.
"Nay, my friend,
but Nature, which,
the sovereignty

of the sea,
the power of

THE TWO FROGS

There were two frogs
One inhabited
far removed from
the other lived in
little water, and
country road.
lived in the
friend to change
entreated him to
with him, saying
enjoy greater safety
more abundant food.
The other refused,
felt it so
a place to which
so accustomed.
After that
passed through
crushed him to death
A wilful man
way to his

THE EAGLE, THE CAT

An Eagle made
top of a
having found a
moved into the
and a Wild Sow,
took shelter in a
The Cat cunningly
this chance-made
out her design,
the nest of the

has quite denied me
living upon the land."

that were neighbours.
a deep pond,
the public view;
a gully containing
traversed by a
The Frog that
pond warned his
his residence and
come and live
that he would
from danger and

saying that he
very hard to leave
he had become
A few days
a heavy wagon
the gully and
under its wheels.
will have his
own hurt.

AND THE WILD SOW

her nest at the
lofty oak; a Cat,
convenient hole,
middle of the trunk;
with her young,
hollow at its foot.
resolved to destroy
colony. To carry
she climbed to
Eagle, and said,

"Destruction is
and for me too
Sow, whom you
up the earth,
the oak, so she
fall seize our
for her young.
frightened the Eagle
she crept down
of the Sow,
children are
for as soon as
with your litter
the Eagle is
upon one of
Having instilled
into the Sow,
pretended to hide
hollow of the tree.
she went forth
and obtained food
her kittens, but
afraid, she kept
through the day.
the Eagle,
of the Sow,
the branches,
terrified by
did not dare
from her cave.
both, along with
perished from
afforded ample
the Cat and
-Aesop's Fables

preparing for you,
unfortunately. The Wild
see daily digging
wishes to uproot
may on its
families as food
"Having thus
out of her senses,
to the cave
and said, "Your
in great danger;
you go out
to find food,
prepared to pounce
your little pigs."
these fears
she went and
herself in the
When night came
with silent foot
for herself and
feigning to be
a lookout all
Meanwhile,
full of fear
sat still on
and the Sow,
the Eagle,
to go out
And thus they
their families,
hunger, and
provision for
her kittens.

THE CALF PATH

One day through
A calf walked
calves should.
all bent askew,
as all calves do.
years have fled,
calf is dead.
behind his trail,
my moral tale.
taken up next day
dog that
and then a wise
pursued the trail
and steep, and
behind him, too,
always do. And
o'er hill and glade,
old woods a
And many men
and dodged and turned
and uttered words
because t'was such
But still
do not laugh--
of that calf, and
wood-way stalked
when he walked.
This forest path
That bent and turned
this crooked lane
where many
with his load
the burning sun,
three miles in one.
century and a half

-by Sam Walter Foss
the primeval wood
home as good
But made a trail
a crooked trail
Since then 300
and I infer the
But still he left
and thereby hangs
The trail was
by one lone
passed that way;
bell-weather sheep
o'er vale
drew the flock
as good bell-weathers
from that day,
through those
path was made.
would in and out,
and bent about,
of righteous wrath
a crooked path;
they followed--
The first migrations
through this winding
because he wobbled
became a lane,
and turned again;
became a road,
a poor horse
toiled on beneath
and travelled some
And thus a
they trod the footsteps

of that calf.
in swiftness fleet,
a village street;
men were aware,
thoroughfare,
central street was this
metropolis;
centuries and a half
of that calf.
Each day a hundred
followed this zigzag
and o'er his
the traffic of
A hundred thousand
by one calf near
They followed still
And lost 100
For thus such
To well-established
A moral lesson
Were I ordained
For men are
it blind along
of the mind,
from sun to sun
men have done.
the beaten track,
and forth and back,
devious course pursue,
that others do.
a sacred groove,
all their lives
but how the
wood-gods laugh,
first primeval calf.
tale might teach--
ordained to preach.

The years passed on
The road became
And this, before
A city's crowded
And soon the
of a renowned
and men two
trod in the footsteps
thousand rout
calf about
crooked journey went
a continent.
men were led
three centuries dead.
his crooked way,
years a day;
reverence is lent
precedent.
this might teach
and called to preach;
prone to go
the calf-paths
and work away
to do what other
They follow in
and out and in,
and still their
to keep the path
They keep the path
along which
they move;
wise old
who saw the
Ah many things this
but I am not

THE HAWK AND

A Nightingale, sitting
oak and singing
was seen by
being in need
down and seized him.
about to lose
begged the Hawk
saying that he
enough to satisfy
a Hawk, who,
ought to pursue
The Hawk, interrupting
should indeed have
if I should
ready in my hand,
of pursuing birds
yet even

THE FOX AND

A fox was
when he lost
caught hold of
save himself. Having
torn the soles
he accused the
he had fled
assistance, she had
than the hedge itself.
interrupting him, said:
must have been
senses to fasten
who am myself
fasten myself

THE NIGHTINGALE

aloft upon an
according to his wont,
a Hawk who,
of food, swooped
The Nightingale,
his life, earnestly
to let him go,
was not big
the hunger of
if he wanted food,
the larger birds.
him, said: "I
lost my senses
let go food
for the sake
which are not
in my sight."

THE BRAMBLE

mounting a hedge
his footing and
a Bramble to
pricked and grievously
of his feet,
Bramble because, when
to her for
used him worse
The Bramble,
"But you really
out of your
yourself on me,
always accustomed to
upon others."

CHILDREN LEARN

If children live
learn to condemn.
with hostility,
If children live
learn to be
If children live
learn to feel
If children live
learn to be shy.
with jealousy, they
If children live
learn to feel guilty.
live with tolerance,
be patient.
with encouragement,
be confident.
with praise, they
If children live
learn to like
children live with
to find love
If children live
they learn to
If children live
learn to be
live with honesty,
truth is. If
fairness, they learn
If children live
learn to have
and in those
If children live
they learn that
nice place in
If children live

WHAT THEY LIVE

with criticism, they
If children live
they learn to fight.
with fear, they
apprehensive.
with pity, they
sorry for themselves.
with ridicule, they
If children live
learn what envy is.
with shame, they
If children
they learn to
If children live
they learn to
If children live
learn to appreciate.
with approval, they
themselves. If
acceptance, they learn
in the world,
with recognition,
have a goal.
with sharing, they
generous. If children
they learn what
children live with
what justice is.
with security, they
faith in themselves
around them.
with friendliness,
the world is a
which to live.
with serenity, they

learn to have
With what are
- Dorothy L. Nolte

TAKE A MOMENT

We have all
"Remember to
the roses." But,
we really take
our hectic
to notice the
Too often we
our busy schedules,
next appointment,
life in general,
there are other
I am as guilty
tuning out the
manner, especially
on California's
A short time ago,
an event that
being wrapped up
little world has
being fully aware
world picture
driving to a
and, as usual,
in my mind
going to say.
a very busy
the stoplight had
"All right," I
"I can beat the
I race ahead
My mind and car

peace of mind.
your children living?

TO REALLY SEE

heard the expression:
stop and smell
how often do
time out of
fast-paced lives
world around us?
get caught up in
thoughts of our
the traffic or
to even realize
people nearby.
as anyone of
world in this
when I'm driving
overcrowded streets.
however, I witnessed
showed me how
in my own
kept me from
of the bigger
around me. I was
business appointment
I was planning
what I was
I came to
intersection where
just turned red.
thought to myself,
next light if
of the pack."
were in auto pilot,

ready to go when
was broken by
A young couple,
walking arm-in-arm
intersection with cars
every direction.
the hand of a
the woman was clutching
to her chest, obviously
Each of them had
searching for clues
across the street.
They were overcoming
one of the most
"Wouldn't it be
blind?" I thought.
quickly interrupted
I saw that the
walking in the
instead veering diagonally,
middle of the intersection.
danger they were in,
walking right smack
of oncoming cars.
for them because
if the other drivers
was happening.
from the front
(I had the best
I saw a miracle
eyes. *Every* car
came to a
never heard the
or even the
car horn.
"Get out of the way!"

suddenly my trance
an unforgettable sight.
both blind, were
across this busy
whizzing by in
The man was holding
little boy, while
a baby sling
carrying a child.
a white cane extended,
to navigate them
Initially I was moved.
what I felt was
feared handicaps: blindness.
terrible to be
My thought was
by horror when
couple were not
crosswalk, but were
directly toward the
Without realizing the
they were
into the path
I was frightened
I didn't know
understood what
As I watched
line of traffic
seat in the house),
unfold before my
in every direction
simultaneous stop. I
screech of brakes
peep of a
Nobody even yelled,
Everything froze.

In that moment,
stand still for
I looked at the
to verify that
seeing the same thing.
everyone's attention
on the couple.
to my right reacted.
out of his car,
"To your right,
Other people followed
"To your right!"
beat, the couple
as they followed
Trusting their
calls from some
made it to
of the road.
at the curb, one thing
were still
I was taken
emotionless expressions
and judged that
idea what was
around them. Yet
the sighs of
everyone stopped
As I glanced
around me, the
right was mouthing
did you see that?!"
my left was saying,
believe it!"
us were deeply
we had just witnessed.
human beings stepping

time seemed to
this family. Amazed,
cars around me
we were all
I noticed that
was also fixed
Suddenly the driver
Craning his head
he yelled,
to your right!"
in unison, shouting,
Never skipping a
adjusted their course
the coaching.
white canes and the
concerned citizens, they
the other side
As they arrived
struck me they
arm-in-arm.
aback by the
on their faces
they had no
really going on
I immediately sensed
relief exhaled by
at that intersection.
into the cars
driver on my
the words "Whew,
The driver to
"I can't
I think all of
moved by what
Here were
outside themselves

for a moment
people in need.
back on this
since it happened
several important
The first is:
smell the roses."
rarely done up
time to look
see what is
front of you
Do this and you
this moment is
more importantly,
all that you have
difference in life.
I learned is
we set for
attained through faith
trust in others,
insurmountable obstacles.
goal was simply
other side of
Their obstacle was
cars aimed straight
without panic or doubt,
forward until they
We too can
attaining our goals,
to the obstacles
in our way.
to trust our intuition
the guidance of
have greater insight.
to really appreciate
something I had

to help four
I have reflected
situation many times
and have learned
lessons from it.
"Slow down and
(Something I had
until then.) Take
around and really
going on in
right now.
will realize that
all there is,
this moment is
to make a
The second lesson
that the goals
ourselves can be
in ourselves and
despite seemingly
The blind couple's
to get to the
the road intact.
eight lines of
at them. Yet,
they walked
reached their goal.
move forward in
putting blinders on
that would stand
We just need
and accept
others who may
Finally, I learned
my gift of sight,
taken for granted

all too often.
how different life
your eyes?
for a moment,
busy intersection
to see. How
the simple yet
we have in
drove away from
I did so with
of life and
than I had
Since then I have
to really see life
about my daily
my God-given
others less fortunate.
favour as you
Slow down and
to really see.
to see what
on around you
where you are.
missing something
-J. Michael Thomas

THE LITTLE BOY

Once a little
school. He was
boy. And it
big school. But
boy found he
to his room by
from the outside,
And the school

Can you imagine
would be without
Try to imagine
walking into a
without being able
often we forget
incredible gifts
our life. As I
that busy intersection,
more awareness
compassion for others
arrived with.
made the decision
as I go
activities and use
talents to help
Do yourself a
walk through life.
take the time
Take a moment
is really going
right now, right
You may be
wonderful.

boy went to
quite a little
was quite a
when the little
could go right
walking right in
he was happy.
did not seem

quite so big
One morning, when
had been in
the teacher said:
going to make
thought the little
to make pictures.
all kinds:
chickens and cows,
he took out
of crayons and
But the teacher
It is not time
she waited until
“Now,” said the teacher,
to make flowers.”
the little boy.
make flowers, and
beautiful ones with
orange and blue
teacher said, “Wait!
show you how.”
a flower on
It was red, with
“There,” said the teacher.
may begin.” The
at the teacher’s
looked at his
liked his flower
teacher’s. But he
this, he just
over and made
the teacher’s.
a green stem.
when the little
the door from

any more.
the little boy
school a while,
“Today we are
a picture.” “Good!”
boy. He liked
He could make
lions and tigers,
trains and boats and
his box
began to draw.
said: “Wait!
to begin!” And
everybody looked ready.
“We are going
“Good!” thought
He liked to
he began to make
his pink and
crayons. But the
And I will
And she drew
the blackboard.
a green stem.
“Now you
little boy looked
flower. Then he
own flower, he
better than the
did not say
turned his paper
a flower like
It was red, with
On another day,
boy had opened
the outside all

by himself,
“Today we are
make something
thought the little boy.
He could make
things with clay:
elephants and mice,
he began to
pinch his ball
the teacher said,
time to begin!”
until everybody
said the teacher,
make a dish.”
little boy, he
dishes, and he
some that were all
But the teacher said,
will show you how.”
everyone how to
dish. “There.”
now you may begin.
looked at the
then he looked
He liked his
the teacher’s
say this. He
clay into a
and made a dish.
It was a deep dish.
the little boy
and to watch,
things just like
pretty soon he
of his own anymore.
happened that the

the teacher said,
going to
with clay.” “Good!”
He liked clay.
all kinds of
snakes and snowmen,
cars and trucks and
pull and
of clay. But
“Wait. It is not
And she waited
looked ready. “Now,”
“We are going to
“Good!” thought the
liked to make
began to make
shapes and sizes.
“Wait! And I
And she showed
make one deep
said the teacher,
The little boy
teacher’s dish,
at his own.
dishes better than
but he did not
just rolled his
big ball again,
like the teacher’s.
And pretty soon
learned to wait
and to make
the teacher. And
didn’t make things
Then it
little boy and

his family moved
in another city,
boy had to go
This school was
the other one,
no door from
his room. He
some big steps,
a long hall
his room. And
day he was there,
“Today we are
a picture.” “Good!”
boy, and he
teacher to tell
do but the
anything. She just
room. When she
little boy, she said,
to make a picture?”
little boy. “What
to make?” “I
you make it,”
“How shall I
the little boy.
you like,”
“And any colour?”
boy. “Any colour,”
“if everyone made
and used the
would I know
and which was
know,” said the
he began to
orange and blue
his new school,

to another house,
and the little
to another school.
even bigger than
and there was
the outside into
had to go up
and walk down
to get to
the very first
the teacher said,
going to make
thought the little
waited for the
him what to
teacher didn’t say
walked around the
came to the
“Don’t you want
“Yes,” said the
are we going
don’t know until
said the teacher.
make it?” asked
“Why, any way
said the teacher.
asked the little
said the teacher,
the same picture,
same colours, how
who made what,
which?” “I don’t
little boy. And
make pink and
flowers. He liked
even if it

didn't have a
from the outside!

