

# WISE WORDS OF WISDOM



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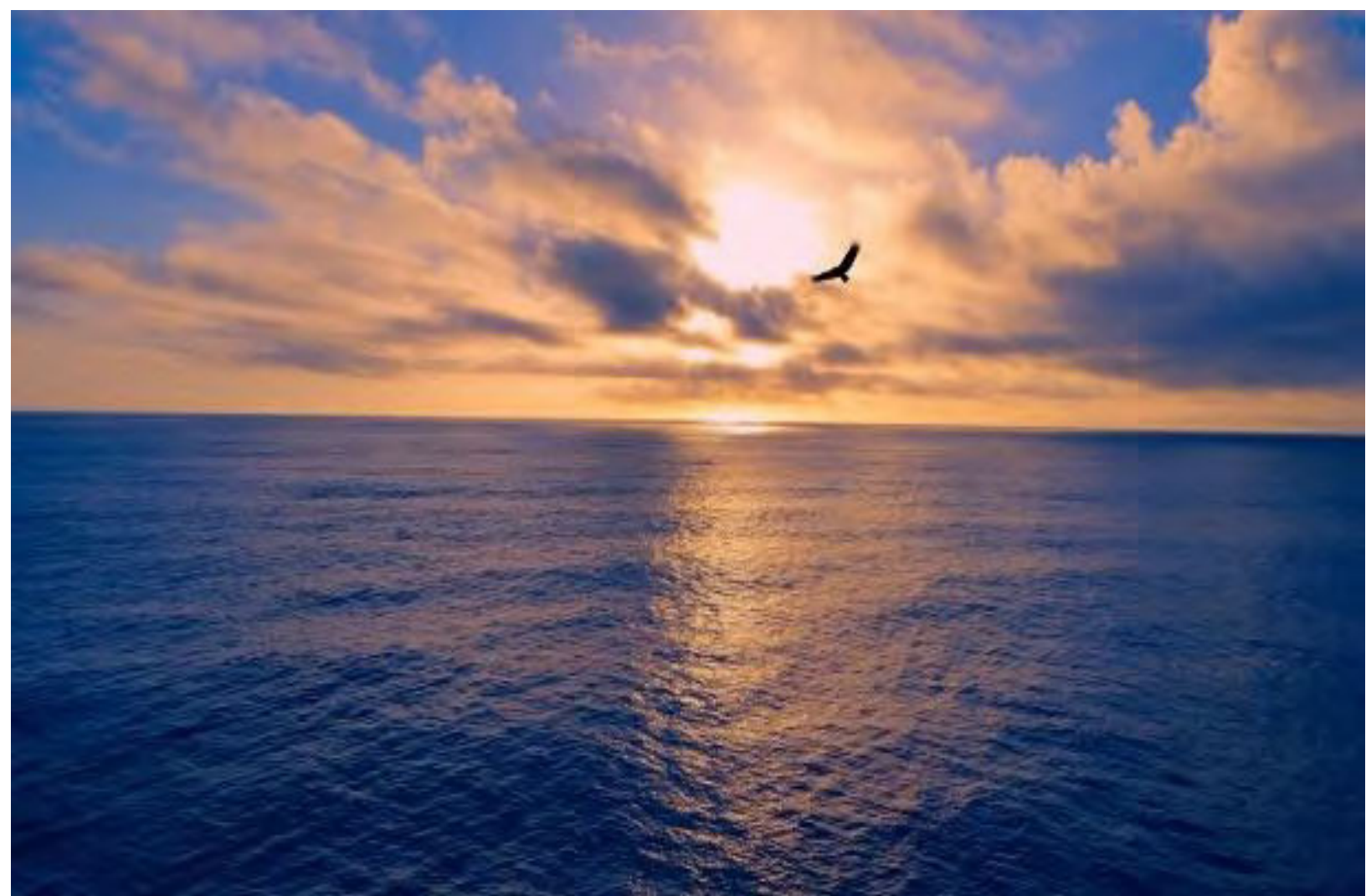
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# Lost at Sea

By: [REDACTED]

Pirates  
No more  
No one remembers  
No one even knew  
Forgotten



# Wolf Pirates

By: [REDACTED]

