

GLOBAL VILLAGE STORIES – A relational art project

Description:

128 very short stories in English language (at most 4 lines) were exhibited in the gallery space in The Art Folk High School, Holbæk, Denmark. They were framed in 20 A4 frames, that is around 6-7 stories per frame. It was part of the North West Zealand Juried Exhibition, 2009. They have been collected using the Internet in the period February-April 2009. They are coming from more than 50 different countries. Some contributors have sent more than one story. Some were too long then I have shortened; others were not in English language then I have to translate them.

In this note I present my theoretical reflections about this dynamic and relational art project and how it will evolve in time. These are aposterior reflections since the start and the first exhibition were not planned at all, it evolve in a very intuitive manner.

Global Village:

Today, the term *Global Village* is mostly used as a metaphor to describe the Internet and World Wide Web. On the Internet, physical distance is even less of a hindrance to the real-time communicative activities of people, and therefore social spheres are greatly expanded by the openness of the web and the ease at which people can search for online communities and interact with others that share the same interests and concerns. Therefore, this technology fosters the idea of a conglomerate yet unified global community. Due to the enhanced speed of communication online and the ability of people to read about, spread, and react to global news very rapidly, this forces us to become more involved with one another from countries around the world and be more aware of our global responsibilities. Similarly, web-connected computers enable people to link their web sites together. This new reality has implications for forming new sociological structures within the context of culture.

This art project involves the Internet, permitting social communication and participation about a theme (stories) that exists in any culture as well as in the Global Village. In all cultures and in all times story telling has been a central activity. Stories or narratives have been shared in every culture and in every land as a means of entertainment, education, preservation of culture and in order to instill moral values. Crucial elements of stories and storytelling include plot and characters, as well as the narrative point of view.

Stories as readymades:

The *readymades* as conceptualized by Marcel Duchamp are ordinary manufactured objects that he selected and modified, as an antidote to what he called "retinal art". By simply choosing the object (or objects) and repositioning or joining, and tilting and signing it, the object became art. It was the least amount of interaction between artist and art, and the most extreme form of minimalism that had yet been seen at the time.

Duchamp was unable to define or explain his opinion of readymades: "The curious thing about the readymade is that I've never been able to arrive at a definition or explanation that fully satisfies me." Duchamp was not interested in what he called "retinal art" — art that was only visual — and sought other methods of expression. As an antidote to "retinal art" he began creating readymades at a time (1915) when the term was commonly used in the United States to describe manufactured items to distinguish them from handmade goods. He selected the pieces on the basis of "visual indifference" and the selections reflect his sense of irony, humour and ambiguity. "...it was always the idea that came first, not the visual example", he said, "...a form

of denying the possibility of defining art." The only definition of "readymade" published under the name of Marcel Duchamp ("MD" to be precise) says in André Breton and Paul Éluard's *Dictionnaire abrégé du Surréalisme*: "an ordinary object elevated to the dignity of a work of art by the mere choice of an artist."

In this sense, the collected stories are to me readymades, they are ordinary "objects", they are not necessarily work of art, most of them are not, but they will become part of an art project. I do not evaluate them; I have not dismissed any story. Many of them are "modified" readymades in the sense that some were too long and I have to reduce them or some of them were send in a language that was not English and I have to translate them. What is important in this project is the story, the date and the country where the story is coming from. The person sending the story or the author of the story is in principle irrelevant and according to the rules of the Internet most of them are anonymous. This is similar to Duchamp's pissoir; it is irrelevant who made the pissoir. Moreover, recently some people have preferred to remain anonymous.

Relational Art - the process and the product:

Some visitors of the gallery, looking for traditional art, searching for "sublime" paintings or sculptures, probably looking for investment objects, have difficulties in understanding this art project. They will usually ask: Is this art? What is the price?

To better understand this project, it is necessary to introduce the concept of *Relational Art*. According to Nicolas Bourriaud, Relational Art encompasses a set of artistic practices which take as their theoretical and practical point of departure *the whole of human relations and their social context, rather than an independent and private space*.

The artwork creates a social environment in which people come together to participate in a shared activity. The role of artworks is no longer to form imaginary and utopian realities, but to actually be ways of living and models of action within the existing real, whatever scale chosen by the artist.

In Relational Art, the audience is envisaged as a community. Rather than the artwork being an encounter between a viewer and an object, relational art produces intersubjective encounters. Through these encounters, meaning is elaborated collectively, rather than in the space of individual consumption. Participation is an essential element of Relational Art.

In this specific project, the artist has used the Internet to create a space where people could send very short stories, in this way everybody could participate, no censorship; the only demand was that the stories should be of at most four lines. The important parts were the story, the date and the country of origin. Some people were refused participation because they wanted to appear in the project with their name, e-mail and Web site. The authors or story creators are anonymous. This was the beginning of a process, the interaction of the creator of the project and the contributors of stories. Some stories were modified, corrected, make shorter or translated to English language. This was a very fast process, after two months more than 100 stories have been collected.

This process ends when the creator was invited to an exhibition in Denmark, he presented five installations, and one of them was the exhibition of the first 128 stories. The products of this process were framed and shown around the gallery. In the exhibition another participative element was introduced: The visitors were invited to contribute with their own stories that will be included the next time the stories will be shown in another exhibition.

No marketable Art:

This art project is not for sale, it has by definition no market value. On the contrary, each story can be considered as a present, as those candies that Felix-Gonzales Torres was offering in the gallery. You can appropriate a story, take it out of its context, and used in your social context. In this respect this art project is a critique of money dependency of traditional art.

The irrational exuberance of the contemporary art market is about the breeding of money, not the fertility of art, and that commercially precious works of art have become the organ grinder's monkeys of money. They exist to increase the generative value and staying power of money - the power of money to breed money, to fertilize itself - not the value and staying power of art.

Art has never been independent of money, but now it has become a dependency of money. Consciousness of money is all-pervasive. Money has always invested in art, as though admiring, even worshipping, what it respected as its superior - the true treasure of civilization - but today money's hyper-investment in art, implicitly an attempt to overwhelm it, to force it to surrender its supposedly higher values, strongly suggests that money regards itself as superior to art.

Art's willingness, even eagerness to be absorbed by money - to aestheticize money, as it were - suggests that art, like every other enterprise, from the cultural to the technological (and culture has become an extension and even mode of technological practice in many quarters) is a way of making and worshipping money - a way of affirming capitalism.

The old technology of painting remains the most successful way of making money, suggesting that painting, however supposedly dead or in mourning for itself remains economically viable. Even more interestingly, money's respectability has made once disrespectful avant-garde art - art once scornfully irreverent towards capitalist society, art that claimed to be a spiritual revolution against its material values - respectable.

Money no longer serves and supports art, art serves and supports money. Money is timeless and transcendental, and anyone - artist or otherwise - who abandons his or her bank-book looks like a self-destructive fool. Escalating auction prices confirm that the capitalization of art is complete. Money has completely conquered art; indeed, art has become a species of money.

Collectors and dealers look like conquistadors, cornering the market in a particular art to extract the last bit of money from it. They pan for gold in art, search for the holy grail of gold, indifferent to the meaning it had for the natives who valued artistic gold because it had the radiance of the sun god, symbolized its life-giving power.

