

# The Case of the Missing Short Story

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seeking.

"Hey you! Over there, on the kangaroo! I have some questions for you. Why are you doing this?" I shouted.

"It's complicated. I'm sure you have more questions, but I have pressing matters to attend to. If you'll take two steps to the left and stand on that red X, we can continue this story." The man's voice sounded foreign.

"Sounds like a plot device to me, but if I can't trust men riding kangaroos, then what is the world coming too?" Two steps to the left and down the box came on my head.

I sat in the dark for the longest time. How was I going to get out of this one? Why didn't I just write another paper about some other topic? It looked like my luck had finally run out. A thought came to me then; why not just lift the box up? I did just that. Free of my wooden prison, I was able to continue my search for the old man.

My search did not last long; he was in the same place he was before.

"What the! How did you escape my trap?" he inquired, looking more confused then ever.

"With some difficulty." I replied. "Now to play twenty questions; first, why did you take my paper?"

"I suppose I should come clean." The man laughed even though no one said anything funny.

"I am actually an alien from the planet England. My spaceship has crashed and this elaborate scheme to lure you here was so I could use your paper as fuel. You see, our spaceships run on stupid stories that make no sense, and yours are the best. With this, I'll be able to fly the universe eight times over."

"Ookaay... You can have it, and on that note I think I'll be

leaving you. It has been great, but, that was a little too much information for me. You might want to keep that whole alien thing a little hush hush, if you catch my drift." I waved goodbye to my much confused friend and decided that maybe hitting "Print" again was not as big a deal as I thought.

I learned the next morning that my kangaroo riding alien friend had escaped from the hospital and robbed a zoo. I had wasted printer ink for nothing.



Zach Stechly was born on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1985 to Robyn and Daniel Stechly. Zach currently attends Bentworth Senior High and is planning to graduate in 2003. He is doing well in school and hopes to keep it that way.

Zach played soccer from the age of six until he was a senior in high school. He lettered four years and was named All Section once and given honorable mention twice. He does not plan on playing in college. He is enjoying the lack of running.

After high school, Zach plans to attend college. His choice of college is probably Penn State for two reasons. First, it is a nice campus and has every major he could possibly want to choose from. Second, the application was easiest to fill out and he is lazy.

Zach will probably do something with science or engineering, but given any profession he would chose to be a cartoonist.

Zach's favorite television shows are The Simpsons and Futurama. His favorite movies are Gladiator and Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

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