THE POWER

The years of
were a confused,
American foreign policy,
of the participants
tragic. But out
come the marvellous
Gerald L. Coffee.
shot down over
on February 3, 1966,
the next seven
succession of prison
POWs who survived,
so by a regimen
prayer and stubborn
another. After days
the Vietnamese version
he signed the
Then he was
his cell to
Even worse was
having cracked. He
if there were
in the cell
heard a voice:
number 6 with
can you hear me?"
Robinson Risner.
Welcome to Heartbreak
"Colonel, any word
Bob Hanson?"
Listen, Jerry, you
communicate by tapping

door right in
-Helen E. Buckley

OF OPTIMISM

the Vietnam War
troubled time for
making the suffering
all the more
of it has
story about Captain
His plane was
the China Sea
and he spent
years in a
camps. The
he says, did
of physical exercise,
communication with one
of torture on
of the rack,
confession they demanded.
thrown back into
writhe in pain.
his guilt over
did not know
other American prisoners
block, but he
"Man in cell
the broken arm,
It was Col.
"It's safe to talk.
Hotel," he said.
about my navigator,
Coffee asked. "No.
must learn to
on the walls.

It's the only
have to each other."
said "we"! That
were others.
I'm back with the
"Have they tortured
Risner asked.
terrible that they
out of me."
"once they decide
they do it.
is how you
follow the Code.
utmost of your
break you, just
Lick your wounds
Talk to someone
Don't get down
need to take care
For days at a
be punished for
by being stretched
His buddy in
would tap
telling him to
that he was
"Then, when he
Coffee says,
the wall doing the
At last Coffee
from his wife:
It has been
but of course
The kids are
Kim skis all
the lake now.

dependable link we
Risner had
meant that there
"Thank God, now
others," Coffee thought.
you, Jerry?"
"Yes. And I feel
got anything
"Listen," Risner said,
to break a man,
The important thing
come back. Just
Resist to the
ability. If they
don't stay broken.
and bounce back.
if you can.
on yourself. We
of one another."
time Coffee would
some minor infraction
on the ropes.
the next cell
on the wall,
"hang tough,"
praying for him.
was being punished,"
"I would be on
same for him."
received a letter
Dear Jerry,
a beautiful spring
we miss you.
doing great.
the way around
The boys swim

and dive off
little Jerry splashes
plastic bubble on
stopped reading because
filling with tears
his wife's letter
"Little Jerry?"
Then he realized.
after his imprisonment,
and she had
There was no
know that all
had been undelivered,
about their new son
Coffee says:
I was full
relief at finally
family was well,
out on Jerry's
gratitude for the
being alive."
All of us,
others, are praying
and return soon.
of yourself, honey.
Coffee tells about the
during which the
in their minds,
room to room
back home,
in every detail.
they played scenes
was like to
says it was
his faith that
Every Sunday the

the dock, and
around with a
his back. Coffee
his eyes were
as he clutched
to his chest.
Who's Jerry?"
Their baby, born
had been a son
named him Jerry.
way she could
her previous letters
so she talked
matter-of-factly.
"Holding her letter,
of emotions:
knowing that the
sorrow for missing
entire first year,
blessing of simply
The letter concluded:
plus so many
for your safety
Take good care
I love you. Be a
long, long hours
prisoners played movies
of going from
in their houses
the camera taking
Over and over
of what it
be back. Coffee
his friends and
helped him through.
senior officer in

each cell block
signal- church call.
up in his cell,
and then with a
they would recite the
"Thou preparest a
in the presence
thou annointest my
my cup runneth over."
"I realized that
in this terrible
my cup that
someday, however,
return to a
country." Finally,
was signed, and on
the seventh anniversary
Coffee was called
Vietnamese officers.
our duty to
one said. "What
"This." He swallowed
for the gold
soldier held between
forefinger. Yes,
He slipped it
A little loose,
ring. He had
see it again.
11 or 12 years
ring had been
Suddenly I felt
During the prime
I had sat in
had my arm
had contracted worms

would pass a
Every man stood
if he was able,
semblance of togetherness,
twenty-third psalm:
table before me
of mine enemies,
head with oil;
Coffee says:
despite being incarcerated
place, it was
runneth over because
whenever, I would
beautiful and free
the peace treaty
February 3, 1973,
of his capture,
before two young
"Today it is
return your belongings."
belongings?" he asked.
hard and reached
wedding band the
his thumb and
it was his.
onto his finger.
but definitely his
never expected to
My kids were
old when my
taken away.
old and weary.
years of my life,
a medieval dungeon,
screwed up,
and God knows

what else.
my children,
changed so much,
back into the
our reunion would
I thought of Bea.
okay for her?
love me? Could
how much she
all these years?
to the Hanoi airport
but one thing
clarity for Coffee:
red, white and blue
on the tail
Air Force C-141
in the sun,
load of freed
the craft were
military people who
through the fence
the thumbs-up signal.
up by twos, the
reeled off their
service. "Commander
United States Navy,"
promoted two ranks
As Coffee stepped
was riveted on
wearing crisp
wings and ribbons.
first American military
in many years.
Coffee's brisk salute.
reporting for duty, sir."
Jerry." The colonel

I wondered if
now older and
would accept me
family and what
be like. And
Would I be
Did she still
she possibly know
had meant to me
The bus trip
was a blur,
stood out with
The bright beautiful
flag painted
of the enormous
transport that gleamed
awaiting the first
prisoners. Next to
several dozen American
smiled at them
and gave them
As they lined
Vietnamese officers
names, rank and
Gerald L. Coffee,
(He had been
in his absence.)
forward, his attention
an American colonel
Air Force blues,
It was the
uniform he had seen
The colonel returned
"Commander Gerald L. Coffee
"Welcome back,
reached forward with

both hands and
When the plane
pilot taxied directly
without holding short,
brakes and jammed
The huge beast
as the pilot
checks of the
The roar was
brakes were released
on the runway.
airborne, the pilot's
the speaker and
It was a strong,
"Congratulations, men.
left North Vietnam."
erupted into cheers.
of their trip home
Clark Air Force Base
The crowd held
"Welcome home.
God bless." From
lines they applauded
name of each
was announced. There
but the men
that at that
the small hours
millions of Americans
riveted to their
cheering and weeping.
been set up to
initial calls home.
as he waited
seconds for Bea
the phone in

shook Coffee's hand.
was loaded, the
onto the runway
then locked the
his throttles forward.
rocked and vibrated
made his final
engine's performance.
horrendous as the
and they lurched forward
When they were
voice came onto
filled the cabin.
sure voice.
We've just
Only then did they
The first leg
took them to
in the Philippines.
up banners:
We love you.
behind the security
wildly as the
debarking former POW
were television cameras,
had no idea
very moment in
of the morning,
back home were
television sets,
Special telephones had
accommodate their
Coffee's stomach churned
the interminable few
to pick up
Sanford, Florida, where

she and the
"Hello, babe. It's me.
"Hi honey. Yes.
on TV when
the airplane.
in America saw you.
"I dunno. I'm
But I'm okay.
to get home."
reunion with his
he and his
the following Sunday.
to the parish priest's
what Coffee said.
well as anything
the optimist's code:
the key to
all those years.
to simply pursue
the best of
ultimately return
Faith in my
starting with all
knowing you would
for my family,
comrades in those
cell blocks in prison,
I depended and
depended upon me,
Faith in my country,
and our national
And, of course,
as all of
the foundation
our lives are a
we must

children were waiting.
Can you believe it?"
We watched you
you came off
I think everybody
You look great!"
kind of scrawny.
I'm just anxious
After his long-awaited
wife and children,
family attended mass
Afterwards, in response
welcome, here is
It summarizes as
I know of
"Faith was really
my survival
Faith in myself
my duty to
my ability and
home with honour.
fellow man,
of you here,
be looking out
my faith in my
various cells and
men upon whom
who in turn
sometimes desperately.
it's institutions
purpose and cause...
faith in God truly,
you know,
for it all...
continuing journey and
learn and grow

at every bend
our way,
but always moving,
within us.

I LIKE MYSELF NOW

I had a
relief when I
that a youngster
just subject matter.
well, and I
I used to
all I needed
I teach children,
accept the fact that
succeed partially with
When I don't
all the answers,
have more answers
tried to be
The youngster who
understand this
asked him one
thought he was
better than last year.
meaning to my
"It's because
now when
he said.
by Everett Shostrum

THERE IS GREATNESS USE IT

There are many
be Olympic champions,

as we make
sometimes stumbling,
toward the finest
-David McNally

great feeling of
began to understand
needs more than
I know mathematics
teach it well.
think that was
to do. Now
not math. I
I can only
some of them.
have to know
I seem to
than when I
the expert.
really made me
was Eddie. I
day why he
doing so much
He gave
whole new orientation.
I like myself
I'm with you,"
-a teacher quoted
Man, The Manipulator

ALL AROUND YOU-

people who could
great athletes who

have never tried.
million people could
in the pole
I won it,
million. Men who
and faster than
have done it,
picked up a pole,
feeble effort to
off the ground
over the bar.
around us. It's
great because people
What is fantastic
conventions
that the greatest
will come and
their methods and
with everyone else.
the greatest salesmen
show young salesmen
they did it.
back. I have
true in the
I'll never forget
was trying to
Dam's record.
a foot below
I called him
I said, "Dutch, can
I seem to
I can't get
said, "Sure, Bob,
to visit me and
all I've got."
with the master,

I'd estimate five
have beaten me
vault the years
at *least* five
were bigger, stronger
I was could
but they never
never made the
pick their legs
to try to get
Greatness is all
easy to be
will help you.
about all the
I go to is
in the business
share their ideas,
their techniques
I have seen
open up and
exactly how
They don't hold
also found it
world of sports.
the time I
break Dutch Warmer
I was about
his record, so
on the phone.
you help me?
have levelled off.
any higher." He
come on up
I'll give you
I spent three days
the greatest pole

vaulter in the world.
Dutch gave me
he'd seen.
that I was
he corrected them.
long story short,
eight inches.
gave me the best
I've found that
heroes willingly
to help you
John Wooden, the
coach, had a
day he is
someone who can
That's his obligation.
working on his
scouting and defensive
wrote up a
and sent it out
in the country.
answered it completely.
share, which is what
one of the
in the world.
you their secrets.
call them on
buy their books.
get around them,
It is easy
when you get
-Bob Richards

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

A man wrote
a small hotel in

For three days,
everything that
There were things
doing wrong and
To make a
I went up
That great guy
that he had.
sports champions and
do this just
become great, too.
great college basketball
philosophy that every
supposed to help
never reciprocate.
When in college
masters thesis, on
football, George Allen
30-page survey
to the great coaches
Eighty-five percent
Great people will
made George Allen
greatest football coaches
Great people will tell
Look for them,
the phone or
Go where they are,
talk to them.
to be great
around great people.
Olympic Athlete

a letter to
a Midwest town he

planned to visit
He wrote: I
like to bring
He is well-groomed
behaved. Would you
permit me to
my room with
An immediate reply
hotel owner,
have been operating
many years. In
I've never had a
bed clothes or
off the walls.
evict a dog
of the night
and disorderly. And
a dog run out
Yes, indeed, your
at my hotel.
dog will vouch
welcome to
-Karl Albrecht and

THE DOLPHIN'S GIFT

I was in
of water, alone.
should not have
I was very
took a chance.
much current, and
so warm, clear
When I got
realized at once
I was not
was totally doubled

on his holiday.
would very much
my dog with me.
and very well
be willing to
keep him in
me at night?
came from the
who said, I
this hotel for
all that time,
dog steal towels,
silverware or pictures
I've never had to
in the middle
for being drunk
I've never had
on a hotel bill.
dog is welcome
And, if your
for you, you're
stay here, too.
Ron Zenke

about 40 feet
I knew I
gone alone, but
competent and just
There was not
the water was
and enticing.
a cramp, I
how foolish I was.
too alarmed, but
up with stomach

cramps. I tried
weight belt, but
doubled up I
to the catch.
and began to
unable to move.
my watch and
only a little
the tank before
out of air.
massage my abdomen.
a wet suit, but
out and couldn't
cramped muscles with
thought, "I can't
I have things
just couldn't die
with no one
what happened
called out
"Somebody, something,
was not prepared
Suddenly I felt
behind me under
I thought,
I felt real
But my arm was
Around into my
came an eye-
eye I could
I swear it
It was the
big dolphin.
I knew I
moved farther forward,
hooking its dorsal

to remove my
I was so
could not get
I was sinking
feel more frightened,
I could see
knew there was
more time on
I would run
I tried to
I wasn't wearing
couldn't straighten
get to the
my hands. I
go like this!
to do!" I
anonymously this way
to even know
to me. I
in my mind,
help me!" I
for what happened.
a prodding from
my armpit.
"Oh no, sharks!"
terror and despair.
being lifted forcibly.
field of vision
the most marvellous
ever imagine.
was smiling.
eye of a
Looking into that eye,
was safe. It
nudging under and
fin below my

armpit with my
back. I relaxed,
with relief. I
animal was conveying
that it was
well as lifting me
My stomach cramps
we ascended and
security, but I
that it healed
At the surface
all the way
took me into
that I began
that it might
I pushed it back
where it waited,
I guess to
was all right.
another lifetime.
off the weight
tank, I just
and went naked
ocean to the
so light and
and just wanted
the sun and
all that freedom.
me back out
in the water
noticed that there
of dolphins there,
After a while
back to shore.
tired then, almost
made sure I

arm over its
hugging it, flooded
felt that the
security to me,
healing me as
toward the surface.
went away as
I relaxed with
felt very strongly
me too.
it drew me
into shore. It
water so shallow
to be concerned
be beached, and
a little deeper,
watching me,
see if I
It felt like
When I took
belt and oxygen
took everything off
back into the
dolphin. I felt
free and alive,
to play in
the water in
The dolphin took
and played around
with me. I
were a lot
farther out.
it brought me
I was very
collapsing and he
was safe in

the shallowest water.
sideways with one eye
We stayed
what seemed like
timeless I guess,
almost, with personal
past going
Then he made
and went out to
And all of them left.

