



INK SPOTS

*The Newsletter of the Fremont Area Writers, A part of the California
Writer's Club*

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Visit us at <http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org>

Webmaster – Linda Lee Chernoff

VOL 48, November 2015

MISSION STATEMENT: Fremont Area Writers educates writers and the public by providing: a. Forums for educating members in the craft of writing and marketing their works and, b. Public meetings, workshops, and seminars open to all writers and the general public to facilitate educating writers of all levels of expertise.



10th Grade ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

Topic: *My Life in the East Bay*

500 word maximum ▪ fiction or nonfiction

Entry must be postmarked by 11/14/2015.

1st prize \$100 ▪ 2nd prize \$50 ▪ 3rd prize \$25

Sponsored by: **Fremont Area Writers (FAW)** ▪ <http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org>

RULES

- Eligible students must be enrolled in grade 10. ▪ Essays have a 500 word maximum.
- Submissions must be postmarked no later than **November 14, 2015**. ▪ Students must include a cover page with: (a) name, (b) age, (c) grade, (d) phone number, (e) email address, (f) home address, (g) essay title, (h) school and English teacher's name. The cover page is excluded from the 500 word maximum. ▪ Prizes to be awarded at the FAW meeting Saturday, January 23, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. ▪ The winner will read his or her essay at the awards ceremony and the winning essay will be published. ▪ Submit typed essay to: **FAW, PO Box 47, Union City CA 94587.**



**FREMONT AREA WRITERS
HOLIDAY PARTY & GIFT EXCHANGE
FOR FAW MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS
SATURDAY; DECEMBER 12, 2015; 6:00–9:00 pm
AT THE HOME OF
BOB and KATHY GARFINKLE
32924 MONROVIA STREET, UNION CITY
R.S.V.P 510 489-4779 or ragarf@earthlink.net**

Please bring a gift from yourself and guest (in the \$10.00 price range). Wrap the gift, but do not put a name or gender on it.

Potluck: Bring enough to feed 10 people.

If your last name begins with:

A-K bring a Main Dish

L-R bring a Salad

S-Z bring a Dessert

Bring your own liquid refreshment(s)

Directions—From Fremont Blvd (North) and I-880:

Cross over the freeway heading north toward Union City. Cross over the freeway then the flood control channel bridge. Stop at the stop light at the bottom of the channel bridge at Lowry Road. There is a mosque on your left. Turn left onto Lowry and go under the concrete overpass. Turn right on to Regents Blvd, which is the second stoplight after the overpass. Follow Regents until you come to the stop sign at Jean Drive. Go straight still on Regents. Monrovia Street is the first right-hand turn after Jean. We are on the next corner on the right with a white motor home in the driveway. Call the number above it you get lost.



Fremont Area Writers

The Centennial Branch
"Writers Helping Writers"



Using the Rules of Revision



Shelley Bates, award-winning romance novelist, will discuss how to use the rules of revision effectively at a meeting of Fremont Area Writers on Saturday, Nov. 28.

Bates, recipient of the RITA award from the Romance Writers of America, has written 24 novels published by Harlequin, Time/Warner, and Hachette Book Group. She has published several more with her own independent press, Moonshell Books.

Her Magnificent Devices steampunk adventure series is written under the name of Shelley

Adina. Steampunk is science fiction and fantasy based on 19th century steam-powered technology.

In her talk, Bates will explain how to use revision techniques, including deep character checks and scene outlines. You can find out more about her at <http://www.amazon.com/Shelley-Bates/e/B001HMNWWI>.

Writers and Poets Open Mic!

When: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Monday, November 23rd

Where:

Suju's Coffee and Tea
3602 Thornton Ave.
Fremont

Shelley Bates
"Using the Rules of Revision"
Saturday, November 28th, 2-4 p.m.
DeVry University
6600 Dumbarton Circle
Fremont, CA

Fremont Area Writers is a branch of the
1,500-member California Writers Club.

