

**Job Opportunities,
are near and far**

♦ Jobs for all ages, all areas. Check your options.

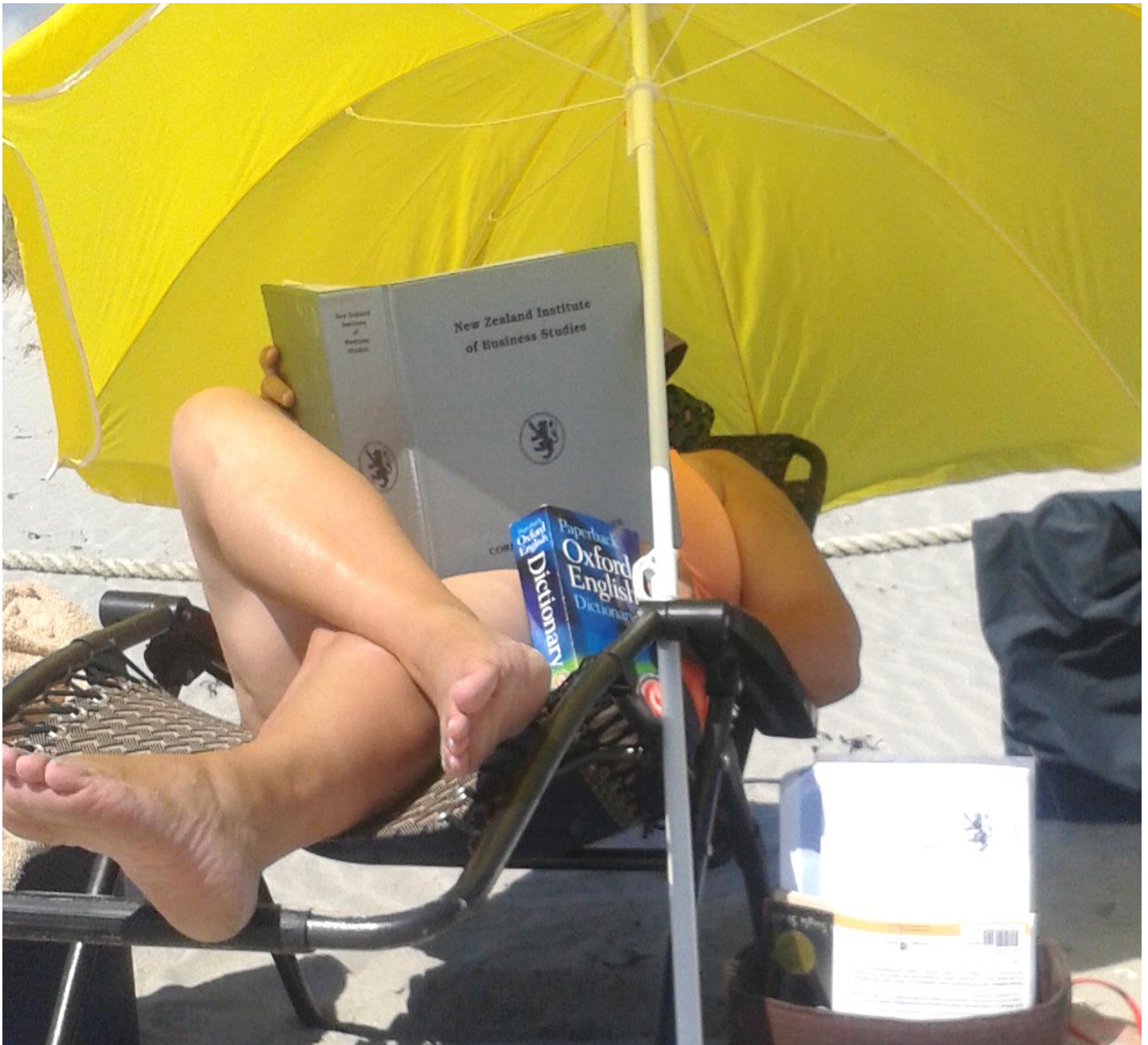
**Small Talk: it's
good for business**

♦ Winston Marsh offers some small-talk tips. **P 5**

**Treating children
like wild horses**

♦ Secret techniques of the Horse Whisperer. **P 6**

Summer in New Zealand: Sun and Sand and Study



Your Day in Court

♦ Who should get one?
Brian Morris comments on what's not happening. **P 2**

**Ready, Set,
Write!**

♦ Start honing your techniques with short, Short Fiction. **P 4**

The Perfect Wife

♦ Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. And is it only skin-deep? **P 12**



A lack of evidence or a lack of will?

Too often during 2014 I read in the media "Police will not prosecute this case because they don't think they can win it."

What happened to the opportunity for every crime suspect to have his or her day in court?

If there is no court case there is no opportunity to achieve a decisive outcome.

A taint is left lingering in the air around the suspect.

Having their day in court is supposed to be when guilt or innocence is established. This should not be decided by some indolent prosecutor who doesn't want to tarnish his/her record of 'case wins'.

Sport teaches us simple truths: "There is always the chance of a win if you turn up."

When Italian Andreas Seppi turned up to play Roger Federer in Melbourne, Seppi knew he had been beaten by the Swiss tennis champion in their last ten matches. What show did he have?

Buckleys!

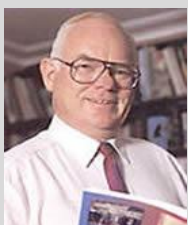
But history now demonstrates the value in turning up and doing your best. **Seppi beat Federer.**

Police prosecutors take note.

Here's a radio interview with Otto Prezler, New York bookshop owner, publisher, editor. Great radio.

<http://nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?p32976#post32976>

According to Otto Prezler, who monitors these things: "More new book shops have opened than closed in America during 2014."



If that's true, it's an excellent trend. The world may not 'need' more bookshops, but we'll all be the better for having them.

