

(Name of Project)

(Genre)

by

(Name of Writer)

Name

Address

Phone Number

Agency Information

CHARACTER NAME

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

AGE

GENDER

**SIDES for LAWYER / The Goldfish Letters / Steve Stajich**

LAWYER (CONT'D)

(re LETTER) Ah, good. Okay. What was I--

TED

We can't use his name.

LAWYER

No.

TED and ALICE look at each other, then  
TED grins, mordantly.

TED

He's insisting. That we... address him.

LAWYER

Oh, definitely. When I stepped out... that thing I went to  
retrieve? (FIRM) It was your life savings.

The LAWYER picks up the e-mail print-  
out, and hands it to TED.

TED begins reading it. He finishes,  
somewhat taken aback... then reads  
parts of it again.

ALICE

What? Ted?

TED

He's not going to sue us.

LAWYER

'Thank you, Bobby.'

ALICE

(SOME EMOTION) Thank you, Bobby.

TED

Slow down.

LAWYER

Oh, no. No flipping. I do not 'undo' my miracles. Now, it's your turn.

ALICE

What do we have to--

TED

We... accept him.

ALICE looks confused.

TED (CONT'D)

His 'bit'. His routine. We accept it.

ALICE

I see.

TED

(to LAWYER) When?

The LAWYER looks at his watch.

LAWYER

I think we have about five minutes.

TED and ALICE look surprised.

ALICE

He's... coming. Here?

The LAWYER stands and moves about the office.

LAWYER

Story time. Ready? I had a case once... 15 year-old boy has a summer job where he mows other people's lawns. He gets a flat rate, 20 bucks. Whether your lawn is an acre of gnarly shit or smooth as a baby's ass... 20 bucks.

That's his, you know, that's how he builds his business.

So, he has this one old timer that he works for and the old man is always criticizing the kid and giving him a hard time. "You don't know what hard work is... you kids are all lazy punks", that thing. And of course that's the job where the kid has a horrible accident. Pushes the mower over a horse shoe. Normally, they're good luck. Not this time.

ALICE

He's hurt?

LAWYER

The mower spits the horse shoe out in pieces, and one goes in the kid's foot. There's infection and... he loses the foot.

ALICE

How horrible!

TED

The old guy won't pay.

LAWYER

He can't. There isn't any money. He's barely living off Social Security, everybody in his family is dead, and the house is more like a shack. There's no money, and there's no foot. The kid's father is beside himself, the kid was an athlete... it's tragic.

Silence.

TED

Something?

LAWYER

Well, something, of course. There's always something.

ALICE

The old man... cuts off one of his own feet.

The LAWYER laughs.

## LAWYER

You would have made a good lawyer. (BEAT) The father tells the old man that he has to come over to their house and mow their lawn. Just once. After he finishes, the father and the kid come out and they give the old man holy hell..."You call that a mowing job? A monkey could do better!" Just... a few minutes of that. Then, they let him go. Six months later, the kid and his family move to another city. In view of everything, I greatly reduced my fee. Alas, that's the only part that doesn't apply to your situation.

The LAWYER checks his watch.

## LAWYER (CONT'D)

Let me duck in here a minute.