

Menu

Chapter One: Family

To My Brother, Who Tempts Fate	14~
<i>(Tinkering can be an electrifying experience)</i>	
Creatures of the Night	16~
<i>(Differing approaches to a bat in our belfry)</i>	
Wet Behind the Ears	19~
<i>(When disaster strikes, go shopping)</i>	
Symphonie Nocturne	21~
<i>(My family's Music of the Night)</i>	
Our Son, the TV Psychic	23~
<i>(Uncanny predictions)</i>	
Murder, She Planned	25~
<i>(Family plot has grave implications)</i>	
SWM Seeks SWF. Object: Acrobatics	27~
<i>(Technosavvy twentysomethings try to get dates)</i>	
Getting Her Just Desserts	29~
<i>(Eating dessert first threatens the natural order)</i>	
Caught Between Fire and Ice	31~
<i>(A bride vs. her mother-in-law, with me in the middle)</i>	
Living with The Change	33~
<i>(Winds blow hot, winds blow cold, male sailors take warning)</i>	
Pimp My Husband	35~
<i>(An automotive make-over of a rusty old consort)</i>	
The Street That Disappeared	37~
<i>(Be careful what you wish for)</i>	
Going Squirrelly	39~
<i>(My mom's war at home)</i>	

Chapter Two: Friends & Neighbours

A Tale of Two Blinkys	43~
<i>(Dog-eared next-door neighbours)</i>	

The Wandering Dock	45~
<i>(A gypsy jetty refuses to settle down)</i>	
Little Mosque on the Water	47~
<i>(A boatload of new Muslim in-laws)</i>	
Not a Teddy Bears' Picnic	49~
<i>(Dumb luck saved their lives)</i>	
Where, Oh Where Did Our YCRY Go?	51~
<i>(The Circle of Life in neighbourhoods)</i>	
Feline Follies	53~
<i>(Which are smarter: cats or dogs?)</i>	
20,000 Leagues under Katchawanooka	55~
<i>(Strange sights mystify the locals)</i>	

Chapter Three: Living

“Hello, I’m from the Government”	58~
<i>(The phone survey from hell)</i>	
Out of the Hamper	60~
<i>(It's true! Men can do the family laundry)</i>	
Beware Trojan Horses	63~
<i>(Inventions that promised to make our life easier)</i>	
Two Words That Guarantee a Happy Marriage	65~
<i>(Be very careful how you say them)</i>	
This Is a Job for Cyber Sleuth	67~
<i>(Be wary of what you overhear)</i>	
Just Do It!	69~
<i>(Long-time couples don't need to ask permission)</i>	
Snow and Tell	71~
<i>(The dog days of spring)</i>	
Oh, for the Sounds of Silence	73~
<i>(Seasonal insanity, every fall)</i>	
So Many Choices, So Little Time	76~
<i>(The perils of sending a male to buy groceries)</i>	
No Sex Please, I’m Toxic	78~
<i>(A tale of two raccoons with intimacy problems)</i>	
Hold the Phone!	80~
<i>(That evil invention torments us still)</i>	

What Your Teen Needs Most	82~
<i>(An essential item for parents with teenagers)</i>	
What Chicken Tastes like	84~
<i>(An age-old mystery solved)</i>	
Sales by Symbology	86~
<i>(Raptors and panthers and bears, oh my!)</i>	

Chapter Four: On the Job

I , Robot, Defy You	89~
<i>(Artificial Intelligence proves how dumb it can be)</i>	
The Sea Wolf	92~
<i>(The night an adult timber wolf went downtown)</i>	
My Time as a Woman	94~
<i>(Water and Kleenex don't mix)</i>	
Why Restaurateurs Get Grey	96~
<i>(That's not a kilt!)</i>	
Meetings Etiquette Sorely Lacking	98~
<i>(Drastic remedies for bozos who disrupt meetings)</i>	
The CEX Show	101~
<i>(Clear communication vital to continued survival)</i>	
Peterborough after Dark	103~
<i>(People change when the sun goes down)</i>	
Trafficking	105~
<i>(Life in the slow lane)</i>	

Chapter Five: Holidays & Special Occasions

The True Meaning of Christmas (Carols)	108~
<i>(What olde tyme lyrics mean today)</i>	
More True Meanings of Christmas (Carols)	110~
<i>(Modern interpretations of other olde lyrics)</i>	
How the Government Stole Christmas	112~
<i>(Bureaucratic Grinches take over)</i>	
O Christmas Tree	115~
<i>(A snow-bound family outing)</i>	