Brian Morris Principal

NZIBS website

You can learn new skills and make a new career for yourself. **Please pass on our website URL to your friends.** Thanks. Brian Morris

Travel Writing & Photography:
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=40

Journalism & Non-Fiction Writing
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=38

Sports Journalism
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=60

Creative Writing
<http://nzibs.co.nz/creative-writing-short-course/>

Romance Writing
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=58

Mystery & Thriller Writing
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=50

How to write poetry
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=44

Writing Stories for Children
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=83

Writing Short Stories
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=79

Writing Your First Novel
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=85

Internet Entrepreneur
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=1726

Life Coaching
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=46

Digital Photography Beginners
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=30

Freelance Photography
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=130

Proofreading and Book Editing
http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=56

Information on any course we provide is available by telephone: Call this number: **0800 801994.**

You have one foot on life's ladder. Climb your way to fame and fortune. Take the first step. Call **Carol Morris** 0800-801994.

Are you a Kiwi Adventurer?

Travel Writer contributions sought. Whanganui river stories & photos

New PAE student **Jim Parnell** is also editor of the 'Friends of the Whanganui River' newsletter.

Jim seeks fresh contributions from anyone who has paddled, kayaked or otherwise gone down (or up) the river.

Recently or sometime in the past.

Fanciful stories and factual articles (200w - 1000 words) are welcomed.

With high-res photos please.

Email your contributions to **Jim Parnell.**
jim-p@ihug.co.nz

Writing Success!

Christine Curtis sent her first medical romance short story to *People's Friend* magazine. <http://www.thepeoplesfriend.co.uk/>

They liked her story for their Pocket Novel series and asked for more stories. So Chris is now busy writing another.

If YOU would like to write short stories and get paid by magazines etc, check this opportunity: <http://nzibs.co.nz/creative-writing-short-course/>

Training begins 23 February. It's a short course: all done in 50 days.

Signs of the times:

Doctor's office, Rome: Specialist in women and other diseases.

A laundry in Rome: Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

Hotel brochure, Italy: This hotel is renowned for its peace and solitude. In fact, crowds from all over the world flock here to enjoy our solitude.

On the menu of a Swiss restaurant: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

Writing Competition

Over the holidays I picked up a North & South magazine. As I read it I noticed the SHORT (300 words)

Short Story competition. I posted the details on SDB.

LATER, I noticed the date. My N&S magazine was a year old. By then dozens of NZIBS writers had sent their SHORT 300w stories in to N&S.

Virginia Larson (editor of N&S) has kindly decided to re-run the competition. (What else could she do after dozens of NZIBS creative writers had entered?)

YOUR TASK #1. Buy North & South for the next few months: Feb + March + April and look for the **official entry form**.

YOUR TASK #2. Start writing your 300 words short stories. Send them in to where your entry form says.

Opportunity

Become a Pre-Judge. No pay.

When the editor of N&S magazine (Virginia Larson) told me she is expecting several hundred entries and "just sorting them is a real problem", I offered to help her.

I volunteered YOUR SERVICES.

Offer #1. N&S would like a handful of competent writers to read and sort the 500+ entries into two piles: 'WORTHY' and 'Thanks for entering'. Payment is NIL, but each person will get a N&S letter saying: "... Thanks for being a preliminary judge..." That will be like gold to people still collecting their testimonials.

Offer #2. I suggested we had some people capable of being short story pre-judges who could winnow 100 WORTHY entries into the final 20. Payment is NIL. A N&S testimonial letter etc. is adequate payment.

Virginia will get her own judges to do the final judging.

If you are keen to be involved in either/or of those two opportunities, please contact the Institute. When the time is right, the North & South editor will be in touch with you.

Has pack, will travel

Graduate **James Anderson,**



who says he's seen 104 countries, has published a couple of books on the sights he's seen.

Titled **To the 7 Wonders of the World**, and **More New Wonders of the World**, these books showcase some of the places James has visited over many years.

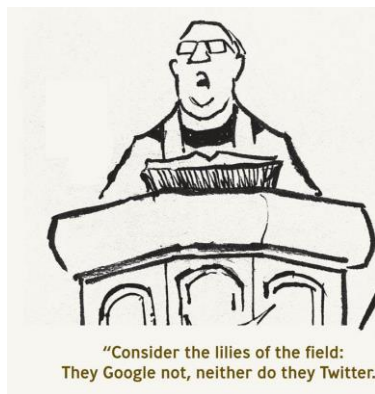
You'll find Jim's books on Amazon, here:

<http://www.amazon.com/New-7-Wonders-World-ebook/dp/B00RF03VJ0/>

<http://www.amazon.com/More-Wonders-World-James-Anderson-ebook/dp/B00RF1K0UW/>

You can also read a brief bio about the life James has had. And you can do it too – travel is not nearly so challenging as it was a generation ago.

If you get one of the books – available also for Kindle – **please write James a review.** He'll appreciate it!



Job Opportunities

Editor, Landcare Research, Lincoln. Edit and format electronic client reports and journal articles. Closes Feb 11.

Content Manager, QJumpers, Wellington. Coordinate content on Asia New Zealand Foundation's website. Closes 13 Feb.

Communications Coordinator, Hilton Hotels, Auckland and Taupo. Coordinate online marketing content. No closing date.

Bid Writer, OCS NZ, Auckland. Translate technical language into marketing copy. No closing date.

Journalist, x2, Mediaworks, Christchurch & Wellington & Auckland. Report for the Prime TV News 5:30 bulletin. Closes early Feb.

Editorial Assistant, Springer Healthcare, Auckland. Project manage publication of books for Adis. Closes 12 Feb.

Junior Reporter, APN News & Media, Rotorua. Pull together news packages for the Rotorua Daily Post. Apply asap.

Communications Officer, Auckland City Council, Auckland. Promote the Auckland Art Gallery. Closes 10 Feb.

Communications Executive, Talent Propeller Ltd, Auckland. Work for tourism operator JUCY developing communications. Closes 12 Feb.

People Development Coach, Orion Health, Auckland. Support leaders and teams to reach their full potential. Apply now.

Life Coach, YB 12 New Zealand, Wellington. Empower people to win by teaching psychology-based life skills. No closing date.

Web Editor, Fairfax Media, Hamilton. Edit stories, run live chats, develop social media. Closes 23 Feb.

Reporter, NZX, Wanganui. Write news, on-farm profiles and science-based articles. No closing date.