Shirley Ferrante, President
510-791-8639
cwc-fremontareawriters.org

South Bay Writers Present

WRITERS WORKSHOP

Write Short Fiction For Fun & Profit With Michael Bracken

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

8:30 AM – 4 PM

Includes Breakfast, Lunch, Afternoon Refreshments

Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose

- Generate story ideas & turn them into workable plots
- Create compelling opening scenes
- Understand proper chronology of sentences, paragraphs, scenes
- Master scene construction, dialog, description
- Comprehend Chekov's shotgun and the rule of three
- Use and properly place dialog tags
- Employ writing tips and tricks you never learned in creative writing class
- Violate the "rules" other workshop leaders taught you
- Wrap up everything into finished, submittable manuscripts
- Establish and maintain productivity

Michael Bracken is a fulltime writer and editor who regularly leads writing workshops. He is the author of 11 books and the two-time Derringer Award-winning author of more than 1,100 short stories appearing in anthologies and literary, small press, and commercial publications worldwide. He is also the editor of five crime fiction anthologies, including the three-volume *Fedora* series.



AGENDA

Saturday, November 14

8:30 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00 am	Workshop
10:45 am	Break (10 min)
Noon	Working Lunch
1:00 pm	Workshop
2:15 pm	Break & Refreshments (10 min)
3:30 pm	Meet the Author & Book Signing
4:00 pm	Close

PRICE

EARLY BIRD (By 11.13)

CWC Member \$60

Non-member \$75

Students with ID \$30

DAY OF WORKSHOP (11.14)

CWC Member \$65

Non-member \$80

PAYMENT

**PAY ONLINE WITH PAYPAL
AT:**

www.SouthBayWriters.com

**MAIL CHECK AS
FOLLOWS:**

Payable to South Bay Writers

**SOUTH BAY WRITERS
PO BOX 3254
SANTA CLARA, CA 95055**

FROM David George, CWC Central Board President

If it hasn't already arrived in your mailbox, you'll soon receive the latest edition of the Literary Review. Now in its fourth year, it's on its way to establishing itself as a CWC institution.

Sadly costs are rising. In order to maintain a quality publication while balancing our budget, we have instituted a submission fee beginning with the next issue. Going forward, \$10 per submitter must accompany each submission of up to two pieces submitted at the same time, payable by Pay Pal or by check.

Find submission guidelines and payment details on the CWC website, www.calwrites.org. The deadline is November 30, 2015, and we look forward to reviewing your fine writing.

FROM Marjorie Johnson, South Bay Writers

The One-Dollar Bill Challenge

South Bay Writers challenges you to help us write the life story of a one-dollar bill. Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity to collaborate with your fellow CWC authors!

The first SBW hosted writing prompt is "a one-dollar bill." All you have to do is to write a short story that includes a particular dollar bill: obtain it, use it, and pass it on.

(Prompts are available on southbaywriters.com by clicking on writing prompts or go to URL: <http://southbaywriters.com/wordpress/writing-prompts/>)

With more than 50 submissions, the editors of the anthology will have enough material to compile this dollar bill's story. Your contribution will be both an independent short story credited to you and also serve as a chapter in the overall narrative. Prompt submissions are welcome from any visitor to our site, but only those submitted by paid members of the California Writers Club will be considered for publication in an anthology.

Give us your polished very best work. Submissions must be formatted and edited as though they were being sent to an agent. Submit as an attachment in Text or MS Word, Times New Roman, 12 Font preferred. By submitting, you are providing your permission for us to publish your work. Deadline: March 31, 2016. Word count: 1,000 – 2,500 words. Send queries or submissions to prompts@southbaywriters.com.

FROM Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, CWC P/R Director.

Bob Isbill, High Desert CB Rep, sent this few weeks ago.

In recent weeks it has been decided that the CWC state newsletter, The Bulletin, will be published and distributed electronically. President David George has appointed Rusty LaGrange, editor of the High Desert Inkslinger, to be Editor-in-Chief of The Bulletin, electronic edition. Our thanks and recognition for a fine job of editing the printed version go out to Joyce Krieg.

Our first edition is scheduled for mid-November publication, so please be thinking about your branch submissions to share with the entire California Writers Club in the upcoming weeks. You presidents and editors will be hearing more about the guidelines and method of submission in a later email.

Part of the decision to go electronic included the advantage of being able to include paid advertising so that The Bulletin would become an instrument of CWC income as well as a low or no-cost publication and distribution.

This is why I am writing today to include a message/press release for all members and for you to inform past guest speakers or people who you think might be interested in contacting a large segment of writers at a low cost. Below is that message to please cut and paste so you can help us get the word out:

As you may know, The California Writers Club (CWC) is a 106 year- old nonprofit organization that is the oldest and largest professional writers' club west of the Mississippi. We regularly publish a member newsletter.

