

Unremembered Loss

For all the news and information from the world of Rathrae, and for the story Unremembered Loss.

Issue 118

June 2019

Booklets

I've been posting short stories on Instagram for seven months. Some of the stories are just okay, but some of them are pretty good.

As I think about Instagram and my writing in general, one of the biggest challenges is getting my work in front of people so they can discover it.

With my current collection of stories that are all nine pages long + a cover picture, I found that they make very nice 16-page booklets.

A booklet is a short book. The ones I'm looking at are made by folding pieces of paper in half and then putting staples in the fold. In this way, each sheet of paper makes four pages.

In a 16 page booklet, you have front, and back covers, front and back inside cover, and 12 pages. This works great for my 10-page stories.

The front cover is the original artwork. The inside front cover is the copyright information. The third page is the title of the story. The fourth page is a black and white version of the cover art. Pages 5 through 13 are the story. Pages 14 & 15 is about me and what I want to do with other artists. The back cover is contact information for me and the artist that made the artwork.

The idea is that I can print some up and give them away, sort of like business cards.

I asked for a quote to print 50 of four different ones. The price came back at \$750, or 3.75 each. Just a little too much for a give-away booklet. I was a little confused by the price because I can get a 150 page perfectly bound book from Amazon for the same price.

Perfectly bound is where individual pages are glued together.

The answer, of course, is volume. I did some more searching and found that if I get 4000 copies instead of 200 copies, the price goes down to \$0.28 each. That's more like a give-away price.

So, if I get 200 copies of 20 different booklets, and I can find a printer that will give me the 4000 piece price, then I'm good. I can give the booklets away, one at a time. I could sell individual booklets for \$1.25 a piece. I could also bundle them up, get a case for them to fit in and sell sets of 20 booklets for \$20.00.

With that in the back on my mind, I went through the work of converting my existing stories into the new booklet format. I completed 17 of them and went to Staples to get some prototypes made.

The prototypes cost \$2.50 a piece, but are a bit rough. The margins were wrong because of how their printer works, but they do give me a good idea of what the final product will be like.

I've been showing them to people, and they seem to like them – not that anyone wants to buy them. A couple of people did want to take one for free.

Thinking about this, I also came up with two other ideas. I could do a booklet a month subscription, where each month you get a booklet in the mail. At 0.8 oz each + the weight of the envelope, I can probably ship them standard mail.

The second thought was to create some booklets specifically targeted to the upcoming presidential campaign. There are a lot of topics that I care about, that can be difficult to understand, that I might be able to write short booklets that could make the details easier to understand.

Other than donating money to campaigns, I've never really gotten involved before. This could be a way for me to make a difference. I think I'm going to spend a few evenings doing research and writing a few booklets.

Who knows, I might send them to some candidates and see what happens.

So, what do you think?

Would you subscribe to a booklet of the month club? Maybe a booklet every two weeks?

If you could pick one issue to focus on in the upcoming election, what issue would you choose?

If I was going to create children's books, what topics would you want to get for your child?

Well, enough of the questions. Just send me an e-mail and let me know you actually read this far. In two more editions of this newsletter, I will have been putting them out every month for ten years.

In those ten years, I've grown to 60 people on my mailing list. This is not the kind of growth I had hoped for. Let me know if you think I should keep doing them.

So, here is one of the 19 stories I have ready. The final print size is 4.75" x 4.57". I actually would like one a little smaller, but this seems to be the smallest that printers do – it probably has something to do with how closely they can space the staple.

The copyright page contains both the artist's information, my information, and my companies information.

On the title page (and everywhere else) I always put the artist's name first. I do this for two reasons: to recognize the fact that they created the art before I wrote the story, and that their picture is what inspired the story.

Do those sound like good reasons to you?

Right now I'm just planning on giving these away, but on the off chance that someone wants

to buy one, or the whole set I've got to think about royalties to the artist (for the free one, I'm paying to advertise from them, so that feels like enough to me).

I'm planning on giving the artists 50% of the profits from any sale. That's on the high side since I'm doing all the selling work, but their art is what started it all.

