

Clean Beat

APRIL 2023

A LASTING IMPRESSION: CLIENT SHORT STORIES . . .

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"But they told me I could borrow it!"

I couldn't believe it! I was halfway done with my job when two gentlemen showed up at the front door informing me that they were there to "borrow" the homeowner's large screen television for the "BIG GAME" on Sunday. Being a small company, my clients know me personally, and it would not surprise me if they did agree to let these "friends" borrow their television, knowing I was at their house to let them in.

Not wanting to cause any issues, I agreed that they could take the TV as long as I contacted the homeowner first. The men seemed agreeable enough and said they'd get their truck ready and return shortly. So, imagine my surprise when I went outside to check on them — and there was no sign of them anywhere!

My mind raced with possibilities: Had they changed their mind? Were they thieves in disguise? Or were there other

nefarious reasons why two grown men needed an enormous flat-screen television at such short notice?

Unable to figure out what happened and unable to reach my client, I had my office cancel the other job I had later in the afternoon. I stayed at my client's home all day concerned that the two guys would return, but no sign of those guys or their truck. Eventually the afternoon got late and despite feeling exhausted from working all day solo, I decided not to leave until my client returned home. Just then lightning struck – literally lighting up the sky above me like fireworks! That's when I saw the two men in a tree close by hurriedly climbing out and running to their truck.

When my client returned home, they knew nothing about it and thanked me for sticking around. We both admired how resourceful both men were and laughed at how dramatic this entire event had been – including Mother Nature herself joining our show by providing a lightning display of her own on a much larger screen.

"SUCCESS IS THE CULMINATION OF DEDICATION, PERSISTENCE, AND PASSION

CONVERGING TO TRANSFORM AN ORDINARY TASK INTO AN EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT."



For forty years, I have been the go-to guy for any job that required elbow grease and attention to detail. I am the "cleaner" you need when nothing else will do. From cleaning silk-covered walls in a private theater to a specialized "static-free" floor in the FBI Cyber Crime Lab, if it needed cleaning, folks knew who to call.

Throughout my illustrious career, I've made quite a name for myself in the business world. Politicians, Sports Celebrities, Airports, Universities, hotels, and large commercial properties all sought after my expertise when it came to developing protocols for maintaining their floors and carpets. But nothing could compare to what happened four decades into my career: *The Chick-fil-A Cow* uniform came into our shop!

What an honor! You see, anyone can clean a floor or wall but not everyone is brave enough (or lucky enough) to take on such an iconic symbol of American culture as the *Chick-fil-A Cow* uniform. Of course, we took up the challenge with great enthusiasm – no detail was spared in our efforts!

And since then? Well let's just say that now more than ever before people know me as "the cleaner" It's been a wild ride but hey – I'm proud of where I am today.

Looking back on these past four decades now as an experienced professional cleaner, there's no doubt that taking care of *The Chick-fil-A Cow* uniform will always be remembered as one of my greatest achievements – even if it doesn't get much recognition outside of our little world.



HOPPY EASTER

Written By Larry & Jerry Kessie

Children know there is more to the world than meets the eye. They are intuitive thinkers, with an innate sense of justice, fairness, and the mysteries of life. Children are also acutely aware that growing up is a one-way ticket out of their magical world of make-believe and fairytale adventures. Children know that adults have been lied to about what it means to grow up; that there must be another side to this story if we are supposed to spend 25%-50% of our waking lives being miserable, stressed-out, and overworked till we are old enough for assisted living?!

My brother and I created this storyline and characters for our kids, because we believe that children have specific needs and desires. They are perfectly capable of differentiating between reality and fantasy, but they need permission to access the magical, fantastic, and creative sides of their beings.

You will no doubt notice that Todd's life mimics or parallel's the life of Christ. We are not replacing Jesus with a bunny, but it is our attempt to tell the story in a way that they can relate to and understand.

Todd Osterei was the first-born into a family of rabbits, or a Fluffle. It is unclear how long Todd has been in The Village, he does not age down like the others.

His father, Joe, was a carpenter who made wooden toys for children. His mother, Mary, was a great cook and often made Easter treats for the kids in the village. Todd's mother always told him that he was special, that God had sent him to bring a special message to everyone in Easter Village.

As he grew, Todd noticed that he was different from the other bunnies. He was faster, stronger, and more agile. He could jump higher and run faster. Todd had a kind and compassionate heart. He would always comfort the other animals when they were sad or hurt.

When he was older, Todd began to teach the younger rabbits about the true meaning of Easter. He told them that Easter was about love, forgiveness, and hope. He also taught them that Easter was not just about bringing

gifts and candy to children, but about bringing happiness and joy to everyone.

One Spring Day, a group of rabbits came to Todd and told him that something was poisoning everyone in Easter Village and asked for his help. It would be the ultimate challenge of physical endurance, but it was what he was born to do. He was the only one that could make the impossible journey to *Tártaro* and back with an antidote in only three days.

Todd knew that these next three days would be more than anything he had ever experienced or imagined. He went head-to-head and toe-to-toe against the forces of evil that were determined to keep him from accomplishing his goal. The battle was fierce and bloody. Todd fought with all his might, but in the end, he was outnumbered and outmatched. The enemy thought they had won and started to walk away, but Todd was not done yet, he still had more fight left in him. He got up and said, "Where are you going? I'm not finished with you yet!" His message of love and hope sent fear throughout the enemy's camp. Todd had won and fulfilled his destiny.

Todd made it back to the Village in time, but not without paying a great price. He was weak, covered in blood from his ears to his feet, and he could hardly hop anymore. Everyone came out of their homes to see him as he stumbled his way down the street, most of them not even realizing or understanding the sacrifice he made for every one of them. One young man named Castor walked over to him and said, "Let me help," as he lifted Todd's front arm over his shoulder and helped him the rest of the way. Todd brought back an egg-shaped container with the antidote that would save everyone in the Village.

For the first time, Todd saw the world through the eyes of the Easter Bunny. He saw the joy that the Easter eggs brought to the children, and he knew that he had done something special