The CWC this year is going electronic with their state-wide edition of The Bulletin, which reaches close to 2,000 published and aspiring writers in 21 branches throughout the state.

For the first time ever, we will be publishing The Bulletin with advertising. We are making that advertising available to businesses, CWC members, and individuals who wish to reach our target market at reasonable prices.

The CWC is offering business card size ads for \$35. These 2" x 3.5" ads will be placed in the index section of The Bulletin. Larger 3 x 5" index card size ads will be interspersed throughout the publication as is appropriate, and will be offered at a cost of \$60.

Our intent is to publish The Bulletin three times a year with our roll-out first e-edition scheduled for mid-November of 2015.

Deadline for advertising submissions for the next issue is Friday, October 30, 2015. Capacity for advertising will be determined by the Editor-in-Chief. In case we receive more ads than can be accommodated, submitters will be notified of the option to reserve space in the next issue.

All ads submitted must be self-edited, print-ready, and will be published as received. All ads must be emailed as a jpeg file to RustyLaGrange23@gmail.com, and a physical copy of your ad mailed with the payment. Please include your return address and telephone contact number.

Space is limited and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. A copy of the Bulletin will be emailed to advertisers upon publication, so please include your preferred email address along with your ad submission.

Checks or money orders made payable to CWC Central Treasury for submitted ads must be mailed to:

HDCWC
The Bulletin Advertising Department
20258 Hwy 18 STE 430 PMB 281
Apple Valley, CA 92307



CELEBRATE CALIFORNIA WRITERS WEEK BY WRITING SOMETHING FOR THE LITERARY REVIEW

You've recently received the latest Literary Review, the CWC's literary magazine. It looks good and shows off the work inside in an attractive, prestigious spotlight. We're about to start on the next one, and in order to publish the best of the best, we need to hear from as many of our talented member writers as possible. We publish short short stories, essays, and poetry, both serious and humorous, and we want to publish yours. Find submission guidelines on the CWC website, calwriters.org. Click on Literary Review submission guidelines on the home page.

You're California writers. Writers write. We recently observed California Writers Week, the third week in October – why not mark the occasion by writing something for the Literary Review?

FROM Tish Davidson, FAW Member

Book Contest Announcement



The 2016 Next Generation Indie Book Awards is open to all independent publishers (small, medium or otherwise), university presses, self-published authors, e-book authors, seasoned authors and first time authors based in the U.S., Canada or internationally who have a book written in English and released in 2014, 2015, or 2016 or with a 2014, 2015, or 2016 copyright date.

Books can be submitted on paper or as an e-book in any one of 70 categories. Books may be entered in multiple categories.

More information is at <http://www.indiebookawards.com/answers.php>

This is a legitimate contest with cash prizes and review by a literary agent for the winners. There is an entry fee, and all books must be *received* by February 12, 2016.

Tish Davidson, one of our FAW members, was a judge in last year's action-adventure category.

Her hint: If you decide to enter give serious consideration to which category to enter and go for the one where there are likely to be fewer entries (e.g., specialized fiction such as African American fiction rather than general fiction).

Categories are listed here:

<http://www.indiebookawards.com/entryguidelines.php#categories>

FROM Penelope Anne Cole, FAW Member

SUMMER READING BOOK FAIR

Survey: For SF Bay Area Children's Book Writers (PB/MG/YA): I'm forming an interest group for a local "Summer Reading Book Fair" in Sunnyvale, CA. Two possible dates, April 30th, 2016, or May 7th, 2016. The cost would be \$20-40 per table, depending on the number of authors who sign up. If you are interested, please contact me at: pennycole2004@yahoo.com

If authors wanted to share a table, that would work, too. I just need enough authors (like 100 at \$20/ea, or 70 at \$30/ea, or 50 at \$40/ea) to cover the \$200 custodial fee. There would be three areas for PB/MG/YA and an Open MIC in each area.

Appreciate your pointing me in the right direction, to the right person to get this publicized so I can nail down the dates to use my church facilities.