Reindeer Calling Cards	117~
<i>(The perils of over-decorating)</i>	
Cracking the Christmas Code	119~
<i>(What merchandise and retailer messages really mean)</i>	
New Year's Unresolutions	121~
<i>(Undaunted, unimproved, unrepentant - so there!)</i>	
Love Is a Many-splendored Thing	123~
<i>(We're going to need a bigger card shop)</i>	
Cupid Go Home	125~
<i>(If Cupid were around today, he'd be smothered in lawsuits)</i>	
Put-upon Pops	127~
<i>(The burdens placed upon fathers)</i>	
Father Knows Last	129~
<i>(Why do kids always go to mom first?)</i>	
Why Are Fathers So Special Anyway?	131~
<i>(Why dads deserve their day)</i>	
Motel Macabre	133~
<i>(Hallowe'en hospitality at its best)</i>	
It's Not Easy Being Green	135~
<i>(Choose your Hallowe'en costume wisely)</i>	
Celebrating Birthdays	137~
<i>(Casinos outdo relatives with many happy returns)</i>	

Chapter Six: Pleasures & Pastimes

Getting into Hot Water	140~
<i>(The naked truth about spa etiquette)</i>	
Daring the Wind	142~
<i>(A sailor gets upset)</i>	
I Was a Garage Sale Gremlin	144~
<i>(Some people should never host garage sales)</i>	
Adventures in Sushi	146~
<i>(The joys of eating raw fish off almost-nude females)</i>	
Today's Wonder Women	148~
<i>(Female handypersons take over)</i>	
Caught in a Mid-life "Car-sis"	150~
<i>(Seduced by exotic models)</i>	

Mid-life “Car-sis”: the Sequel	152~
<i>(Sir, you’re drooling on the chrome)</i>	
Are We There Yet?	154~
<i>(Road trip checklist: luggage, maps, kids, tranquilizers)</i>	
What Am I Bid for this Husband?	156~
<i>(Why I’m banned from attending auctions)</i>	
Chocolate Caribbean Conundrum	158~
<i>(Practical jokes on the high seas)</i>	
Have Shorts, Will Travel	160~
<i>(Cultural differences bedevil travellers)</i>	
Howdy, Davy-san	162~
<i>(A trilogy of tall travel tales)</i>	
Coffee, Tea, or Naked Frauleins?	164~
<i>(Fringe benefits while travelling)</i>	
Dances with Dolphins	166~
<i>(It must be my animal magnetism)</i>	
Of Pirates and Parrotheads	168~
<i>(Buffeted about in Margaritaville)</i>	
Close Encounters on the Trail	170~
<i>(Ever see a tree growing out of a cyclist’s back?)</i>	
My Summer Concussion	172~
<i>(Getting attention - the hard knocks way)</i>	
Luring Lady Luck	174~
<i>(How gamblers try to influence slot machines)</i>	
Fly like an Eagle	176~
<i>(Land like a dodo)</i>	
The Eagle Has Plotzed	178~
<i>(What goes up, comes down badly)</i>	

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What If Superheroes Really Existed?	181~
<i>(Spidey, it’s about the goo...)</i>	
Retired Superhero Reunion	183~
<i>(Time has not been kind to these caped crusaders)</i>	
The Caped Stocking Stuffer	185~
<i>(Comic books have really changed since we were kids)</i>	

Graveyards of Bad Ideas	187~
<i>(Where flops rest in peace)</i>	
How to Slow down Time	190~
<i>(How bald men can become useful to society again)</i>	
The Domestic Olympics	192~
<i>(Sports events around the house)</i>	
Wacky in Wackimac	194~
<i>(Nutty naysayers numb a small city)</i>	
Bath Butler, Personal Therapist, or Thong?	196~
<i>(Hotel amenities we'd like to see)</i>	
Party Favours	199~
<i>(Political parties we'd sure enjoy)</i>	
Factory Seconds We'd Rather Not See	202~
<i>(Even if the price is right)</i>	
The Wise Man's Wife	204~
<i>(Answers to 15 of life's Big Questions)</i>	

An Extra Helping of Dessert

An excerpt from	206~
Bruce Gravel's upcoming new humour novel,	
Inn-Sanity: Diary of an Innkeeper Virgin	