

THE SAWYER

Surprising Twists

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When my husband Jim was a little boy, his mother sent him to deliver a note to the next door neighbor. He took a while to return and she became anxious. When he finally showed up, she began to scold him for being late. He immediately explained the delay. "Mom, I knocked and knocked, and waited and waited, and suddenly...nobody came." His mom laughed at his surprising syntax and the anxiety of the moment vanished. Surprising twists can do that. They can release tension, change the mood, disarm an angry reaction and open us up to new perspectives. But they can also terrify and enrage and discourage. In this newsletter, community members have written their own experience of surprising twists. Rob Newton, movie historian, will discuss some of his favorite twists in great films. Susan Oleksiw, local mystery writer, describes classic uses of this technique in literature. A new library assistant, Haley Hart, and a new library trustee, Mern Sibley, discuss surprising twists in their own lives. And our director, Deborah Kelsey, explains the shift in process needed for co-creation of a new library building.

When we expect our stories or our lives to turn left and actually they turn right, that can be a golden moment. We can be shocked, mystified and amazed-- filled with fear or wonder. In our era of over-the-top special effects, the most awe-inspiring special effect of all can still be the humble surprise.

In this issue:

Upending Expectations
Rob Newton's Favorite Movie Twists
The Twist of a Lifetime
The Surprise on the Library Shelf
"One finger cannot lift a pebble." -
Malawi Proverb