There was no escape. Marrow, had tried everything. As much as she would like to believe she could come up with even one more idea that seemed plausible the truth of the matter was she had never even been on deck for more than ten seconds. This was it. She had decided that very day to just give up. What else could she do? Talk to the animals? Actually a Sea Dragon would be very helpful right about now. Suddenly a noise rose up and rudely interrupted her despair:

"Listen, boy, if ye play yer cards right we'll sail ye to safety. If ye don't...well white wolf fur sells well on the black market. Ar we understood?" Growled Captain Swordfish. (She had named all the voices and Swordfish was the captain of the ship). Marrow wondered vaguely who Swordfish was talking to. It could be anyone. He loved to yell at his crew...actually it was probably Whirlpool he wasn't exactly the captain's favorite person. (For all their yelling Marrow had to admit Wolf pirates were a very entertaining lot to listen to.)

"Y-yes sir" Said an unfamiliar voice that shouted for Marrow's attention. She decided to name this one Waterfall. Hope began to spark in her chest. Waterfall didn't seem very happy with Captain Swordfish.

"Go see the cook he'll tell ye what ye needs to do" Grumfted Captain Swordfish as he clunked back to his cabin. She heard Waterfall leave, but didn't take notice of such a trivial detail. She had just found herself an ally. There was an escape after all! She had not failed!

The next morning Marrow woke up with the dawn, and began her planning immediately. She drew it, mapped it out on the wall with a piece of chalk that she had found in a crate. This time it had to be flawless. There was no way she would get this opportunity again. Now all she had to do was wait, and hope Captain Swordfish wouldn't suddenly become a saint overnight.

Marrow, bid her time for a week, making and remaking her plan and backup plan. The reason she had to wait so long was about the arrive. She waited for, Waterfall, to come to give her, her rations for the day.

Marrow, began to work up the courage to ask as she heard footsteps up top, and when the trapdoor had opened she was staring right up at him.

"Holy smoke!" He exclaimed as he leapt back, extinguishing some of Marrow's confidence. He crept back to the ladder and climbed down white wolf ears angled towards her. "Sorry about that. I just wasn't expecting you to be right where you were," He mended.

"No problem," She mumbled silently. He didn't seem to have heard her, because he just put down her rations and water and prepared to leave. It was now or never.

"Wait!" She called after him making him loose his footing and fall back into her hole.

"OOF! What!" He exclaimed at her getting up and rising to his full Wolf height, but it was too late to turn back now.

"I-I...need help," She informed him half mumbling.

"No kidding," He grumbled. She decided to ignore his bad attitude

"I...want to escape..." She murmured. He flattened his ears at this. Marrow, didn't know much about Wolves' expressions, but she imagined it looked more nervous than angry.

"I'm supposed to be guarding you! Not helping you escape!" He snapped only sounding angry because of his rough voice.

"Do you really want to stay here for the rest of your life?" She forced out. This seemed to have worked as it gave him pause so she continued, "I have a plan that can get both of us off this ship. It's now or

never. Are you in?" Her voice shook through the whole of her small speech, but it had worked, because he replied with:

"Ok then. How will we go about this," Marrow grinned at his reply. Her plan was working! She showed him her plans on the wall and explained in great detail exactly what would happen at twelve o' clock in two nights.

It was the middle of the night, and Marrow waited enthusiastically for her partner (who she had found out was named Cloud not Waterfall, unfortunately) to arrive. When the trapdoor opened she had gathered enough courage to climb up. She was hit with beautiful fresh air. She took and long satisfied breathe and went right to business.

Marrow crept along the deck towards the mast. She quietly secured the key hanging from it, and, Pocketing it she began towards the main mast where she met Cloud. He handed her a Truflat, (five daggers that connected to form a staff with a blade at either end) and she handed him the key.

Cloud led the way towards the life boat he had picked out and stocked up within the last two days. He unlocked the chains that kept prisoners like themselves from escaping and began to push it towards the edge. Marrow felt her heart began to speed up.