Thanks much,
Penny

Penelope Anne Cole

Award Winning Author of *Magical Matthew* and *Magical Mea* plus *Mateo Mágico* (Spanish)

New: *Magical Mea Goes to School* and
Magical Max and Magical Mickey

For Halloween: *Ten Little Tricksters*

Web: <http://www.penelopeannecole.com/>

Blog: <http://pennyreviews-chat.blogspot.com/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/PenelopeAnneColeAuthor>

Free Skype Author School Visits

FAW'S REGULAR OCTOBER 24, 2015 MEETING

Joshua Mohr talked about “Plaracterization” Marry Plot & Character-DNA for Writers. A way for writers to dig deeper into stories and to discover the DNA of their work.

FAW Vice-President Erica Anderson-Bolden opened the meeting



Guest Speaker Joshua Mohr



The Attendees



Presidents Message



Shirley Ferrante

Yeah! It's raining. Instead of traveling in on the pineapple express, however, this storm made its entrance from Alaska and it is cold. So, time to get out the flannel sheets, electric blankets, and curl up with a cup of hot chocolate and a good novel, possibly one written by a fellow FAW member.

FAW-SPONSORED WRITING CONTEST

Please pass along to any Fremont High School sophomores you know an invitation to join our FAW-sponsored writing contest.

Following is the timeline developed by Liz Breshears, FAW Community Outreach Coordinator.

- 10/23/15 Deadline for information distributed to high schools
- 11/14/15 Deadline for Essays (postmark date)
- 12/11/15 Judging of essays (feel free to volunteer to be a judge)
- 1/23/16 Awards ceremony at our January 16 meeting
 - First Place \$100, 2nd place \$50, 3rd place \$25
 - Runners-up will receive honorable mention certificates.

FAW GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28:

Our November General Meeting Speaker will be Shelley Bates, recipient of the RITA award from the Romance Writers of America. Her Magnificent Devices steam punk adventure series is written under the name of Shelley Adina. Steam punk is science fiction and fantasy based on 19th century steam-powered technology. In her talk at our November 28 meeting, Bates will explain how to use revision techniques, including deep character checks and scene outlines.

Remember, should you have a friend who wants support to write, please extend an invitation to him/her to be our guest at the November 28 meeting.

FAW HOLIDAY PARTY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12.

Robert and Kathy Garfinkle will host the FAW Holiday Potluck Saturday, December 12.

FREMONT AREA WRITERS OFFICERS



President– **Shirley Ferrante**



Treasurer – **Cheryl Jose**



Vice President – **Erika Anderson-Bolden**



Robert (Bob) Garfinkle –
Past President, California Writers Club

..... FREMONT AREA WRITERS CHAIRPERSONS



Secretary – **Joyce Cortez**

Tony Pino – Open MIC
Jay Swartz – Nor-Cal Representative
Andrew Halligan - Membership Chair
Art Carey – Public Relations
Nancy Curteman – Hospitality
Carol Hall – Facebook Coordinator
Bruce Haase – Book Exchange
Pat Van den Heuvel – Telephone Outreach
Coordinator
Liz Breshears – Community Outreach
Coordinator
Jan Small – Book Signing Coordinator
.....



Tony Pino, the Open Mic Chairperson, leads the group. Open Mic is held monthly at Suju's Coffee Meeting Room, 3602 Thornton Ave., Fremont.



Nancy Curteman—Hospitality



Jay Swartz
NorCal Representative



Carol Hall – FAW Facebook Coordinator



Andrew Halligan
Membership Chairperson



Bruce Haase –
Book Exchange & Authors Book Table

Bruce Haase urges everyone to bring books to our regular meetings. The Authors Book Table is a free service of the Fremont Area Writers. Two long tables are set up at each regular meeting, enough space for eight separate titles.



Art Carey – Public Relations



Pat Van den Heuvel
Telephone Outreach Coordinator



Liz Breshears
Community Outreach Coordinator



Jan Small, Book Signing Chairperson

JACK LONDON AWARDEES FREMONT AREA WRITERS

2009 Robert Garfinkle
2011 Myrla Raymundo
2013 Carol Hall
2015 Art Carey

CALENDAR

BOARD MEETING – Fourth Saturday of the month 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm – DeVry University, Fremont.

OPEN MIC – Fourth Monday of the month
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

**FREMONT AREA WRITERS REGULAR
MEMBERSHIP MEETING** – Fourth Saturday of the
month, 2:00 pm -4:00 pm, DeVry University, Fremont



Myrla Raymundo, MBA-Writer/Editor

Ink Spots Newsletter



This Editor welcomes you to our November 2015 issue of the Ink Spots. It contains the latest FAW news and tidbits, poems, prose, essays and articles written by our members.