Websites to explore

Bulwer-Lytton

Craft the best **terrible opening line** to a novel, and you could win! No wonder writers line up for this fun challenge year after year. It's not often you can win an award for writing something bad. *"It was a dark and stormy night..."*
<http://www.bulwer-lytton.com/>

Creativity Portal

Get inspiration on demand from this site's **Imagination Prompt Generator** (under the "Writing" section), alongside articles and exercises focused on helping you brainstorm ideas for your own work.

<http://www.creativity-portal.com/>

Easy Street Prompts

If you prefer visual inspiration, then Easy Street is for you. Easy Street offers both photo and video prompts to spark your imagination.

<http://www.easystreetprompts.com/>



Accidents are prohibited on this road.



Nepalese Road Sign

Blog or Book?

Principal Brian Morris gave these suggestions in answer to a question about setting up a magazine-style **blog**:

1. Set up a blog page. You could use www.blogspot.com. It's free.
2. You could also use Facebook. Take a look at mine and steal any good ideas. Tinyurl.com/mj2d6cq
3. Put something lightweight and fresh on your blog every few days.
4. Tell your target audience where to find your blog.
5. Write your magazine information as an ebook, about 1000 – 5000 words.
6. Put a fresh ebook on Amazon.com every month. Basic books are free to upload.
7. People can BUY it for \$x (which is like a magazine subscription).
8. List all the monthly ebooks on your blog, so late comers can go back and buy them.

When you've made your first \$million, send me the whole lot!

Seedy Politicians Stretch Credibility

by Jack May

The US Government spends millions of dollars on subsidised children's school lunches every year. That's fine when money is plentiful.

But in the 1981 recession, President Reagan put pressure on his Treasury administrators to make serious budget cuts.

Creative thinkers at the US Department of Agriculture announced their plan to re-classify ketchup as a vegetable and they declared sunflower seeds were a meat substitute.

"These new arrangements will help balance the budget."

But proofreaders in the US Dept of Ag said, "You can't do that. It's an error of fact. Ketchup is not a vegetable and sunflower seeds are not the same thing as meat."

The re-classification plan was quietly dropped.

Another Graduate Success Story

Proofreader/Editor
Sonya Corbet wrote in recently to tell us of her success:

"Recently a local animal welfare organisation advertised for an illustrator via their Facebook page.

They are producing a series of books to make children more aware of the environment. I emailed them, saying that although I'm not an illustrator, I am a proofreader and would gladly run my eye over the manuscript.

The result is: I have work!

It's on a volunteer basis (as is the organisation), but I did ask for a testimonial. The head of the group (a vet.) agreed, and offered to promote my work not only on their Facebook page, but also through the books.

I'm very happy, and who knows what further work might come my way?

The wonderful thing is they were in a hurry for the first lot of work I did for them and thanks to the internet I was able to do it on my daughter's computer in Christchurch a couple of days before Christmas. (I live in Tauranga).

So, thank you again for a great course, it has given this retired music teacher a much-needed boost to her confidence.

Thank you Sonya!

Who else has had success? Write and tell us of YOUR successes too.

We'd love to share them with other graduates and students.



How small talk will help your business

Reproduced for educational purposes from Winston's Words of Wisdom.
<http://blog.winstonmarsh.com.au>

Research results tell us that when people do business with us, they like to be made to feel welcome. The best way to do that is to make sure you greet them in a way that **makes them feel good**. That begins with small talk.

We do this because people hate to feel they are being attacked by a salesperson as soon as they walk into a business. **They like to buy, rather than be sold.**

You'll achieve what you're after if you can build rapport through just getting to know each other.

'Small talk' occurs when people are chatting in a friendly and relaxed way about things with which they are comfortable. (Remember, people generally most enjoy talking about themselves.)

The secret is to get them talking and for many of us this is daunting. After all, notice how many people just stand around at parties, afraid to talk to strangers. They know how tough it can be to meet strangers.

But if you've got your ears, eyes and other senses tuned in, it's amazing what you can learn from people in a few minutes and how relaxed and comfortable they become in a very short time – just by talking to you.

Imagine someone new has walked into your business. You've shaken their hand and greeted them warmly. Now what?

Before you get down to business you might relax them by saying "Where are you from?"

One way to make it easy is to know the 'W' questions and use them to get people talking freely and happily. Rudyard Kipling called these his six serving men— **Who, What, When, Where, Why** and **How**.



Listen to the answers carefully because this is where your eyes and ears will help you pick early clues as to what kind of small talk is needed.

For example, they might respond with, "I'm from Smithtown, but I had to drop the kids off at Jonesville."

There's your first clue— ask her about her kids.

You might say, "So, how old are the kids?" and they will probably spend the next few minutes telling you all about their precious little ankle biters.

To keep the conversation going, all you need do is **look** and **listen**, nodding occasionally, and commenting when it seems appropriate, such as with . . . "How come?" or a "When was that?"

You can almost guarantee that, if you show interest in them, they will keep on talking.

They could be boring you to death but because they're talking about their favourite subject, themselves, they'll consider you a really nice and attentive individual.

Get people talking about themselves and they will talk heaps, because in this busy world, most people are so interested in themselves they forget to be interested in others.

If we could only remember to move the focus off ourselves, those we listen to will lap up the attention.

After the 'small talk' you need to move seamlessly to the purpose of their visit — which is to buy your products or services.

However, there is a caveat to all this conviviality: you do need to be genuinely interested.

Active listening is a 'people technique', but it only works if you genuinely care.

If you don't, you'll come across as smarmy. One way to make the transition is to respond after awhile with something like this:

"Gee, that's interesting. Now I suppose we'd better work out how I can help you with your problem. What did you have in mind?"

You'll be amazed at how effortlessly you can bridge from small talk to business talk.

You'll be even more amazed at how many of these conversations will result in you getting the business.

You'll convert a lot more inquiries into sales . . . simply because you're interested, and because you took time to build trust, respect and confidence through small talk.

Small talk is big – whatever is your business!

Job Opportunities

[Agile Coach](#), Fairfax Media, Wellington
 Help the production team at Stuff create a publishable product. Apply now.