Then he turned
looking into mine.
that way for
a very long time,
in a trance
thoughts from the
through my mind.
just one sound
join the others.
-Elizabeth Gawain

DAD'S TRUCK

Once, not so
a wonderful Man
town from "the
he arrived here,
an immense fortune.
his love for
who He lovingly
His children, he
philanthropist of
Soon after His
a general store
in "soul food."
was only to
to those who
was never any
food, and so
store that no
be found for it.
it came to
as "Dad's."
came over from
he brought with
of vehicles, most
trucks, to help him

very long ago,
came to our
old country." Before
He had earned
And because of
those of us
referred to as
had become a
the very best kind.
arrival, He set up
that specialized
His purpose, though,
give food freely
were hungry. There
charge for this
unique was this
satisfactory name could
So, in time,
be known simply
Now when Dad
the old country,
him a fleet
of them delivery
distribute the food.

Alas, as with
happened that not
helpers were fully
In Dad's fleet
there was one
was like that.
seemed to perform
at night it
away from the
zooming off to
it would pretend
fancy sports car
luxury limousine.
its truck engine
limits, take bumpy
the speed it
and generally ignore
of behaviour appropriate
Not that the
so bad,
well, you see,
truck-heart, the
had begun to corrode
It would see
one of His
cars for an
yearned to be
carry Him here
though it knew
of no lesser
than that of
still it could
selfish jealousy. It
the night alone,
while, it had
its once fine

most enterprises, it
all of the
committed to the work.
of delivery vehicles,
red truck which
Though it
like the others,
would secretly steal
garage and go
the country. There
it was a
or some fine
It would rev up
way past its
roads at double
was built for,
all the rules
to a delivery truck.
red truck was
really, but, . . .
in its little
rust of jealousy
its vital parts.
Dad getting into
limousines or sports
outing, and it
the one to
and there. Even
its work was
value to Dad
His "personal" cars,
not control its
continuously went into
and after a
just about ruined
engine and body.

In addition to
the night's dew
parts, there was
to the damage:
fleet had a
oil in their engines.
of the day,
so smoothly that
eliminated any friction
not only lost
when misused at night -
gritty and abrasive,
mess inside the engine.
took the very
His trucks, for
delivery of His
be of the same
the food itself.
every advantage:
expert maintenance
supervised), and highly
were just as
as Dad himself.
old country, all
knew what the
was doing, and
as lovingly and
could to persuade
its folly. But
confront the truck
misdeeds, for in
nightly pretensions
had developed a
sensitivity to criticism.
gentle advice was
this vain masquerader,

the corrosion of
on its metal
another factor adding
all of Dad's
special kind of
During the service
it flowed
it just about
whatsoever. But it
its lubricating ability
it actually became
creating a horrible
Now Dad always
best care of
He wanted the
fine food to
high quality as
He gave them
the best fuel,
(which he personally
skilled drivers who
gentle and loving
Even in the
the other trucks
jealous red truck
they all tried
skilfully as they
it to cease
they dared not
openly with its
addition to its
to grandeur, it
very un-trucklike
So when their
not heeded by
all they could

do was let
the truck discovered
error of its ways.
Dad and His
settled in our
obvious to everyone
truck was not
should. The years
taken their toll,
rings were so
even half of
burned went into
work. All the
out as black smoke,
annoyance to everyone
ended up as
in the engine,
its ability to
Dad, with His
gave the truck
loads to carry.
deluded vehicle thought
a tremendous job
congratulated itself often.
was supervising
as usual. By now
of the red truck's
was quite severe.
took over its
He could find
persuade the tired
Him to perform
engine overhaul, which
urgent of the
The other mechanics
repairs before, but

it continue until
for itself the
By the time
fleet had gotten
town, it was
that the red
performing as it
of misuse had
and now its
worn that not
the fuel it
doing its assigned
rest either billowed
causing great
near it, or else
messy carbon deposits
which further impaired
do anything useful.
tremendously loving heart,
lighter and lighter
Even so, the
it was doing
of service and
One Day dad
the truck's maintenance
the degeneration
body and engine
So Dad personally
maintenance, hoping that
some way to
truck to allow
a badly needed
was the most
pending repairs.
had tried these
such was the

pride of the
it refused to
under its hood
most minor work.
it groaned all
boasted to itself
brave and selfless
Today, though,
As Dad slowly
truck, it recalled
had overheard
The red truck
as was its habit,
of the garage.
now too feeble
for its nightly
was content to
dreaming of past
new ones in its
of make-believe.
had become aware
voices of several
trucks talking quite
listened more attentively,
Dad was soon
the largest and
of soul food yet.
scheduled every truck
capacity, but still
of more work
Of course, no one
red truck that
made serviceable.
it was the
its name which
attention. Somehow,

red truck that
allow any mechanic
except for the
And even then
the while and
afterwards of how
it had been.
something was different.
approached the red
a conversation it
the night before.
had been alone,
in a far corner
Since it was
to steal away
escapades, it
pass the time
adventures or fantasizing
own personal land
But suddenly it
of voices close by,
of Dad's other
seriously. As it
it learned that
to be distributing
most important shipment
The dispatcher had
to its maximum
there was need
to be done.
mentioned the selfish
refused to be
Perhaps, though,
vercaught the truck'sy ab-
sence of
it could not

forget what it
As the night
red truck found
to its fantasies
Some remaining spark
still remained in its
and it found
help carry part
But as soon
had entered
the red truck
what it had
for the past
It saw how
had made it incapable
how the others
and again to
its foolishness,
refused steadfastly
come near it,
in His mercy
the red truck,
its load again
that it might still
itself a useful part
Any other time,
have been quickly
the red truck's
Tonight, though,
and again, and
suffered greatly.
laid His gentle hand
gazing lovingly at
engine and the
red truck once
for its past actions.

had heard.
wore on, the
it couldn't return
as it had before.
of love for Dad
corrosion-pitted heart,
itself wanting to
of Dad's load.
as this thought
its consciousness,
saw quite clearly
chosen to ignore
few years.
its selfish folly
of being utilized,
had tried again
help it see
how it had
to let the truth
and how Dad
had not punished
but rather lightened
and again so
think and imagine
of the fleet.
such thoughts would
dismissed by
fantasy-drunk mind.
they returned again
the red truck
Now, as Dad
on the hood,
the nearly ruined
filthy body, the
more felt remorse
And within its

corrosion-pitted heart,
longing to somehow
As Dad talked
repairs that were
though racked with
the thought of
realized that it
to be transformed.
allowed the overhaul
it thought, perhaps
be able to
new arrival of
But the pain!
The utter helplessness
The weak
for Dad to
and get the
But Dad had
that no meaningful
place without the
What a dilemma!
being overhauled was
red truck could
it thought, and
heart would not
its self-inflicted
repaired and it
serving in Dad's
had been
If only Dad
decision for
If only He would
At least then
could comfort itself
with self-righteous
But even as

there arose a
be of true service.
softly of the
needed, the truck,
pain at even
this work, slowly
must allow itself
And if it
to be done now,
it too would
help deliver the
precious soul-food.
The humiliation!
of being dismantled!!!
red truck yearned
just "do it"
job over with.
often taught them
repairs could take
vehicle's cooperation.
The pain of
more than the
possibly endure,
yet its yearning
be satisfied until
damage had been
was once more
fleet as it
meant to do.
would make the
the truck!
force the change!
the red truck
during the work
complaining and self-pity.
the fear-ridden

red truck looked peaceful and it knew the needed not happen that way. would accept only in His enterprise, willingness to for the work What to do? In its extreme the red truck lost itself for a moment. however, was like the red truck, a Vision that revealed Dad's beautiful life. possibly relate afterwards seen and felt, it was this: there had been as Dad had And not just an engine overhaul! come from a pain and misery. lived in the complete Freedom and His very Self. saw the truck, He had volunteered to come into penniless, and to use of His will He now gave And the in this flash just

pleadingly into Dad's compassionate eyes, transformation could Just as Dad willing workers so too was be made suitable a requirement. What to do! agony of conflict, consciousness of That brief flash, a lifetime for for it witnessed in its entirety It could not all that it had but the gist of Over many years, tremendous sacrifice accumulated His fortune. petty discomforts like No, Dad had land beyond all He had originally Heavenly realms with unlimited Joy as And yet, having everything, in sweet willingness the old country earn by the the Treasure that away so freely. red truck saw why Dad had

done all this. Source from which we call Good. Perfect Love, that which permeates And it saw a willingness to on earth who with this Source, for the food which He would soon The red truck, this perfect Love, again forget It. and once more saw Dad's familiar for its decision. knew that it repairs to begin, was clear that cooperation would be throughout the overhaul. at the truck beginning the work, seemed to ask, red truck?" it sputtered, not punish my of rewarding it with Surely I am not have given me!" wonderful soft smile voice said, really. You see, yearning of your Me so strongly

It saw the emanated all that It felt that unforgettable shining Presence all of Creation. within Dad's heart serve those here had lost contact whose souls hungered of sweet remembrance be freely distributing. having now felt knew it could never The flash was over, the red truck face patiently waiting But now it truly wanted the and the red truck its sweet-willed with Dad constantly As Dad looked once more before His smile "What's your question, "Why, Dad - why?" "Why did You selfish folly instead this wonderful Vision,? worthy of what You Dad smiled His and His sweet "I had no choice, red truck, the heart called to that not even

the silliness of
obscure its cry.
your heart and its
to once more
truly serve, it
what you needed
“Thank You, Dad,”
truck with a
it hardly knew
now I am ready.”
His mechanic’s tools
Dad hummed a
the red truck
to truly serve.
load after load
being distributed
hungry people.
knew that the
be very painful,
have no meaning
Joy of serving
of its Vision
Love which it
radiating from Dad.
“be brave.
“Let us begin.”

The Feast

And then,
the absolute darkness
He couldn’t see
It was all mist,
that only gradually
the nothingness. He
where,? Who,?
So he watched.

your follies could
When I heard
desire to change,
be able to
drew from Me
to be ready.”
whispered the red
depth of gratitude
it possessed. “Yes,
As He assembled
and prepared to begin,
tune which filled
with incredible longing
It thought of
of soul food
to thousands of
And even though it
coming operation would
this seemed to
compared to the
and the memories
of that Perfect
could now feel
“Now please,” said Dad,
And remember!
by Dan Menkin

oh so slowly,
began to recede.
anything at first.
gently swirling - and
becoming discernable in
tried to recall
But to no avail.
Soon there were

vague hints of
closer, then receding.
themselves, then dissolved
Time did not
Gradually, he began
awareness built so
it didn’t matter.
I have come to
he thought.
I shall be
Oh yes, . . . I do
All was very
around him now -
the vagueness and
since vanished. And
dozens of them,
huge and incredibly
There was much
all around him,
boy was strangely
Then the Fruits came -
of the most
most wonderful fruit
Much more tempting
he thought, though
possible. All his
the table and
feast on first one,
these incredible foods.
back and serenely
companions. He knew
in some mysterious
intimate and dear
each was a
he had no
names or past.

pale colour, moving
Forms hinted at
again into the mist.
seem to exist.
to remember. The
slowly, though. But
So, once more
the banquet table,
Once more, it seems,
able to decide.
remember this time!
gay and sparkling
all traces of
mists had long
here they were,
all approaching a
magnificent banquet table.
frolicking and laughter
but for once, the
serene and quiet.
tray after tray
fragrant, most appealing,
he had ever seen!
than last time,
that scarcely seemed
companions rushed toward
joyously began to
then another of
The boy stayed
looked at his
these other people -
way each was
to him. Yet
stranger also, as
recollection of their
Where had they

just arrived from?
but at this moment,
very important.
Near, yet not
the banquet table.
and said nothing,
time all the others
urged that he too
enjoy the feast.
however, the boy
to observe. And
he listened, . . . but
and did nothing.
remembered. The Fruit!
Fruit. One bite
to *experience* flowed
through the mind.
the mind a
craving to feel,
to touch, to feel, . . .
things seemed possible
these fruits flowed
The desire to
And there was
the energy of a
demanding to be
churned the mind,
again and again
an ocean of
to *do!*
was possible, no
This energy
must be spend,
For a rare few,
was a wind
set their sails