Ink Spots is issued monthly and is distributed to FAW members at the club general meeting every month. It is also emailed to those with email addresses.

Ink Spots welcomes you to write articles and submit them to this Editor at raymundomyrla@gmail.com.



FAWS WRITERS CORNER

Fremont Writer's Club writing exercise, September 2015 **By Dave M. Strom**

As I came out of the coffee shop, there he was again. The stocky grey-haired man. Was he following me?

Did he have a death wish, like those perky paparazzi whose telephoto lenses keep zooming in on my butt whenever the slightest breeze brushes my red cape aside? There were still those who tried zooming in on my super-bosom. Usually one growl from me and they retreated, fearful of a telephoto suppository.

No. He did not look the type. He wore a plain grey suit. White shirt. Grey tie. Grey eyes. He was older, but healthy-looking. He walked like a retired linebacker, firmly but gently stomping toward me.

Was he a super villain? If so, he was certainly not stealthy. And against me, the mightiest of the superheroes, or should I say super heroine, he'd need a lot of muscle. His hands were thick, callused, nails cracked. Many decades of manual labor in those hands. Reminded me of growing up, and meeting the farmers who never ever seemed to stop working. I was still getting used to being a super heroine, getting the call to come to the rescue butting into my life. Remembering the farmers helped me put things into perspective, helped me see what real labor was. Sort of. I STILL hated having to leave half an iced mocha and an early draft of my next graphic novel to go punch out those annoying members of the super man-up club, GOD I hate those guys, most rudely stupidly macho morons ever!

But this guy. He stared at me. But he did not ogle me. And he came closer, closer. And I set my e-bracelet to call Cal the Intellectual just in case. And he stopped in front of me.

"Are you Miss Holly Hansson?" He rolled his Rs with a thick accent from some ancient Slavic country. And really, I was in my blue super suit and red cape. My cape and my long blonde hair were blowing in the wind. He must not watch the news very often.

"Yes," I said.

He reached into his jacket. I remembered Michael Corleone protecting his (God) father with the same exact motion. I tensed, but remembered I was bulletproof.

He pulled out a graphic novel. "My granddaughter in the old country. She wants your autograph."

"Certainly, I'd love to." Ah, another fan girl. I'd have to give him my card so she could contact Kitty girl and maybe join my fan club. Kitty girl loved to meet new fans. Even if she could only email them.

I opened the book, usually I signed the inside front cover. Then I noticed that I would not be the first person to scribble in this book. All the word balloons had writing near them. He must have translated

the entire story into his native tongue. The penmanship was strong, legible, all capital letters. He'd even translated the sound effects words. A dog bark was BOFF instead of WOOF.

I took another look at his hands. They had a constant, slight tremor. Every joint was swollen. Arthritis. Advanced. I turned through the hundreds of pages of the graphic novel. Every last word, translated. Every. last. painful. word. I looked into his deep, grey eyes set in a weather wrinkled face.

He smiled, very apologetic. "Sorry I had to write in your book. My granddaughter does not know English."

I gently held his hand. "You should be the one wearing the cape here."

He chuckled. "Me? In da clingy supersuit? Dat vould look silly!"

Fremont Writer's Club writing exercise, September 2015



By Jan Small

I came out of the coffee shop and there he was again, the stocky man with the gray hair. Was he following me? It had been a long day. More than the average number of folks coming into the coffee shop for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

One of our waitresses was home sick, another had an emergency and I was left to scurry from table to table taking orders as fast as I could. I did notice a stocky, gray-haired man who spent breakfast, lunch AND dinner at the counter. Why was he here all day? What was his agenda? He is making me nervous. Is he stalking me?

FINALLY! Quitting time. Its dark outside and I'm apprehensive about going out alone because of him. I wish there was someone to go with me. But there is not. I'll have to brave it alone. "God protect me."

As I locked and stepped away from the door, the man emerged from the shadows. Fear entered my heart. He came up to me with outstretched hand, "Hello, I'm Cecil B. DeMille, A Hollywood Director
Would you like to be in the movies?"

