

davidbrucehaiku #6

David Bruce



Haiku and Photos by David Bruce: Public Domain

Photos and Illustrations: Public Domain

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

TOP:

 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/model-nude-woman-sexy-naked-}{3026201/}$

Photographer: Studio-Dee

BOTTOM:

https://pixabay.com/en/people-woman-outdoors-beautiful-3110563/

Photographer: khiemyc

Chapter 1: TYPICAL DYSTOPIA



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/people-adult-woman-street-}{outdoors-3055824/}$

way too many guns lack of cooperation one person alone

NOTE: To avoid dystopia, work together with others to make things better.

Chapter 2: AGE



https://pixabay.com/en/old-photos-paper-document-nostalgia-3054903/

I used to be young.

How did I become so old?

What happened to me?

Chapter 3: IL FAUT SOUFFRIR POUR ÊTRE BELLE



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/woman-hair-drying-girl-female-}{586185/}$

One must suffer in Order to be beautiful; Or, no pain, no gain

Chapter 4: COOL



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/girl-model-lovely-nice-fashion-}{3054750/}$

Effortlessly cool
Look at this cool attitude
Why can't I do this?

Chapter 5: FEMALE ARMOR



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/silhouette-woman-shadow-sexy-}{3087834/}$

Typical armor
— in some games designed by guys —
For females only

Chapter 6: THE INNER ME

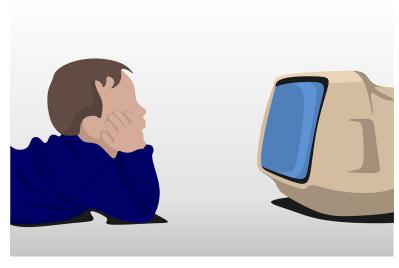


 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/woman-eyes-face-close-}{eyelashes-3030700/}$

THE INNER ME

the inner me is
a lot like the outer me
but a lot darker

Chapter 7: WASTED HOURS



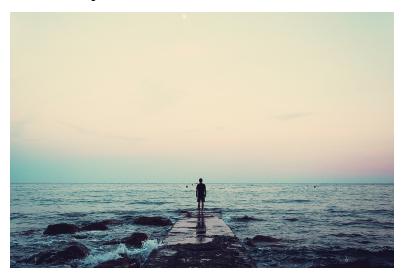
 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/watching-tv-kid-television-}{home-2082788/}$

So many wasted hours

Anything good on tonight?

Yes, of course there is

Chapter 8: CONTENTS OF MY BRAIN



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/nature-landscape-dock-water-ocean-2576542/$

Puddles of knowledge
Great oceans of ignorance
Contents of my brain

Chapter 9: REBELS



https://pixabay.com/en/women-friends-friendshiphelping-1577910/

We're rebels against

A self-imposed loneliness

Get out, do something

Chapter 10: LAS VEGAS LIGHTS



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/vegas-casino-gambling-game-play-1235539/}{}$

Lights in Las Vegas
Something even Zen masters
Would enjoy seeing

Chapter 11: AFFORDABLE HOUSING



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/shed-shack-hut-rustic-building-}{402608/}$

it's just what we need some affordable housing now own your own home

Chapter 12: VOTE



https://pixabay.com/en/pollution-factory-industrysmoke-2575166/

will you have health care?

politics is important

will you have clean air?

Chapter 13: SOME PROBLEMS ARE FACTS



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/person-human-female-girl-face-}{1169810/}$

Straight hair: a problem

Curly hair: a problem, too

Some problems are facts

NOTE: If you have straight hair, learn to like straight hair. If you have curly hair, learn to like curly hair.

Problem hair solved.

Chapter 14: DIRTY HOUSE



https://pixabay.com/en/girl-glasses-mop-cleaning-clean-1531575/

Why should I clean now?

I need some motivation

I'll throw a party!

Note: Knowing that people are coming is excellent motivation to clean.