[Writer](#), Dinniss Communications, Wellington
 Deliver content-based marketing campaigns for leading New Zealand businesses. Closes 23 Feb.

[PR Manager](#), Gaulter Russell, Auckland
 Manage content for product reviews, press releases and PR events. No closing date.

[Events and Marketing Advisor](#), Minter Ellison Rudd Watts, Auckland.
 Produce newsletters, alerts and marketing publications. No closing date.

[Communications Assistant](#), Victoria University, Wellington
 Maintain Faculty website, produce publications and update social media. Closes 6 Feb.

[Communications Advisor](#), Nga Taonga Sound & Vision, Wellington
 Proofread to house style, design and print external and internal media. Closes 5 Feb.

If the closing date has passed, ask whether the position was filled. It might be still open. Not every job finds a suitable candidate the first time it's advertised.

[Magazine Editor](#), Forest & Bird, Wellington
 Edit and deliver four high quality magazines. Closes 8 Feb.

[Copywriter](#), Dailydo Limited, Rodney and North Shore Auckland.
 Produce content for four daily deal websites: Dailydo, Yazoom, Groupy and Spreets. No closing date.

[Journalist](#), The Gisborne Herald, Gisborne
 Become a digital editor and a Maori affairs reporter. Closes 20 Feb.

[Photographer, Photogear](#), North Shore Auckland.
 Be the 'go to' person for anything technical in photography. Closes 28 Feb.

Society of Authors

The NZ Society of Authors works in the interests of authors in New Zealand. The Society is guided by values of fairness, accountability and responsiveness.

The mission of the Society is to support the interests of all writers in New Zealand, and the communities they serve.

Join here: (Student rate applies)

<http://www.authors.org.nz/>

How to get a job is an ebook you'll find at Amazon.com. This short ebook gives you all the steps for getting a job. Age 16 to 65. [Click here for the book.](#) Call 0800-801994 for a chat about your new career options.

Society For Poets

Membership of the New Zealand Poetry Society entitles you to their bimonthly magazine and reduced entry fees in their competitions.

Several other benefits include a **members-only** website page.

<http://www.poetrysociety.org.nz/join>

New Zealand Freelance Writers' Association

Have you found their site? If you haven't found a suitable writer's group locally, look online. Here's where you can go to connect with other writers – wherever you live.

<http://www.nzfreelancewriters.org.nz/>

Romance Writers of NZ

This non-profit organisation was founded in 1990 by **Jean Drew** (NZIBS tutor). RWNZ has over 260 members (published and unpublished writers) from NZ, Australia, USA, UK and SA.

<http://www.romancewriters.co.nz/>

MEDIA caps for NZIBS graduates

- ❖ Journalist,
- ❖ Sports Journalist
- ❖ Photographer
- ❖ Travel Writer.

If you'd like one, please send \$10 and a letter detailing your name, postal address and former student number. One size fits all.



How Monty Roberts uses 'horse whisperer' tactics on wild children

by **Catherine Elsworth.**

Reproduced for educational purposes

Monty Roberts, says his horse ranch methods can be used to tame unruly city children.

"Have you ever pointed your gun at anyone, Kyle?"

Kyle, a four-year-old boy dressed in check shirt and cowboy boots, stops wriggling on his seat and stares, blinking, at his 70-year-old inquisitor.

"No," he says.

"Good. You must never point guns at people," the old man says, gently. "Because if you shoot someone dead, they're gone forever."

[Monty Roberts - internationally famed 'horse whisperer' and the inspiration for the film by Robert Redford](#), is in the kitchen of his ranch in California, holding a session with one of the many troubled youngsters who seek his help.

For years, the man known for his ability to tame wild horses with mysterious gestures and noises has been convinced his methods could work with unruly children. He sees horses and children as creatures hardwired in the same way – 'flight animals', in need of the same type of communication and support.

For a long while, education authorities in America baulked at the idea that children could benefit from the methods Roberts used with animals.

But everything changed when a failing British school adopted his practices in a last-ditch attempt to evade closure.

The results were spectacular - in less than four years, Kingshurst Junior School, in a deprived area of Birmingham, was transformed into a centre of excellence.

Now, Roberts is inundated with requests for help as influential figures in the British education system embrace his theories as a solution to the discipline problems plaguing UK schools.

Central to Roberts' methods is "the complete elimination of violence". He believes violence is the root of most behavioural problems. He and his wife Pat have fostered 47 children, as well as having three of their own.

"I had to show them there's a better life if you get rid of the violence."

Roberts is critical of many teachers' obsession with confrontation, coercion and punishment.

"That's exactly what you **don't** want - you want trust and partnership. You can't push information into a child's brain; the brain must pull it in. When children lose trust, they become loose horses. They try to survive any way they can."

He employs an approach based on contracts; children are encouraged to sign agreements that outline the effects of positive and negative behaviour.

Before they act, he says; they must know the consequences of their actions - fighting results in three weeks of missed playtime, for example - while good behaviour earns rewards.

"The contracts allow these kids to manage their own lives. It's about assuming responsibility."

An essential part of the process is ['join-up'](#), the term Roberts gives to the breakthrough moment when a horse bonds with a human and "decides it wants to be with you".

Roberts learned to ride at the age of two and was taming mustangs in his teens.

He soon learned he could communicate with horses using gestures, and developed a 'horse language', Equus, that uses signals.

"When I was a teenager, I was just as much a mustang as the horses were. My characteristics were the same - my fears, my need for safety, love, trust."

When Kingshurst, a school of 290 pupils, 40 per cent special-needs, was condemned by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), its teachers nearly gave up.

Then two members of staff chanced on Roberts' book [Horse Sense for People](#).

Monty reflects:

"These guys realised: 'My God, these horses are exactly like the children we are trying to teach'."

The pair contacted Roberts and urged him to come and observe how the methods were working. But when he arrived at the school, his delight gave way to concern.

"It's an inner-city school in an area beset by problems - alcohol abuse, violence, poverty.

"I wondered what they were thinking, as the place was a mess. But they told me what it was like six months before.

"The kids had been out of control, like loose colts."

