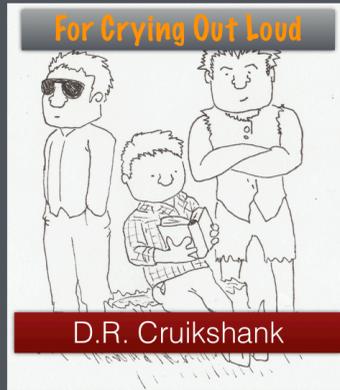


The Chopping Block

Stories Scraped From the
Cutting Room Floor

- Drinking Buddies
- Culture Shock
- The Franklin Kool-Aid Acid Test
- God's Customer Service Call
- And more...



Memo To Editor

Denial

You've got to be kidding.

At first I thought I had been gutted, left to bleed out, tossed in the garbage to be found by trash hunters searching for buried treasure. What a shock, when they discover that those Italian real leather loafers are a knock-off I picked up in Kowloon, at the market.

Anger

No, that's not it, it was a stiletto, so sharp that after it stabbed me in the heart, the hole resealed itself, fast enough that no blood escaped the wound. Only an autopsy would determine that it wasn't an ordinary heart attack.

Bargaining

All right, let's not be so fast with the axe. I can give up a Pulitzer Prize for a Best Seller, but we have to keep *Culture Shock*, or *The Franklin Kool-Aid Acid Test*. What do you mean they're Juvenile? I was only a teen-ager, for crying out loud.

Depression

I am practicing my hand at novel writing, because I can't think of anything better to do with my favorite stories, that have been mercilessly ripped from my memoir. I suppose I could become a *librarian*.

Acceptance

Okay, yeah, you're right. I'm going to need some money. I have to buy a new set of dinnerware, after smashing several pieces during the anger stage.

So, I'm over it. Kool-aid, *Culture Shock* and God's Customer Service Call Center can all go. One last sigh.

Wait, there is light at the end of the tunnel. I plan to write a companion piece, which contains the playlist stories. These outtakes, and any others you want to kill off, can be added to that book—problem solved.

I will recover from this moment of madness.

The Franklin Trail Book Buddy, along with *The Franklin Trail*, coming soon to wherever e-Books and Paper-Books are sold.