Chapter 15: COURAGE AND FEAR



https://pixabay.com/en/fire-fighter-rescue-baby-held-hard-2098461/

courage can't exist

— courage is facing down fear —

unless fear exists

Chapter 16: WEALTH COMMENCED TO POUR ON ME



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/money-job-danger-bankrupt-}{2700212/}$

WEALTH COMMENCED TO POUR ON ME

Some times are good times

Wealth commenced to pour on me

What did I do right?

Chapter 17: LESSON OF MOVING WATER



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/river-forest-green-nature-water-}{1206579/}$

Avoid obstacles

Go around that which blocks you

Seek a clear passage

Chapter 18: DIE YOUNG? LEAVE A GOOD-LOOKING CORPSE? HELL, NO!



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/tree-dried-lonely-loneliness-}{3030038/}$

Leave a young corpse? No!

Die old, leave a dried-out corpse.

Suck life out of life.

Chapter 19: WHAT THE HELL!



https://pixabay.com/en/woman-darts-dart-board-3076079/

Where did this come from?
Why would anyone think this
Is acceptable?

NOTE: We don't get good art without bad art. That is a good reason to be against censorship. Much of the artists' other work is excellent. Certainly, some of my haiku are worse than my other haiku.

Chapter 20: MOVEMENT



https://pixabay.com/en/lake-water-wave-mirroring-texture-2063957/

the water now moves the dappled top now reflects

the color now moves

NOTE: The artists behind this wonderful photograph are the same artists who created the WHAT THE HELL! artwork.

Chapter 21: WE ARE PRISONERS OF OUR OWN MINDS



https://pixabay.com/en/books-man-person-businessman-3071110/

Prisoner of mind
Why read oh so many books?
Furnish prison well

Chapter 22: NATURAL BEAUTY



https://pixabay.com/en/leaves-fall-colors-rainbow-1051937/

natural beauty
the most amazing colors
seen in autumn leaves

dull brown and grey wood a foil to serve as contrast heightens leaves' colors

Chapter 23: SUPPOSE COFFEE BECOMES ILLEGAL



https://pixabay.com/en/coffee-food-grain-caffeine-3076961/

Coffee illegal?

"Got any Columbian?"

I'm a drug addict

NOTE: If coffee becomes illegal, I would start making visits to the bad part of town.

Chapter 24: SATURDAY NIGHT



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/fruit-food-apple-delicious-wood-}{3074848/}$

a little something one person to another pass some DNA

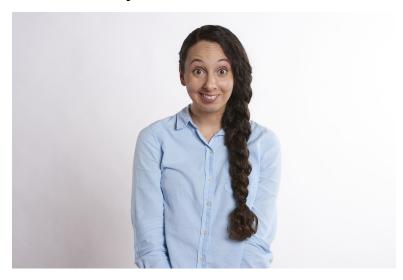
Chapter 25: A BLAZED PATH



https://pixabay.com/en/nature-girl-outdoors-woodyoung-3076877/

a path has been blazed those before us went there first made things easier

Chapter 26: ROBIN HIGGINS



https://pixabay.com/en/excited-smiling-smile-kind-tender-3079073/

ROBIN HIGGINS

Guess what my work is Fun stand-up comedian You can't be surprised

Chapter 27: LIBERTY



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/sky-statue-sculpture-art-travel-}{3074528/}$

keep liberty safe the greatest generation despite Donald Trump

Chapter 28: MEANING



https://pixabay.com/en/girl-figure-cup-coffee-3080523/

What is the meaning?

Morning coffee is sexy?

Art has a message

Chapter 29: EVENING MAKEUP



https://pixabay.com/en/paint-makeup-cracky-girl-cosmetics-2990357/

Makeup for evenings

Heavier than day makeup

So say the experts

Chapter 30: PERFECT EXERCISE



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/architecture-city-people-travel-}{3077568/}$

