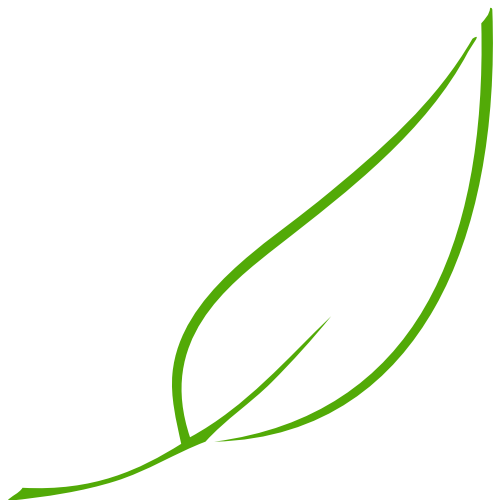


WONDERFUL WORLD

by Ken Bradbury



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Characters (4): Diana, Wonderful World instructor; Jodi, a new employee; Richard, Georgie's father; Georgie, a less-than-wonderful young brat. The parts of Richard and Georgie may be played by actors of either gender with a little switching of names and pronouns.

DIANA: Good morning and welcome to Wonderful World! Wonderful World! Wonderful World! The most wonderful world in the world! My name is Diana, the lovely and charming Diana, and I'll be your host as we walk the wonderful streets, see the wonderful sights, smell the wonderful smells and eat the wonderful food of Wonderful World! Wonderful World! *(to Jodi)* See how it's done? Easy.

JODI: When do I start?

DIANA: You start in just a few minutes.

JODI: Now? I start now?

DIANA: This is our peak season, kid. We don't have any break-in period. *(pointing off)* Look at that. The crowds are already lining up.

JODI: But I just got here yesterday!

DIANA: You want the job or not?

JODI: Yes! Yes, I want the job! Okay ... okay ... what was that again?

DIANA: You greet them right here at the Wonderful Gate of Wonderful World.

JODI: It looks like a fence.

DIANA: Bite your tongue! This is Wonderful World! There are no such things as just fences or birds or sidewalks! Everything is wonderful! *(holds up her foot)* See that? That's a Wonderful Shoe!

JODI: Wow. Looks like a Reebok.

DIANA: You're fired.

- JODI:** Sorry. It's a Wonderful Shoe.
- DIANA:** That's better.
- JODI:** But this costume?
- DIANA:** You're the Wonderful Princess! You make dreams come true! You can't do that in cutoffs and a tank top. You look wonderful.
- JODI:** Sequins. I've got so many sequins I'm a lightning rod. Can I run for cover if it storms?
- DIANA:** Just say your speech. It's time to open.
- JODI:** *(taking a fairy-like stance, then)* Hello! I'm the lovely and wonderful Jodi, your guide to wonderful Wonderful World where everything is wonderful! My shoes are wonderful! My sequins are wonderful! The grass and the cracks in the sidewalks and spiders and garbage cans ...
- DIANA:** Whoa, whoa, whoa! Don't get carried away, Princess Jodi. Just stick to the script.
- JODI:** Hey, I'm not kidding I'm really not ready for this! Seriously! I need another day!
- DIANA:** Too late. Here come your first customers.
- JODI:** But I can't do this!
- DIANA:** Don't worry, kid. I'll be around the corner listening. Oh, Princess Jodi, you'll be just ...
- JODI:** I know. Wonderful!
- DIANA:** Wonderful! *(turns to guests)* Hi there, folks! Here's your guide to Wonderful World! Princess Jodi!
- RICHARD:** You the one taking tickets?
- JODI:** Hi, I'm the Wonderful Princess Jodi, your host to Wonderful World and ...
- GEORGIE:** Is she for real? How come you're sparkling, lady?
- RICHARD:** Georgie, behave or we're going back to the hotel.
- GEORGIE:** This place looks creepy.
- JODI:** Hi, my name is the Wonderful Princess Jodi and ...
- GEORGIE:** You already said that.
- RICHARD:** Georgie!
- JODI:** Let me give you a quick tour of all the wonderful sights you're going to see today.

GEORGIE: Do they all sparkle like you?

JODI: Everything sparkles in Wonderful World, little boy!
Now if you take the path to your right you'll be on the road to Wonderful Water World where you can climb into a real-life Plexiglas log and ride down a genuine plastic stream and end up in an authentic concrete lake!

GEORGIE: Do you have Wi-Fi?

RICHARD: Georgie, pay attention! This place costs a fortune to get into and it was your idea!

GEORGIE: It looked better online.

JODI: And the wonderful path to your left will take you to Wonder Waffles, the home of the best food in the state!

GEORGIE: Waffles. We drove all this way for a lousy waffle.

JODI: *(moving threateningly toward Georgie, her hands upon his little neck)* Look kid, if you don't like it, you ...

DIANA: *(suddenly rushing in and placing herself between the two)* Hey there, little guy!

GEORGIE: She was gonna choke me!

DIANA: Choke you? Oh no, no, no! Princess Jodi is one of our Wonderful Actors here at Wonderful World!

RICHARD: It certainly looked like she was going to choke him.

DIANA: Oh, how silly! Tell them, Princess! Tell them about our ... uh ... our Wonder Ninjas!

JODI: Huh?

DIANA: You see, we sometimes imitate Ninja Warriors just for fun! Wasn't that fun, Georgie?

GEORGIE: I think my tonsil's broke.

DIANA: Oh, Georgie is such a funny little boy! He knows we're just having fun!

GEORGIE: I do?

RICHARD: You do.

GEORGIE: Oh. Okay. Yeah ... yeah, that was a load of laughs.



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