Only art that makes money finds its way into the textbooks, which sometimes seem like rationalizations of auction results. Official art history tends to follow the lead of the art markets, consciously as well as unconsciously.

Growing and Travelling Art:

This art project is expansive in the sense that it is still growing and at the exhibition people are asked to send more stories, by the time being (May 2009), there are more than 200 stories.

I am in contact with other countries and galleries who are interesting in showing the stories too.

Creativity in Art:

This project illustrates how creativity can interact with the development of an art project. Everything starts with a simple idea: to collect very short stories from different parts of the world using the Internet. There is not a specific purpose, neither strategy nor goal to achieve an art work.

The response from my network was very fast and positive; in addition many people used their networks to spread the idea all around the World. This is probably due to the fact that I have a close contact with my network. They will get a message from me about art every week.

Having collected more than 100 stories, the idea of exhibit them was rather obvious. Since I was invited to an exhibition in Denmark to present some installations I decided to show the stories for the first time in Denmark. Then later I got information about the Global Village exhibition in Holland, where this Art Project will suite perfectly. In creativity we call this: *serendipity*.

And the creative process goes on. The art project is evolving, more stories are coming. When and how this will stop? I do not really know.

Final remarks:

Travel, cultural exchanges and examination of history are not merely fashionable themes, but markers of a profound evolution in our vision of the world and our way of inhabiting it. More generally, our globalized perception calls for new types of representation: our daily lives are played out against a more enormous backdrop than ever before, and depend now on transnational entities, short or long-distance journeys in a chaotic and teeming universe. Many signs suggest that the multiculturalism and the discourse of identity is being overtaken by a planetary movement of creolisation; cultural relativism, relational aesthetics and deconstruction.

The times seem propitious for the recomposition of modernity in the present, reconfigured according to the specific context within which we live – crucially in the age of globalisation – understood in its economic, political and cultural aspects. The artist becomes 'homo viator', the prototype of the contemporary traveller whose passage through signs and formats refers to a contemporary experience of mobility, travel and transpassing. This evolution can be seen in the way works are made: a new type of form is appearing, the journey-form, made of lines drawn both in space and time, materialising trajectories rather than destinations. Creativity becomes art and art becomes creativity. The form of the work expresses a course, a wandering, rather than a fixed space-time. Flight-lines, translation programmes and chains of heterogeneous elements articulate each other. Our universe becomes a territory all dimensions of which may be travelled both in time and space.

Victor Vidal

June 2009, Albertslund, Denmark,

1. SURPRISE

He woke up. A beautiful blond was in his bed. She was made of plastic!
Vincent, 20.02.09 (Belgium)

2. GEOMETRY EXAM

'Open the legs' - said the geometry teacher, to help René using the compass to draw a wider circle in the blackboard. With an incredulous look, the student opened his legs wider and wider.
José, 25.02.2009 (Portugal)

3. WHAT A WOMAN

I visited the Taj Mahal built in the memory of Moumtaz by her husband. She must have been an extraordinary woman.
Carlos, 1.03.2009 (Canada)

4. WORDS

Most words, like idea of language, like people, like objects, curious would come and go, without any purpose. Sometimes, they meet as a beautiful short story.
Victor, 1.03.2009 (Denmark)

5. WHAT IS SOUND?

Deep in the woods a tall tree fell down. Nobody heard it. Did it make a sound?
Jytte, 8.03.2008 (Denmark)

6. THE PAINTER

Pablo painted a beautiful woman. She was so perfect that she came out of the canvas and married the painter. Now he is not allowed to paint other women.
Paul, 10.03.2009 (Ecuador)

7. CAR LOVE

The blue car was in love with the red one. One day he saw that she flashed to the green car. Next day, he could not start.
Mahnaz, 11.03.2009 (Iran)

8. INCLUSION

A short story is a short story is a short story is a short story is a short story.....
Gertrud, 11.03.2009 (France)

9. A GOOD STORY

Tell something with tension. Catch the reader and carry her to the final climax in a creative way.
Gore, 11.03.2009 (Monaco)

10. SURPRISE

She could feel that her husband had a lover. One day she followed him to a hotel. She waited for a short time and then got into the room. He was in bed with her cousin Albert.
Sissel, 11.03.2009 (Norway)

11. WRAITH

She was pale against the frost but as he looked at her, he saw her shine and it warmed him with the memories from all down the days.

John, 11.03.2009 (England)

12. PREJUDICE

The on and off button of my child's toy produced in China is exchanged. Good for my mind. Each time he wants to play I have to think the opposite of what I really want.

Sofia, 11.03.2009 (Portugal)

13. ABANDONMENT

Dressing. Into lovely things. Bought just for you. Desperation engulfs me.

Nicoll, 11.03.2009 (Australia)

14. A DANE

There was once a Danish man, who knew all about how to quit smoking. He had done it many times.

Peter, 11.03.2009 (Sweden)

15. HUNGER

The rich man said to a starving man that was eating a pack of chips. "You should avoid eating that kind of food. It damages your health!" The starving man did not hear the rich man. After all his stomach did not had any food for the last week!

Conceição, 11.03.2009 (Portugal)

16. THE FROG

A man enters the doctor's clinic. The doctor can see that the man has a big frog on his forehead.

- What happened? Asked the doctor
- Well, it started as an abscess on my bottom, replied the frog.

Christina, 11.03.2009 (Denmark)

17. SPRING

The sun rises behind the trees. It shines through them. The birds sing beautifully. The larch flies low. The sun light touches me. I became warm.

Maria, 11.03.2009 (Denmark)

18. THE ARTIST

The artist painted through out the evening to complete his masterpiece, the portal to the island of his dreams. He cleaned his brushes, his hands, and his studio, said goodbye to his dog and stepped into the portal to begin a most fantastic adventure.

Ron, 11.03.2009 (USA)

19. MONK EYE LEADERSHIP

A monkey wanted to be a leader. He called upon the other monkeys to make him one. He won. He went back to his home and looked in the mirror. He was still a monkey.

Prabhat, 11.03.2009 (India)

20. SURVIVAL

Big bang - civilizations -?

Jørn, 11.03.2009 (Denmark)

21. SURPRISE

Walking in the cemetery he looked at a grave stone. He read: HERE LAYS PABLO, HE WAS NOT AWARE OF HIS DEAD.

Pablo, 11.03.2009 (Peru)

22. REALIZATIONS

A joyful moment started with a look, then a whisper, then a kiss realization into a relationship.

ILham, 11.03.2009 (USA)

23. DISAPPOINTEMENT

She loves me. She does not love me. She loves me. She does not love me!

Arturo, 12.03.2009 (Colombia)

24. FLOW

Sun, rain, earth: a flower.

Mick, 12.03.2009 (Netherlands)

25. ADVICE

If you do not want your man to run away with another woman, you should give him a good fellatio once every week.

Soulange, 12.03.2009 (Brazil)

26. THE BIRD

The bird could not fly, he had lost the GPS.

Mahnaz, 12.03.2009 (Iran)

27. HOME

An old woman was walking down a road, looking for home. She remembered doing this in the past, many, many times. But this time was different, she thought to herself. This time she was not going to find it.