"We can make it!," Whispered Cloud, "Come on!" Marrow just shook her head. She couldn't get on that boat not now! They would definitely be found! It was all over! Cloud didn't need to be told twice he pushed the boat over and was away. Leaving Marrow to panic on the deck. It wouldn't be long before she was found, but maybe she could get-

"Oui!" Shouted Seaweed, "Get back 'er!" The cook grabbed her arm and hauled her away. Alarm spread through Marrow body like a plague. Her body failed her and she forgot about the Truflat as it was tugged away from her. It was impossible to see through her closed eyelids, but from the voice of Captain Swordfish she knew she in horrible trouble, though she couldn't bring herself to hear about it. She began to wish desperately that Cloud hadn't left her when through all her terror a loud splash caught her attention like no hoard of livid pirates could have. She risked opening her eyes and turning them towards the sea.



There from the deepest rose a large boney tail that flicked water onto the crew. The creature surfaced it's boney head and sail. It raised it's spear-like claws and grasped the side of the ship. Marrow couldn't believe her eyes as she stared at the skeleton beast.

"SEA DRAGON!" Roared Captain Swordfish. The crew was all in disarray running this way and that. Their panic growing with each new sea dragon that appeared and rocked the ship, but Marrow didn't pay attention to such trivial details. She bolted towards the side of the ship and pitched herself over the railing. She fell quietly with screaming, because she knew what would be down there, for once.

Marrow fell straight into Cloud's escape ship. All had gone to plan! She grinned at Cloud who grinned back. She had made it! She felt strange. She felt confident! What a clever distraction she had come up with! Wolves you see, can talk to animals.

## Lost Lake

By: [REDACTED]

Muted ice  
Filled the lake.  
Nothing stirred.

## VirtualWorld

Want your world to come alive? Try VirtualWorld! This fun and easy game will help you visualize what you've always wanted to! Download today!

## Looting

By: [REDACTED]

One silver morning in a kingdom far away  
A storekeep woke up to dismay  
Chickens Chickens inside and out  
All flying about  
And making off with his loot far away

## Overly Simplified Steps to World Building!

By: [REDACTED]

Are you stumped or stuck or snagged with your world building? Need some ideas on what to direct your focus to next? Lost some of those creative juices you had too much of when you started? Don't throw away all your hard work! Here are a couple overly simplified steps to help you with your world-building.

First, of all you're going to need a magic or technology system. You must have some form of these. You're gonna need to know how your world works before you can go off on daring adventures in it. Next you should think up your dominant race(s) (that means your human-like race(s)) and their habitat. Don't be afraid to add features to your dominant race(s) that would help them survive in their habitat. This step is optional as you may just use humans as your dominant race. Next you should give your dominant race(s) culture. This would include food, dress, pets, calendars, poems, games, ranks, weapons, guilds/clubs, sayings, holidays, beliefs, flags really anything related to them and their behavior. After you're finished with that if you have multiple dominant races you should consider making some of them allies and some enemies. It will help your world feel more real and interesting. This next one ties in to the allies and enemies it's history! History is very important and you knowing it even if your readers don't will give your world a more in-depth feel. Last, but not least it's: animals, plants, and building materials! You should already have some sort of idea to start with about this, but consider adding onto and working out the last kinks to these. (You should feel free to do these steps in any order you choose.) So there you have it! Some simplified steps to world building!

~Tips!~

Research is key. I can't stress this enough. You don't know what kinds of hats miners wear? Research! You don't know how to purify water? Research! You don't know who built the London bridge? Spoilers it was the British, but how do I know this? Research! There is almost no question research can't answer. So, don't hold back! Research your heart out! (Make sure to be VERY specific with your research) Another thing. Make sure you can explain your world to other people. In fact actually explain your world to other people. That's right! People plural. As in more than one. This is a very good way to get rid of anything you missed in your world building. Besides, you never know what kinds of ideas they may come up with to help you strengthen your world building. One more thing then I'll leave. Don't be afraid to take your sweet precious time about it. It took me a long two years to complete my world building. You need to have time to leave no stone unturned! No one said writing was going to be fast or easy!

# The Knight

By [REDACTED]

A knight wound his way out of a wizard's tower  
Ready was he to become an adventurer  
In spite of the the wizard's warning that there might be disorder  
For he had sent others sooner

So he rode fast and recklessly  
In the direction the wizard had pointed to vaguely  
"Nothing can stop me!" He thought confidently  
Until someone stopped him, and very rudely.