He didn't know,
it didn't seem
The boy waited.
too close to
He ate nothing
even though in
came over and
make merry and
For the time being,
was content simply
remember. He watched, . . .
outwardly, he said
Inwardly, though, he
The incredibly wonderful
and the desire
like a river
Consuming more left
churning sea of
to see, to hear,
to *do!* All
while the juices of
in one's veins.
experience was irresistible!
energy too -
million suns, incessantly
expressed. It
drove it to dive
into itself, into
compulsion to *create*,
No real rest
recovery between dives.
must be used,
must, must, . . .
this throbbing energy
upon which they
and moved onward

toward their goal,
yearning. For these
juice of the
compel, it enabled.
mastered the art
this ocean of
capsizing, without
very few feasters
Since most couldn't
nearly fast enough,
weight onto them.
they could not stop
they each grew
Finally, one by
too solid to
heavenly realm of
As this happened,
through the cloudlike
banquet hall and
and lower, . . . and lower.
would be out
it would take
experience - of *doing* -
juices in their
Only afterwards was
possibility of real
Each time before
approached the banquet
had forgotten.
wanted to forget.
of the Fruit
a deep longing
that distorted all
lust for fulfilment.
times he had
and *experienced* much!

their heart's deepest
advanced souls, the
fruits did not
For they had
of sailing across
experience safely, without
drowning. But alas,
were so constituted.
burn the energy
it became a
Yet even so,
eating! And so
heavier, more dense.
one they became
remain in the
this exalted Feast.
they simply slipped
floor of the
descended lower, . . .
Then the Fruits
of reach, but
another lifetime of
for the compelling
veins to be spent.
there then a
rest, of Peace.
when he had
table, the boy
Or rather, he had
For the sight
awakened in him
and intense hunger
memory in its mad
The first few
eaten his fill . . .
Then, as he

grew wiser, he
remember the ravages
So he would vow:
this time. Just
calm the hunger.
discovered how
For with even
of the Fruit
he became uncontrollably
And so he ate
it was done.
the denseness, the
into the realm
more *experiences*.
the endless swirling fog.
would come full
he would find
wonderful table.
just waited. And
taunting of the
impression on him
the pangs of
Fruit caused him
he had learned
the time being,
At long last the
All the participants,
become heavy and,
uncontrolled energy,
self-inflicted destiny.
Quietly, he walked
seeing the scattered
He too, had
And though the
left him, still,
did not compel

gained the strength to
of over-indulgence.
just one bite
one little bite to
But he soon
impossible that was.
the tiniest amount
in his mouth,
greedy for more.
and ate until
Then would come
slipping back down
of matter, and
Then the nothingness,
Eventually, the circle
and once more
himself before this
So today, he
he remembered. The
others made no
this time, though
longing for the
great anguish. But
well, and for
he did nothing.
feast was over.
save one, had
compelled by their
had succumbed to their
Only the boy remained.
around the table,
remains of the Feast.
been so hungry!
hunger had not
the tempting Fruit
him this time.

After walking peacefully
his eyes fell
golden tray in
the banquet table.
were remains from
this one small
signs of having been
In its very centre
dish imaginable,
white ivory and
visible seed.
knew that this
been waiting for.
picked up the
slid the seed
of his tongue.
closed over the seed,
pulled it inward.
fades. Memory fades.
A warm glow
his body which
pure light.
No thought. No desire.
oh my - it
It flows into
particle of existence.
inward, growing,
one with All.
he has found
All mysteries are solved.
complete. And it was
There had never
for all those
ocean of *experience!*
had been His
always available whenever

for a long time,
upon a tiny
the middle of
Though all about it
the previous extravaganza,
tray showed no
seen or touched.
was the smallest
made of pure
containing one barely
Immediately the boy
was what he had
Gently, humbly, he
tiny dish and
onto the centre
His mouth slowly
and his very soul
The banquet hall
Hunger disappears.
expands outward from
now has become
Nothing remains.
But the love -
grows so large!
every awareness, every
Growing outward, growing
Growing until it is
At long last
the way Home.
Understanding is
always so simple!
been any need
endless dives into the
Peace and Joy
since the beginning,
he could become

greater than his
could *remember!*
that the cycle of
is now complete.
the never ending
is finished. He
and is pleased.
-by Dan Menkin

The Man with
All day Dennis
if he were
ocean of confusion.
not surprise him
the street, he
curb and found
on the sidewalk.
muttered under his
could just die,
oblivious to the
passers by.
around him - his
his eyes fell
old sign over
never noticed before.
Shop", it proclaimed,
seemed to belong on
of contemporary Boston.
sighed Dennis,
just doesn't fit."
was now aroused,
not to die
he picked himself
this store that
to belong to
Once inside, his

hunger. Whenever He
Smiling, He realises
feast and famine
His hunger - and
compulsion to *do* -
smiles upon Himself
It is done.

the X-Ray Eyes
had felt as
adrift on an
So it did
when, after crossing
tripped on the
himself sprawled out
"Yep, figures," he
breath. Wishing he
he lay there,
stares of the
Taking a glance
last, he hoped -
upon a dilapidated
a store he had
"The Acme Joke
though it hardly
this upscale block
"Just like me,"
"a joke that
But his curiosity
and he decided
just yet. Instead,
up and walked into
seemed only slightly
this current era.
suspicions were confirmed -

this place wasn't
thick everywhere,
was the first
in months. A
man sat at
smoking a bizarre
eyeing Dennis thoughtfully
odd-shaped glasses.
son?" came the
couldn't answer,
pull his eyes
this strange merchant.
of silence, the
to a counter
wall and said,
you're looking for
from the left."
followed the old
found himself holding
glasses with spirals
"X-Ray Glasses,"
"See inside other
Still somewhat dazed
Dennis paid the
walked back into
an autumn afternoon.
apartment, Dennis once
in his loneliness.
trying for so
a woman who
as more than
But his innate
prevented him from
paths toward love.
he recalled, he
to attend the

real! Dust lay
and he suspected he
customer to enter
kindly looking old
the far end,
looking pipe and
from behind thick,
"What is it,
soft voice. Dennis
but neither could he
from the gaze of
After several moments
man motioned Dennis
on the side
"You'll find what
there, third bin
Dennis automatically
man's instructions and
a pair of
on the lenses.
read the tag.
people. \$1.59"
from his fall,
man and slowly
the sunshine of
Back in his
more became engulfed
He had been
long to meet
would think of him
"just a friend".
shyness had always
exploring the obvious
Why just yesterday,
had been encouraged
Singles Halloween Party

being held nearby.
fears had uttered
Now, though, as
his recent purchase,
“A costume party.
have I always
That’s it! The
X-Ray Eyes!”
onward, designing his
a persona strong
a call that ended
“I’ll be there!”
to find Dennis a
also quite excited.
hours getting his
just right, and
air of anticipation
eyes twinkle behind
joke-shop glasses.
spent so much
X-Ray Eyes
some level he
he would be
through the people
He had, of course,
male fantasies of
hidden by clothing.
not the thought
captured Dennis’ heart.
as X-Ray Man,
who was deep
enough not to
of his shyness.
below the skin,
maybe, just maybe. . .
room was so filled

But his habitual
his refusal automatically.
he looked at
he wondered.
Hummm, . . . What
wanted to be?
Man with the
His mind raced
costume and creating
enough to make
with the words,
Saturday night arrived
bit nervous, but
He had spent
costume to look
there was an
that made his
the strange looking
By now, he had
time inventing his
personality that on
actually believed
able to see
at the party.
had the usual
seeing bodies not
But this was
that had truly
Rather, he intended,
to seek a woman
enough and loving
reject him because
He would look
he vowed, and
By 10:30 the
with strangely costumed

partiers that
an episode from
This suit Dennis
new personality
he was delightedly
face and staring
the protection of
Perhaps it was
but it felt as
actually do as
look deep into
see how she might
He was feeling
his new identity
tiger woman pinched
“Come on, big
he was out there
best of them.
he thought as
But he knew
the one he
to meet, and
his brazen staring
of each woman
It was near
circuit of inspection
the butterfly woman.
enclosed by her costume,
small eye-holes
Dennis found a
X-Ray powers.
lifted his heart.
the shimmering colour
he saw a woman
Shy, but determined
Somehow he could

it felt like
The Twilight Zone.
perfectly. In his
as X-Ray Man,
going from face to
brazenly from behind
his magical glasses.
just his imagination,
if he could
he had fantasized -
another’s heart and
respond to him.
so absorbed in
that when the
him and said,
eyes - let’s dance!”
gyrating with the
“This is OK!”
the music ended.
she was not
had come here
so he continued
into the eyes
he encountered.
midnight that his
brought him before
She was completely
but through the
in her mask,
way to use his
And what he saw
For underneath all
of her costume,
like himself.
to move on out.
tell that for

her also creating
and a persona
was a new and
adventure. He could
pull away under
X-Ray gaze.
Instead, after several
he heard a slight
“Can I try those?”
of the party
if the words
her or from
But he was so
he motioned her
and they went out
The air was still
Indian Summer day,
natural, as they
to remove their
deep breaths from
After awhile, Dennis
X-Ray glasses
to be stared
It felt strange -
But he didn't
she removed the
said, “Hi. I'm Jessica.”
Then, after an
he ventured, “Umm,
at me just
glasses on,
that is, ah”
tension with her
soon Dennis exploded
Jessica was sporting
as she finally

a costume
for this party
somewhat terrifying
feel her almost
the intensity of his
But she didn't.
minutes had passed,
butterfly voice ask,
Over the noise
he wasn't sure
had come from
his own head.
emboldened by now that
to follow him
onto the porch.
warm from an
and it seemed
sat on the railing,
masks and take
this magical night.
handed her the
and allowed himself
at also.
no doubt about it!
flinch, and soon
glasses, smiled, and
“Hi. I'm Dennis.”
awkward moment,
when you looked
now with those
did you, ah,
Jessica broke the
robust laugh, and
into laughter also.
an infectious grin
quieted down enough

to say, “Yes,
you too. And
we have a lot
The words then
more easily, and
around the grounds.
he had left
on the porch, and
to retrieve them.
they might, the
never seen again.
can imagine what
next day, Dennis
Acme Joke Shop
- by Dan Menkin

The Running Tree
for Arielle Cole
Chapter One

One day, not
there was a tree.
everyday, average tree.
special. Very special.
lived in a valley;
grove of several
Our tree, though,
would stand there
take place all
the little valley.
she really wanted
Every few days,
friendly dogs would
the little valley.
watch them run
her little valley.
run with them,

Dennis, I saw
I think maybe
to talk about!”
began to flow
they began to walk
Suddenly Dennis realized
his X-Ray glasses
they went back
But search though
X-Ray glasses were
And perhaps you
happened when, the
tried to locate the
to buy another pair?

by Ron Cole
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so long ago,
Not your
This tree was
This beautiful tree
in a
other fine trees.
was different. She
and watch life
around her in
But the thing
to do was move!
a pair of
come running into
Our tree would
freely all over
She longed to
just as free

as the wind.
one slight problem-
And trees don't
all that much.
little tree would
and dream of
the two dogs.
trees told her
and silly to
an impossible dream.
time the beautiful
Nothing, but watch.
Time passed, but
not go away.
herself running along
jumping over rocks
the green hills.
to mention her
other trees anymore.
like the way
of her when
One day, she
two dogs run
It was such
There were a
clouds drifting in
There were insects
many wildflowers.
up above her.
birds had decided
right on her
a strong breeze
shook the tree.
woke up.
back and forth,
of wanting to

There was only
she was a tree.
move. Well, not
For years the
watch the animals
running along with
But the other
she was foolish
wish for such
So for a long
tree did nothing.

her dream would
She would imagine
with the animals,
and scampering down
She decided not
dream to the
She did not
they made fun
she told them.
was watching the
through the valley.
a beautiful day.
few puffy white
the blue sky.
buzzing among the
Birds were flying
Some of the
to build nests
branches. Suddenly,
came along and
Something inside her
As she swayed
the old feelings
run came flooding

back to her.
felt a little
"How dare those
to take my dream
"Enough! Some how,
going to run
With that thought,
make her dream
The first thing
to figure out exactly
going for her.
green and healthy.
slender and tough,
She had many
long and strong.
fine trunk,
She had big roots,
into the ground,
coming off those
finally, way down
she had hundreds
tiny root hairs.
the bottom was one
that was very
He had never
of the sun,
very much to
He was very
up water, and
be happy to
hard work ahead.
what such a
hair could do.
"Just watch me!"
at the very end.
wiggle at first.