Drawing Copyright
Sara Paz 2019
All rights reserved
Instagram: @thiswhimsyme

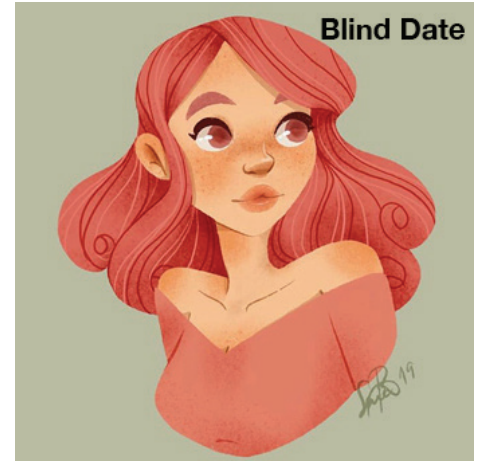
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I got a coffee, a table and started worrying about being there early. Heaven knows I didn't want to look needy or desperate. I just didn't want to be late and have it look like I was uncaring or disrespectful.

I sipped my coffee, not wanting to finish it and make it seem like I had been there a long time, but I had to have some.



Blind Date

A drawing inspired short story

Drawing by Sara Paz

Story by Douglas G Clarke

Ok, I'll admit it - I was trying. I picked a dress that went with my hair. And yes, I bought lipstick that went with my dress. I spent extra time with my hair - I used the extra body conditioner that smells like strawberries and vanilla.

I got to the restaurant ten minutes early - I was afraid I was going to be late.

I heard the ring of the little bell over the door and looked to see who was coming or going. I saw him. My heart skipped a beat as I hoped that he was my him.

Beautiful hair. Wide chest and huge arms beneath a "just too tight" shirt. But it was his eyes that stopped my heart. He was looking around the room, then stopped, looking right at me.

His eyes didn't leave mine as he walked over to my table. He stopped not two feet from me and in this voice that dripped with honey he said.

"I sure hope you're Rose because you're the most beautiful girl here and I'm supposed to meet Rose."

Then he smiled and I melted.

He ordered coffee, but he didn't even look away from me as he ordered. It felt like I was the center of the universe. Then he smiled - at me - OMG.

We drank our coffee. We ordered dinner. We talked and talked and talked. Like best friends talking. Hopes and dreams. Past and future. Fears and joys. Like, OMG.

Then his smile deepened and he leaned close to me and said, "Your lips are so beautiful, I wish I could kiss them right now, but I don't think it's right to kiss on a first date."

I'm sure I gasped at that point.

"I sure hope that you'll go out with me again so that maybe someday I'll get to taste them."

To have Douglas write a story for one of your drawings, just tag him in a comment (@altivecer) and add a couple details of what you think the story might be about.

If you have more than one drawing that tells a story - all the better - you might get a multi-post story out of him.

If you would like a story that you can post on your feed, DM or email to set that up.

All I could do was nod my head, yes, but it was enough for him. He pulled out the chair across from me and sat down.

I was a little lost. He had said that I was the most beautiful girl here. Joanne and Michelle and Liz were all there, but he had said I was the most beautiful.

Me. Beautiful. I felt a flush,

And then we were done. The waiter took our plates away, we paid the bill. We talked a little more over the empty table, but we both knew it was time to go.

But I didn't want it to be over. Never had a blind date been even close to this. And again, I was afraid that there wouldn't be a second. Even after three hours of talking, I was afraid.

My heart was going crazy. I wanted nothing more than to kiss him right then, but he had also said he wanted to see me again. My words left me, I just sat there and nodded.

But that was enough for him. He asked if he could see me on Friday. I nodded. He said he would see me soon and left me in this state - I like this state.

For collaborations, email your idea Doug - he's always looking for new opportunities.

- Instagram drawing and story
- Illustrated short story
- Copy for a comic book
- Graphic novel
- Anthology of drawings & stories
- Story for a video game
- Or something else

If one of the artists doesn't like the offer, I'll give them 100% of the profits for the books sold so far and stop selling them.

The last two pages are my sells pitch to other artists. The hope is that eventually some of the artists I'm writing stories for will want to do something more substantial with me - i.e., collaborate.

The back cover has the contact information one more time, so people reading the booklet can find the artists and me.

That's about it for this topic. Do me a big favor and send this off to one (or ten) of your friends that might be interested in what I'm doing.

Also, if you would like a free copy of one of my booklets (or would like to sign up for one a month for a small fee) just send me an e-mail, and I'll get one off to you.

If you're not already on the mail list, go to DouglasGClarke.com to see back issues, and make sure to sign-up at <http://www.douglasgclarke.com/lists/?p=subscribe> so you won't miss the next issue.

Thanks, and have a great summer,

Douglas.

For more drawings follow

Sara Paz

Instagram @thiswhimsyme

For more stories follow

Douglas Clarke

Instagram @altivecer

Doug@agoodtale.com