An arrow whizzed past his head  
And when he looked up he saw with dread  
That the person who wanted him dead  
Was up in the trees, so he sped

He rode as fast as a dog with flees  
Through the forest like a breeze  
For no one has ever caught a dog with flees  
And the purser fell from his trees

The knight slowed so his horse's legs didn't crack  
He stopped and made camp and had a little snack  
And just as he was readying to leave he heard the sound of tack  
So he turned and took a step back

For behind him was a person who's sword was pointed at the knight  
Who wasn't similarly ready for a fight  
But he drew his sword and said "all right"  
So the person began to fight in the space that was tight

The battle was hard and long  
And probably inspired many a song  
And no one can be wrong  
The knight was the one to pass along

Now he was coming upon his journey's demise  
He entered the wizard's cave for whom this all had to materialize  
He got inside and the water began to rise  
Oh yes guys, the knight, he dies



# The Priests of Omplicar

By: ██████████

Levi was tired. Exhausted. Completely destroyed. He had no where to go and no place to hide. He limped across the open grasslands. Harsh wind slapped his hair into his face. He didn't care, of course, when one was at the end of the line they didn't usually stop care about such unimportant things.

Levi looked back checking to make sure the Emperor's army hadn't snuck up on him. No one. They would catch up with him eventually, but not today. As he hobbled he counted the steps out loud to himself.

"One, two, three" What a small victory. Four. To know how many life giving steps-. Five. He was from the enemy. Six. Why had he been so stupid? Seven. Why? Couldn't he have just kept his big mouth shut? Eight. What was wrong with him? Nine. Why had he said he wanted to join the Priests of Omplicar? Ten. His eyes began to close. *No wait!* He yelled at them. *Not yet!*

Levi no longer counted the steps. Everything was too blurry and painful. He needed to focus on walking. *Walking? Why even bother when they're probably running?* He thought bitterly. But he kept on. He was nothing if not stubborn.

Levi stared in despair as he watched the sun go down. *Tomorrow they'll get me for sure.* Logic warned him, but he cared not. He couldn't take one more aching step. So he fell instead.

Levi, awoke and immediately sat up. He looked around his prison. He faltered. *This doesn't look very prison-like.* He thought confused. He was sitting on a plush bed surrounded by plush things. He couldn't understand. So, he didn't try to he just gaped around in disbelief.

"I see your up," Commented a cheerful voice the owner of which was sitting in a plush chair to Levi's right grinning at him.

"Wha-" Was all Levi could manage in return. This made the owner (who Levi presumed was a boy around his age but he was really very plush himself so it was difficult to tell) smile all the wider.

"My name's Elis by the way what's yours?" This to Levi was by far the strangest thing the weirdo had done. So, he ignored him and continued to gap.

"Can you hear me? Hello! Hello?" The supposed Elis suffered through. Levi sighed.

"Yes...?" He asked hesitantly.

"It's custom to tell the people who saved your life your name," Elis informed him.

"Your point being?" Levi asked puzzled further by this random bit of information.

"Well...we saved your life so..." Elis stated with confusion. Levi and Elis studied each other in bafflement. Then Elis shrugged and continued smiling.

“Why’s...this place...so plush,” Levi forced out of his clumsy wounded body.

“Plush? Well I suppose it is comfortable if that’s what you mean. I guess because it’s lots more fun to live this way than in a house carved of stone,” Elis stated pleasantly.

“Live here...?” Levi’s voice came out more gravelly the more he spoke.

“Yes, supposing you want to stay,” Elis clarified.

“I...have a choice...” Levi narrowed his eyes. *This is the strangest torture prison I’ve ever been to.* That was when he realized something. His leg wasn’t hurting anymore.

“Of course...don’t you know where you are?” Elis asked.

“Um...I’m...I’m not sure anymore...” Levi stated rasping.

“Your in the palace Clent home of the Priests of Omplicar.” Elis said proudly. Levi gaped. *Priests of Omplicar! I’ve found them! Finally!*

“Why...why hasn’t the Emperor captured you...for worshipping...God yet?” Levi asked. This made Elis pause.

“Well...they’re trying really hard...” Levi gasped in horror. What was he going to do now! He sunk lower into his plush bed as despair and terror washed out every other emotion.