Santa goes skiing
Find the perfect exercise
Find what works for you

Chapter 31: JESTERS ARE NOT FOOLS



https://pixabay.com/en/jester-city-middle-ages-costume-1714117/

JESTERS ARE NOT FOOLS

wisdom and bad puns
a jester is not a fool
a king's advisor

Chapter 32: ENJOY THE BEAUTY



https://pixabay.com/en/art-people-ornament-3077961/

Let this be itself
Beauty is its own meaning
Nothing else required

Chapter 33: PEOPLE SAY



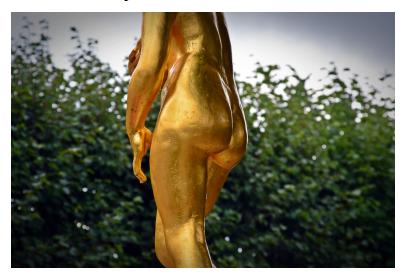
https://pixabay.com/en/pumpkin-pumpkin-farm-halloween-1572868/

People say that breasts

Come in all shapes, all sizes

I like the square ones

Chapter 34: SOPHISTICATES



https://pixabay.com/en/statue-figure-butt-1557439/

Readers of *Playboy*Male sophisticates who pay

To see naked butts

Chapter 35: THE POWER



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/flame-smoke-dark-man-fire-}{3082341/}$

I got the power to set my hand on fire Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow!

NOTE: I say "fire" as two syllables.

Chapter 36: TOUGH GUY



https://pixabay.com/en/baby-perfecto-rock-punk-1387709/

I'm bad, really bad
You want a tough guy? I'm him
Look at my outfit

Chapter 37: WHO CREATED THIS?



https://pixabay.com/en/tree-tree-top-trunk-conifer-3082795/

Who created this?

God, or the photographer?

Both create beauty

Chapter 38: NAKED



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/wallet-cash-credit-card-pocket-}{1013789/}$

wallet, money, keys
without these, I am naked
like forgetting pants

Chapter 39: LOOK AT ME!



https://pixabay.com/en/human-man-guitar-carnies-music-3081464/

I got to stand out

— And hey, why not, I ask you? —

I must be noticed

Chapter 40: BUSTLE



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/sunset-woman-bench-lantern-lamp-3079017/}{\\$

Completely useless!
Why would anyone invent
Such stupidity?

What useless clothing

Do we wear in public now?

How silly are we?

Chapter 41: FAMILY PHOTO



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/art-portrait-human-old-antique-}{3084798/}$

family photo
the family member whom
we don't talk about

Chapter 42: NOT HUMAN



https://pixabay.com/en/idea-teamwork-thinkingworking-3085367/

You are not human
You are just an employee
Make money for me

Chapter 43: CROP YIELDS



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/farmer-tractor-agriculture-}{farm-880567/}$

Only so much food Scientists make yields bigger Support scientists

Chapter 44: FARMING



https://pixabay.com/en/agriculture-asia-cambodia-1807498/

the most crucial job growing food for us people no food, no people

Chapter 45: ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE



https://pixabay.com/en/desert-sky-nature-landscapedry-3086719/

She really is a

God-awful guitar player

No one wants her near

Chapter 46: PABLO PICASSO



https://pixabay.com/en/picasso-signature-pablo-picasso-39592/

Live long and make art
Fifty thousand works of art
Lived ninety-one years

Chapter 47: PICASSO



 $\frac{https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=414}{77833}$

Art includes drawings,
Paintings, sculptures, ceramics,
Prints, rugs, tapestries

Chapter 48: ORDINARY OBJECTS CAN BE BEAUTIFUL



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/picasso-flower-pot-cup-pottery-}{320760/}$

Humble flowerpot
Normally ordinary
A thing of beauty

Chapter 49: SEXIST SIGNS?



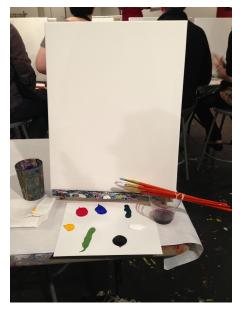
 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/wall-brick-concrete-cement-}{3087292/}$

Separate sexes!

Is this sign misogynist?

Or informative?

Chapter 50: A SCARE, OR A CHALLENGE?



https://pixabay.com/en/empty-canvas-blank-white-painting-629127/

Make the first brushstroke

Just a blank sheet of canvas

From scare to challenge

NOTE: To some people, a blank sheet of paper (or computer screen) or a blank canvas is scary. To other people, it's a challenge. To turn something scary into a challenge, write the first sentence or make the first brushstroke.

