

APPENDICES 1

I. Reader's Digest (October 2009) Edition

❖ Despite his low opinion of lieutenants, the sergeant kept a respectful tone as he taught us how to bail out of a plane in an emergency.

"Sirs, to open the hatch," he began, "turn this lever to the right, then pull that handle."

"What if we don't follow that sequence?" a second lieutenant asked.

"Then, sir," said the sergeant patiently, "you hit the hatch handle with a crash axe."

"That'll open the hatch?"

"No, sir," he said. "But it will keep your mind occupied until you crash" (Walter Inge: 9-10).

❖ "Hello, this is the base operator. How may I help you?" I said to the caller.

"Can you connect me to Lieutenant Smith, please?" he asked.

"There are a number of Smiths here, sir. Would you his first name?"

There was a pause. "Uh...lieutenant?" (Alexandria Newcomb: 10)

❖ A drunk walks into a drugstore and asks for a bottle of mouthwash.

"I'm not selling you that," says the pharmacist. "You'll drink it for the alcohol and get sick outside my door!"

"Not true!" insists the drunk. "I have my first date in over a year, and I want to make a good impression."

"Oh, I'm sorry. Here." The pharmacist takes a bottle of mouthwash off the shelf and puts it on the counter.

The drunk stares at it. "Got one that's been refrigerated?" (Robert G. Lee: 60).

❖ A little boy went to the library to check out a book titled Comprehensive Guide for Mothers.

Is this for your mother?" the librarian asked.

No," said the boy.

So why are you checking it out?"

Because I started collecting moths last week" (L.B. Weinstein: 60).

❖ A young couple were on their way to the church to get married. On the way there, they were killed in a car accident. The couple soon found themselves standing in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. The young woman asks Peter if they could get married in Heaven. He replies that he'll get back to them on that.

A month later, St. Peter finds them and announces that they can get married in Heaven. To his surprise, the woman asks "Just wondering, if things don't work out will we be able to get a divorce?" With a stern look in his eye, Peter

says, “Look lady, it took me a month to find a preacher up here...you really think I’m gonna find a lawyer?” (Jerry Seinfeld: 61).

❖ The night we took our three young sons to an upscale restaurant for the first time, my husband ordered for the first time a bottle of wine. The server brought it over, began the ritual uncorking, and poured a small amount for me to taste. My six-year-old piped up, “Mum usually drinks a lot more than that” (T.Ellsworth:89).

❖ Fillicia, my sleepy five-year-old niece, slipped into my bed just as my husband was heading downstairs to prepare breakfast.” Why do you hate eggs, untie?” she asked me. “Who said I hate eggs?” I replied.

“But,” she said, “I just heard you ask Uncle Anthony to break a few eggs and beat them up for you!” (Michelle Ramjewan: 89)

❖ After giving birth, I couldn’t lose the 40 pounds I’d gained. So I dragged my husband to the mall in search of more flattering clothes. We were encouraged by a sign over a rack of suits: “Instantly hides ten pounds!”

“Look,” he said. “You just need to buy four of these” (Cindy Daye: 150).

❖ In an effort to save water, my husband and I swapped our dish washer for a washing-up bowl. We then used the leftover water to clean our car, which often gets dirty because we live in a country area.

This worked very well until my husband tossed one particular bowl of soapy water over the car – forgetting first to check whether there were still any dishes in it. (Sandy Reeves: 150)

❖ I was visiting my daughter, Cheryl, a successful young professional when I noticed half a piece of French bread in its original wrapper in her recycling box. When I told her that she could not put bread in the recycling box she said, “Why not? It tastes like cardboard!” (Lydia McKinnon:151)

II. Reader's Digest (November 2009) Edition

❖ A friend's daughter worked part-time in his office while she attended graduate school. One morning, a call came in for her. "She's not in yet," my friend said. "Can I take a message?"

"I'll call back later," the woman said.

At 11 o'clock, she tried again, and he reported that his daughter had gone to lunch. The last call came at 3.30. "Sorry, she's left for the day. Anything I can help you with?"

"Yes," the caller said. "How can I get a job with you?" (Josh Pate:10).

❖ A guy drives into a ditch, but luckily, a farmer's there to help. He hitches his horse. Buddy, up to the car and yells, "Pull, Nellie, pull!" Buddy doesn't move.