“Don’t worry we can hold them off!” Elis declared fiercely. Levi doubted that.

“Speaking of which we should probably get to the wall to see if they need any help!” Elis informed him.

With Elis, helping him Levi made it up to the wall surrounding the palace. Men and women were heaved rocks over the side at the Emperor’s army, collecting rocks and arrows, or shot arrows down at the attacking force.

“Do you know how to use a bow!” Elis shouted over the noisy battle.

“No!” Levi shouted back.

“Ok then! Try and help me push some rocks over the edge!” Elis yelled and helped Levi to a pile of rocks. The two boys sat behind the protective stone barrier at the side of the wall. Elis began throwing rocks out of a hole in the barrier. Levi peered down. Sticking his head as much to the side as he dared. The Emperor’s army below was taking heavily losses from the onslaught of rocks and arrows from above.

Levi zipped his head back behind the barrier then hesitated before picking up a rock. He peeked around the barrier again to find a victim. He picked a target and sent the rock flying. He didn’t wait to see if it had hit before picking up another rock.

An arrow went flinging towards his head as he began to peek out again and he had to duck back to the side. Even so he got a nasty cut on the cheek. He gasped as pain whirled around his face as he touched his cheek wound tentatively. He removed his hand and seeing as there wasn’t as much blood as he had anticipated proceeded to throw a rock at the archer who had tried to kill him. This time he watched his rock and noted with a glow of satisfaction that he had hit the archer right in the eye.

The battle continued like this through the day and the night. Levi was exhausted but adrenaline kept him going. They could win! Actually win! Levi hadn’t felt like this for a long time. Then all of a sudden the racket of a trumpet filled the air. The army was retreating!

The priests on the wall fell silent as they watched their enemies leave. They waited until the army was out of earshot, as was the custom, to celebrate. But, once they were safely away the cacophony of victory filled the air. Elis whooped and gave Levi a hug while Levi himself grinned wildly. *We did it! We won!*

# Letting it Shine

By: [REDACTED]

Molly Lockwood, relaxed on her couch listening to her favorite hip-hop music. When she heard her husband, Patrick's, phone ring from the coffee table in front of her. She picked it up and answered.

"Hello, this is Molly Lockwood speaking can I help you?" The caller answered informing her that he was Jeff Skipper one of Patrick's old friends from Winter Haven and he wanted to speak with Patrick. Molly called him over and gave him the phone. Then, she returned to hip hoping it out.

After the call, Patrick, told her it was about a job as a worship leader at a church, Redeemer City in Winter Haven. Molly, was shocked and a little reluctant. They had a good thing going here. Did they really need to move? On the other hand Redeemer was smaller than their church, and they were asking for help.

Molly and Patrick talked about the call over the next few days. They decided he would ask, Drew, for more information, as Jeff had suggested, before jumping into anything.

Molly waited down stairs for her husband to get done talking to Drew. She waited at the piano pondering a song idea she had and what melody would work best with it. She erased a phrase from her song book and added another. She hummed to herself rhythms that she thought would work.

Patrick, finally came down to tell her about all the responsibilities and duties the were preformed by the worship leader. Over the next few days they prayed and talked. Finally, they decided that this was what God wanted them to do.

Molly, sat on the floor of their new house, pulling little boy's clothes and toys from the sea of boxes around her. She began organizing them. As she organized she hummed to herself. She hummed the tone she thought her new song should be in. She itched to sit at a piano and try it, but there were still so many things to unpack.

Molly, sat at the Redeemer piano ready to play for the church. Well, physically ready. She felt nervous to play in front of so many strangers, but she felt blessed as well. She hoped that she could reach these people and help them in their walk with Christ. She began.

The service had just ended and Molly was talking to people. Meeting them. She felt welcomed, but not on the inside. Not yet anyways.

Molly, hung up the last picture. It was finally complete! Her palace-like home. She sat down with a relieved smile. She felt a rush of pride and accomplishment. She had made their house livable, finally. Well, back to work. God, sure was keeping her busy here.