Stefan, 12.03.2009 (Sweden)

28. REALITY

He thought he was going to kill time. Finally time got him: he is still sleeping.

Alberto, 12.03.2009 (Guatemala)

29. AMBITION

The story was short but ambitious. It wanted to grow and to become many stories high.

Pedro, 12.03.2009 (Portugal)

30. A VERY SHORT STORY

Once there was a really short story. She was so short that she could not see anything every time her father was taking her to the parade.

Katerina, 13.03.2009 (Greece)

31. BREATH

And she turned to face the wind. But it was not like a wind. It was like the foul breath of a monstrous beast bearing down on her from the darkness. The light went out and the beast consumed her.

Tom, 13.03.2009 (France)

32. IN DEPENDENCE

She sighs. He walks away. She runs. She stumbles. She finds her SELF.
Rosalina, 13.03.2009 (Canada)

33. THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

She stood in front of an old door, in between the fields. She looked through the keyhole. Somebody was looking at her from the other side.
Mira, 13.03.2009 (Canada)

34. CEVICHE

Fish, lemon, chilli, garlic, onions, salt and pepper. Wait for one hour. Serve with sweet potatoes and chilled beer. Eat preferably at the beach.
Enrique, 13.03.2009 (Peru)

35. IN VINO VERITAS

Once upon the time two wise men converted wine and bread to wine and bread. They never regretted it.
Erik, 13.03.2009 (Denmark)

36. POSITIVO

The guy took a shower: it was too cold! The guy waited for a bus: it came one hour too late! But it's ok. It's ok.
Erling, 13.03.2009 (Island)

37. THE DREAM

She was in a giant bathtub filled with azure water. Her hand touched sand. She pulled herself up on the beach of an island. A stripped cat asked her where she was from. She climbing up on its back as she told him, "I've come from your dream."
Ann, 13.03.2009 (USA)

38. LIFE

She realized that in life there are no mistakes. She has accepted her choices without regret. She is moving forward, happily.
Helena, 13.03.2009 (USA)

39. REGRETTABLE INADEQUACY

I thought I ought to have taught my daughter how to slaughter a snorter, support and transport not torture her, but instead I bought her a cheap make-up set.
Tim, 13.03.2009 (England)

40. WAVES

Thetis exhaled, taunting the sailor to raise his sails to the wind. As she laughed, gentle ripples formed in the water. It is but her whim. The Goddess of the river controlled his destiny.
Carla, 13.03.2009 (USA)

41. ROBBERY

The lady did not want to be robbed and screamed: RAPE! I was confused; I did not want to rape her. I was even more surprised to see people believing that I was going to rape an 80 years old woman. She had the money under her pants.
Randi, 13.03.2009 (Peru)

42. UNEMPLOYMENT

Desperately seeking for a job, Rob circled an advert:” Guard dog position vacant. Available only on a full-time basis. Contact the Personal Department, Metalide Inc., White Street, London. Barking skills mandatory”
Luísa, 13.03.2009 (Portugal)

43. SELF SUFFICIENCY

He was dubious of his achievements. He tried to obtain the advice of a very wise man. He went to the mirror and asked to himself. The response was very agreeable.
Carlos, 14.03.2009 (Cuba)

44. ATHEIST STORY

Can God create a stone that is so heavy that he cannot carried it? If no, he is not omnipotent. If yes, he is neither.
Jesus, 14.3.2009 (Mexico)

45. MAMPHIBIOUS

"It is nice being a crocodile" he thought. He went inside the building. "Good morning, Mr. Croco" his secretary said "Is there anything you want this morning?" "Yes bring me the Johnson's file and a nice little zebra with the coffee"
Matias, 14.03.2009 (Peru)

46. ANT'S LIFE

An ant never stopped working, and time passed through her too quickly. She had a cousin, who worked as little as possible and enjoyed life as much as possible. She was dying and, talking to her cousin. She regretted her life. Her cousin died a long time after, happily, without regrets!
Conceição, 14.03.2009 (Portugal)

47. REAL FAMILY LIFE

They called him “The Deaf”. He died knocked down by a truck.
Jorge, 15.3.2009 (Peru)

48. UNTITLED

I could hear them from behind my chair in the library. "Some soup came into my eye", he said. "How many will attend our party?" she answered. One hour later when I turned around to leave, they were already gone.
Julie, 15.03.2009 (Denmark)

49. A GROWN MAN'S CHILD PLAY

He drew a face in the sand on a beach on a sunny day. He carved with a half broken twig unmindful of other children's play.
Prabhat, 15.3.2009 (India)

50. MR. RIGHT

I knew the day I met my Mr. Right. Angel invited me to his home. He offered to cook dinner for me. I knew since that day that I found the man of my dreams. He is an exceptional cook.
Susana, 16.03.2009 (USA)

51. ABOUT LASTING RELATIONS

And I said "only fire persists", only to hear my Uncle laugh as if he were fire. To this day I am reminded of his laughter every time I see fire.

Kenneth, 16.03.2009 (Denmark)

52. SHOE'S CONVERSATION

Is he Bush, Left? Yes, answered Right. Should I knock him now, asked Left? No, it is my turn. Shit, I missed him added Right.

Ernesto, 16.03.2009 (Uruguay)

53. THE ADVENTURES OF A BALL AND A BISQUIT

A ball and a biscuit met on top of a table. "Hi, Wanna roll?" the ball asked. "Nope, you're much more round than me" the biscuit replied. Suddenly the biscuit disappeared and a crunch was heard... the ball was alone once again.

Michael, 16.03.2009 (Denmark)

54. BIRTH OF VICTORY

"Being" victorious at the edge of emptiness:"perfectness and triumph!"

Krisztina, 17.03.2009 (Hungary)

55. DESTINY

The man just continued walking all the way on parallel lines. When reaching its destiny he had found the Infinite.

Alberto, 17.03.2009 (Guatemala)

56. SHE BECAME WHAT SHE WAS

At first she tried to adapt and failed. Then she tried to change the exterior and failed. Then she became what she was and succeeded.

Ulrik, 17.03.2009 (Denmark)

57. A DROP OF DEATH

I cannot remember when I realized that life was a dream and death a cloud. In every mote of dust I see the beginning and end of everything. With every drop of rain I come closer to my beloved nothingness. In dying...I found Life.

Pablo, 17.03.2009 (Costa Rica)

58. SPAM

The email was faintly amusing like those absurd business proposals from Africa but it was unsolicited from a person he did not know. He pressed backspace. A moment later he found it in the trash mailbox and pressed reply.

Andreas, 17.03.2009 (Denmark)

59. POINT OF VIEW

A man bought a horse, sat on the horseback in the wrong direction then furiously scolded the seller: You sold me a horse with tail in front and head on back!!!

