

2013 第2回New Storyteller コンテスト

最優秀作品 : Last Memories

特選 : A Man

特選 : Last Miracle

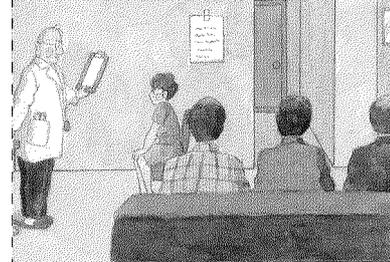
特選 : White Roses in Love

特選 : Socks and Mother

Last Memories

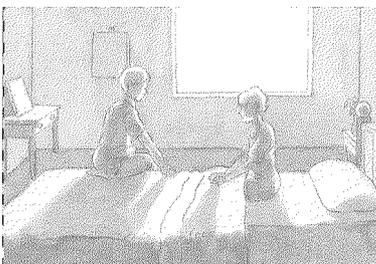
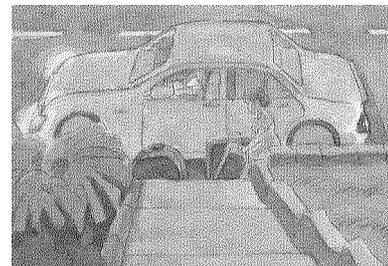
SAI

Monday, July 22nd. My doctor said to me “You have Alzheimer’s disease.” I couldn’t believe those words, and I still can’t believe them, but they are true. I’ll lose my memories. So, from today, I decided to keep a diary. ...I am getting sleepy. Today’s diary is finished. P.S. Friday is our wedding anniversary.



Wednesday, July 24th. Mary and I traveled to Hawaii to celebrate our wedding anniversary. Mary laughed a lot, and I joined her. I forgot my disease for a while. I hope our conjugal life will continue forever. P.S. No problems today.

Saturday, July 27th. We came back home, but when Mary brought our suitcases, I asked her “What are those bags?” She was confused by my behavior and said “These suitcases are our baggage. Did you forget?” Then I remembered that those bags were ours. ...My disease is progressing.



Thursday, August 1st. My disease is surely progressing. Yesterday, I almost forgot where my house was. I have to enter the hospital. Mary cried and cried, so I made a promise that I wouldn’t forget her. ...The nurse is coming. Today’s diary is finished ✖ My name is Jack and my wife’s name is Mary.

Monday, August 5th. My name is Jack Mary

Tuesday, August 6th. My name is J Mary

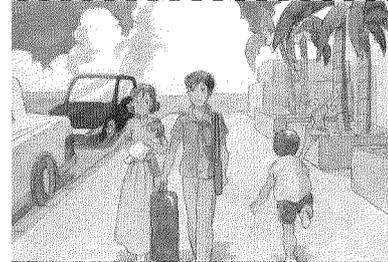
Thursday, August 8th. A beautiful woman came to my sickroom. She smiled and said “Oh, Jack! Sorry I couldn’t meet you for long time. How are you?” She was very friendly, but I don’t know her. Who was she ? Mary



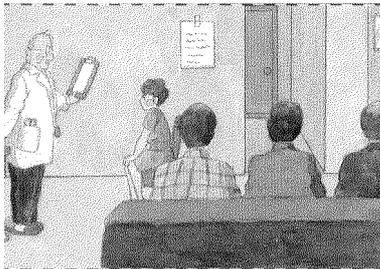
Your name is Jack. Even if you lose all your memories,
I’ll always love you.

Mary

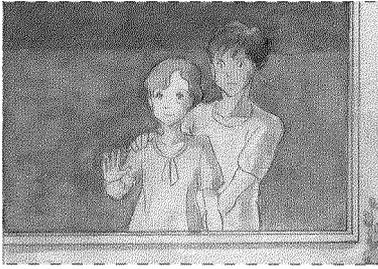
There was a man, Luke. He had a wife, Judy. She was kind and beautiful. Also, she loved Luke very much. Luke was kind. But at the same time he was cruel. He was an American spy. He completed many missions.