The work continued, with the cowboy's advice constantly used.

"Now, I can go into the assembly room full of 300 chatting students and within 10 seconds there won't be a sound.

"The first time I saw it happen I was amazed; it was so riveting, emotionally.

"The children love going to school now.

"You don't put them in a pen and run them round like horses, but the concepts are the same.

"If you can save one horse's life it is wonderful," says Roberts.

["But to save one child?"](#)

"That's like saving all the horses in the world." □

When Politicians Rush Legislation

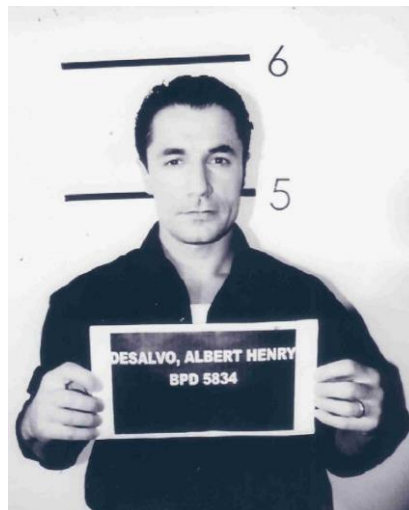
by Jack May

Representative Tom Moore was concerned about the undue haste and lack of proper scrutiny being applied to bills passed by the Texas State Legislature.

In 1971 Moore introduced a resolution which called upon the House "to commend Albert de Salvo for this gentleman's dedication to his unconventional techniques involving population control."

The resolution was passed unanimously without any objections, nor debate.

Moore then declared to the assembly that Albert de Salvo was actually The Boston Strangler and the representatives should undertake their duties with more diligent study and thorough understanding.



The date was 1st April 1971. It is known worldwide as April Fool's Day. □

Job Opportunities

[Journalist, Tabs on Travel Ltd, North Shore Auckland.](#)

Write for a leading travel industry trade publication. Apply today.

[Editor](#), APN News & Media Limited, Waikato

Source, generate and write local editorial content for the Waihi Leader. No closing date.

[Subeditor](#), Bauer Digital, Auckland
Proofread to prepare recipes for online publication. No closing date.

All these jobs were listed on the Student Discussion Board SDB when first found. That may have been several days ago!

Has the date expired? Ask anyway!

[Reporter](#), Fairfax Media, Waitaki, Otago

Produce stories, photos and video for digital and print platforms. Closes 11 Feb.

[Communications Manager](#),

Independent Schools of New Zealand, Wellington
Create e-news, media releases, internal communications. Closes 5 Feb.

[Communications Administrator](#),

Fletcher Construction, Manukau
Manage communications about construction project. No closing date.

[Mandarin-speaking Photography Assistant](#),

Magic Memories, Queenstown
Capture and publish images of guests at tourist attraction. No closing date.

[Photolab Assistant](#), Unichem, Manukau

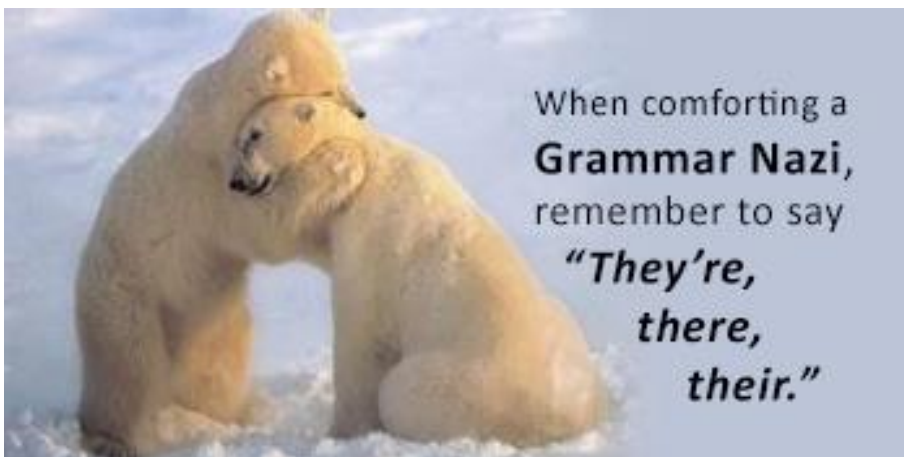
Develop photos and give advice to customers. Closes 8 Feb.

[Rehabilitation Coach Assistant](#),

Bupa, Gisborne
Help clients progress with their rehabilitation plans towards independence. No closing date.

[Head Writer, Xero, Wellington](#)

Write articles, promotional material and case studies for online channels. No closing date.



Online Openings

Online Writing Jobs

<http://www.online-writing-jobs.com/jobs/freelance-proofreading-jobs.php>

Virtual Vocations

The whole spectrum of vocations is here – so use a targeted search to find your specialty.

<http://www.virtualvocations.com/jobs>

You'll probably have better English than the boss.

iFreelance

Advertise your services here:

<http://www.ifreelance.com/>

www.fiverr.com

Freelance Writing Gigs

Online references, contract jobs and plenty of contacts.

<http://FreelanceWritingGigs.com>

Consider the difference a comma makes.

We enjoy cricket. We applaud the snickometer and the hot spot camera.

We should also monitor the cricket journalists.

Consider the difference a comma makes.

The batsman said the umpire got it wrong.

The batsman, said the umpire, got it wrong.

The outcome is different, depending on the use of a comma or two.

An errant comma can change everything. Proofreaders rock!

A Mystery . . .

These people:

Herbert Spencer, Samuel Fay, Eriman Wright, William Middlebrook and Johan Vaaler all have an association with a commonly used item.

What is it?

What can you add to this mystery?

Having a written plan for 2015

by *Shaunna Privratsky*

Reproduced for educational purposes.

I don't like New Year Resolutions. But I love setting goals and making plans to accomplish them. January is the perfect time to create new goals.

This year is barely begun; it's a blank slate, the promise of a new beginning.

Make this the year you become a better writer by setting realistic goals and making a workable plan.

Finding Time

Writing is a career, but it is also a way of life.

To be successful, we have to incorporate writing into our daily schedule, instead of always waiting for the perfect moment to come.