Ingrid, 17.03.2009 (Germany)

60. PEACE EQUATION

ME + YOU + LOVE – JEALOUSY + HISTORY = TIME + SPACE + SPONTANEITY *
MOVEMENT + THOUGHT

Tim, 18.03.2009 (England)

61. LITTLE KNOWLEDGE IS DANGEROUS

Eva could not believe, while she was sinking in water. She has been doing it for many years but it's not working this time. A saviour explained the mystery of stormy and stony river, and pool.
Naveed, 17.03.2009 (Pakistan)

62. RUST

Rust never sleeps; it grows under the life's edge and in the regards, saltpetre of the existence. It is the water that rusts the memories, the fugitive dreams, liquid oxygen over desires broken by the dirty and slow destruction.
Jose Javier, 18.03.2009 (Spain)

63. PROMISE

Crazy scientist dies. Widow promises this time fidelity.
Jorge, 18.03.2009 (Germany)

64. OFFER

We specialize in fine watches imitations, offering our customers the same beauty and craftsmanship that an original carries, matched by a ridiculously low price, very much true!
<http://www.bothdote.com/>
Janette, 18.03.2009 (China)

65. PERFECT IMPERFECTION

Emotional Freedom grew up and took Imperfection to Perfect's party where Love could not resist dancing with this surprisingly attractive Imperfection. That's how Emotional Freedom proved that Imperfection could actually be part of Perfection's world and even make Love jump to the ceiling...
Carola, 19.03.2009 (Peru)

66. TIME-DIFFERENCE

Once upon a time, there wasn't Time.
Michael, 19.03.2009 (Denmark)

67. BETTER WITH FRIENDS!

H was sad and sighed: h, h, h! C got closer to comfort it and while touching H, What a surprise! It sounded: CH! They were happy and ch, ch, ch! Called the letter A and they started to dance: CHA, CHA. CHA!
Pilar, 19.03.2009 (Spain)

68. NO TO WAR

My father told me: Sooner or later you have to choose side if you want to remain human. I became an active pacifist.
Joao, 19.03.2009 (Brazil)

69. YES YOU CAN

I order. You resist. I intrude. You resist. I persist. You resist. I begin. You End.
Rosalina, 19.03.2009 (Canada)

70. SHORT, SHORT

Short, short, short, short, short...ahh damn it, this is too long already.
Stacey, 19.03.2009 (USA)

71. VANITY

I crossed the mirror to a new dimension where everything was just the opposite of the first side. I rushed back to the mirror to escape and saw this girl on the other side. Looking at her reflection; she did not seem pleased, took a stone and threw it directly against the mirror...
Carola, 19.03.2009 (Peru)

72. AMERICAN IMPERIALISM

Argentina (1890). Chile (1891).....Cuba (1906). Panama (1908).....Yugoslavia (1919). Guatemala (1920).....Vietnam (1960). Laos (1962)..... Grenada (1983). Iran (1984).....Haiti (1994). Afghanistan (1998)..... (To be continued).
Camilo, 20.03.2009 (Cuba)

73. COCKTAIL

Army. Church. Corporations...Oppression. Exploitation and War.
Alberto, 21.03.2009 (Guatemala)

74. MY STORY

One of my uncles worked to develop the bombs dropped on Japan. My nephew has proudly worked in Iraq to ensure that the high-tech missiles of the US Air Force have reached countless innocent targets he will never even know of.
David, 20.03.2009 (USA)

75. A HAPPY BACHELOR

His birthday was taking place in 15 days, but the party at the office was taking place today. He said to himself: they love me but are confused on my birthday's date. Then he enjoyed the celebration.
Carlos, 20.03.2009 (Cuba)

76. TURBULENCE

The plane was boarded on time. However, as they took off, their destination ceased to exist on the radar. The pilot had to make a decision: go back, or find a new way home? "Some turbulence ahead" – he warned into the microphone.
Mafalda, 20.03.2009 (Portugal)

77. THE THREE STAGES OF LIFE

1. School
2. Work
3. Death

Gregory, 20.03.2009 (Australia)

78. SPRING MORNING

On my bike - small eyes - my mind is still asleep. The first sun embrace my body, warmth my soul. The songs from the little birds are a treat for my ears. Then I know it'll be yet a marvellous day.
Sara, 21.03.2009 (Denmark)

79. THE TIDE

I knew when the ferry whistle blew, Heidi wouldn't make it. So the fair tide came and went, just like it always does. Just like love.

Marcos, 21.03.2009 (USA)

80. THE OTHER TIDE

Had the ferry arrived for her? Until now, she thought she was always waiting for it. She stayed on the dock. The horn blew, and it sailed away on a fair tide. The tide comes and goes. You can't hold it in your soul -- like love.

Heidi, 21.03.2009 (Denmark)

81. KITSCH

This is the worst of all prisons. The walls are pink and the flowers are of plastic.

Pascal, 21.03.2009 (Switzerland)

82. THE STRANGER

He felt more comfortable with animals. He hated human rituals: parties, family, birthdays, funerals, theatres, marriages, divorces, suicides, etc. His therapist has difficulty in understanding him.

Paul, 21.03.2009 (Belgium)

83. SAD DAY

After 10 years of marriage she said:

- I got a lover; I want to keep you as a friend.
- No love, no friendship, he replied.

They star crying. They have four children.

Antoine, 21.03.2009 (Sweden)

84. COUNTDOWN

[Ten, nine...] She is sitting there looking at the bright surface [seven...] There are few seconds left, the ticking sound don't stop [five...] It is going to happen [three...] No one can stop it... [one]...***[SHORT STORY]***

Carola, 21.03.2009 (Peru)

85. SWEET AGONY

Marcel was old but healthy. He decided that it was time to die. He went to bed and his young wife attended him in all his wishes and pleasures. He died five years later in the middle of a fantastic orgasm.

Giovanni, 22.03.2009 (Venezuela)

86. THE HATE BOOK

They open old pages of the book. The book was stained with spit marks from generations. They curse, fill themselves with hate, spit again a mouthful and shut the cover.

Prabhat, 22.03.2009 (India)

87. HOT WATER

A Danish economist working in Porto wanted to practice his Portuguese. In the bar he ordered "aguardiente" (brandy). The waiter came with "agua caliente" (hot water).

Michael, 22.03.2009 (Denmark)

88. CAN WE?

When I was young you were grand. Where has the hour gone to save us from ourselves? Are you still with me? Can we love as we once thought?

Stacey, 22.03.2009 (USA)

89. OFFERING

Selling wedding dress. It has not been used at all.

Jorge, 22.03.2009 (Germany)

90. A LADY

She was expecting him, he had time. Hidden in the shadows barely could note a gesture of impatience. "It is certain, Socrates," told him its speaker, "We are mortals. But if Death was impatient, would not be a lady." Surprised, the lady grasped her scythe and withdrew discreetly.

Holger, 23.03.2009 (Peru)

91. DEAD FACE WALKING

Sooner than later the face was red. Something came alive when it was dead. The eyes were open, full of light, tongue full of taste, lips open slight.

Prabhat, 23.03.2009 (India)

92. SPRING BOOTS

Emotions, explosions. Green boots on the brown soil. It is called spring. I love it.

Vibeke, 23.03.2009 (Denmark)

93. HER PETALS

The flower blossomed, and its petals felt on the same day. Time flies... She, too, has been a flower, but she never realized it.

Pedro, 24.03.2009 (Portugal)

94. SAD STORY

God made a perfect World. Human beings destroyed it. God cannot repair it. The end of the World is the end of God.