This time she
anger with it.
other trees try
away," she thought.
some way, I'm
through this valley!"
she decided to
come true somehow.
she did was
what she had
She had leaves,
She had twigs,
holding the leaves.
good branches,
She had a
sturdy and straight.
stretching down
and smaller roots
bigger roots. And
in the earth,
and hundreds of
Way down near
little root hair
eager to help.
seen the light
and wanted
see it shine.
good at drinking
said he would
share in the
The tree wondered
tiny little root
He shouted out,
He began wiggling
Just a tiny little
The wiggle was

so little that
tiny little piece
That piece was
person would not
Then he wiggled
piece moved.
After a while
tiny little space
the root hair.
only about the
ant's big toe,
laughed to herself.
him how silly
but suddenly
She knew that
how silly he
it would make
like when the
her how silly
Instead, she told
hair how wonderful
was doing.
little root hair.
The little root
With a proud
went at it.
he wiggled and
and pushed and
had cleared
around himself.
he had made a
Compared to the
was still very,
it was certainly
the right direction.
hair slept very

just one teeny
of dirt moved.
so small a
even notice it.
again and another
Then another. And another.
there was a
at the end of
It wasn't much,
size of an
and the tree
She almost told
his effort was,
she stopped herself.
if she told him
was to try,
him feel just
other trees told
her dream was.
the little root
a job he
She said, "Do more
Do more!"
hair was thrilled.
smile, he really
He wiggled and
dug and bent
pulled until he
a sizable space
After several hours
neat little hole.
big tree, it
very small, but
a step in
The little root
well that night,

with the good
job well done.
early and started
Soon, some of
root hairs noticed
and soon they
wiggling as well.
the idea spread
whole root tip
They worked on it
After a while,
tip could move.
could now
She was almost
She wanted to
trees how happy
she was afraid
at her again.
keep the news
She still wasn't
would ever happen,
her little root
well, who knows?
concentrated all her
came up with
told all the
start wiggling and
dirt near them.
began to loosen up,
part of the
to wiggle,
next biggest part,
A few of
about this
but their tree
and so enthusiastic,

feeling of a
He woke up
right in again.
the other little
what he was doing,
started wiggling and
The tree let
and soon that
was working at it.
for several days.
the entire root
The beautiful tree
wiggle her toe!
dizzy with delight.
tell the other
she was, but
they would laugh
She decided to
to herself for now.
sure the dream
but if all
hairs joined in,
So the tree
mental powers and
a plan. She
root hairs to
loosen up the
As the ground
the next biggest
root would start
and then the
and the next.
them weren't sure
crazy sounding idea,
was so determined
they decided to

go for it.
working at it,
ways of getting
Some of them
could help each
stubborn pieces of
hard to get
With teamwork
from the tree,
a lot of fun.
a special song
*Under hill-
Little root hairs
As we wiggle, and
For it's tee,
As we get
Moving that dirt out
We will free
From the ground-
And our tree will-
They worked for
as more and more
wiggle and move
pieces of dirt.
get tired and
but the tree
how good they
Some roots pointed
tree they had
had ever tried
The tree
"So we'll be the
"Whatever it takes,
we are going
Chapter Two
it was time*

With more of them
they found better
the dirt loose.
even found they
other loosen up
dirt that were too
at all alone.
and kind words
they started having
They even sang
they'd made up:
*under dale
will not fail-
wiggle, along.
hee hee
so wiggeley
all day long...
this tree
just wait and see-
go running- along!
days, and weeks,
roots began to
bigger and bigger
Sometimes they would
think of stopping,
kept telling them
all were doing.
out that no
ever heard of
this thing before.
did not care.
first," she said.
some day,
to run!"
Finally, one day,
for her main*

roots to begin
a big day.
been working hard
in her bright
It was time
all the effort
She had also
of time growing
If all went well,
be her legs.
of root hairs
work well, and
had begun squirming
Early morning.
The beautiful tree
so very long
She had worked
was now ready
her big dream
Slowly she began
of her two
At first it was
but slowly it
Then she tried
It was stuck tight.
move at all.
Had she come
done all this work,
She felt around
was a big
ground above
Realizing this,
she could slip
sideways, the plan
It was time.
all her strength.

wiggling. This was
The tree had
at saving energy
green leaves.
to see if
was worth it.
spent a lot
two main roots.
they would
Hundreds and hundreds
had done their
the other roots
and moving too.
This was it!
had been waiting
for this day.
very hard and
to see if
would come true.
to move one
big roots.
a bit stiff,
began to move.
moving the other one.
It would not
She was shocked.
all this way,
for nothing?
and discovered there
rock under the
the one root.
she figured if
the root out
still might work.
The tree gathered
Pushing as hard

as she could with
she slid the
from the rock.
the two dogs
the little valley.
of her long-held
and slowly she
and out of
It was hard work,
there on her
panting. The other
not believe it.
ever seen a
of the ground
They were speechless.
stopped cold
Their eyes went
tilted their heads
The tree was
at first, getting
to support herself.
life the ground
kept her steady.
all up to her.
she saw a
mind of how
She would move
like a leg.
move the other
the same way.
she was unsure
keeping her balance.
was not a
Only the slightest
“Okay, here goes...”
With a mighty effort

the free root,
trapped root out
Just then,
came running into
All the strength
dream came to her,
lifted herself up
the ground.
and she stood
two big roots,
trees could
Never had they
tree come out
all by itself.
Even the dogs
in their tracks.
wide as they
to the side.
a little unsteady
used to having
All of her
had always
Now it was
Standing there,
picture in her
she would move.
one root forward,
Then she would
leg-root in
The only part
about was in
Fortunately, today
very windy day.
breeze was blowing.
said the tree.
she pulled the

first leg-root
the ground.
leg-root snapped
clods of dirt
the nearby trees
her months before.
laughing now.
her first step.
pelted the other
and prepared to
She was a
she did it.
had long been
top sides
so they would
when she walked.
root hair was
the sunshine.
lovely morning,
overcome with joy
“Oh, my!”
“The world above
so beautiful! I
Wow! You mean
food I drink
way up to
way up there?”
certainly does,”
“If you’re ready,
we can go
Everyone was ready.
roots, trunk, branches,
all said,
go they did.
spent so much
walking that after

totally free of
As the second
free of the rock,
flew out, hitting
who had laughed at
They were not
The tree had taken
She apologized for
trees with mud,
take her second step.
little wobbly, but
All the root hairs
moving to the
of the roots,
not be damaged
The first little
finally out in
It was a
and he was
at the sight.
he shouted.
the ground is
can see everything.
the water and
goes all the
those leaves way,
“Yes, it most
replied the tree.
let’s see if
for a walk.”
The root hairs,
twigs and leaves
“Let’s go!” And
The tree had
time seeing herself
only a few

steps she looked
She wasn't going
but she was
had certainly gone
tree had ever
After a while
to really get
She had a
her face as
to look back at
They were in shock.
that they had
about what they
For so many
trees had only
watched others go by.
known what they
they really tried.
from them and
When she came to
she began to
Faster and faster
Down and down.
It was all
to keep herself
If she fell down,
she would probably
She began to
with exhaustion
the bottom of
tree splashed through
started going up
of the hill.
to a stop
up the hill.
"That was close!"

like a pro.
all that fast,
quite steady, and
farther than any
walked before!
she was beginning
the hang of it.
big smile on
she turned around
the other trees.
They realized now
been so wrong
were able to do.
millions of years
stood still and
They had never
could do if
The tree turned
began walking again.
a downhill slope,
pick up speed.
she went.
Faster and faster.
she could do
from falling over.
the tree knew
never get up again.
feel herself shake
as she neared
the slope. The
a little stream and
the other side
Finally she came
a little ways
"Whew!" she breathed.
But then a

strange feeling
She was starting
down the hill.
In all of
she had never
going backwards.
time to think
had to do
to stay up.
not knowing what
some way, she
up and found
the little stream
Suddenly she felt
She spread out
all the little
taking in big
fresh water.
taste good! The
stood there drinking
Turning, she saw
watching from the
She called them
and they too
from the stream.
and energized by
decided to run.
a direction
With the dogs
beside her, she
like the wind.
after the other,
across the valley.
in the nests
were tweeting away
Never had they

came over her.
to fall back
But this time backwards!
her imaginings
even thought about
There was no
about it- she simply
her very best
It was tough
was coming. Some how,
managed to stay
herself standing in
at the bottom.
very thirsty.
her roots and
root hairs started
drinks of cool,
Oooh, did that
beautiful tree just
for quite a while.
the two dogs
top of the hill.
down to her,
took a drink
Refreshed with water,
the sun, she
She simply chose
and took off!
running and barking
was striding along
One strong root-leg
moving her quickly
Even the birds
of her branches
with pure delight.
enjoyed such fun.

As the days
better and better,
Soon even the
keep up with her.
she would make
growing place
roots down into
There she would
with yummy minerals
The root hairs
by now that
in lots of
have time to
As soon as
so was the tree.
running far across
with birds and
next to her.
much fun together.
feeling of the
face and the
running roots on
Our special little
running every day.
she had to
her roots heal
the hard ground.
getting tougher,
really able to
every single day
The tree was
them a rest,
be running again

Chapter Three

One rest day
distinct sound

went on she got
faster and faster.
dogs could not
In the evening,
it back to her
and snuggle her
the soft earth.
recharge herself
and ground water.
were so strong
they could bring
food and still
sleep before morning.
the sun was up,
Off she'd go,
the green valley,
animals chasing along
They had so
She loved the
wind in her
rhythm of her
the ground below.
tree could not go
Every few days
rest and let
from running on
Although they were
they were not
take the pounding
without a break.
happy to give
knowing she would
the next day.

she heard the
of human voices.

A boy and
into the valley
The tree had
on top of the
but this was her
They were smiling
and chose a
to the tree.
heard them talk,
they cleaned up
Then something truly
The boy took out
began to play.
the air was
beautiful music.
so wonderful and
forgot herself and
to run.
several lively tunes.
to the her
She would remember
every rhythm.
the girl's turn.
her large bag
a lovely violin.
tune the instrument.
unrelated sounds made
her eyes and
not hear the
The sounds actually
But soon the
Snuggling the violin
she positioned
began to play
that was both
The tree slowly

a girl came
for a picnic.
seen people running
ridge several times,
first close look.
and laughing together,
spot right next
She watched them eat,
and saw how
after themselves.
wonderful happened.
a flute and
All at once
filled with his
The tree felt
cheery she almost
was getting ready
The boy played
The music reached
very centre.
every note and
Then it was
She reached into
and pulled out
She began to
The strange and
the tree shut
wish she could
strange instrument.
hurt her senses.
girl was ready.
beneath her chin,
the bow, and
a soft melody
sweet and sad.
opened her eyes

and turned slowly
The music was
the tree got
in her eyes.
tree's heart and
to her eye.
eyes and let
vibrate through her.
far away and
was lost in
of the music.
drew the last note
the tree opened
would never be
Ancient feelings
She looked at
They had become
They too were
beauty of the music.
girl laid down
staring up at
Eventually they
The tree noticed
in the open case.
so moved by
hadn't noticed that
made of wood,
All at once
the music had
The talent and
young girl, inspired
had found harmony
of the violin.
given its life
the music to
The Running Tree
feelings of the

toward the girl.
so beautiful that
a faraway look
Something touched the
a tear came
She closed her
the music softly
Her mind drifted
for a while
the haunting melody
As the girl
across the strings,
her eyes. She
the same again.
awoke in her.
the other trees.
very, very quiet.
taking in the
The boy and
on their blanket,
the passing clouds.
fell to sleep.
the violin, laying
She had been
the music she
the violin was
just like her.
she realized why
been so powerful.
feelings of the
by the composer,
in the wood
A tree had
in order for
enter the world.
realized that the
violin tree still

helped to make
Silently, she wondered
thing had such
All she knew
had a dream
go away.
after it even
other trees told
not be done.
lot of effort
The Running Tree
no tree had
she ran
She realized that
not even be
Eventually Jeanie and
and packed up
They commented how
this was and
come back someday.
they would, too.
got up the
a reflective mood.
thinking of the violin.
she walked thoughtfully
looking at the flowers,
She noticed things
really saw before.
colours in tiny
had been but
She had run
swiftly that she
beauty completely.
realized that there
than simply running.
speeds gave different
When she ran,

the music special.
if every living
a life purpose.
was that she
that would not
She kept going
though all the
her it could
It took a
and patience, but
did something that
ever done before:
like the wind.
the musician might
aware of this.
Cliff woke up,
their belongings.
lovely a spot
perhaps they would
The tree hoped
The special tree
next morning in
She was still
Instead of running,
around the valley,
rocks and streams.
that she never
There were subtle
little flowers that
a blur before.
past them so
had missed their
The special tree
was more to life
Going at different
views of the world.
she would remember

the lively tune
on his flute.
her feel happy
She tried explaining
other trees,
didn't get it.
with just standing,"
"That's why they
'stand' of trees."
for them, thought
I guess I'll go
Jeanie and Cliff
In fact, it
their favourite spot,
back many times.
with a blanket,
important of all,
flute and violin.
playing duets together.
they did the
would jump out
and pick them up
Soon she noticed
to look at
And longer.
as they finished
they did something
They leaned toward
for a moment,
The tree thought
had injured his
but this was
When they hugged
the tree could
falling in love.
beautiful, she
but shed a

the boy played
That music made
and powerful inside.
this to the
but they just
"There's nothing wrong
they would say.
call us a
Well, too bad
the special tree.
for a walk.
did come back.
must have become
because they came
They always came
food, and most
they brought their
Soon they were
The first time
tree thought she
of the ground
and hug them.
that they began
each other differently.
One such time,
playing a duet,
that was new.
each other and,
their lips touched.
perhaps the boy
lip on the flute,
not it at all.
each other even
see they were
It was so
couldn't help
tear of joy.

