

MIKE KUNKEL'S
HEROBEARTM
and the **KID**
2016 FALL SPECIAL #1

SAVING TIME: PART TWO

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SURPRISE!

NOUN

1. AN UNEXPECTED OR ASTONISHING THING, FACT, OR EVENT.

LUCKILY, OR RATHER...SURPRISINGLY...
SURPRISES COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES.

THAT'S
THE FUN
OF THEM.

TELL A KID, "I'VE GOT A SURPRISE
FOR YOU," AND THEY CHEER.
TELL A GROWN-UP, AND
THEY CRINGE AND SAY, "UH OH,"
AS IF THEY ARE EXPECTING THE WORST.

BUT, THAT TAKES ALL THE FUN OUT OF IT.
ANTICIPATING THE "BAD" MEANS
YOU ARE TAKING AWAY ANY OPPORTUNITY
TO SMILE UNEXPECTEDLY.

DO YOU REMEMBER
YOUR LAST
GOOD SURPRISE?

DIDN'T IT MAKE YOU HAPPY?

WE HAVE TO BE REMINDED
OF WHY THEY CAN BE EXCITING.

WHEN WE WERE KIDS, WE LOVED
BEING SURPRISED, AND WE LOVED
LOOKING FOR THEM EVERYWHERE...

...EXCITEDLY VISITING ALL OF THE
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSES ON HALLOWEEN,
HUNTING EVERY HIDING PLACE FOR
PLASTIC EGGS ON EASTER,
DIGGING THROUGH AN ENTIRE
CEREAL BOX TO FIND THE TOY.

EXPLORING FROG PONDS AND
HIKING THROUGH SECRET FORESTS
FOR UNTOLD TREASURE.

AND BEST OF ALL, WAKING UP
CHRISTMAS MORNING WITH THE
HOPE OF BEING SURPRISED WITH
THAT ONE PERFECT GIFT.

MAYBE WE SHOULD REMEMBER
THOSE TIMES WHEN WE
HOPED FOR A WONDERFUL
SURPRISE TO FIND US.

AND, MAYBE THAT'S THE TRICK
TO IT ALL...

...HOPE.

AAAND SURPRISE! I'M NOT AT HOME WATCHING BABY NEW YEAR HENRY...LIKE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE.

SIMPLE TON O' HISTORY!

OHHHH, I HOPE THEY'VE GOT THE DEEP-FRIED HEAVEN BOOTH AGAIN!

YUM! SO... THIS PARADE IS EVERY YEAR?

YEP! 155 YEARS AGO TODAY, SIMPLETON WAS FOUNDED BY A DANISH-GERMAN FAMILY, AND A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN, HENCE THIS YEAR'S THEME ON THE BANNER.

SOUNDS COOL.

VERRRRRY COOL, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A GIANT T-REX FLOAT FOR PREHISTORIC SIMPLETON!

SWEET! IT'LL BE LIKE A FLYING DRAGON.

OH NO, FLOAT BALLOONS USE HELIUM, DRAGONS ARE LIKE ZEPPELINS...

...BELLIES ARE FILLED WITH HOT GASSY AIR.

HUH... JUST LIKE ME AFTER A BEANO EXTREMO BURRITO.

MAYBE I CAN FLOAT TOO! HAHAHA!

FLOAT?

THE ONE THING ALL SURPRISES ALWAYS HAVE IN COMMON IS...

...UNPREDICTABLE TIMING.

WE WAS JUST WONDERIN' SUMPTIN' ABOUT ALL THESE "FLOATS."

FER EXAMPLE, LET'S TAKE YOUR LIL' ROOT BEER FLOAT...

HEH HEH YOU ALREADY DONE DAT, BOBBY.

OH GREAT. THE BULLIO BROTHERS. SHARING THE SAME GRADE POINT AVERAGE MAY NEVER PULL THEM OUTTA MY GRADE.

HAH! GOOD ONE, BILLY.

SO, DOES YOUR "FLOAT" ...FLOAT?
UH...

I'VE GOT NO TIME FOR BOBBY'S NONSENSE, VANESSA IS WAITING, AND I CAN'T GET HER BEAR EASILY... SOOO, IMPROVISE.

LOOK OUT!

T-REX!

HIDE!

EEEP!

?

GRRRR

BLOP!
GUESS NOT! HAHAHA

GROWR

OH NO!
DON'T LET A WITTE SAWOON SCARE YOU! HAHA SEE YA LATER DINO DUMMIES!

ONE O' DESE DAYS DAT PUNK IS GONNA BE HISTORY!
UH, BUT WON'T DAT BE IN DUH FUTURE?
SHADDUP.



FOR THE NEXT FEW MINUTES, WE CHATTED ABOUT FLOATS, BOOKS, AND PARADES.

AND I TRIED TO BE COOL AND NOT LET ON THAT I WAS FREAKING OUT INSIDE.



UH, AND DID SHE JUST HOLD MY HAND??!

RUMBLE!



YOU KNOW...I ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT I LOOKED LIKE TO EVERYONE ELSE WHEN I DRIFTED INTO MY DAYDREAMS...

OH, ARE YOU GOING TO GET MORE SNACKS?

WAHOOD! DID YOU FEEL THAT?

C'MON, MATEY-

UH, TYLER?

-WE'LL SAIL THE STORY SEAS TOGETHER IN THE JOLLY READER!

...LET'S JUST SAY IT'S NOT PRETTY.

IS HE DANCING--?

--WITH HIS BACKPACK?

YEAHAH.

OH, HAHA!

NO, YOU ARE LIGHT ON YOUR FEET.

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE FLOATING!

HUH, IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S ENJOYING SIMPLETON'S GERMAN HISTORY...

...WITH WAYNE NEWTON.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE SHOULD NEVER KNOW ABOUT OURSELVES.

DANKE SCHOEN...

DARLIN', DANKE SCHOEN.

OF COURSE, THE BIG SURPRISE COMES WHEN I WAKE UP...

THIS ONE GOES OUT TO ALL THE SIMPLE TON O' HISTORY FANS.

AND THE...

...PIRATES?

...AND EVERYTHING IS BACK TO "NORMAL."