Benedict, 24.03.2009 (Vatican)

95. NIGHTLY DECAY

She, a wandering young woman. She had stood before the open window, garlanded in a nocturnal breeze. She had understood the need for unravelling death, an internal deflowering.

The rays of morning sun caught on and the girl was at play.

Malene, 24.03.2009 (Denmark)

96. URGENT PROPOSAL

Finally, I must assure you that this transaction is 100% risk free. Should my proposal contradict your moral ethics, I apologize. I need your co-operation to transfer the £9,559,000 GBP out of England to your secured bank account.

Robert, 25.03.2009 (Nigeria)

97. HUNGER

An old lady was lost in the forest; she came to a hut, and went in. She was well hungry. On the table stood a plate of old food. She said to herself, it does not matter age mean anything, only if you are a cheese, so she ate away...

Margrethe, 25.03.2009

98. COUNTDOWN

"Start counting from 10 to 1", he said. All she wanted was to get up and go home, but she was tightening up, she started counting: "ten, nine, and eight". She woke up in a cold room and the doctor was smiling at her.

Katerina, 25.03.2009 (Greece)

99. HUMMINGBIRD

he was a hummingbird. he travelled to trees and flowers. he met the wildest orchids, the driest cactuses, the most colourful lilies and the sweetest ceibas. now, he found her, he will build his place at her benches. and he will stay.

Juan, 25.03.2009 (Germany)

100. BE CAREFUL

"Be careful my dear," she said. I looked into her eyes to find what she really meant by this, but she was hiding it too well. "I will, love" I replied and turned to go.

Stacey, 25.03.2009 (USA)

101. REAL WORLD DEMOCRACY

We Begin. They End.

Rosalina, 25.03.2009 (Canada)

102. UNTITLED

When I was small, the top of my head only reached up to my waist. I met a sea turtle, who mentioned me to a crow healer, who fixed me with his eye.

Karl, 25.03.2009 (USA)

103. THE DREAM

Tired (¿bored?) remained asleep and dreamed that he was a magician. He created many stars and planets. Some scenes of his dream were confused; but, later he would recall, that it had occurred him that in some planets to appear life. He awoke; he was surprised upon seeing that his universe still was there.

Holger, 25.03.2009 (Peru)

104. A FOOL LOOKING TOWARDS THE MOON

She was anguished of being trapped in a futile life. She asked for advice from a mystic master who signalled the direction to go for improving her life. She noticed that the ring in his finger was of silver with a red jewel.

Carlos, 14.03.2009 (Cuba)

105. GROW IT

For a spring cutting mix, sow salad greens in a 14 inch pot in a sunny location. Use fresh potting soil. After sowing, cover the pot with fruit tree netting to discourage squirrels. Remove the netting once the greens are growing.

Maureen, 26.03.2009 (USA)

106. BRIAN

Brian solved a jigsaw puzzle in two weeks. He was very proud about this, because on the box it said "3-5 years".

Peter, 9.04.2009 (Denmark)

107. CALL LOSS

- ¡God to Land!
- The number that you have marked...

Jorge, 26.03.2009 (Peru)

108. THE WATER LILIES

The water lilies submerge themselves beneath the cold waters of the lake. Only when it is sunny, they resurface and see how beautiful the world is. In winters they rot, in summers they bloom. The wait is endless for the next season, as they spend their lives in gloom.

Prabhat, 26.03.2009 (India)

109. TUNNEL

He loved tunnels. It is the symbol of hope. After sometime it will be light again. If, it is not night.

Amadeus, 27.03.2009 (Portugal)

110. CONVERSATION

- Are you happy of your life?
- I don't know. I haven't tried another one.

Taro, 27.03.2009 (Japan)

111. REFLECTION

She was walking along the shore. The water puddle in the sand was a mirror for the sky. She looked into her own green eyes, and said... "Who am I?" ... Who am I...?

Georgette, 27.03.2009 (Belgium)

112. THE MOON

She looked at the moon and remembered that summer night when she stood with him at the garden. She wondered if he is looking at the moon now. She missed him so much.

Mahnaz, 27.03.2009 (Iran)

113. EL CHATO

they called him "the little guy" (el chato) but he was bigger than they could think of. and once they are all old and little themselves, he will remain growing and learning on. live challenged him, he won.

Juan, 27.03.2009 (Peru)

114. THE HATE BOOK

They open old pages of the book. The book was stained with spit marks from generations. They curse, fill themselves with hate, spit again a mouthful and shut the cover.

Prabhat, 27.03.2009 (India)

115. THEN

Tear yourself away from all that you know. Plunge deep into your own thoughts and allow them to exhaust. Then once they've stopped, only then will you know me like I see you.

Stacey, 28.03.2009 (USA)

116. THE LAST SURVIVER

He has been alone in the World for a year. The disaster had begun in Africa and Australia. It continued to Europe. Who knows why, he had remained unharmed. He rose the cup with the poison....Suddenly; it rings the door bell.

Holger, 28.03.09 (Peru)

117. THE BIRD

I think today I saw a small bird jump on wave - oriented steps, however, calculated the sea, while it tried to come close to, turn to me.... just short - began to fly away.

Adel, 28.03.09 (Libya)

118. CATE

cate is also mexican, japanese, native american, swiss, and a lot more- a true american- so we actually have a lot of family history travelling to do, but I really love the romantic beauty of ireland. plus i really love corned beef.

Quentin, 29.03.09 (Panama)

119. TIME MACHINE

The scientist was extremely happy; he finally had finished his **time machine**. In his first test he travelled to the future 20 years ahead. He got disappointed: the human race had disappeared.

Victor, 8.04.2009 (Peru)

120. CHANGE OF PLANS

Due to change of plans, I am selling urgently a coffin.

Jorge, 29.03.09 (Peru)

121. POOR TREE

A man saw a very old tree and thought "Poor tree, I wish I could end your sorrow". The tree thought "Poor boy, your life will be so short and uneventful, I wish you could see the world trough my eyes, and taste the water trough my strong roots." The man chopped of that tree and felt better.

Steffen, 30.03.09 (Germany)

122. THE PHOTOGRAPHER

I love when I can communicate and catch the exact moment or things I see in something so other can see and feel it. Today I took a photo that made me cry. I get a real kick out. The adrenaline was really pumping in my body!

Katarina, 30.03.2009 (Sweden)

123. ONE DAY

One day, long, long ago, there lived a woman who did not whine, nag, or bitch. But it was a long time ago, and it was just that one day. The End

Drago, 30.03.2009 (Canada)

124. GOOD BYE ARMS

He was enthusiastic after finishing his new project: selective rays that only destroyed war weapons. He will visit first USA, then China, Israel, etc. To clean the whole World. Suddenly he got pale; he remembered that Abel was killed with a donkey jaw.

Holger, 30.03.2009 (Peru)

125. UNTITLED

It was a green bucket; left there half full of sand and rain water. Sara picked it up and held it tightly to her chest, smelling the ocean. She closed her eyes and fell back to the day she met her. No more tears she thought and smiled as she placed the bucket down.

Stacey, 30.03.2009 (USA)

126. OFFER

For sale: baby dumies, never used.