If you think you are too busy to write, make a list of everything you do in a day.

If you are at work from 8am to 5pm, maybe you could write during your lunch break.

Stay at home parents can sneak in some writing when the kids are napping.

Take control of your life by creating a yearly plan for your writing career.

If finding time is a struggle, check your schedule and look for snippets of time you could use for writing.

Get up one hour earlier than usual. Go to bed an hour later. What activities (like TV, or going to the pub) could you eliminate?

Stop making excuses and just begin.

Write Fiction

Every novel starts with the first sentence. Even if you can only write for 30 minutes a day, make it a goal to **do it every day**. Gradually, you will extend those 30 minutes to an hour.

Non Fiction?

Maybe you'd rather write non-fiction? There is an insatiable market for non-fiction. [Write ebooks](#). Write a themed series; just as in fiction, those sell best.

There is never going to be a better time than right now, starting today.

Start writing the novel you've been dreaming about.

Or decide on one article idea and start researching the topic. Start writing a draft. Just begin.

Setting Goals

Step 1: Decide on a realistic goal for your writing. Don't check your emails until you have written the first draft of something.

Step 2: Set mini-goals which get you closer to your prize. Aim to write 500 words at each sitting.

Step 3: Set a monetary income goal. Choose an actual \$ figure for each quarter year.

Step 4: Write in your diary HOW you plan to reach it. List the markets you will write for. Set monthly writing achievement goals. Make them realistic.

Some writers say money is not important. I disagree.

Your plumber is not going to say, "You don't need to pay me. I just do this for fun."

Use earned income as a measure of your writing progress. (You can always give the money away to charity.)

Using money earned as a guide, you can see how far you have come in your writing career.

It also prods you to seek higher paying assignments or markets that once were out of reach.

Continue to spruce up your writing. [Look for extra courses](#).

No matter what genre you write in, you can always learn more and become better. True!

Another worthy goal is to become more organised.

This is important in the business of writing. You need to track your submissions, payments, publications and tax payments.

Create a system that works for you.

I use a simple system of file folders, notebooks and computer backup memory sticks. When I write each new article, I write in the back of my diary the title, the word count, the date I wrote it, and where it is saved. After letting it rest for a day, I go back and revise it.

Every time I submit the article, I write the date, the place I sent it to, plus information like payment, response times, the editor's name. I also write the same information in my **Master Record book**. That way, I keep a record of where the article has been. When I receive an acceptance or a rejection, I mark it on my diary and in my master record book.

Another way to organise is to group types of writing into folders. If you write in various genres or subjects, this is an easy way to keep track of your submissions. Or you can also create folders in your computer and keep everything digital.

Remember to back up your work.

Making a Plan

It's great to make goals, but to accomplish them you need a PLAN to reach them. Once you've decided on your main goal, write it down. Make it as specific as possible. Tasks and deadlines.

Just saying you want to write a book some day is too vague. Planning to have a book manuscript completed, revised and submitted to a publisher by December 31st is a specific goal.

Now break that goal down into monthly or even **weekly goals**. To finish a book in a year, how many pages will you have to write each week? Set a timetable that works, and fits into your life schedule. The more realistic you make your plan, the easier it will be to accomplish each step.

Plans are great, but sometimes things happen to throw them off track. List some of the distractions that might derail your plan (and how to overcome them).

If you've made plans in the past and they didn't eventuate, look for the specific reasons.

Maybe you didn't see quick results and you gave up. Perhaps your target was too big and too hard. More likely, **the steps weren't broken into mini-steps**.

Figure out ways to revise your new plan

If you prepare ahead of time for setbacks, difficulties, time delays etc you can be flexible and still accomplish your goals.

Now when the computer breaks, or the family is sick, you'll be ready with Plan B.

When you start to accomplish your mini-goal steps, reward yourself. Have a night out at your favourite restaurant.

Celebrate when one of your stories or articles is accepted.


Pat yourself on the back.

Share your achievement on the [Student Discussion Board](#). Share your good news with friends and family.

A little good news is an excellent motivator for weeks or even months thereafter.

Getting moral support for your goals is another important tool in creating a workable plan. Having a writing buddy, an online writers chat room, or a local writer's club is important for connecting with other writers. They can cheer you up when you get a rejection, celebrate when your book proposal is accepted or offer helpful critiques when you're working on your current tasks.

[Writing is a privilege, a joy and a way to connect with others. It can also be a fulfilling and financially rewarding career.](#) < Click here.

Meld the two together into a plan that will make 2015 a very successful year. 

Job Opportunities

[Head of People and Culture](#), World Vision New Zealand, Auckland. Life Coach managers in a not-for-profit organisation. No closing date.

[Social Media Editor](#), TVNZ, Auckland
Engage audiences on Facebook and Twitter. No closing date.

[Communications Advisor](#), Countdown, Manukau City
Focus on media relations and reputation building. Apply now.

[Communications Advisor](#), Kapiti Coast District Council, Kapiti Coast
Co-ordinate website, intranet and social media communications. Closes early Feb.

[Marketing & Communications Executive](#), The CatWalk Trust, Auckland.

Produce magazine, fund-raise, develop social media and marketing strategies. No closing date.

[Communication Specialist](#), Kiwibank, Auckland
Develop targeted internal communications for bank nationwide. Apply now.

[Photography Assistant](#), Magic Memories, Southland
Capture and publish photographs of guests. No closing date.

[Editorial Development Manager](#), Castleford Media, Auckland
Select and train writers, edit and audit writers on sourcing, style and accuracy. No closing date.

[Promotional Assistant](#), Broadway New World, Wanganui
Create online marketing campaigns, manage website, write promotional material. No closing date.

[PR and Communications Manager](#), Michael Page, Auckland
Improve internal communications, assist with copy and blog writing. No closing date.

[Internship Program for Camera Assistant and Video Editor](#), Broadcast & Film New Zealand Ltd, Auckland
Work with professional crews on set. Apply now.

International

Writers' Workshop

Meets on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, February to November inclusive, at the Lake House Arts Centre, Takapuna, Auckland.