Chapter 51: A SCARE, OR A CHALLENGE? #2



https://pixabay.com/en/laptop-macbook-home-officeswitched-2838917/

Write the first sentence

Just a blank sheet of paper

From scare to challenge

NOTE: To some people, a blank sheet of paper (or computer screen) or a blank canvas is scary. To other people, it's a challenge. To turn something scary into a challenge, write the first sentence or make the first brushstroke.

Chapter 52: "I'LL JUMP IF YOU WILL."



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/woman-summer-nature-people-}{3086456/}$

"I'll jump if you will."

"I know another way down

"Slower, but safer."

Chapter 53: HIS AGE



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/middle-finger-finger-gesture-}{finger-2790310/}$

Emotionally

He is this many years old

Most people can tell

Chapter 54: THE MOST IMPORTANT



https://pixabay.com/en/girl-young-pretty-fashion-female-3081820/

Very possibly

The most important person

A future mother

NOTE: Very good reasons exist for the rule "women and children first."

Chapter 55: HOME DECORATING ON A BUDGET



https://pixabay.com/en/bahamas-shack-signs-old-holiday-1982413/

This cost a nickel
I found this in someone's trash
I stole this thing here

Chapter 56: HARD TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP

All Marketplaces Current month eBe	ook ‡		
Title	ASIN	Units Sold	Units Refunded
250 Anecdotes About Opera	B00CJGUJIQ	1	0
From the lliad to the Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose of Quintus of	B00BH02POW	1	0
Homer's Iliad: A Retelling in Prose	B00ANDT4KQ	1	0
Homer's Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose	B00AB4AVQS	3	0

B004E3Y1A4

B00HT9V9UK

B071LBS6G3

0

Nadia Comaneci: Perfect 10

William Shakespeare's "1 Henry IV," aka "Henry IV, Part 1": A Retel...

William Shakespeare's 5 Late Romances: Retellings in Prose

Kindle Desktop Publishing Screenshot: David Bruce

HARD TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP

Over one hundred

Books for sale — it is hard to

Make it to the top

Chapter 57: BEAUTIUL COMMERCE



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/hamburg-port-of-hamburg-}{3021820/}$

BEAUTIFUL COMMERCE

Beautiful commerce
Container ship in Hamburg
Port in Germany

Chapter 58: CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT?



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/dance-little-girl-twirling-twirl-}{2432909/}$

Christmas ornament?

I want to hang her image
On my Christmas tree

Chapter 59: GENE LOTTERY



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/portrait-woman-blond-girl-face-}{3089486/}$

Look at this woman

She won the gene lottery

Beautiful woman

Chapter 60: OPPORTUNITY?



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/life-suicide-leaving-reaching-}{3089646/}$

Opportunity?
I'm not sure this is freedom
We all need a home

Chapter 61: BLAME



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/bullying-child-finger-suggest-}{3089938/}$

Quick! Let's blame someone! Who is the weakest here, now? We have our patsy!

Chapter 62: FINGERNAILS



https://pixabay.com/en/intimacy-love-two-people-romance-3087134/

Tip for lesbians

Keep your fingernails well trimmed

Like this woman does

Chapter 63: NUDE DANCERS



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/adult-nude-people-man-two-art-}{3087193/}$

Some dancers are nude

More often, nude leotards

Is what you see real?

Chapter 64: APPEARANCE VERSUS REALITY



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/woman-body-painting-art-body-}{design-3089980/}$

Part is appearance
And part is reality
Is her clothing real?