A big tear
landed right on
They looked up,
when they saw
down at them.
so wonderful inside
being a tree.
looked up
looked at each other,
at the tree.
said the tree.
talk?" asked Jeanie.
no idea of
No tree was
let on that
For thousands and
no tree had
to a human.
a spot now.
opened one eye.
said the tree.
just the wind."
stood up and
the talking tree.
to the boy,
How can that be?"
said the boy.
a trick."
to think fast.
moments she said,
I can talk.
not be frightened.
think to harm you.
I'm sorry I
You see, your
greatly, and so
I don't claim to

of joy that
Jeanie and Cliff!
half expecting rain,
the tree smiling
The tree felt
she forgot all about
The young couple
at the tree, then
and then back
"OOPS!"
"Did you just
The tree had
what to do.
ever supposed to
they were intelligent.
thousands of years,
ever talked
The tree was in
The tree narrowly
"Uh, no. I didn't."
"It- um...it was
The young couple
backed away from
The girl said
"That tree talked.
"I don't know,"
"Maybe it's just
The tree had
After a few
"It's no trick.
But please do
I would never
No tree would.
startled you two.
music touched me
does your love.
understand it all,

but the music affects me greatly. play some more?" and the boy They felt as picking up their for the tree. back and forth the sweet music. explained about the and how they Saturday to The tree didn't about doors or of them meant, nodded and wished the next Saturday. which days she frolic and on would rest and visit One day Jeanie to share something She had learned tune for a was to play She needed to the tree if to hear it. said the tree. Well, the tune and so danceable, herself again and of the ground to the music! Jeanie had her and when she her mouth in

you two play Please, would you The tree smiled, and girl relaxed. in a dream, instruments and playing The tree swayed in rhythm to Jeanie and Cliff days of the week, always came on enjoy the outdoors. really understand what being out so she simply them well until Now she knew could run and which day she with her friends. was very excited with the tree. quite a lively square dance she for next week. practice, and asked she would like "Why of course," Jeanie started playing. was so lively the tree forgot actually jumped out and began dancing At that moment back to the tree, turned around, opened awe and stared

at the tree The tree was good time she realize that the After a few came to her Well, now the out of the bag. people just looked in total disbelief. to check with see if they dream or not. Jeanie and Cliff of how she to run, and toward that goal. she went running They promised to a complete secret. if the world about her, she any peace again. could possibly be They explained the tree, and made a never reveal what The tree was hear that part. very curious about the little valley. **Chapter Four** she went a one side of the hoping to get of the other side.

in total disbelief. having such a did not even girl stopped playing. moments the tree senses and stopped. cat was really The two young at her again Again they had each other to were in a The tree told her whole story had always wanted her long journey After the story, with the two. keep the tree They knew that ever found out would never have And the same true for all trees. dangers to the solemn vow to they witnessed today. very relieved to However, she became the world beyond What wonders must Once while running, little further up valley than usual, a little peek She stopped about

halfway up, unsure
She knew it
dangerous to be
On the other hand,
was overpowering.
a little further.
up the slope,
look like she
where she was.
tree could stand
a while indeed,
entirely on its
catch the attention
Taking tiny steps,
to the top.
big moment. Peering
she saw something
ever seen before.
strangest set
could have imagined.
leaves at all.
twigs at all.
had no trace
And their trunks
The closest ones
have any bark.
none of them
They did appear
growing between them.
tight with little
but with no leaves.
oddest, most unnatural
had ever seen.
trees was a
a lake covered
A deer was
from the stream

of what to do.
could be very
spotted trotting about.
her natural curiosity
She decided to go
While slowly moving
she tried to
belonged right
And although the
motionless for quite
a tree standing
roots would probably
of someone.
she finally made it
This was the
over the top,
she had never
It was the
of trees she
They had no
They had no
In fact, they
of any branches.
were absolutely straight.
did not even
It seemed that
had bark at all.
to have vines
Straight vines stretched
twigs, evenly spaced,
It was the
sight the tree
Beyond the naked
sloping meadow and
with green scum.
carefully taking sips
running down into

the little lake.
up at the tree,
and cautiously went
There were no
Our special tree
the nearest "tree"
it was doing there
Even before she
the tree realized
very wrong here.
not alive. They
of what used
And the vines
They were wires,
strings on the
The tree believed
make the beautiful
the violin strings.
not serve
The tree decided
Jeanie and Cliff
next time they
She was about
she suddenly had
of being watched.
where she was.
No human voices.
she turned and
across the scene.
she saw him.
strongest, most
had ever imagined.
grove, their eyes
in an instant.
understanding among
this felt different.
away, she could

The deer looked
blinked several times,
back to drinking.
people anywhere.
walked over to
and asked what
with the others.
got no answer,
that something was
These trees were
were simply pieces
to be living trees.
were not vines.
not unlike the
girl's violin.
these would not
music produced by
Barbed wire does
the same purpose.
she would ask
about this the
came to visit.
to leave when
the odd feeling
She froze right
She listened carefully.
Ever so slowly
moved her gaze
All at once
He was the
splendid tree she
Standing near a
locked together
There is an
trees, but
Even from far
feel his thoughts.

He was wondering
magnificent tree could
notice until now.
his feelings and
astonished at
Her wish was
next to him.
with their leaves
On purpose.
the wind,
She even began
their roots touch.
sent back similar
This was unexpected.
only wanted to
She did not
herself in love.
with another tree
To find it
that can physically
one in a thousand.
But this presented
He assumed that
noticed her before.
react to a tree
He might be quite
such a thing.
another, she'd have
She would not
simply burrow in
and carry on
Also, she could not
she had become.
the next move.
Gathering her strength,
began walking along
toward his grove.

how such a
have escaped his
He sent her
she was quite
her reaction.
to be standing
Right next to him,
touching each other.
Not just from
but on purpose.
fantasizing about having
He understood and
feelings of his own.
The tree had
go out exploring.
expect to find
To find love
is one thing.
in a tree
be touched is
Probably more.
a big problem.
he had not
How would he
that could walk.
put off by
One way or
to find out.
be content to
and stay here
from a distance.
be untrue to what
Hers was definitely
Literally.
she turned and
the fence right
Once she had

taken a few steps,
changed abruptly.
movement was not
he was shocked.
he thought she
man-made contraption
like a tree.
let down then.
so lovely and
However, the
the more strongly
She was real
As she stopped
across from him,
the energy moving
It was much
were close together.
to tremble.
neither could speak.

Chapter Five

Finally the tree
"I am Drow."
"How is it
able to move from
like the animals?"
the entire tale.
unfolded, he became
growing respect he
She had done
other tree had
He felt humbled
She thanked him
and asked how he
He opened his
and she opened
It was clear
them that they

his vibrations
Realizing that her
from the wind,
Staring in disbelief,
must be a
meant to look
He felt so
She had seemed
bright and energizing.
closer she came,
he sensed her.
wood and leaves.
at a place
they could feel
between them.
stronger when they
They both began
For several minutes
They were in love.

managed to say,
"And I'm Spreeve."
that you are
place to place
She told him
As her story
aware of a
had for her.
something that no
ever dared do.
in her presence.
for his thought,
felt about her.
core to her,
hers to him.
to both of
belonged together.

With Spreeve's they could have of actually touching But there was of the fence. a fence was, a barrier that keep things apart. given it much Now everything was The fence was his beloved Spreeve. lift one of over the fence, much too high. the top of observed that the as far as She advised Drow leave to find the fence. one way and a steep cliff. way she discovered a raging river. easy solution Then Drow had He suggested that how to walk. strong, very intelligent Spreeve agreed. beyond all her a mate that Even if he with her it In fact, it if he could

ability to move, the rare opportunity one another. still the matter Drow explained what how it was Mankind created to He had never thought until now. so very different. keeping him from She tried to her root-legs but it was She went to the hill and fence went on she could see. that she would a way around She followed it it ended at Going the other it ended at There seemed no to their situation. a bright idea. Spreeve teach him He was very and very determined. It would be expectations to have ran with her. could only walk would be wonderful. would be sensational simply make it

to the fence. very hard and communication technique the Frahhv. to directly transmit to another tree. now was a Spreeve asked one living in an deliver the leaf. only too happy so enjoyed the shuttled about by last few weeks. flew to the carefully bit it and delivered it waiting Drow. in contact long DNA to be the other leaf. lot of energy, to rest for an could speak again. Drow vowed his do just as building the strength hairs and developing for his legs. return each day until he was free of the earth. for the days and Cliff would They decided that would be said about their plan.

Spreeve concentrated used the ancient known as It used DNA memory and thought All they needed willing bird. of the sparrows upper branch to The sparrow was to help, having experience of being a tree the The little bird appropriate leaf, from its twig, safely to the The bird held it enough for the replicated in This took a and Drow had hour before he When he could, intention to Spreeve had done, of his root two strong roots Spreeve vowed to to be near him ready to break Except, of course, that the Jeanie come to visit. for now, nothing to the humans As the days

went slowly by,
lot of progress.
root hairs were
ground and before
his bigger roots
on the action.
and helpful hints
learned by herself,
faster than hers.
root-legs were
and he was storing
in his leaves.
was coming fast.
DNA link, Drow
start visualizing much
vividly than Spreeve.
according to plan.
known for their
trees were growing
As Spreeve became
comfortable with
she found it
not to tell
They were always
she wanted to
about the love
She just found it
share with humans,
were known to
that cut us
Although it seemed
the big day
walk was tomorrow.
excited she could
They talked about
long into the night.
where she stood.

Drow made a
Soon all his
busily loosening the
they knew it
were getting in
With Spreeve's encouragement
from what she
his progress was
Drow's two main
coming along nicely,
lots of energy
The big day
Because of the
was able to
sooner and more
Everything was going
Although trees are
great patience, these
quite impatient indeed.
more and more
her human friends,
harder and harder
them about Drow.
so very nice,
share her excitement
of her life.
difficult to completely
or as they
the trees, "Those
from our roots."
to take forever,
for Drow to
Spreeve was so
hardly stand it.
last minute details
Spreeve fell asleep
The next morning

they both overslept.
woken up when
tapping away on
Spreeve shooed the
looked around.
open air had
very cold, and
her roots had not
bring up nutrients
during the night.
she thought to herself.
important. I can
more food later.
to Drow woke
He blinked a
sight of Spreeve
As he realized
today his mood
Today would be
day for him.
only walk, he
the love of
actually touch her!
up his trunk.
hours as they
leaves to soak up
early morning sunshine.
fully charged up
free of the ground.
he felt himself
Finally, the moment
was giving him
about rocks and
Drow was so
hardly pay attention.
of waiting was
they realized there

They were finally
a woodpecker began
Spreeve's exposed root.
bird away and
Sleeping in the
made her roots
she realized that
been able to
from the ground
What the heck,
Today is too
always get
Sending mental vibrations
him up slowly.
few times, caught
and smiled warmly.
the importance of
changed considerably.
unlike any other
He would not
would walk to
his life and
A shiver ran
Seconds seemed like
waited for his
energy from the
He must be
to pull himself
Toward late morning,
nearly ready.
was here. Spreeve
last minute instructions
keeping his balance.
excited he could
As an eternity
nearing an end,
was nothing left

to do but
Spreeve sent him
of love and,
fell silent so as
Drow's concentration.
warm, he was
had visualized the steps
He began to
root-leg. It
quite easily, so
right root-leg.
was some tension,
ready to go.
he pulled up
root-leg and
His exit from
so smooth that
at all. Within
was standing free
They both thought:
Branches spread
Drow bravely took
Then his second.
He was walking!
to help, this
he had imagined.
amazement.
first time she got
it looked like
In her mind
step with him,
made it up
toward her position.
him nearer to her.
of her mind
the other trees
They were older

to do it.
a final burst
as they planned,
to not disturb
The ground was
fully energized and
a hundred times.
wiggle his left
actually moved
he tried the
At first there
but also seemed
Bracing himself,
first on one
then the other.
the ground was
no dirt flew
two minutes he
of the ground.
"So far, so good."
wide for balance,
his first step.
Then his third.
With the DNA
was easier than
Spreeve watched in
This was the
to see what
when trees walked.
she took every
as he slowly
the little slope
Each step brought
In the back
she could feel
looking with wonder.
trees who had

known Drow
They had never
doing this thing.
he came to her.
their waiting leaves
Now he was
metres away.
so close she couldn't
send him a
how proud she
At that very
directly at her
as he approached.
excitement and that
he did not
moss growing on
ahead of him.
root-leg came
just a few metres
Spreeve, he sensed,
mind, his right
out from underneath.
panic as he
was now falling.
root-leg, he
swing his branches
his balance.
but too well.
but was not
several complicated
He could not
to swing back
He was now
other direction-
barbed wire fence.
a sharp breath
him slip on

all his life.
ever imagined him
Closer and closer
Each step brought
that much closer.
only a few
He was getting
help but to
message to say
was of him.
moment Drow looked
to see her face
With all the
momentary distraction,
notice the slippery
a flat rock just
As his right
down on it,
from his beloved
somewhere in his
root-leg slipping
Confusion quickly became
realized that he
Bending his other
desperately tried to
over to regain
The idea worked,
He righted himself,
used to coordinating
movements at once.
get his branches
fast enough.
falling in the
right toward the
Spreeve let out
when she saw
the mossy rock.