<http://www.iww.co.nz/>

Hibiscus Coast Writers

Members enjoy workshops and six competitions a year including poetry, short stories, drama and non-fiction. Meet local writers.

<http://hibiscuscoastwriters.weebly.com/>

Metaphors for LIFE:

"A theatre in which the worst people often have the best seats." — **Aristonymus**

"A hospital in which every patient is possessed by the desire to change his bed." — **Charles Baudelaire**

"A garish, unrestful hotel." — **Joseph Conrad**

"For most men ... a search for the proper manila envelope in which to get themselves filed." — **Clifton Fadiman**

"An onion, and one peels it crying." — **French proverb**

"A succession of frontispieces. The way to be satisfied is never to look back." — **William Hazlitt**

"A long headache in a noisy street." — **John Masefield**

Photography Clubs

They are everywhere - nationwide. Photography clubs keep you up to date with events, seminars, competitions, new gear and more.

NZ Photographic Society details:
http://www.photography.org.nz/clubs_map.html

Kiwi Write 4 Kids

Kiwi Write4Kidz is an organisation for adults who like to write tales for children. If you want to learn more about technique, you can hear it direct from the mouths of the finest Kiwi children's authors.

<http://www.kiwiwrite4kidz.co.nz/>

A story retold . . .

Jesus feeds five thousand

by **Janne Sergison**

One Saturday morning Mum said "Get off the computer, we're going out."

She had heard this guy Jesus was in our area and she and Dad wanted to see him and hear him speak.

I wasn't allowed to stay home, so I was feeling a bit mad about this. They were always dragging me off to random things that were boring, so I hated going.

Anyway we drove for about an hour and my cellphone went dead, so I couldn't even text my friends. But everywhere there were people all walking in the same direction.

The road had been closed hence we had to leave our car and walk.

When we got to this big paddock everyone was sitting around in groups on the grass. Hundreds of them. (I saw on TV next day there were actually FIVE THOUSAND people there!)

Soon the Jesus guy started to talk and actually he wasn't boring at all. I understood all the stuff he said and it was really interesting.

Then he started doing neat stuff like putting his hands on sick people and they got up off their stretchers and out of their wheelchairs and started dancing around yelling things like

"Glory to God. I'm healed."

This was some of the coolest stuff I had ever seen.

But then it got better!



When everyone was really tired and hungry, Jesus told his men to give us all a feed.

They started fussing and saying things like, "Do we have to walk all that way and carry food back for all these people?"

Jesus gave a big sigh and gave them a special 'look'.

Then he walked over to this kid who must have slipped off to Makkers sometime as he had a cheeseburger, two happy meals and two large fries. Plus a couple of large cokes.

Jesus asked very kindly if he could take them and the kid just handed them over.

Jesus yelled out for everyone to sit in groups of about fifty.

Then the most awesome thing happened.

He went round all the groups and broke the burgers and gave portions to the people, and he gave them all a big pile of fries as well.

Then he produced a stack of paper cups from somewhere and he took the coke and just kept pouring it into the cups till the whole crowd had a drink.

When we had eaten all we could there was still heaps of leftovers. Jesus said we could help ourselves and take some food home if we had a bag or something to carry it in.

This was one of the most awesome days I could ever remember. □

The Punctuation Poem

by **David Morice**

% , & —
+ . ? /
" :
% ;
+ \$ [\

It's a Limerick:

(Click for the Limerick competition.)

Percent comma ampersand dash

Plus period question mark slash

Quotation mark colon

Percent semicolon

Plus dollar sign bracket backslash

Competitions



Have a go! 😊

For details of all competitions, click the links and join in!

Winners' names are posted on the SDB after the competitions are judged at each month's end.

See the competitions here:

<http://nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=11>

Photography competitions:

<http://nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=4>

Set up your own Internet business, selling information or stuff worldwide. Live anywhere.

Start with \$1. Click here > <http://nzibs.co.nz/internet-entrepreneur/>

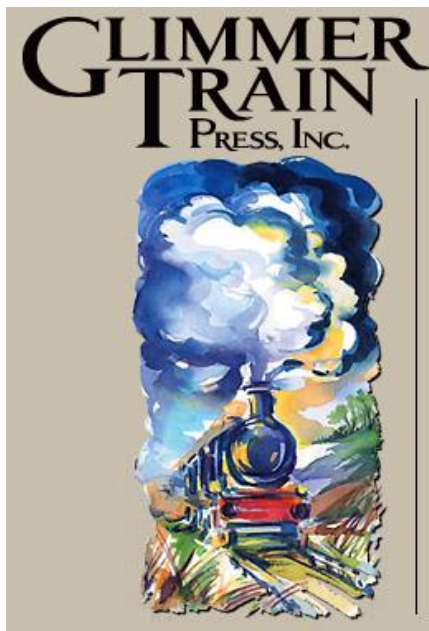
Robert V

Photography tutor

If you're sending in photos for assignments, or for challenges or competitions, please remember to give these important details:

- **Aperture setting – including why you chose that one**
- **Shutter speed – including why you chose that one**

The aperture and the shutter speed are the two most important aspects of making a photograph so they deserve serious consideration. The photography tutor can help you better if you give reasons for choosing specific settings.



SHORT STORY \$1500 AWARD for **NEW WRITERS**

Open only to writers whose fiction has not appeared, nor is scheduled to appear, in any print publication with a circulation over 5,000. (Entries must not have appeared in any print publication.)

Held quarterly. The next deadline is **28 February 2015.**

<http://www.glimmertrain.com/newwriters.html>

First 100 words

of your novel. C'mon story writers. Put your first 100 words up and join the fun . . . Click the link: <http://nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=6112>

If you have forgotten how to log in here are the log in steps:

1. Start at www.nzibs.co.nz,
2. click the SDB button and
3. Put NZIBS (capital letters) and student (lower case) in the first box that pops up. This part protects our common room from outsiders so you need to do it each time you log in.
4. Once the SDB home page is open go to the right hand side and put your name with a capital first letter and a space between words, into the user name box.
5. Your password is the one you chose when you registered.
6. Click the **remember me** box so you won't need to do this on your next visit.