Ernst, 30.03.2009 (USA)

127. HUNGER

Fido had never eaten toes before.

Kevin, 30.03.2009 (Angola)

128. BAD LUCK

Longed for George. Got George. Shit.

Margaret, 31.03.2009 (Canada)

129. IT IS HARD BEING GOD

When the only things you touch are getting alive you feel like God... Oh, why it is so hard being God?

Lasana, 30.03.2009 (Russian Federation)

130. FAREWELL

My love, kiss the children tell them how much I love them. And you, please, never forget me and my devoted love.

Nena, 31.03.2009 (Colombia)

131. A NEW CASE FOR HOLMES

He had just finished the last case, and he felt bored. He caught a book of philosophy willing to kill time; was bottled in the reading. When he finished, in a routine gesture, caught its cap and its pipe, and he was arranged to capture the murderer.

Holger, 31.03.2009 (Peru)

132. NEWS

Lene confesses sex scandal. Giant dog involved.

Karen, 7.04.2009 (Denmark)

133. URGENT

Happy to meet you. My Name is Miss Linda Akeem, My father deposited \$7.5 M in Cote d'Ivories (Abidjan). I want you to please help me in transferring the money to your country, please write back (l_akee@yahoo.com) for more details information.

Linda, 1.04.2009 (Ivory Coast)

134. THE LOVE FABRIC

She is just a weaver. She weaves dreams with the threads of love in the loom of life. Sometimes, she would be awake for many nights for the sake of the dreams. She would bake.

Prabhat, 1.04.2009 (India)

135. ALIENATION

She got everything from her parents! When she got older, she asked for: happiness and no effort for anything. Her parents suffered so much; they could not give her that kind of things. She suffered more because that was not the world she new.

Conceição, 1.04.2009 (Portugal)

136. CONVERSATION IN THE CATHEDRAL

- I have to write a story of at most four lines, says Cesar
- It is impossible, replays Carlos
- It has to be about a flower, adds Cesar
- Yes, you did it, the end, concludes Carlos

Paquita, 2.04.2009 (Paraguay)

137. SURPRISE

Caroline: The baby is yours.

Bill: Bad news...

Steven, 2.04.2009 (New Zealand)

138. SAD STORY

Today: Rain, rain, rain, rain...

Tomorrow: Rain, rain, rain...

And so on...

Pall, 2.04.2009 (Island)

139. AFTERNOONS OF FLOWERS

Since that day, he sees her bringing flowers and thinks that this time he will tell her all. He knows that she will understand him and even she would be able to forgive him. But she continues crying and he continues without being dared, because of the dead persons no longer expects nothing.

Jorge, 3.04.2009 (Peru)

140. THE LITTLE THUMB

Once upon a time there was a story that was unhappy because it was short. But then, it found out that it was just still growing. And it grew, it grew, it grew, until it became an installation.

Jose Fernando, 6.04.2009 (Portugal)

141. TRUTH

Life is a dream. Everything will disappear. Reality is only to be born and to die.
Kim, 6.04.2009 (Korea)

142. QUESTION

The end. Is this too short?
John, 7.04.2009 (Ghana)

143. IGNORANCE

- Is Ronald still alive? Asked George
- Yes, he is 100 years – replies Bill – apparently he does not know how to die.

Hillary, 8.04.2009 (Haiti)

144. A REAL LIFE STORY

And the seductive young man turned to the beautiful pregnant girl behind him in the queue offering her his place. Enchanted, she thanked the gesture and gave him a gorgeous smile ... "I understand your state ... my wife is also pregnant", said the seductive guy. "But ... I am not pregnant!" said, the girl, with a sad voice.

Jorge, 9.04.2009 (Peru)

145. TO BELIEVE

- What do you believe in? Asks the scientist
- Nothing, replies the artist
- Nevertheless, you belief in yourself
- No, I don't believe in "believing", the idea of believing is a human invention.

Marcel, 10.04.2009 (Algeria)

146. URINAL

There are interpreters of this object (Duchamp's Fountain) who: tremble before its magic, disdain it as bad art, caress its sensuous form, reject it as anti-art, view as a revelation of occult mysteries, perceive it as a political/sociological manifestation, and hail it as an ingenuous revelation of art-as philosophy.

Said, 10.04.2009 (Egypt)

147. ALZHEIMER LIGHT

- Whatever happened to our sexual relations? Says 90 years old Mick to his 80 years old wife.
- I don't know. I don't even think we got a Christmas card from them last year, replies her.

Aldolfo, 11.04.09 (Chile)

148. HONEY AND CINNAMON

Weekly World News, a magazine in Canada (17.01.2009) has given the following list of diseases that can be cured by honey and cinnamon: HEART DISEASES, ARTHRITIS, BLADDER INFECTIONS, CHOLESTEROL, INDIGESTION, SKIN INFECTIONS, CANCER, FATIGUE, BAD BREATH, etc.

Steve, 12.04.2009 (Canada)

149. A PERUVIAN

There once was a man from Peru. Who fell asleep in a canoe. While dreaming of Venus, he pulled out his penis, and woke up with a handful of goo.

George, 12.04.2009 (Grenada)

150. THE BETTER WORLD

- If you want to make world better - start with yourself.
- I don't want to make the world better, I want to explode it to the f**k!!!
- Start with yourself anyway...

Lasana, 13.04.2009 (Russia Federation)

151. WHERE?

I lost something! Look, look. Did you see it? There, there ahead. Did you see the small eger? I let the nut stay.

Kis, 14.04.2009 (Denmark)

152. MISUNDERSTANDING

In the section of books, music and films of a shopping centre, a lady asked: Please, where could I find Debussy? The employee willingly accompanied her to the WC.

Jose, 14.04.2009 (Portugal)

153. TIME

Once upon a time, Time stood still. In the great silence Time reflected and, all things considered, decided to continue. The Beginning.

Julia, 18.04.2009 (UK)

154. THE END OF THE AFFAIR

- I love you
- Will you love me forever?
- No

Mike, 19.04.2009 (UK)

155. NATURAL MEDICIN

- Doctor, I have terrible diarrhoea!
- Have you tried with a lemon?"
- Of course, but as soon as I take it off, it starts again!

Antonio, 20.04.2009 (Italy)

156. DEM BONES DEM BONES DEM DRY BONES, NOW HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

The camel train, with its party of eminent palaeontologists, camped en route for the dig in the shadow of a great Scottish dune. Tomorrow the experts would examine the bones of what was believed to be the Loch Ness Monster.

Sue, 21.04.2009 (UK)

157. RUNNING FOR PEACE OF MIND

Out and running on a Saturday morning. My mood is as grey as the morning sky. A magpie cross my path with a leaf in its beak, looking like the dove of peace. From where came that smile?

Sara, 21.04.2009 (Denmark)

158. NEXT SUNDAY

167. ONCE UPON A TIME

There was a short story, so short that, as soon as it started, it was already finished. The end.
Andrea, 26.04.2009 (Italy)

168. UNTITLED

There is moss growing in the sky. The sun smiles sorrowfully. What is going on? Pollution?
Hanne, 26.04.2009 (Denmark)

169. THE FALL OF A MYTH

- Flowers? ONLY flowers? No diamonds?! The man asked.
- No. Bring me flowers ("only" flowers) and I will be happy, she replied.

