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Warnings We Do Not Heed

June 2023

345 Words

### Six 55-Word Stories

#### Dangerous Minutes

He swung hard. She ducked.

She sprung back. He leapt forward.

She pushed. He recoiled.

He was decidedly stronger, but she was much faster.

“You’re not going to escape so you might as well give up.”

“I’m not gonna quit, so *YOU* should just let go.”

Her badge and gun had yet to persuade him.

#### Love & Hiking

Yosemite had waterfalls. As did Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon. They hiked to them all. Hours walking trails, enduring switchbacks, climbing hill and dell. They were together despite the gossip. His mother. Her sisters. Evil word miscarriage. But no time to talk when breathless. They didn’t need to. Love was as much movement as language.

#### An Awkward Moment

A costumed clown walks into a bar,  
turns to the bartender, and

tells this joke:

'A skeleton walks into a bar.

He orders a beer....and a mop.'

Har-de-har-har.

"That's probably the worst joke I've ever heard," the bartender says.

"Told by a clown?"

"No a douchebag. But he calls himself a clown."

"Beer?"

"Coming up."

### **Monster**

"I can't look! Tell me when the monster is gone."

"Okay. I'll tell you when."

"Now?"

"No."

"Now?"

"Not yet. Don't be impatient. It bothers me."

"Now?"

"Okay, now."

"Stephen why are you holding that butcher knife?"

"Because I hate how annoying you've become. Can't take it anymore."

"No, Stephen, NO!!!"

"Yes, Carol, YES!"

Stab.

## **Vulnerable**

I wonder why we teach our children to keep their promises when - as adults - we seldom do.

I wonder how vows spoken devotedly yesterday turn indifferent today.

And declarations of love are callously dismissed as common.

How do you turn love so easily into contempt?

And let your pride become more important than our marriage?

## **First School Day**

Today was her first day of kindergarten. She was scared, but wanted to show him she was brave.

“Promise you’ll pick me up soon, Daddy?”

“I promise, love. I’ll be here at noon. We’ll go to lunch.”

“Chicken nuggets?”

“And fries.”

He wanted to cry but had to show her he could be brave too.