"Pull, Buster, pull!" Buddy doesn't budge. "Pull, Coco, pull!" Nothing.

Then the farmer says "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse drags the car out of ditch.

Curious, the motorist asks the farmer why he kept calling his horse by the wrong name.

"Buddy's blind," said the farmer. "And if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try" (Andrew Bird: 60).

❖ My five-year-old son, Patrick, who's the oldest of four siblings, only visits the hospital when I have a baby.

One day we were visiting my in-laws when he noticed that his cousin Troy was not there.

"Mum, where's Troy?" Patrick said.

"Troy's in the hospital," I replied.

"Mum," he asked, "is Troy having a baby?" (Chrissy Flatfoot: 121).

❖ When a distant relative of mine passed away recently, I thought it was time to introduce the concept of death to my five-year-old daughter, Amy.

I reminded her of the time we spent at this farm and the loss we face now.

"It's very sad, your uncle George is dead," I said. "Now when you go to the farm you won't be able getting any fresh milk."

Amy, with a look of utter disbelief, replied, "Wow! You mean Uncle George made all that milk? I thought it was the cows" (Nuthan Manohar: 121).

❖ The first time my son was on a bike with training wheels, I shouted, "Step back on the bike will brake!"

He nodded, but still rode straight into a bush.

"Why didn't you push back on the pedals?" I asked, helping him up.

"You said if I did, the bike would break" (William B: 150).

❖ My cousin, Merle, is trained in Reiki, a form of healing touch, and she offered me a treatment in her specially prepared room. The candles were lit, and

wonderful New Age music was playing on the stereo. At one point, the music swelled along with the sound of cascading water.

“Your water music is beautiful!” I exclaimed.

There was a pause, then Merle said, “I don’t know if I should tell you this, but my husband just flushed the toilet” (Gayle White: 151).

❖ Twenty minutes into our two-hour journey to our friend Alison’s party, my wife announced, “Stop. We’ve got to back.”

“Why?” I asked.

“I’ve forgotten my phone.”

“Why do you need your phone?”

“So that I can phone Allison and tell her we’ll be late.”

“Why will we be late?”

My wife gave me pitying look. “Because we’ve had to go back for my phone” (Robert B. Sowby: 151).

III. Reader's Digest (December 2009) Edition

❖ On a nighttime visit to his brother's base, my son Joe was impressed by the large airplane hangar in which Billy worked. But when Billy led him through another door, Joe was absolutely astounded by the massive, darkened room. "This is the largest building I've ever been in!" he said. "What do you call it?" His brother answered, "The outside." (Sally Philips: 32)

❖ After I applied for jobs at both a library and a shoe store, my husband said he hoped that I'd get the one at the store. "It would be nice to have employee discounts on shoes," he explained. Then, without thinking, he added, "Of course, if you get the job at the library, we'll get free books." (Megan Bellamy: 32)

❖ A man arrived at his workplace with both ears bandaged. "What happened?" asked the boss. "I was ironing my shirt when the telephone rang and I accidentally answered the iron," the man explained. "That accounts for one ear, but what about the other?" "Well, after the accident I had to phone the doctor." (J. Austin: 57)

❖ When my daughter, Tiffany, was five years old, I gave her a scratch card. She started scratching the silver panel excitedly with a coin. When she was done, she stopped to look at the card. She sighed then she continued scratching. She looked at the card again. "Mum," Tiffany said, "can you help me?" I looked at the card, "Sorry, dear," I said, "You didn't win." "But Mum," Tiffany said, "it says Try Again!" (Jeannie Chua: 148)

❖ For her 40th birthday, my wife said "I'd love to be ten again." So that Saturday, we had a heaping stack of chocolate chip pancakes, her favorite childhood breakfast. Then we hit the playground and a merry-go-round. We finished the day with a banana split. "So, how did you enjoy being a kid for a day?" I asked. "Great," she said. "But when I said I wanted to be ten again, I meant my dress size." (Sebastian E: 149)

❖ My four-year-old son, Jacob, could hardly wait for his first day of school. He waited anxiously with his mother, Katherine, for the bus to arrive. When the doors of the bus opened he ran from her and started climbing into the bus. With tears in her eyes, Katherine said, "What about a kiss?" Jacob stopped, retraced a few steps, and promptly kissed the bus driver before he sat down. (Peter Loschnig: 149)