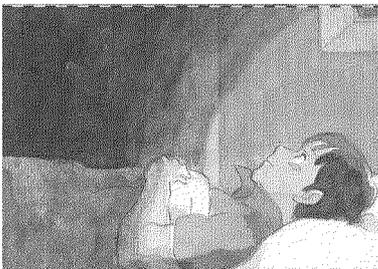
But he never directly killed anyone. Today, his mission was bigger than ever. It was to kill someone. He knew it was a very bad thing. He knew he couldn't come back when he did this mission. But he didn't want to think about it. He had to work for his family. His words echoed in his mind, "It's only a job." He smiled and told Judy, "This job is a little big. But I'll be OK. Enjoy your travel." Judy smiled too. But her smile looked sad. Luke told her, "OK, I'm off to work. See you." She told him, "Do your best"



His target was in the hospital. Her name was Mrs. Oxford. He didn't want to hurt a woman. But he had no choice. He saw a doctor and asked him, "Do you know Mrs. Oxford?" He answered, "Yes. I'm her doctor. What's your name? Are you her son?" Luke said, "Er... I... I'm her son. Yes, I'm her son." The doctor told him, "OK. Do you want to see her?" "Can I see her?" "Sure, please follow me. She is in Room 304." Luke asked him, "How is her physical condition?" The doctor answered, "Mmm... I want to say no problem. But she is in danger. Perhaps we can't help her. She's too old." Luke was surprised and asked, "What? How old is she?" The doctor looked at him and asked, "Don't you know? Why not? Are you really her son?" Luke said, "Yes! Yes! I'm her son!" The doctor told him, "I don't know your reason. But you have only one mother in the world. Please take care of her." "Oh. I'm sorry" The doctor said, "OK. We've arrived at her room. I'll go to another patient's room. Good luck." Luke said, "Thank you."

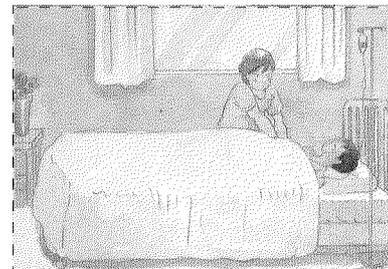


Luke opened the door. Mrs. Oxford looked at him and asked, “Who are you ...?” He answered, “I’m a volunteer. I’m going to take care of you for two days.” She said “Oh. Thank you.” He answered, “You’re welcome.” He took care of her. He helped when she stood. He cut an apple for her. He talked to her in a friendly way. He enjoyed taking care of her. Mrs. Oxford said, “You are so kind. Do you have your mother?” Luke answered, “No, I don’t. She passed away six years ago.” Mrs. Oxford said, “Oh, I’m sorry. Did you like your mother?” Luke answered, “Yes. I love her.” Mrs. Oxford laughed and said, “You are very kind, so I’m sure your mother was very kind too.” Luke said, “Yes. She was very kind. But I’m not kind.” Mrs. Oxford said, “Oh? Why do you think so?” Luke laughed and answered, “I don’t know. Why did I become like this? I don’t know.” They became quiet. Later he said, “I will go home. Thank you for today. I enjoyed it very much.” She said, “I enjoyed it too. Will you come here tomorrow?” Luke answered, “Yes, I will.” Mrs. Oxford smiled and said, “Bye.” Luke went out of the room and closed the door.

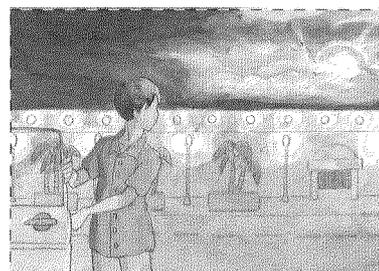


He arrived at the hotel. Judy and their son had already gone to sleep. He was very tired, so he went to bed. He thought of Mrs. Oxford. “She is a kind woman. Should I kill her? If I don’t kill her, she will die soon. What should I do?” He fell asleep.

He had a dream about his mother. She told him, “Be a kind man. I don’t like people who hurt other people.” Then his mother smiled.

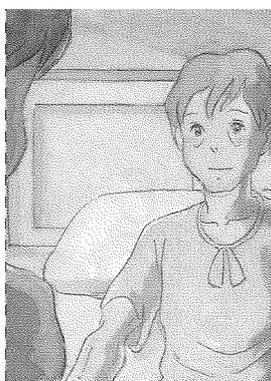


He got up at seven. He drank a hot coffee. He went to his car and looked at the sky. A cloud hid the sun, so it was a little dark.