Job Opportunities

Magazine Publisher, Drake New Zealand, Manukau City. Help us publish a whole magazine. Apply now.

Journalist, QJumpers, Auckland. Write and sub-edit for cycling and motorhome titles. No closing date.

Editorial assistant, MyLawGuide, Auckland. Produce materials for a demanding market. No closing date.

Circuit Coach, Curves, New Plymouth. Help women achieve their health and weight loss goals. Apply now.

If the closing date has passed, ask whether the position was filled. You could still be considered for it.

Advertising and Marketing Specialist, E Cube Publishing, Auckland. Create and coordinate advertising campaigns for a Japanese audience. No closing date.

Proposals Advisor, AECOM, Auckland. Focus on bid/proposal production for Water & Infrastructure Services projects across New Zealand. No closing date.

Mental Health Support Worker, The Goodwood Park Healthcare Group, Waitakere City. Support people to increase their independence, regain previous skills and improve quality of life. No closing date.

Editor, Bauer Media Group, Auckland. Edit for a premium fashion title, Fashion Quarterly. No closing date.

Web Writer, Beyond Recruitment, Wellington. Create commercial Web content in plain English. Apply now.

Marketing Web Coordinator, Michael Page Sales, Auckland. Edit and proofread online copy content. No closing date.

Senior Rehab Coach, The Goodwood Park Healthcare Group, Auckland. Provide 24-hour rehabilitation to dual-disability clients. No closing date.

The Perfect Wife

by Michelle Chan

Reproduced for educational purposes as an example of fine short story writing.

Adam woke up late, putting himself an hour behind his usual schedule. He put on his designated work shirt and pants, and noticed a trail of brown splatter on the collar.

He shrugged. He was an art lecturer so it came with the territory.

He turned to Sarah who was sleeping soundly on her side facing him. Her long, golden hair lay neatly covering her ear down to the side of her arm.

"I'm sorry I can't have breakfast with you today. I'll see you tonight," whispered Adam as he blew her a kiss before leaving for work.

The traffic was astonishingly smooth. Adam reached the art academy with ample time to prepare for his first class. As he was gathering his materials, a sense of guilt overcame him.

He flumped on to his chair and brooded.

He hated missing breakfast with Sarah. They had just moved here barely a month previously, and she was still adjusting to the new place. Adam knew relocating would be unnerving for her, but circumstances made it impossible for them to stay where they were.

He had made the mistake of welcoming a student into his home. This had triggered an internal investigation at his previous university, putting him at risk of losing Sarah.

He could never allow that.

Adam had lived in inconsolable loneliness until Sarah came along. She fulfilled his every desire and never once criticised his eccentricity. When she first appeared before him, he knew she was born to love him.

She'd had a nice cozy corner at their old house, where she could be found reading, sitting in her favourite purple chair.

Now, the chair looked different under a new light.

It didn't blend well with the olive green walls in the living area, or the saffron walls in the bedroom.

He wanted to give her a new chair, but he wasn't sure if erasing her most familiar possession would be wise. It didn't help that Sarah was also a homebody.

She never wandered out of the house. She feared the sun might dull her skin, and Adam shared her concern. He loved her glowing pale complexion.

It was a hue hard to achieve.

He sensed she had been restless and nervous lately. Last week, she was a redhead. Yesterday, she became a blonde. Her random changes troubled him.

Adam remembered reading somewhere that women tend to experiment with their hair when they are adapting to or desire change. He didn't want the new environment to change his wife. Besides, a Chinese woman looks ridiculous with blonde hair.

Adam sighed. He had to take control of the situation. He would make her change her hair back to black.

"Hey, Adam, it's 9 o'clock. Your students are waiting," said Connie, another art lecturer on her way to her class.

"Oh God!" exclaimed Adam as he scrambled to his feet.

"Are you OK? You look troubled," asked Connie.

"I'm just a bit scattered today. I was running late and I missed breakfast with my wife. I'm worried she might be upset," said Adam with sincere concern on his face.

Connie raised her eyebrows wonderingly. "Why would it upset her? She knows you have a job to go to. I'm sure she'll understand."

Adam didn't respond. His face lined with increasing worry.

"Look, I think you're over-thinking this. I doubt your wife is as fragile as you painted her to be. She'll be fine eating one breakfast alone. Now go to class."

Connie turned and left.

Adam remained standing at his desk, pondering what his colleague had just said. Maybe she was right. Maybe he was worrying unnecessarily.

But Connie didn't know his wife. Sarah couldn't go anywhere or do anything without him. She was totally dependent on him.

Adam decided he would make it up to her with a romantic dinner. He would pick up a bottle of red wine and a tube of black hair dye on the way home.

Feeling satisfied, he collected his things and headed to his class.

That evening, Sarah, in her favourite blue sundress and her hair tied up in a pony tail, sat perched on her usual barstool, smiling as she watched him cook.

He told her about his day at work and expressed his concern for her. He apologised again for the relocation; for erasing everything she was and had at the old place, and expecting her to start anew inside these unfamiliar walls without complaint.

As he continued the conversation, Sarah offered no response.

She stayed in the same position as when he first entered the kitchen, never wandered away from the barstool, and her expression remained unchanged.

Adam accepted her smile as her forgiveness and winked at her as he went to set the table, after removing some unfinished canvases from the dining chairs.

As Adam approached the dining area, Sarah, adorned in her finest white dress and her hair elegantly coiffed, was already there, rooted to her chair. He filled his plate with his favourite meatball pasta and poured his wine glass almost to the brim.

The table wobbled when he sat down, so he pushed it forward, making sure the opposite end was firmly pressed against the wall, placing Sarah's empty plate just an inch from it.

He raised his glass to her and said, "To you, my perfect wife."

Sarah's glass was empty and remained unmoved on the table.

She didn't reply.

She never replied. She couldn't reply. She had lived a life of silence since conception. Her lips always curled into a perfect smile, made to please his eyes, not his ears. She never shed a tear. Her eyes never blinked. Not a wrinkle creased her face. She never aged. She was an immaculate beauty.

She was his greatest creation, the face of the murals that graced the walls in every room of his house. □