Instinctively, she help him, how tired and also lost her toward Drow. sound of leaves other and a thicker branches Somehow their branches and they were against each other; forward to now To say the least, the passionate embrace been hoping for! seconds they simply more accurately, not quite sure

Chapter Six

Once they realized falling anymore, they they simply walked pushing with their should be able to stand up again. but there were with that plan. was caught in the and could not move And two, Drow another mossy rock and could get to move forward. two were stuck. they saw that were horrified. "I told you

reached out to but not realizing depleted she was, balance and fell There was the rustling past each brief thud as were smashed together. had become entwined, hopelessly leaning each too far regain their balance. this was not they had both For a few stood there, or they leaned there, what to do.

they were not reasoned that if toward each other, root-legs, they help each other It sounded good, two major problems For one, Spreeve barbed wire fence, forward at all. was confronted by in front of him, no secure foothold In short, the Looking around, the other trees One was saying, this was a

bad idea. holding your ground?" two cents , saying, they'll be logs Spreeve and Drow at the same time, we do now?" had gone to to visit their They were surprised find her there. for a while, realizing she was Some time later looking for her. find a trail grass was standing they got there. odd clue, since usually well trampled on a walk. that she must long before they arrived. way to go, split up and One direction seemed so Jeanie headed Cliff took off Heading up Jeanie stopped to Glancing off she did a visual spotted the two against each other. she cocked her but no sound After a few

What's wrong with Another added her "At this rate by nightfall." Both asked each other "What do Jeanie and Cliff the little valley new friend Spreeve. when they didn't They waited around then began to worry, nowhere in sight. they decided to go They tried to but all the straight up since This was another the grass was whenever Spreeve went They correctly reasoned have gone walking Not knowing which they decided to cover more ground. a bit more travelled, that way. along the creek. over the ridge, rub her leg. to her left, double-take as she uprooted trees leaning Her mouth opened wide, head to the side, came out. seconds she finally

whispered to herself,
She took a
the two trees,
the stream and called
she could to Cliff.
was too loud
for him to hear
She hesitated, not
go to Spreeve or
She ran
Within a minute
a few yards
She approached cautiously,
her presence would
Staring at them,
sink in that
two trees that
around on legs.
"Um, excuse me.
as it looks?"
"Oh, Jeanie! I'm so
Drow and I
awful mess.
just awful.
"Spreeve, how did
what's a 'Drow?"
You and Cliff always
I wanted someone
to be with.
This is Drow.
what I've done.
Jeanie introduced herself,
both how things
that they'd get out
Spreeve was calmer
but soon the
into her bark.

"What the heck..."
few steps toward
glanced down toward
as loudly as
The gurgling stream
and too close
her distant call.
knowing whether to
run for help.
for the trees.
she was only
from the scene.
not sure if
startle the two.
it began to
there were now
could walk
She edged closer.
Is this as bad
Spreeve opened her eyes.
glad you're here!
are in an
This is awful,
Help us, please!"
this happen? And
"Oh, Jeanie.
looked so happy together.
I could be happy
And this is him.
But, oh, look
Look what I've done!"
started telling them
would be all right,
of this somehow.
for a while,
wire started cutting
She was also

becoming exhausted from
lack of food.
he slipped on
began to fall.
Spreeve had
but had put
by doing so.
Jeanie began removing
About this time
over the ridge.
his tracks when
scene before him.
all he could manage
As Jeanie
he helped her
from the rock.
as it gave Drow
By noon he had
which was fortunate
ready to collapse
of food and
the situation.
to take their
they do.
requires fast thinking
I'm so thankful
here," said Spreeve.
need a plan.
get these two
Everyone agreed.
"I read in
that the most
solving a problem
the problem solved.
a clear picture
of what the
when it's all done,

lack of sleep and
Drow explained how
the moss and
He explained how
saved his life,
herself in danger
While he talked,
moss from the flat rock.
Cliff came running
He stopped in
he saw the
"Holy canolly" was about
for a while.
filled him in,
remove the moss
That was helping,
a better foothold.
a good hold,
because Spreeve was
from the lack
the strain of
"Trees are supposed
time in everything
But this situation
and fast action.
that you two are
Cliff said, "We
We've got to
untangled and upright."
Jeanie remembered something.
a book once
important step in
is first to see
Once you get
in your head
situation looks like
you can then

figure out how
Cliff felt
and suggested a
be the two
straight with their
ground, eating.
good to the trees,
brainstorming.
too heavy for
to push upright,
could use ropes
Cliff's friend had
that would work.
that he never
drive it, and
sure he could
keep his
about the trees.
good short term
keep the trees from
Cliff ran to his
some rope. He
another tree, while
remaining rope to
a large rock.
what we need
energy to get
up straight.
at it from
maybe we can
Jeanie's eyes
"I think
Let's get shovels
around their roots.
build up their
just maybe, we
together to get

to get there!"
that made sense,
good picture would
trees standing up
roots in the
That sure sounded
so they started
The trees were
Jeanie and Cliff
but maybe they
and a car.
an off-road truck
The problem was
let anyone else
they were not
be trusted to
big mouth shut
They decided a
step was to
falling any further.
car and brought
tied Drow to
Jeanie used the
tie Spreeve to
"Simply put, said Cliff,
is to expend
these two back
If we look
that angle,
find a solution."
opened wide.
I've got it!
and pile dirt
If they can
strength, maybe,
can all work
them upright again!"

Cliff kissed her
"That's brilliant!"
did you ever
"Well," replied Jeanie.
kind of hungry myself,
started thinking about
two must be
I thought of
I remembered that
little bit differently
thinking," said Cliff.
emergency shovel
He began to
went to the
up better shovels
She also picked
some pulleys, and
to get her
stakes and mallet.
And so were
They had never seen
What a wonderful
be out there,
Using the pulleys
they were able
of the pressure
Cliff and Jeanie
dirt onto the
two wayward trees.
Drow muttered, "This
Grown trees being
The others will
live this down."
at Drow. "Hey,
You've done something
the courage or
You learned to walk!

on the forehead.
he exclaimed. "How
think of that?"
"I was getting
and I just
how hungry these
by now. When
bringing them food,
they eat a
than us." "Good
Cliff had an
in the car.
dig while Jeanie
store to pick
for this job.
up more ropes,
stopped at home
father's horseshoe
Cliff was impressed.
Spreeve and Drow.
such devices before.
world it must
they thought.
and rope,
to relieve some
on the trees.
worked hard shovelling
roots of the
At one point,
is so embarrassing.
spoon-fed by humans.
never let me
Jeanie looked up
forget them!
they didn't have
persistence to do.
You freed yourself

from the ground.
very proud.”
up a bit. “Thanks.
why my lovely
humans so much.
Jeanie smiled, muttered

Chapter Seven

As the shadows
trees were in
The barbed wire
in so much,
strong foothold,
rest and
much-needed nutrition.
hat to bring
for which they
So far, so good.
to leave them
rest and regain
Jeanie and Cliff
next day with
to help them
the way up.
situation was stabilized,
had time to
touch and get
another better.
arrived shortly after
The trees awoke slowly,
were at first.
who was not
anywhere other than
always been growing.
was in the branches
and despite
in the air,
came over him.

You should be
Drow lightened
I see now
Spreeve likes you
You’re good wood.”
“thanks”, and kept digging.

grew longer, the
much better spirits.
was not digging
Drow had a
and they could
take in some
Cliff used his
them some water,
were very grateful.
The plan was
there overnight to
their strength.
would return the
some great idea
the rest of
Now that the
Spreeve and Drow
enjoy each other’s
to know one
Jeanie and Cliff
sunrise next morning.
not sure where they
Especially Drow,
used to being
where he had
Realizing that he
of his true love,
the brisk chill
a warm feeling
Cliff had managed

to borrow his friend’s
for the morning,
flute as collateral.
Cliff valued the instrument,
that there was something
The truck had
the front that
one of Drow’s
The plan was
balance his weight
as the winch
away from Spreeve.
slowly so Drow
chance to react
getting out of hand.
had very little
walking and balancing,
to wait until
warm them up,
be as agile
Both Jeanie and
when Spreeve explained
That information might
difference between
The two trees
to soak up more
This would be
one way
While they were waiting,
where they were
Would they be
moving over to
or finding an
place to live.
that they had
of those possibilities
Their first priority

off-road truck
giving him his
Knowing how much
his friend understood
important going on.
a winch in
Cliff tied to
main branches.
to have Drow
to the sides
pulled him back
They would go
would have a
if things started
Knowing that he
experience with
they also decided
the sun could
so he would
as possible.
Cliff were impressed
about DNA transfer.
just make the
success and failure.
used the time
nutrients and water.
quite a day,
or the other.
Jeanie asked them
going to live.
staying here,
Spreeve’s little valley,
entirely new
Spreeve told her
not considered any
as yet.
had been simply

to get together.
been accomplished,
happened exactly as
Then there was the
Could they be
down roots and
There was so
world to see.
ideas to grasp,
to experience. Jeanie
The answer Spreeve
somewhat surprising.
or even thousands of
Most never happen,
on the wind,
more than spores.
and even grow nearby,
little contact it's
as family. Or,
trees of the
DNA in so
the entire species
And while all trees
with one another,
species can understand
Spreeve was now
that the old ways
to her situation.
Drow were to
would undoubtedly
walk as they
This was radical
Options presented
been available for
With trees having
move around,
the same again.

Although that had
it had not
they had planned.
question of lifestyle.
happy just putting
staying put?
much of the
So many
so many things
asked about children.
gave her was
Trees produce hundreds
potential new trees.
they simply blow away
never to be
When they do take,
there is so
hardly thought of
more to the point,
same species share
many ways that
is a family.
can communicate
trees of the same
each other best.
sharing her thought
may not apply
If she and
have offspring, they
teach them to
had learned.
thinking for a tree.
themselves that had never
millions of generations.
the ability to
nothing would be
Spreeve wondered what

it was that
different from all
Why after so
she come along
Jeanie wasn't sure.
was certain of
danger to
from the rest
What would happen
thinking trees that
to be living
How would
Would they be
newly discovered
or looked at
curiosity of science
tested and dissected.
might they be
threat to humans?
destruction of the
the use of
might intelligent,
be a threat?
Spreeve and Drow,
help wondering
What would
How do they think?
to ask Spreeve
when the tree
"You know, Jeanie,
about some of
Once word of
other trees will
to walk as well.
know what's happening
think humans will
Jeanie considered this

had made her
the other trees.
many millennia did
at this time?
One thing she
was the possible
Spreeve and Drow
of the world.
to two walking,
were discovered
in the world?
they be treated?
honoured as a
form of life,
with the cold
and be inspected,
Or even worse,
seen as some
With all the
rain forests and
wood in general,
mobile trees in fact
Jeanie trusted
but she couldn't
about other trees.
they be like?
She was about
her opinion,
started speaking.
I was just thinking
the bigger possibilities.
this gets around,
probably start trying
Eventually people will
How do you
react to the news?"
question for several

very long seconds.
throat and began.
are many possibilities.
very unpredictable.
be many reactions.
you as Cliff
Some will fear you,
a possible threat.
to exploit you,
for their gain.
they would probably
the circus and
people to come
run around
I don't know...
certainly be a scientific
They would want to
fact and detail.
want to know
of trees and
any others who
It would go
You could never
kind of privacy you
As bad as
for human celebrities,
be kind of
in a crowd."
what Jeanie had said.
thinking when
I see two
We can either
to keep them
society completely,
chance and pick
or person who
can trust to

Finally she cleared her
"Well Spreeve, there
Human beings are
There will actually
Some will embrace
as I have.
seeing you as
Others will want
to use you
Who knows,
sell you to
sell tickets for
and watch you
the centre ring.
There would almost
and government investigation.
know every little
They would probably
about the intelligence
if there are
are like you.
on and on.
again have the
have known here.
it can be
you guys would
hard to lose
Spreeve thought about
She was still
Cliff spoke up.
possibilities right now.
do our best
hidden away from
or take a
some government agency
we think we
take care of them

in a decent way.
people got a hold
be disastrous."
"I was thinking
find one person
who could help
to a safe,
they could live
all they want.
island somewhere,
One thing is
here will get
sooner or later.
growing in population
will be hikers
over these hills.
step is to
of this tangle
It seemed to
but finally
it was time.
the truck into position
of time and
rechecked the fittings
even Drow was
Drow thought
"These humans
they're always wanting
so quickly. They
and be more
Then he thought about
just thought about
was no longer
He had chosen
different kind of
and move quickly.
the humans do.

If the wrong
of this, it could
Jeanie agreed.
that we could
we could trust
take them
secluded place where
freely and romp around
Maybe an
or a private ranch.
for sure; living
them discovered
This area is
and soon there
and campers all
However, our first
get them out
they're in now."
be taking forever,
they all figured
Cliff had backed
two hours ahead
had checked and
so many times
getting annoyed.
to himself,
are so impatient;
to do things
should slow down
like us trees."
what he had
and realized that he
like his fellow trees.
to make a
life for himself
Move more like
This thought did

not please him
it used to.
to get doubts about
He was feeling
so sure he
do with
Being in direct contact,
in to his feelings.
of her branches that
and he became aware
Suddenly the fears
and he remembered
was doing this.
desire to be
he felt strong and
He now thought,
already had a
any tree I've
except of course
Whatever happens
and I'm ready!"
patting his trunk,
it was time.
was ready,
Spreeve was tied back
from falling forward
Drow was securely
to the truck.
The motor groaned
did not start.
on his face,
Nothing. His eyes
he discovered the
lights pulled out.
but he swallowed
wanted to say.
hands to his head

as much as
He was beginning
the whole idea.
scared and not
wanted anything to
any of it.
Spreeve began tuning
She rustled some
were touching him
of her presence again.
and doubts vanished
clearly why he
Energized by his
with Spreeve,
sure of himself.
"Whatever happens, I've
greater adventure than
ever known,
for Spreeve.
now will happen,
Just then Cliff was
telling him that
Drow said he
willing and able.
to prevent her
any more, and
attached by rope
Cliff turned the key.
a bit but
With a frown
Cliff tried again.
went wide when
switch for the
His mouth opened
the words he
He put his
and let his

head fall to
"How could I
incredibly stupid?"
Then he yelled
"How could I
incredibly stupid?"
over to the window.
had happened.
hand to her
at the truck.
gears? she asked.
a moment to think.
roll it down
I'll pop the
gets to the bottom!
Let's untie Drow and
Chapter Eight
They told Drow
how the lights
from the battery,
no longer strong
start the engine.
especially Spreeve,
it was like
all day using
needing to replenish
she could
The idea of popping
come as easily,
their human friends
time to soak up
As Cliff untied
the truck, he
thinking about how
had checked the
never walked around
the truck.