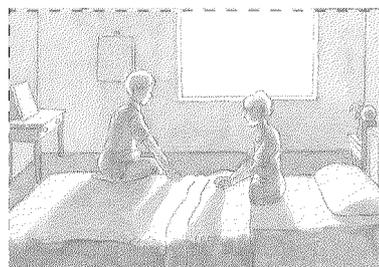
He arrived at the hospital, and he followed the doctor. Then he went into Mrs. Oxford's room. He saw her smile. "Good morning," she said. He answered, "Good morning." He cut an apple again. He thought, "Kill her... kill her with this knife..."

But suddenly, she asked, "What's your name? I forgot to ask you yesterday." "I'm Luke," he answered. She said, "Oh, Luke... A nice name." He said "Thank you." Later, he cut an apple. "Here you are," he said. "Thank you," she said.



He couldn't decide whether to kill her. She told him, "I don't know what you did. But you cut an apple for me. You talked to me in a friendly way. I know you are kind." She smiled. He cried. Then he told her "I came here to kill you. It's my job. But I don't want to kill you." She was surprised and put her arms around him. She told him, "It's easy. You don't want to kill. Then, you won't kill."

"I will quit my job," he said. She smiled. He said, "I must see my wife. Then I will tell her." She said, "Do your best."



He bought a flower. It was for his wife. Then he arrived at the hotel, and he saw Judy. She was surprised and said, "Hi." He answered, "Hi Judy. I want to hand you this

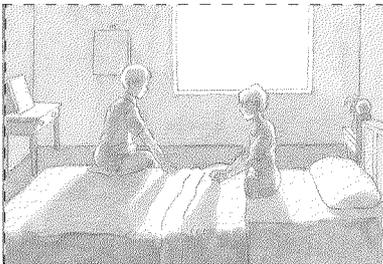
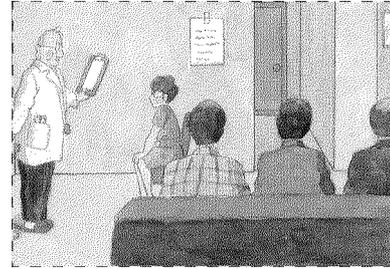


flower." She was surprised again. "What is it?" He answered, "It's my present to thank you. Also, I will quit my job." She was stupefied. He said, "Next, I will start job hunting. So... please help me." She smiled and said, "Sure."

Last Miracle

M.O.

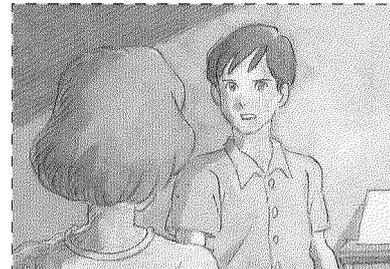
My girlfriend had a rare disease. She aged very quickly - ten times more quickly than a normal human does. This illness generally appears when a person is born, but the rule didn't apply to my girlfriend. She developed it when she was 15. Now she was 20, and she was on the brink of death. I visited the hospital as many times as I could and tried to spend as much time with her as possible. And it was the same on that day.



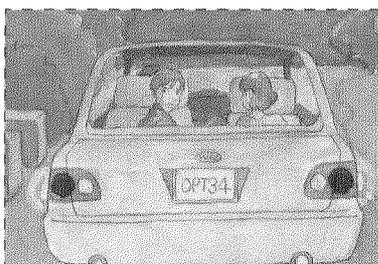
I was talking to her in the hospital room, and suddenly it happened. A bright light flashed into the room. I unconsciously closed my eyes and heard my girlfriend gasp.

The next second, I couldn't believe my eyes. My girlfriend, who was supposed to look like an eighty - year - old woman, was back to looking like when she was 15! "What...?" She whispered, surprised. "Am I a girl? Why? Is this a dream?" "I don't know," I said excitedly. "It's a miracle! I think it's a present from God." "I can't believe it," she said. "But it's amazing. I always dreamed of looking like a girl again."

Then I got an idea "Let's go outside," I said. "Let's do all the things you want to do. It's a special date. I will be yours, I will take you wherever you want to go, buy you whatever clothes you want. Let's go!" "But I have to tell the doctor..." "That can be later. I can't wait to walk outside with you!" I took her hand and ran out of the hospital.