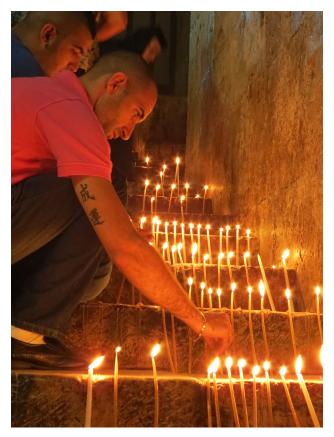
Chapter 65: DANGER



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/people-man-woman-couple-love-}{2589811/}$

Love: Fraught with danger
Some couples avoid landmines
Love keeps happening

Chapter 66: SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/christianitiy-candels-man-christ-432076/}{}$

espiritual
muy, muy espiritual
y emotivo

Chapter 67: HOW WILL *YOU* ANSWER DEATH'S QUESTION?



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/window-wall-home-old-man-tv-}{3092213/}$

Death asks a question:

"What did you do with your life?"

"I just watched TV"

Chapter 68: CONVENTIONAL BEAUTY



https://pixabay.com/en/woman-girl-portrait-young-nice-3096734/

CONVENTIONAL BEAUTY

She is beautiful

Many beautiful women

Just blend together

It is hard to write

A truly new poem about

Beautiful women

Chapter 69: UNUSUAL BEAUTY



https://pixabay.com/en/picture-woman-paint-bright-girl-3092413/

The unusual

Can inspire something new and

Be written about

Chapter 70: OTHELLO



Source: CyberGhostface [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons. Charles and Mary Lamb, *Tales* from Shakespeare (Philadelphia: Henry Altemus Company, 1901)

Evil men exist Are you manipulated? Such things have happened

NOTE: Othello murders his loving wife, Desdemona, because Iago manipulates him into thinking that she cheated on him.

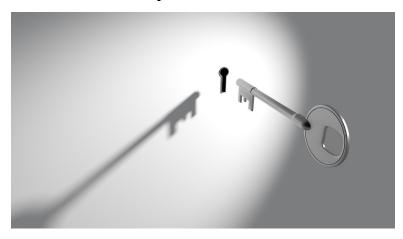
Chapter 71: SMOKING



https://pixabay.com/en/smoker-addict-addiction-fatal-2685003/

Lots of good effects
Relaxation and pleasure
But then there's cancer

Chapter 72: SAFETY



https://pixabay.com/en/key-keyhole-lock-security-unlock-2114046/

Please keep your doors locked Many good nights may follow, Then one real bad night

Chapter 73: TO DO



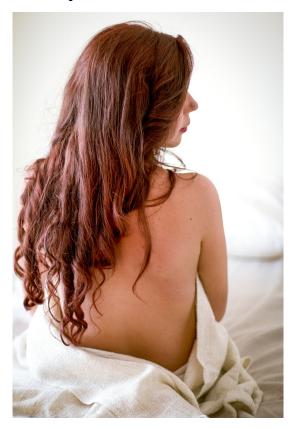
https://pixabay.com/en/depression-sadness-man-2912424/

Do forgive yourself

Avoid the nasty night thoughts

That keep you awake

Chapter 74: NICE TO TOUCH



https://pixabay.com/en/person-woman-girl-bed-hairsexy-1281777/

Something to enjoy

A favorite sex organ

Soft and silky skin

Chapter 75: EITHER OR?



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/night-city-evening-sunset-sky-}{3084237/}$

Apocalypse, or Civilization? Maybe, Family resemblance?

Chapter 76: A GOOD LIFE



https://pixabay.com/en/background-woman-roomyoung-girl-3092085/

people, art, nature

— necessities for good life —

meaningful labor

Chapter 77: IMAGE



https://pixabay.com/en/performance-music-woman-fashion-3093578/

I got the image
Pouty, pretty, and skinny
But my feet hurt bad

Chapter 78: SEX DOLL?



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/red-light-red-light-district-}{299710/}$

Is she a sex doll?

Do you want to look like this?

Be more real than this

Chapter 79: WHAT DO I SEE?



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/portrait-fashion-one-model-people-3090384/$

Bunches of photons

From electrons displayed on

A computer screen

Chapter 80: HER SPACE



https://pixabay.com/en/bed-ringtone-naked-woman-body-3093813/

No shame needs be felt

Totally comfortable

This is her own space

Chapter 81: IS IT POSSIBLE?



https://pixabay.com/en/child-the-little-girl-anger-1548229/

Is it possible?