GIRL IN THE ALLEY



By Frank Marseglia

I walked in the cold November night, slightly bent, a cane in my left hand and squeezing the collar of my overcoat with my right. A tear trickled down my cheek, freezing as it rolled down my cheek, gray hair blowing straight back against the frigid wind.

As I walked by an alley, I heard the two cats angrily growl and hiss at each other. I turned my head to the sound and stopped. There half way through the well-lit, littered alley two cats facing each other. Both with their backs up and ready to pounce and fight. The object of their war was a chicken leg. It wasn't a large leg and only had a little meat on it, with some slimy skin and a little bit of gristle, but I guess to them it was a whole meal, and an end to the search of food, for the night.

After a few minutes, the older and larger cat took the bone. It knew it had won and there would be no fight. As it walked away triumphantly, with tail straight up in the air, as if saying, 'kiss my ass'. It did not look back to see if its adversary would challenge it.

The smaller cat turned its head and watched as the other walked away. It then turned and jumped up on some boxes, tossed against a wall, onto a dumpster and finally to a fire-escape, settled down on the cold iron grating to watch the alley. It stuck its head through the railing and looked to the right, paws grasping the edge of the fire-escape. Tail swayed, watching something of extreme interest.

That's when I heard, a soft, melodic female voice, "Kitty, kitty." Then another chicken leg fly through the air making an arc and land almost where the other sat on the ground.

The cat to jump down from the fire-escape in a single bound, snatched up the leg and ran out of the alley, in triumph. I watched as it sped by me, not even giving me a second look, and race down the street, its long thin tail trailing behind it, to some hiding place to gnaw on its prize.

I was curious, as to who the cat's benefactor. I inched my way into the alley. The thought occurred to me that, "Curiosity killed the cat." I smiled. I heard the metallic sound of a garbage can lid being put back in place, echoing in the brick canyon of the alley. The sound of another being pulled off

another garbage can and set on top of the first. Whoever was back there I decided was not going to hurt me. I continued. I rounded the corner of the building. There was a figure, in an oversized dark winter's coat, which hung down below her knees and a dark knit hat slumped over one of the cans of 'Mr. Lim's Chinese Restaurant.' At least that is what the sign said in the light over the door. So bright that it almost seemed like day time.

The smell from the alley assaulted my nose and I winced. A combination of garbage, urine from the many winos and cheap wine, old beer, dead rodents lying on the cold pavement and the many other smells.

The woman was so engrossed in her task, that she didn't hear me approach. Her breath visible in near frozen air. I did not get too close and stayed in view of the street. She was reaching down into the depths of the middle can of three. She moved her hand from side to side looking for more bits of food. Her back was to me. I didn't make a sound. Although my heart pounded loud enough to sound like a bass drum. The light from the street lamp across the street, cast a long shadow up the wall to the right of this sad figure.

As I watched her, she found a large piece of chicken and brushed it off then smelled it. She took a small bite, looked at it again and then started to eat the whole piece. I couldn't but feel pity for this old woman, who had to scrounge around restaurant garbage cans to get food to stay alive. She had no bags with her as most other wretched souls did, no cart, no means to carry the small things in life to help them to get by.

The wind gusted hard for the first time in this alley, sending paper swirling in all different directions, some into a whirlwind flying higher than two stories. I looked about the alley and noticed a cardboard box in a lit corner with a piece of blue tarping over it. It was empty except for a blanket and some odds and ends. Then I realized this alley was her home, and that in the cardboard box was all she owned.

I stepped forward an inch or two. She noticed the shadow move, and spun around clutching her coat with right hand. The left slid inside her pocket and did not pull it out. The look she gave me was a combination of fear, anger, and embarrassment. She stepped back a few steps and her face fell into the light. That's when I saw her grimy face, unkempt short black hair sticking out from her cap. She was a young girl, no more than fourteen.

I gasped. How could such a young thing be cast out to search for food in garbage cans? A thousand questions invaded my mind, all of which I had no answers, at least ones that would make sense or give a viable reason.

I reached into my pants pocket and pulled out a twenty dollar bill, and extended it to her. I knew she would not take it, so I spied a brick on the ground and tucked it under. I straightened up and nodded my head, turned and walked out. I did not look back. I did not want to embarrass her even more.

That night as I got into bed, I couldn't help but think of the young girl. I will sleep in a warm comfortable bed and she a box. It was a long time before I fell to sleep.

Myrla Raymundo, MBA
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