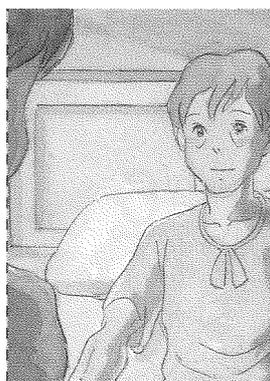
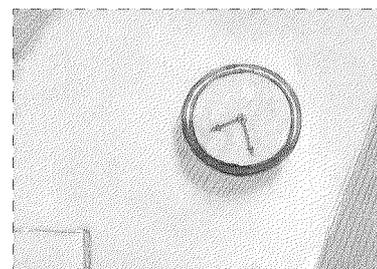


It was a wonderful date. My girlfriend was dressed beautifully, and we went to a beach. We ate lots of delicious food, and she drank wine, because she had never drunk it yet. She was so cute.



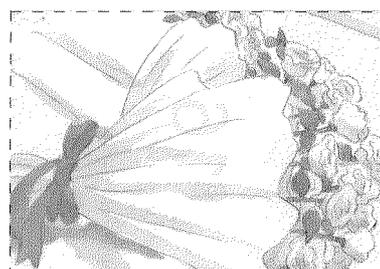
We went driving at night, and finally we were back at the hospital. “Thank you, Rex. It was so much fun. I think it was the best day in my life,” she said, smiling.

“Do you want to do anything else?” “Um...” she turned toward me. “I want to talk with you. I want to spend some quiet time with you.” So we started talking. We talked about many things - about our memories of that day, about when we were younger, about our first date - etc.



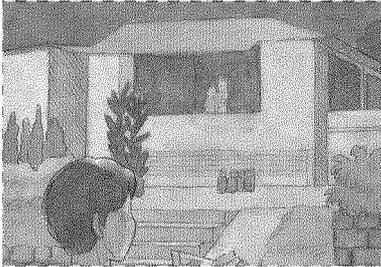
It was almost midnight when I looked at the clock. “Rex.” She called my name and said, “I’m so grateful to you. Thank you for always standing by me. To be honest, I thought that you would stop going out with me when I heard about the disease.” “...” “But you never abandoned me. You always encouraged me. I was ill, but I was so happy these five years.” “Because I love you, I stood by you because I wanted to.” I felt like crying because she sounded like it was the last time for us to talk.

“I love you too,” she whispered. “But I think it’s time to go now. I’ll say it again. Thank you so much. I’ll always love you.” Suddenly, a bright light flashed again. She disappeared, and a bunch of white flowers was left.



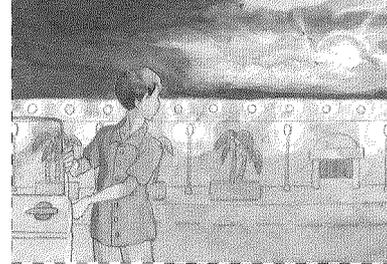
<The Preface>

“I will change you into a devil because of your sin. But I will give you a last chance. Go down to man’s world and make someone happy. If you carry out your mission, I will give you eternal life.” “What!? Go down



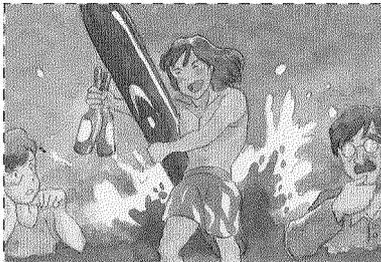
to man’s world!?” “Yes, that’s what I said.

Well... make that lady happy.” “Oh, no! please.....”



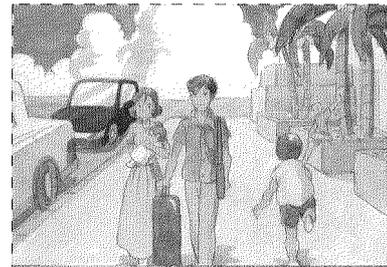
<The Story>

Now it is 1974. They are Mr. Stephan Heinrich and Ms. Mary Heinrich, They are married. They met in a very



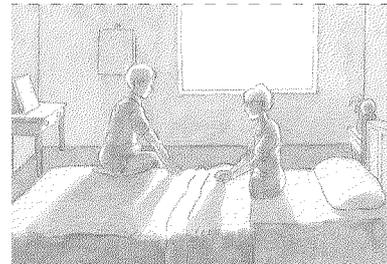
ordinary way. They fell in love in a very

ordinary way. They were leading a happy life.