Do you really believe that?

You must be kidding.

Chapter 82: MY DATE OF DEATH



Source: David Bruce

Twenty-four April
Two thousand and twenty-eight
Is when I will die

NOTE: I looked it up online. (Yes, there are sites that use actuarial tables to tell you the date that statistics say you will die.)

Chapter 83: OLD MAN



https://pixabay.com/en/old-man-male-face-beard-portrait-3102577/

The longer I live
The longer I will be old
Will it be worth it?

Chapter 84: NO!



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/man-people-athlete-adult-\\ \underline{shirtless-3101181}/$

Admirable man
Very strong in his mid-fifties
Says NO! to decline

Chapter 85: ROLLER DERBY



Source: Al Aumuller, *World-Telegram* staff photographer [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Not all can triumph
Leap over the fallen two
Dash to victory

Chapter 86: BUSINESS # ME TOO



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/shaking-hands-handshake-hands-3098690/}{$

It's an agreement
The blonde's yours; the brunette's mine
Men work together

Chapter 87: YOU CAN SEE THE FUTURE



https://pixabay.com/en/tarot-cards-card-prophecy-dark-2114403/

You are a psychic
You, too, can see the future
Visit a graveyard

Chapter 88: BEAUTY AND COMFORT



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/people-flower-nature-flora-}{floral-3105398/}$

Beauty and comfort
Flowers, sensible footwear
Good combination

Chapter 89: WHAT IS THE MEANING?



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/no-one-one-sculpture-statue-art-}{3106105/}$

What is the meaning?

Am I supposed to react?

I don't know how to

Chapter 90: NO MISTAKES, EVER



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/morocco-fez-shop-mannequin-woman-3108614/$

Attempted nothing

Never made any mistakes

Never lived a life

Chapter 91: CAN YOU SAY NOTHING AND MAKE IT SOUND LIKE SOMETHING?



https://pixabay.com/en/businessman-plan-qualitystrategy-3105873/

word soup and jargon

People get paid for this stuff?

buzzwords and hokem

Chapter 92: ROLLER DERBY GIRL NAMES



Public Domain Photo: Shark Bites vs LBjrRD

https://tinyurl.com/yalqhh4o

ROLLER DERBY GIRL NAMES

Iron Butterfly
Tequila Sheila, Big Red
Wreck the Halls, Zombie

Bonnie Thunders, Shock
Dollface Smasher, Pepper Spray
Cinnamon Roller

Chapter 93: ROLLER DERBY GIRL TEAM NAMES



Public Domain Photo: Shark Bites vs LBjrRD

https://tinyurl.com/ydz57wln

Girls of Fury, Pwned
Slammin' Jammin' Roller Babes
Ladies of the Fight

Angels of Anger

The Slaughterhouse Derby Girls

Queen Bees, Pinup Punks

Chapter 94: HELP FROM HEAVEN



https://pixabay.com/en/san-luis-obispo-lgbt-cross-dresser-1223590/

Guardian angel
Here to help open your mind
Not what you wanted?

Chapter 95: VIETNAM



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/nature-outdoors-summer-beautiful-3110561/$

This is Vietnam
It doesn't match the image
I have of this place

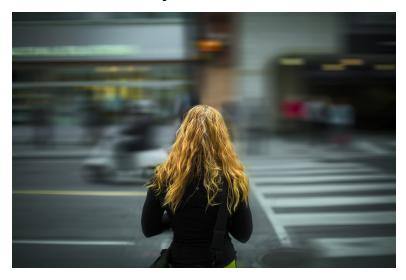
Chapter 96: WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?



 $\frac{https://pixabay.com/en/personal-network-social-media-}{3108155/}$

Who are these people?
They are all my relatives
Your relatives, too

Chapter 97: FOCUS



https://pixabay.com/en/street-girl-toronto-young-1026246/

What is important?
"Women" is a good answer
"People" is good, too

Chapter 98: WHY IS FASHION IMPORTANT?



https://pixabay.com/en/woman-young-lovely-girl-fashion-3111459/

There is a reason.