Church was over and she was driving have lunch with some of her new friends. As she was getting to know the church she was starting to realize that there weren't very many creative people. She was a little disappointed about that, but she also saw an opportunity to teach some of the young folk and help them learn to use their talents for the Lord, like no one here could. These, of course, made her excited.

Molly, was finally at her piano. Her three children were all sleeping soundly and she had a moment to herself. So she gave it to, God. She thought about his love, grace, and mercy. Her fingers danced across the keys in an eagerness to get all her feelings of joy and peace out.

## The Shoulder Reading Case

By: Steve Mickcloney ( )

A couple weeks ago I was sitting on the bus going to work, as usual. I got out my computer to continue working on my most recent writing project, again as usual. It hadn't even been thirty minutes when I hear the most loud and annoying breathing I have ever heard from behind me. So, I turned around, because that's what any NORMAL and SANE person would have done, and what do I see? I SEE A LOWSEY LOW LIFE PEEKING OVER THE SEAT BEHIND ME AND READING MY WORK! And do you know what he did when I saw him? HE DUCKED HIS HEAD DOWN AND PRETENDED LIKE HE HADN'T BEEN WATCHING ME! So I said to him, I said:

"SIR! Don't you have anything better to do! Like sit quietly and behave like an ADULT!" As any sane person would, I assure you, ask anyone here. Then he replied with:

"I don't know what your talking about," Even though he knew that I knew that he knew what I was talking about!

"You were WATCHING ME TYPE FROM BEHIND THE SEAT LIKE A FLEA RIDDEN CHILD!" I informed him civilly. Then, the nerve of this man, he said(well more like whined):

"Fine! I won't anymore if it means you'll stop fussing," At that point I was so angry I killed off a side character (She wasn't that important to the story anyways) when from behind me I hear:

"Aw she was my favorite" I ignored him in an attempt to show him how NORMAL SANE people SHOULD act, and kept working, but not even five minutes FIVE MINUTES after he said:

"It's T-H-O-U-G-H not T-H-R-O- oh wait no your right," So, I did the only logical thing I could at that moment and spun around in my seat to give this man the whacking he deserved, but he flew back out of range, so instead I said:

"YOU LOW LIFE," at this point everyone on the bus was watching us, "YOU SAID YOU'D QUIT THAT!" He just shrugged and grumbled:

"I just wanted to know what was going to happen next." I smacked him swiftly on the head as he had got right comfortable in his stupid little seat. That earned me a snicker from the driver. "Hey! What was that for!" He protested stupidly.

"You know what it was for!" I answered the idiot with ruthless vengeance in my mind. After that I thought I had warned him off and continued my work, fixing the death of the side character to be even more brutal and slow than before.

Unfortunately not thirty minutes after I had started again I heard:

"Wait so what's happening now," At that point, your honor, there was nothing else for me to do. I took hold of the emergency hammer and cracked the window open took my computer and jumped. And you know what? I don't think one person on that bus blames me.

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Martha,

I'm writing a superhero story. One of the things I struggle with most in writing is picking personalities. I've been going back and forth in my head about what personality I should go with for my sidekick. Got any advice

Sincerely,  
Maple Shade

Dear Reader,

When it comes to character personalities it really depends on the kind of story your writing and what needs to be done. This applies to sidekicks most especially. Nevertheless, there are some things most sidekicks share. First off you want your sidekick not to be the one driving the story, but the one keeping it going. You want him / her to keep the characters on track. As such you also want your sidekick to be extremely loyal that they won't leave your characters since they need to be there to help them go on.

Have a Lovely Day,  
Martha

# Idea Fountain

We'll think so you don't have to! In need of good idea! Look no further! With the idea fountain you'll never have to waste time brainstorming again! Order yours at [www.NotARealWebsite.com](http://www.NotARealWebsite.com)

# Puppy Watching

By: [REDACTED]

THE SHOE  
SITS UNTOUCHED WAITING  
FOR ITS DOOM



## *Monster Spray*

By: [REDACTED]

It stood  
On the shelf knowing  
It's job was over

## You Wish

By: [REDACTED]

Watching the sky  
Suddenly a bird blows by  
And leaves food nearby

## Silencer

Does your family ever get too loud? No need to keep suffering! Relief is here! The Silencer will quiet everything within earshot so you don't have to! Don't wait! Call 777-777 now!