Ana, 27.04.2009 (Portugal)

170. THE SECRETARY

She toyed with the idea of making mudpies for the Boss. So deeply entrenched was this idea of self destruction that on the morning of her first day of work, she arrived at her job in a catholic school girl's uniform and pigtails. She now runs the office pool of secretaries where everyone but the boss hates her. This makes her happy.

Carla, 30.04.2009 (USA)

171. KITTY CAT

White kitty cat sleeping on the brown couch. Running kitty cat scared of the vacuum. I scream..."Shit!!!!!" White kitty cat sleeping on the black chair...

Carla, 30.04.2009 (USA)

172. SEARCHING TO FORGET

He comes from the darkness and walks into his shadow.

Manuel, 31.05.09 (Nicaragua)

173. THE TEACHER

Reading the Bible, he discovered some grammatical errors. He kept a respectful silence.

Pepe, 31.05.09 (El Salvador)

174. THE MIRROR EFFECT

The boy says to his father:

- How you perceive the world not only tells about the world, but it is also a reflection of how your mind works. Seeing your own mind in how the world appears to you is wisdom.

Joao, 1.05.2009 (Angola)

175. MISSING

Corpse parts missing. Doctor buys a very expensive car.

Said, 1.05.2009 (Dominican Republic)

176. S

Short story. Short stor. Short sto. Short st. Short s. Short. Shor. sho. sh. s.

Victor, 1.05.2009 (Peru)

177. INDIFFERENCE

He disregarded the opinion of other people. He was deaf. He was also blind.
Paulina, 1.05.2009 (Guyana)

178. HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Today, he opened his email expecting to see messages from his friends and family wishing him a happy birthday, but there were none. There was a message from his girlfriend, however. She had found another lover.
Lin, 1.05.2009 (Taiwan)

179. WHY?

Why I am different from my cousin "monkey"? Because of "WHY"?
Daniela, 1.05.2009 (Canada)

180. HIM

He loves me more than his wife. He takes care of me. He gives me food. Without him I could not exist. He is a human being. I am only a cat.
Lia, 1.05.2009 (Laos)

181. A PRACTICAL MAN

Due to the impossibility to travel around the World, he travels around his town.
Huan, 2.05.2009 (Vietnam)

182. TOO LATE

I shout for help.....but I could not hear myself.
Tom, 2.05.2009 (New Zealand)

183. THE END

I was going to kill myself. I stopped to write this story. The end.
Kim, 2.05.2009 (Mongolia)

184. THE TRIP

While my body was removed out of my smashed car, I remembered what my wife said this morning:

- Drive carefully

Ramon, 2.05.2009 (Uruguay)

185. TODAY

Today I am planning to buy a time machine tomorrow, so I can try it out yesterday.
Finn, 2.05.2009 (Denmark)

186. ABOUT ART

The contribution of technique in the work of a competent artist is 100 per cent. But the contribution of technique in the work of a great artist is only 10 per cent, the remaining 90 per cent being contributed by the child in the artist. Only when you transcend technique, you become great in your field.

Amir, 2.05.2009 (Nepal)

187. INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM

The Dinosaurs have returned. They want their oil back.
Hugo, 3.05.2009 (Venezuela)

188. THE SALVATOR

To save humankind he died again. He has done that many times since year zero.
Salim, 3.05.2009 (Palestine)

189. WHAT A KISS

He kissed her so passionately in the restaurant that she melted. Then he shouted to the waiter:

- Mop please

Pierre, 3.05.2009 (France)

190. LOGIC

- It cost too much staying human, said the guy from Scotland and committed suicide.

James, 3.05.2009 (South Africa)

191. THE END OF THE WORLD

Due to an epidemic, all males became homo.

René, 3.05.2009 (Thailand)

192. WHO IS WHO?

I would like to swap places with the line below, said line one. I too, answered line two. This already is the first line, added line three. Claudio, 6.05.2009 (Brazil)

193. THE DREAM

She woke up and while looking out of the window, she noticed it was raining. What is the point of getting dressed? She thought, and went back to bed.

Catherine, 6.05.2009 (Belgium)

194. DEMOSTRATION

It has been a demonstration, some time ago; the police have not hurt anyone..... Those who demonstrated were all policemen!

Anna, 7.05.2009 (Italy)

195. THE WHITE RAINBOW

One day I realized that there are too many colours in my ordinary life. I decided to keep only white. So, I picked up one huge, virgin canvas, I painted it in a very white colour, I hanged it on the wall and named it "The rainbow".

Daniela, 8.05.2009 (Canada)

196. NOTHING GREAT

Once there was a conference of religions to which all faiths sent their representatives. Every representative stated forcefully that his religion was great. When it was the turn of Zen's representative, he stated truthfully: "There is nothing great in Zen".

Ole, 8.05.2009 (Nepal)

197. THE BEGINNING OF A DANGEROUS STORY

Good day, my name is Olga. I am an honest, kind, good looking girl from Russia. Write me if you want to date with me. I will send you my photos. I will wait anxiously for your reply. My email address is: ypckjavfws@gmail.com

Olga, 9.05.2009 (Russia)

198. THE SIXTH ART

The worst of it was not the eternal position, the brazenness of the pigeons, the indifference of the locals or the flashes of the tourists. The worst was that until now no any idiot who had come at the front has had the idea that a statue could also have their own spiritual life.

Jorge, 9.05.2009 (Peru)

199. ADVICE

Don't marry her. Buy a dog.

Bunny, 9.05.2009 (USA)

200. REVOLUTION

Your house is mine: soft revolution.

Joao, 10.05.2009 (Angola)

201. LIFE IS WONDERFUL

Wasted day. Wasted life. Tomorrow will be like yesterday.

Jean, 10.05.2005 (Lebanon)

202. STRESS

Deadline postponed. The short story was too long.

Dimitri, 11.05.2009 (Kazakhstan)

203. BAD LUCK

I drove 150 miles to see one of my favourite singers in concert. Before I got out of the car I checked to make sure I had the tickets. Did I have the tickets? Yes. Were they for today's concert? Nope.

Kelly, 11.05.2009 (Luxemburg)

204. NEVER MARRY A DETECTIVE

I saw you, darling, but do lie.

Drago, 11.05.2009 (Croatia)

205. CARELESS

I went to the store to buy groceries. I didn't care how I looked, so I wore an old shirt that said, "Thousands of my potential children died on your daughter's face last night." I ran into my girlfriend's parents at the store.

Brian, 12.05.2009 (USA)

206. BAD INVESTMENT

Last week, my mom and my step dad decided they're getting a divorce. They've been married for 2 weeks and I paid for a quarter of the wedding.

Andres, 12.05.2009 (Paraguay)

207. THE DOG

I was out walking my dog. A cute woman says "nice dog" and without thinking I respond, "you too."

Anonymous, 12.05.2009 (Unknown)

208. SAD STORY

God made a perfect World. Human beings destroyed it. God cannot repair it. World's end is the end of God.

Rigoberto, 13.05.2009 (Honduras)

209. ONCE AGAIN

I got a speeding ticket while driving to my court date for a prior speeding ticket.