the steering wheel.
have been so
he thought.
it out loud.
have been so
Jeanie came running
He explained what
She put her
mouth and looked
"Can we pop the
It only took Cliff
"Yes! We can
the hill and
clutch when it
Great thinking, Jeanie.
explain what happened."

and Spreeve about
had drained energy
until it was
enough to
They understood perfectly,
who knew what
to run around
up energy and
her reserves before
'get started' again.
the clutch didn't
but they trusted
and used the
more nutrients.
the lines from
couldn't help
many times he
ropes but had
the front of
If he had,

it would have
the lights were
wouldn't have to
the good work
earlier that morning.
about it, another
Why didn't they
running lights on
of the truck?
incredibly unobservant,
were not working.
to check those
they get the
Okay, the lines were
truck was free.
to do was
feet or so
take a ride!
Cliff should be
pop the clutch,
to his friend,
to push.
depressed the clutch,
brake and gave Jeanie
She pushed and pushed.
moving but the
Cliff yelled again
go ahead and push.
to call again
her standing
"I tried, Cliff,
Cliff set the
got out and
"Well, we're aimed
here and it
truck has sunk in
into the ground.

been obvious that
on and they
be undoing all
they had done
As he thought
thought occurred to him.
notice the red
in the back
Either they were
or those lights
Cliff told himself
lights out when
truck running again.
untied and the
All they had
push it ten
to the hill and
Jeanie felt that
the one to
since it belonged
so she volunteered
Cliff got in,
released the parking
the go ahead.
Her legs were
truck did not.
for her to
He was about
when he noticed
by the door.
but it won't budge!"
parking brake,
took a look.
slightly uphill from
looks like the
about an inch
We'll have to

push it together.
need to get
then hop in
to the edge.
any other way?"
back and forth
to the edge
"Well, we could
get it close,
could hop in
could push it
it's closer?"
plan," said Cliff.
together and almost
the parking brake.
I put the parking
He released it
"This should be
They put their
truck and started
After three rockings
climbed out of
and began moving
Cliff turned to Jeanie,
keep it going
got it moving."
they continued to
It was slow,
they were doing it.
feet they both
other and said,
At that very moment,
taking his last
he made an
which he would not
He discovered that
As his right

That means we
it rolling and
before it gets
Do you see
Jeanie looked
from the truck
of the hill.
rock it and
and then you
and maybe I
more easily when
"Sounds like a
They started pushing
immediately Cliff remembered
"Oh- hold on.
brake on again."
and came back.
much easier now!"
backs to the
gently pushing.
the truck easily
its shallow hole
toward the edge.
saying "Let's just
slowly while we've
Jeanie agreed and
walk steadily backwards.
difficult walking, but
After a few
turned to each
"That's probably good."
as Cliff was
step backward,
interesting discovery
understand until later.
the truck leaked oil.
foot came down,

it went out
and he came
In fact,
most interesting sound
the rear bumper
Jeanie had been
the whole time,
still moving truck.
you all right?"
to him
in an instant,
took her another
that the truck
toward the edge.
Cliff's eyes opened
turned to see
for the hill.
best to scramble
slipped on the
and landed right
Jeanie had stood
and pulled on
get him moving.
now had oil
he was slipping
the damp grass.
took over and she
She reached the
hold of it.
feel that the
much momentum
Knowing it was
thing to do,
the side
to jump in.
handle and
The truck was

from under him
down as well.
his head made a
when it contacted
of the truck.
totally focused on him
ignoring the
"Cliff! Are
She was next
on her knees
and it only
instant to realize
was still moving
"The truck!"
wide as he
the truck heading
He did his
up but he
oil stain again
on his face.
up by now
Cliff's sleeve to
Both his feet
on them and
like crazy on
Something within Jeanie
sprang into action.
bumper and grabbed
Immediately she could
truck had too
to stop that way.
a risky, stupid
she raced around
of the truck
She grabbed the
opened the door.
starting to go

over the edge
She was trying
in but the
up speed fast.
on the door
on the truck frame,
in great leaps
right moment to
that would
It was taking
the truck was
She lost her
dragging along,
truck as it
down the hill.
of adrenaline, she
as she could,
toward the seat.
fell on the metal
to the seat.
the way in,
she was off
She quickly grabbed
turning the truck
That slammed the
which didn't hurt,
for a moment.
more onto the
the clutch handle.
wiggled and more
onto the seat,
right leg was
Grabbing the wheel
she pulled
As she started
a driving position,
hit a rock,

of the hill.
desperately to get
truck was picking
With one hand
and the other
she was bounding
waiting for the
make the leap
put her inside.
too long and
moving too fast!
balance and was
bouncing with the
headed driver-less
With a burst
ran as quickly
and pulled herself
Her right knee
floorboard next
She wasn't all
but at least
the ground.
the steering wheel,
as she did.
door against her legs,
but distracted her
She flung herself
seat and grabbed
She wiggled and
or less got
except that her
folded under her.
with both hands,
her leg free.
getting herself into
the truck
which bounced her

toward the door.
grip on the
iron, and she
Whew!
she was in
ready to go.
remained. She had
a clutch before!
but he managed
the hill after her,
as he went.
that someone was
It was Cliff,
She steered
on the hill,
Cliff came clomping
yelling to her
She yelled back
didn't know how.
to push in
She yelled back
he was about
to put the truck
when he realized
a bit too
"Put the truck
he called.
"In second gear?"
a "yes!" as he
to the truck.
to get out
but as he
he told Jeanie
clutch out and
She did so
roared to life.
he called out

By now, her
wheel was like
handled it well.
She was in,
position and
Only one problem
never actually popped
Cliff was hurt,
to scramble down
slipping and sliding
Jeanie became aware
yelling something.
calling to her.
the truck sideways
slowing it down.
along behind it,
to pop the clutch.
that she
He told her
the clutch.
an okay and
to tell her
in first gear,
she was going
fast for that.
in second gear!"
She screamed back
Cliff called out
was catching up
He was starting
of breath now,
neared the truck
to let the
then hit the gas.
and the truck
As Cliff struggled along,
a single word:

"neutral!"
and slipped the
as instructed. The
but Jeanie instinctively
it more gas.
and she allowed
as Cliff came panting
"Wow!" said Cliff.
bit of heroics.
You can come
any time you like!"
I guess that
although I was
jumping into
Cliff replied, "True,
have just saved
Spreeve and Drow.
truck back over
their branches out
Cliff climbed in,
truck into gear
toward their friends.
"That looked very
Please be careful.
horrible if something
to you
Jeanie thanked Spreeve
and explained how
things without
Spreeve understood,
a tree the
impulsively was quite
Trees were known
Cliff put the
position and secured
"Next time I
a checklist

Jeanie understood,
gears into neutral
engine almost died,
knew to give
It kept going,
it to run
up to her side.
"That was some
I'm really impressed.
to the rescue
"Thanks, Babe.
was pretty good,
sort of reckless
a moving truck!"
but you may
the day for
Let's get the
there and pull
of the fire."
Jeanie put the
and headed back
Spreeve was concerned.
dangerous, Jeanie.
I would feel
were to happen
because of us."
for her concern
humans sometimes do
thinking them through.
yet although as
idea of acting
foreign to her.
for their patience.
truck back into
the ropes again.
think I'll make
of everything I

can think of,”
Jeanie just
deep in thought
Everything was ready.
the cab and
into first gear.
brake and slowly
He wanted to
the hill and
rear view mirror.
keep looking
knowing that if
Jeanie would
The truck inched
ropes tightened up.
began to move.
brushed past Spreeve’s,
do this again
Spreeve smiled
“Focus, my dear.”
advice and braced
It was working.
vertical when Jeanie
Cliff to stop.
on the brake
Drow was nearly
flexing his root-legs.
the ropes holding
to the boulder when
shout of concern.
starting to back up
slacken the ropes,
tires began to
wet grass of
Drow was being
too far by
“Cliff!” Jeanie shouted.

he remarked.
nodded her head,
about the situation.
Cliff climbed into
slipped the truck
He released the
let out the clutch.
be watching both
the trees in the
He decided to
back and forth,
a problem arose,
shout to him.
forward and the
Slowly Drow
As his leaves
he whispered, “Let’s
sometime” to her.
and whispered back,
Drow followed her
himself for standing.
He was nearly
shouted for
Cliff eased down
pedal. Perfect.
vertical and was
Jeanie was untying
his lower trunk
she heard Drow’s
As Cliff was
the truck to
the badly worn
slip on the
the downhill slope.
pulled over
the top ropes.
“Stop the truck!”

Cliff shouted back
but the tires
A light rain
Drow was beginning
he couldn’t hold
Jeanie shouted,
Cliff shouted back,
desperately applied
Jeanie grabbed a
swung viciously at
The ax merely
hitting her
She realized she
hit the rope
where there was
This worked better,
not cut through
“I can’t... hold it...”
“I’m sorry, Drow.”
she brought down the
right next to
Thump! Cliff
looking frantically around
to find something
He threw his hands
knocking the rear-view
“Great.” Now he
moving downhill again.
side view mirror,
“Finally,” he thought.
truck in gear
return to the
When Jeanie
the axe lodged
He let out
Jeanie’s hands went
Spreeve too let

that he was trying,
weren’t holding.
began to fall.
to strain,
on much longer.
“I’ll cut the ropes!”
“Hurry!” as he
the brakes.
small axe and
the closest rope.
bounced off, nearly
in the forehead.
would have to
closer to Drow,
greater tension.
but still did
the rope.
squeaked Drow.
said Jeanie as
axe into a rope
the tree’s trunk.
had been
the cabin trying
to help the situation.
up in frustration,
mirror off its mount.
felt the truck
He looked in the
but saw nothing.
He put the
and prepared to
top of the hill.
cut the rope,
in Drow’s trunk.
a scream and
right to her mouth.
out a yell,

still emotionally attached
Jeanie spun around
"Are you all right?"
Spreeve was about
all she could
"Oh...my..."

Chapter Nine

Jeanie turned around
Her mouth was
right hand slowly
at the most
couldn't have imagined.
her head
near her mouth.
blinking as she saw
by the truck
The amazing part
was still standing.
He was skiing.
do was watch
the big tree
back and forth
maintaining his balance
She noticed the
out of him
snapped out of it.
she yelled as she
As she ran
to intercept them,
Cliff was speeding
neared the bottom,
the little stream.
he doesn't know!"
Jeanie came down
leaps and bounds.
as she cut
the truck,

to her intended.
to look at Spreeve.
asked Jeanie.
to answer when
say was,
Drow?"

and gasped.
open and her
began to point
incredible scene she
Words floated in
but got nowhere
She simply kept
Drow being pulled
down the hill.
was that he
Or, more accurately,
All Jeanie could
in fascination as
moved his roots
over the slick grass,
as he went.
axe still sticking
and suddenly she
"Hang on, Drow!"
found her feet.
down the hill
Jeanie realized that
up as he
turning alongside
"Oh my God,
Adrenaline pumping,
the hill in
Waving her arms
in front of
Cliff instinctively

hit the brakes.
much better here.
waving at Jeanie.
skid to a
looking behind the
Whipping around
Cliff saw Drow
the back of
"What the!" was
manage before the
the rear bumper.
Leaves and truck
Cliff bounced around
bit but was
By some miracle,
although quite shaken

Chapter Ten

They later learned
watched the scene
and realized what was
she sent out
for help to
in the vicinity.
focused strength to
feeling of standing
Their combined vision
him to coordinate
pull it off.
emotionally exhausted.
shovels and piled
root-legs
regenerate himself.
they righted Spreeve
barbed wire fence.
healed relatively quickly,
longer for Drow
the axe blow.

The traction was
He was smiling and
He saw her
stop herself,
truck in horror.
in his seat,
heading right for
the truck.
all he could
big tree smashed into
Boom!
went flying.
the cabin a
generally okay.
Drow remained standing,
by the experience.

that as Spreeve
take place,
about to happen,
a powerful call
all the trees
They all sent
Drow and the
straight and tall.
and energy helped
himself enough to
Still, he was
The kids brought
dirt around his
so he could
Using the winch,
from the
The cut marks
though it took
to heal from
He forgave Jeanie



and told her
his life in
situation any time.
and expressed her
have the opportunity.

Chapter Eleven
favourite uncle who
in the Northwest.
big truck and drove
once they healed
Uncle Jess said
tell a living
and that Jeanie
visit any time,
They found a
Spreeve and Drow.
plenty of water,
plenty of room
And run they did.
frolicking in meadows
After playing
they all hugged
said their farewells.
to laugh or
again whenever
hugging a tree.
Cliff drove off
Spreeve and Drow
a high hilltop
for now.
proud little root hair
“I knew we
he said to
just knew it!”

she could save
a desperate
Jeanie thanked him
desire to never

Jeanie had a
owned wilderness property
They rented a
the two trees
up a bit.
he would never
soul about them,
and Cliff could
of course.
perfect home for
It had
and of course,
to run around.
Holding branches,
and over hills.
one last duet,
each other and
Cliff vowed never
roll his eyes
anyone talked about
As Jeanie and
toward home,
stood up on
to wave goodbye
And one very
was waving too.
could do it,”
the others. “I
-by *Ron Cole*

END OF 3-WORD EYE-HOPS

Remember to keep going through this booklet (and your own
“Hopified” stories) until either:

1. Your finger blurs when you hop, or
2. Your finger cannot keep up with your brain, or
3. Three words at a time just isn't a challenge anymore.