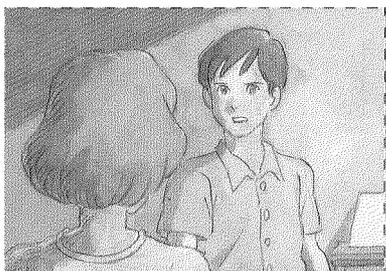


On a winter day, suddenly the sky got dark. It thundered. Mr and Ms Heinrich were surprised. And they heard a voice that said, “The time has come.” “What is it?” Mary said. Stephan said nothing. He looked very sad.

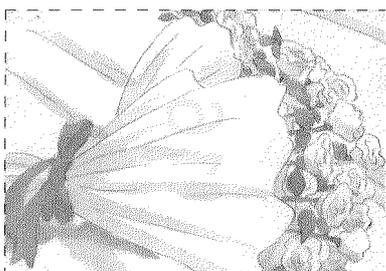
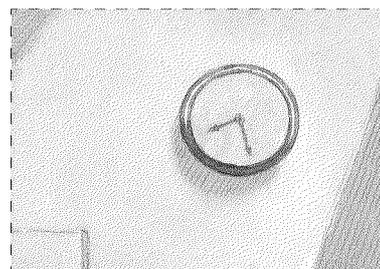
“What’s up, Stephan?” “I have something to tell you.” “Yes, I will listen to you,” Mary said gently. “You may not believe my story, but please listen. I used to be an angel. I lived with many angels in heaven.



One day, I sat down on His pedestal on an impulse. And I broke it. Then, the earth was hit by Titan and his troubadours. We must not sit down on it. So, God was very angry. And He turned me into the devil. But he promised me that if I could make someone happy, I would have eternal life. He named me Stephan Heinrich. And that someone is you, Mary.” “What are you saying? I cannot understand.” “ I’m sorry, Mary.”



I said, “But... I must go. I will have eternal life as white roses in a field. I cannot stay with you. Forever, I will bloom white.” “I understand. Even if you are gone, I will live and die for you.” “I will love you till the roses die.” “Good bye, my kind devil,” Mary said with tears in her eyes.

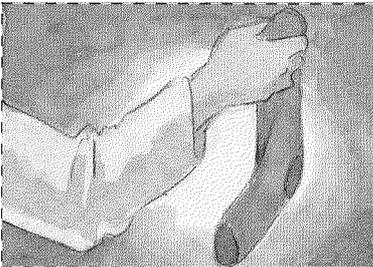
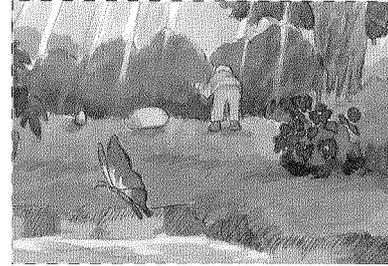


Every day, the sun shines. The bird sing. The flowers are entranced by the wind’s melody. New life grows. And Ms. Mary Heinrich goes to a field to pick white roses.

Socks and Mother

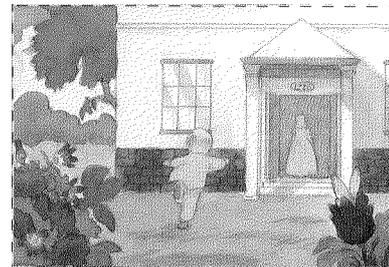
S.T

Hello. My name is Ken. I'm 15 years old. I have a habit of going around the garden in the morning.



One day, as usual, I went around the garden. Then I found something in the grass. It was a pair of socks. Strangely, those socks were not dirty.

“I want them,” I thought. I went back to my house with those socks. “I found these socks in the garden,” I said. But my mother replied, “Throw those things away! Don't take them into the house!” I couldn't give up the socks, so I hid them in my bedroom.

