

WHY ME?



“It’s 6:00 am. I’m sitting at my desk doing the things I do in the morning. I read my messages in my e-mail, and I read the newspaper to see if there are any new interesting stories. Most of all I like to do the crossword puzzle.

“My daughter comes into my office to say goodbye as she goes to her bus for school. She gives me a hug and a kiss, and I say, ‘Have a great day!’

“I take a few minutes to surf the internet for interesting news articles about international events and sports.

“My wife is leaving for work, so I say ‘Good bye’ to her as she goes out to her car. She gives me a kiss and a big smile.

“She says to me, ‘Have a wonderful day honey, see you at eight o’clock!’

“I return to my office to prepare for my classes I will have later that day.

“While sitting at my desk there is a knock at my door. It is a hard knock as if someone is desperate to come in. I look over at the door and standing outside is a tall man in a long black overcoat, white shirt, black necktie, and a black hat. To me, he looks like a character from the movie ‘Men in Black’.

Even though he has on nice clothes, his appearance is more like a thug from an action movie. I get the feeling that he is not here for a friendly visit.

“He’s standing in the cold, rubbing his hands together waiting for me to answer. I’m suspicious of this man. I’ve never seen him before. I’m not sure what he wants.

“This is making me very nervous, so I decide not to open the door. He looks very

curious to me. I peek out of the window, hiding in a place where he cannot see me.

“While he is standing at my door, another man dressed in the same clothes walks up. The two men talk to each other for a few minutes. I cannot understand what they are saying. I think it’s another language, whatever they are talking about does not sound good by the tone of their voices.

“I’ve seen enough movies to recognize when something is wrong.

“One of the men goes around to the back of my house. The other man is still standing at my door waiting for me to answer. I’m not sure what to do.

“I think to myself, ‘Should I call the police? Should I get my gun and tell them to leave? Are they going to hurt me?’

“I don’t know what to think.

“I hear a noise from my bedroom. It sounds like breaking glass. I run to my bathroom and close the door. I sit on the floor and wait. I have no idea what is going on in my house. I sit in the darkness of the room like a scared child. Nothing like this has ever happened to me before.

“My gun and my phone are in my bedroom. I won’t be able to get to them.

“People are in my house. Things are being broken and I hear voices. They are searching for something, but I don’t know what it is. If I knew what they wanted, I would give it to them, whatever it is.

“My dog is barking and growling just like I want him to do.

“Then there is the sound of a gun firing, followed by a yelp. Then silence.

“I don’t know how long I was in the bathroom when suddenly the door flew open. I realize that I had not locked the door. In the doorway, I see one of the men in black. He is big and he looks mean.

“He says to me, in a very strong accent, ‘Get up, and get out of there’.

“I do as I’m told and I leave the bathroom.

“Now I’m in my living room. The room is a mess. Everything is on the floor and broken. The furniture is torn open. My dog is lying on the ground. I think he is dead. I

guess they are afraid of pit bulls.

“I don’t know what to say or do. I’m just standing there waiting for them to tell me what is going on.

“While standing in the middle of my house, one of them comes over to me and pushes me to the ground. I hit the floor with my head and it starts to bleed. I roll over and look up at him.

“I ask, ‘What are you looking for?’

“The man asks, ‘Where did you hide it?’

“I say, ‘I don’t know what you are talking about.’

“He answers me, ‘Shut up or we’ll really hurt you. We’ll find it whether you answer us or not.’

“They continue to search my house.

“Sitting on the floor watching my house be torn apart is not easy, but it’s better than being hurt again.

“There are five men in black destroying my house. They are moving fast and talking to each other in a language I do not understand. I’m not sure where they’re from.

“Every once in a while they stop and look over at me. I just shrug my shoulders, not understanding.

“Then one of them comes over to me, picks me up by my shirt, and shoves me against the wall. He hits me in the stomach so hard I lose my breath.

“I fall to the ground struggling to get some air.

“When I can talk, I ask, ‘What do you want from me? I haven’t done anything to hurt you’.

“One of the men says to me, again in a strong accent that I do not recognize, ‘Shut up or I will really hurt you next time’.

“Not wanting to get hurt worse, I sit on the floor and keep silent.

“I watch as they hit the walls with hammers to see if anything is hidden inside them, they remove my lights from the ceiling, they take the plumbing fixtures out of my

bathroom, and they dismantle my kitchen. I can't believe what I'm seeing. They are destroying my home as I watch.

"What could they be looking for" I have no idea. What could it be?

"Just when I think it can't get any worse, they put gasoline on the floor and put a match to it. The five men run out of my house, jump into a white van and leave.

"The fire is too big for me to put out. The smoke makes me cough so I have to run out of my house as it goes up in flames.

"One of my neighbors sees me and tries to help. I sit down on the side of the road and watch my house as the flames jump out of the roof.

"My neighbor calls 911 for the police and fire department to come.

"The fire truck arrives, but it's too late. My house is burning to the ground.

"The police come and ask me many questions. They've heard about this kind of thing happening before in other areas of the city, but not to someone like me.

"Later I find out some of the men were arrested after they did the same thing to another house.

"The police tell me the men are members of a drug cartel.

"I ask them why the men in black had set fire to my house.

"The police tell me that when they asked the men in black why they destroyed my house, they told the police they thought I was a drug dealer who was competing with them.

"They told the police they had made a mistake. They had been given the wrong address."

VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. crossword puzzle _____ | a. chairs, tables, sofas |
| 2. desperate _____ | b. toilet, sink, tub |
| 3. furniture _____ | c. used to start a fire |
| 4. shove _____ | d. group, organization |
| 5. hammer _____ | e. eager, impatient |
| 6. plumbing fixture _____ | f. take apart |
| 7. dismantle _____ | g. tool used with nails |
| 8. match (n) _____ | h. word game |
| 9. arrest _____ | i. push very hard |
| 10. cartel _____ | j. put in jail |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. I like to do crossword puzzles. | T / F |
| 2. My daughter was going to work. | T / F |
| 3. The men were wearing red coats. | T / F |
| 4. My house burned to the ground. | T / F |
| 5. I was selling drugs. | T / F |
| 6. My wife was in the house with me. | T / F |
| 7. The men left in a white van. | T / F |
| 8. The fire department went to the wrong house. | T / F |
| 9. Some of the men were arrested. | T / F |
| 10. My dog died. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. What do I read in the morning? _____
 - a) book
 - b) magazine
 - c) letters
 - d) newspaper

2. How many men were in my house? _____
 - a) 2
 - b) 5
 - c) 7
 - d) 12

3. What happened to my head? _____
 - a) it started to bleed
 - b) I had a headache
 - c) I was dizzy
 - d) all of the above

4. What did they hit my walls with? _____
 - a) a hammer
 - b) a box
 - c) a phone
 - d) my head

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What was I doing in the morning before the knock on my door?

2. What did I see at my door?

3. What did I hear breaking?

4. Where did I hide?

5. Where was my gun?

6. Who did I hug and kiss?

7. What happened to my dog?

8. What did the men say when I asked why they were destroying my house?

9. Who called 911?

10. Why did the men destroy my house?