Why is fashion important?

We have eyes to see.

Chapter 99: ADVANTAGES OF DIVERSITY



https://pixabay.com/en/people-woman-outdoors-beautiful-3110563/

Bright colors, bright sights

— Why we need diversity —

Bright beauty, bright blooms

Chapter 100: PURSUIT OF HUMAN EXCELLENCE



https://pixabay.com/en/model-nude-woman-sexy-naked-3026201/

Can be done in art

— Pursue human excellence —

Can be done in sport

NOTE: The model, Artemis Fauna, pursued human excellence as a gymnast. The photographer, Studio-Dee, is pursuing human excellence as an artist. The pursuit of human excellence, of course, can be done in life as a whole.

Appendix A: SHAMELESS COMMERCE

David Bruce's Amazon Author Bookstore

http://www.amazon.com/David-Bruce/e/B004KEZ7LY/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_pop_1

David Bruce's Smashwords Bookstore

http://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/bruceb

David Bruce's Apple iBookstore

https://itunes.apple.com/ie/artist/david-bruce/id81470634

David Bruce's Barnes and Noble Books

http://www.barnesandnoble.com/c/david-bruce

David Bruce's Lulu Bookstore

http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/brucebATohioDOTedu

Appendix B: RETELLINGS OF A CLASSIC WORK OF LITERATURE

Ben Jonson's The Alchemist: A Retelling

Ben Jonson's Bartholomew Fair: A Retelling

Ben Jonson's Volpone, or the Fox: A Retelling

Dante's Inferno: A Retelling in Prose

Dante's Purgatory: A Retelling in Prose

Dante's Paradise: A Retelling in Prose

Dante's Divine Comedy: A Retelling in Prose

Famous Victories of Henry V: A Retelling

From the Iliad to the Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose of Quintus of Smyrna's Posthomerica

Homer's Iliad: A Retelling in Prose

Homer's Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose

Jason and the Argonauts: A Retelling in Prose of Apollonius of Rhodes' Argonautica

John Ford's 'Tis Pity She's a Whore: A Retelling

Tarlton's Jests: A Retelling

The Trojan War and Its Aftermath: Four Ancient Epic Poems

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William Sleator's Oddballs: A Discussion Guide

Appendix C: ABOUT THE AUTHOR

It was a dark and stormy night. Suddenly a cry rang out, and on a hot summer night in 1954, Josephine, wife of Carl Bruce, gave birth to a boy — me. Unfortunately, this young married couple allowed Reuben Saturday, Josephine's brother, to name their firstborn. Reuben, aka "The Joker," decided that Bruce was a nice name, so he decided to name me Bruce Bruce. I have gone by my middle name — David — ever since.

Being named Bruce David Bruce hasn't been all bad. Bank tellers remember me very quickly, so I don't often have to show an ID. It can be fun in charades, also. When I was a counselor as a teenager at Camp Echoing Hills in Warsaw, Ohio, a fellow counselor gave the signs for "sounds like" and "two words," then she pointed to a bruise on her leg twice. Bruise Bruise? Oh yeah, Bruce Bruce is the answer!

Uncle Reuben, by the way, gave me a haircut when I was in kindergarten. He cut my hair short and shaved a small bald spot on the back of my head. My mother wouldn't let me go to school until the bald spot grew out again.

Of all my brothers and sisters (six in all), I am the only transplant to Athens, Ohio. I was born in Newark, Ohio, and have lived all around Southeastern Ohio. However, I moved to Athens to go to Ohio University and have never left.

At Ohio U, I never could make up my mind whether to major in English or Philosophy, so I got a bachelor's degree with a double major in both areas, then I added a Master of Arts degree in English and a Master of Arts degree in Philosophy. Yes, I have my MAMA degree.

Currently, and for a long time to come (I eat fruits and veggies), I am spending my retirement writing books such as Nadia Comaneci:

Perfect 10, The Funniest People in Dance, Homer's Iliad: A
Retelling in Prose, and William Shakespeare's Othello: A Retelling
in Prose.