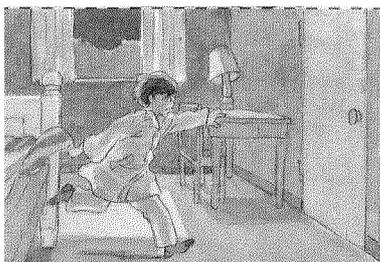


That night, I was going to sleep. Then I heard a noise from my bed. It was the socks!



The socks were speaking to me! “Wear us... and you will be happy.” I wanted to be happy. So I put them on.

Suddenly I was seized by craziness. My mind went completely blank. I went mad. “Ha, hah. I can act violently for a long time!” the socks said.

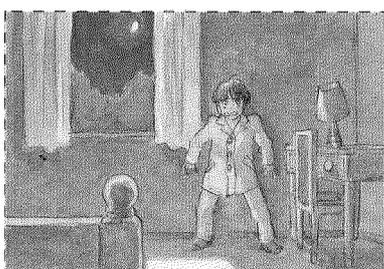


The socks were cursed! I had an urge to act violently. I didn't know what was what. So I got out of my bed and ran to the bedroom door.

Then I kicked the door as hard as I could. Crash! The door broke noisily.

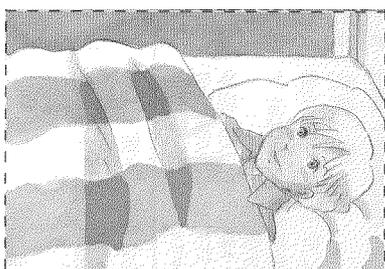


“Ha, hah. Let's go to the town and act violently.” I tried to go out of my bedroom. But my mother was there. She looked very angry.



“Why on earth did you do this? You're not getting away with this!” “Sorry, sorry...” The socks and I were very afraid. Then I regained consciousness.

The curse was broken! I went to the toilet and dumped the socks. “I regret...”



I went to bed again. What's the scariest thing in the world? The cursed socks? No. my mother!

Mike 先生からのコメント

Last Memories

This is a very moving story. Telling the story in diary form brings the reader inside the mind of the main character as he slowly loses his memories because of Alzheimer's disease, and the way the diary entries reflect his declining mental faculties reminds me of the classic story "Flowers for Algernon." In the end, "Last Memories" turns out to really be a love story.

A Man

This is an exciting story about a man who has to decide whether to do good or to do evil. His developing relationship with his intended victim makes the decision more suspenseful. Throughout the story the writer shows good insight into what factors influence our decisions.

Last Miracle

This story has a couple of exciting miracles, but the heart of the story is the excellent description of the relationship between the narrator and his girlfriend, such as the details of their special date together and the topics that they talk about during their last conversation.

White Roses in Love

This is a very imaginative story that takes the reader from the cosmic events of sin and punishment in heaven down to the ordinary lives of one married couple. The story seems to be telling us that both in heaven and on earth, nothing is more important than love.

Socks and Mother

This is the first story I have ever read about evil socks. The writer shows great imagination as well as a great sense of humor. Also, the illustrations fit the story so well that it is hard to believe that the story was created based on the illustrations rather than the other way around.

宮下先生からのコメント

Last Memories

進行するアルツハイマー病にむしばまれるジャック。付き添うメアリーの温かい心と、ジャックの病気による意に反した忘却が錯綜する。深刻なテーマを日記という形で、見事に描いた作品である。

A Man

仲むつまじいルークとジュディー夫婦だが、実はルークはやり手の米国のスパイだったのだ。読み応えのある長さの作品で、ルークの良心と責任感との葛藤が上手に表現されている。エンディングも意外性がある。よい。

Last Miracle

通常の十倍速で年を取ってしまう病気を発症した少女というテーマ設定が、ミステリアスだ。人と人とのつながりの根底にある愛の大切さ、人生の意味を問う作品である。リズム感ある話の展開が読者を飽きさせない。

White Roses in Love

おかした罪のために、神様のお怒りにふれてしまって、そのつぐないのために地上に降りてきたステファン。物語には会話文が巧みに使われており、二部構成なのも読者の興味をひく始まり方だ。

Socks and Mother

ソックスが話しかけてきます。そしてその謎とは何かと、テンポよく話が進むのでどんどん読者が引き込まれてきます。絵の並べ方のセンスが光ります。文章と絵のバランスのとれた絵本のよさを兼ね備えた作品です。

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