Pepe, 13.05.2009 (Portugal)

210. THE UGLY

She was extremely ugly and outmost intelligent. She was sure that in an international competition about the ugliest person in the World, she will get first prize. She had no mirrors in her house. Only her husband could see the beauty of her soul. He was blind.

Victor, 14.05.2009 (Peru)

211. BAD LUCK

I locked my keys in my car. I was trying to unlock it with a coat hanger when a car pulled up and asked "Did you lock your keys in your car?" Without looking back I go "No, I'm trying to steal the car." Turns out it was a cop.

Anonymous, 14.05.2009 (USA)

212. BAD BUSINESS

My cell phone service was interrupted because I owed the company 27 cents. It cost 36 dollars to reinstate my service.

Princess, 15.05.2009 (Guatemala)

213. BREAKING FREE

Now there was nothing more to renounce. Yet the freedom that he had been seeking was nowhere in sight. After some uncertainty, he had a flash of insight and he renounced renouncing. Free from being free, he is now happy.

Chang, 15.05.2009 (Indonesia)

214. IN THE NET

Today, he got an "Enlarge your penis" email for the millionth time. He was about to dismiss it when he saw the FW: from his wife.

Kim, 16.05.2009 (Thailand)

215. LOLA

She flew from Chicago to San Francisco to get some of her stuff out of a storage unit. She left the keys for the padlock at home.

Teresa, 16.05.2009 (Costa Rica)

216. COMPLAINT

- Gifts mean nothing to me, but it pains me to know that you grab all that your disciples bring to you, says Kabir to his son
- Father, if gifts mean nothing to you, why bothers you whether I accept them or reject them? Replied Kamal.

Kamal, 17.05.2009 (Nepal)

217. LAPSUS

I had my first appearance in a court as an attorney. I called the prosecution the prostitution.
Henry, 17.05.2009 (USA)

218. MY NAME IS OLGA

Hello soul mate, I am from Perm and want to visit your country as tourist. I'm looking to meet a playful and open minded stud for a casual sexbuddy type situation. My email-id is: ghoaiykbri@gmail.com

I will be waiting for your reply.
Olga, 18.05.2009 (Ukraine)

219. GOAL

When Maradona made the second goal in the match against England, my old man had never been so happy. He hugged me for the first time. I was eleven.

Raul, 18.05.2009 (Argentina)

220. DREAM

Today, my dad told me about how my mother had a bad dream last night and began to scream "Don't take me, take my children!"

Helen, 19.05.2009 (Barbados)

221. ALLERGY

My sister asked me to help her set up for my niece's birthday party. Being the lazy person that I am, I got my niece to blow up the non-helium balloons. Apparently she's allergic to latex and I'll be the one paying for the hospital bill.

Anonymous, 20.05.2009 (Unknown)

222. PEEPEE

While taking a drug test for a volunteer job, I found out that I have a "shy bladder". It took me ages to pee into a cup. I was congratulated and clapped for by complete strangers when I finally left for taking a piss.

Tim, 20.05.2009 (New Zealand)

223. SHOPPING

I was buying an expensive pillow for my mother from a store clerk who wouldn't stop staring at my boobs. After paying, I saw an elderly lady who had dropped a bag, so I walked to help. I walked back to the clerk, who refused to believe I paid. The reason? He didn't recognize my face.

Dolly, 21.05.2009 (USA)

224. MANICURE

I allowed my five-year old daughter to paint my fingernails during a living-room "picnic" we were having. A while later I got called back in to work for an emergency meeting. When I arrived at the meeting I noticed my fingernails were still neon-green. I am a 50-year old man.

René, 21.05.2009 (Luxemburg)

225. BAD TEST

My boyfriend of almost a year told me he thinks he might be gay. I took off my shirt, sexily climbed over him and began to kiss him passionately. "What do you think now?" I said seductively. His response? "Now I'm sure I'm gay."

Fifi, 22.05.2009 (France)

226. UNTITLED

Half way around the world they came, him and her, recharged their batteries, enough for the rest of their lifetimes, apart.

Mick, 22.05.2009 (Holland)

227. FACEBOOK

He checked Facebook, only to find out that his close cousin is now married. When he looked at the pictures, he saw that his whole family was there - including his sister, mother and father. He was the only one who wasn't invited.

John, 23.05.2009 (Norway)

228. VIVE LA FRANCE

I had sex with my fiancée. My panties fell behind the bed. Later, when I went to get them, I found three other pairs. Only one pair was mine.

Fifi, 23.05.2009 (France)

229. PEDRO

I hate Pedro. He touches me all the time. Sometimes he even penetrates with his little finger inside me. Please, somebody tells him that I am his nose.

Susana, 23.05.2009 (Estonia)

230. SERIE MURDER

He was discovered due to his bar code.

Ali, 24.05.2009 (Saudi Arabian)

231. THE SCIENTIST

As he could not stop time, he was conformed removing the batteries of his watch.

Mohamed, 25.05.2009 (Oman)

232. TRAVELLING

For vacations he wanted to go south, south, south... But at one moment he was going north, north, north....

Olav, 26.05.2009 (Island)

233. THE NUDIST

José wanted to be a nudist but he had a problem. His little friend was an exhibitionist. In the camp when the ladies were looking at him, he erected and became enormous. That was too embarrassing, so he had to stop. José is going to karate now and his little friend is always sleeping.

Peter, 27.05.2009 (Vatican)

234. I LOVE YOU

I wrote with flowers in front of her home: I LOVE YOU. I did not know she had a male visitor that read the message. The visitor thought that probably was the thanks for a fantastic night. I am now married with this lady but after 40 years I have not told her this story yet.

Candido, 28.05.2009 (Italy)

235. BAD LUCK

Today, after buying dinner from the supermarket, I had the change in my hand, and my wallet. In the parking lot, a quarter fell out of my hand, and right next to the street drain. As I went to pick it up, my wallet fell down the drain.

Anonymous, 28.05.2009 (USA)

236. MY EX-BUDDY

I asked a buddy of mine if he wanted to see a movie. He said he was busy that day, so I decided to go alone. Midway through, the couple behind me is making out and kicking my seat. I turn around, and it's my ex-girlfriend making out with my buddy.

Franck, 29.05.2009 (Canada)

237. THE SINGER

My neighbour knocked on my door and left a note that said "Please stop singing in the shower. You're terrible, and everyone in the building can hear you."

Whitney, 30.05.2009 (Grenada)

238. HELP

Don't know how to amaze your new girlfriend? How about enlarging your little friend and giving her the night of love and pleasure she won't be able to forget? Contact me at:

footpathsazx@theokeefes.com

Lee, 1.06.2009 (South Africa)

239. MY EX-BOYFRIEND

My boyfriend picked me up to come spend the night at his house, and on the way he started pulling over to get some condoms. I told him no need, I was on my period. He turned the car around and took me home.

Virginia, 1.06.2009 (Mexico)

240. MY BROTHER

Today, I came home to find all of my belongings out on the street. My roommate, who is also my brother, apparently neglected to pay his part of the rent, and we got evicted.

Brian, 1.06.2009 (Holland)