



MIND... SET TO SUCCESS

(Could an act of kindness kill you?)

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Speaker Humorist Magician

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Dear John

As I stood there looking at the frozen solid, frostbitten banana in my hand I felt grateful at my good fortune and pondered two things, would have I survived and if I'd have as much trust in my fellow man as was shown to me. John, what would you do?

The plan: On the Friday I travel from Bradford where I live (I didn't do anything wrong, I just live there) to Twyford to celebrate a friend's birthday that evening. Next day, a leisurely 65 mile journey to Whittlebury to speak that night at a corporate dinner, then home.

What could possibly go wrong? In a word 'snow'.

It's Saturday, 18th December 2010, you might remember it. I set off from Twyford to Whittlebury at 10.47 am and don't arrive home in Bradford until 12.39 pm... the following day. Driving conditions are so treacherous that the 206 mile journey takes me 25 hours 52 minutes. I don't even make it to the gig, neither do half the guests. I'm seriously considering writing to the 'Guinness Book of Records' to see if I qualify for an entry.

After taking about 8 hours to travel approximately 40 miles, feeling tired and beaten I decide to find a hotel for the night. A local petrol station suggests, even though all the hotels are full (quelle surprise!), trying [The Littlebury Hotel](#).

There I am at reception; it's the Saturday before Christmas and even though I have no wife, new born baby, donkey or wise men following me, there's still no room at the inn. Because of the adverse weather the manager offers me (not a barn and hay or manger, but) a pillow, a blanket and his ballroom floor to sleep on over night... no charge. Sounds like a good deal to me.

That night they have a some corporate parties celebrating Christmas, a full bar, all the rooms booked and about 60 other people sleeping on the ballroom floor, reception floor and corridors of the hotel.

The following morning I find in my car a banana that I had bought fresh the day before. It's frozen solid and badly bruised with the frost. So who knows what would have happened to me that night had I slept in the car. I felt so grateful for my good fortune.

The journey home is uneventful and, thankfully, I arrive safely.

So John, if you saw someone stranded what would you do? If you saw a complete stranger or a group of strangers stranded would you let them in your home or on your property? If you would give help how far would you go?

Oh yes, I know many of us say we'd be helpful, but scientific social experiments have been documented where it's obvious that someone on the street needs help, even asks for help, and people just walk on by.

So I wonder, what would you and I really do under those circumstances, as there's always the danger we could be hurt, attacked or even worse.



John's YouTube Channel



You are receiving this communication because I've either worked with you, you've seen one of my presentations or I've met you at some point.

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I know what Mr Mckeon, the owner of the family owned [Littlebury Hotel](#) would do. Not only would I like to thank him for his generosity, but his faith in his fellow man is an inspiration. So much so, as daft as it sounds, I'm now more apt to do random acts of kindness to strangers. To be honest, I am cautious, but certainly more apt to help. I'm sure I'll get my fingers bitten on the odd occasion; even so I've found that I feel happier in myself, and strangers have done the same for me... hmmm. I'm not sure what's going on there, but hey, you might want to give it a go and see what happens.

In fact, this month I dare you to do the same, be open-minded and don't expect anything in return. If you do receive an act of kindness in return, then receive with gratitude and don't feel obliged to pay it back, just pay it forward.

As for the banana, it was cremated three days later and its ashes scattered over a Fyffes delivery van... the driver was livid.

The Sneaky Stunt - Tall glass, tall story

You'll need a tall glass, like a zombie glass or a sherry glass similar to the one in the photo, and you need to bet someone that the distance around the rim of the glass is greater than the height of the glass.

Most people would wager against you, but you'd be the one winning the bet. You can prove that what you say is true by using a bank note or a napkin to measure the circumference of the rim and comparing it with the height.

By the way, the height of the glass in the photo is 14.5 cm and the circumference of the rim is 18.8 cm. Surprising isn't it?



To sweeten the bet and apparently increase the odds against you, if you know the circumference before hand, you can rest the glass on a pile of items such as a mobile phone, wallet and ashtray.

The Challenge - for a bit of fun, I challenge you to drop this useless fact in to your next conversation

The USA prohibition lasted 13 years, 10 months, 19 days, 17 hours, 32 minutes and 31 seconds.

Do you think the person who timed it was desperate for a drink?

Doing More With Less - Obvious and not so obvious ideas to help you in business

The old saying, "say what you mean and mean what you say," makes a lot of sense and yet it's amazing how many of us don't have the courage to do so. If we did we could save ourselves a lot of time and gain more respect. Not only that, but more people would do the same to us.

We all like to know where we stand, so why not lead by example. I know sometimes it can be difficult; we may need great diplomacy skills and we have to consider the consequences, but I suggest you try it for a week and see what happens.

True Wit... and wisdom - I've always admired... wit

"I bought batteries but they weren't included, so I had to buy them again."

Steven Wright

"I asked God for a bike, but know he doesn't work that way. So I stole one and asked for forgiveness."

I Can't Believe They Said That, or.... Doooh!!!

"The most important job is not to be Govenor, or First Lady in my case."

George W Bush

George? Are you trying to tell us something?

"Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."

Brooke Shields

Okay Brooke I'm all ears... so what's the most important part of your life?

... and finally

If you're organising a dinner, conference, road show, away day or any event and you're looking for an [after dinner](#) or [motivational business speaker](#) who is insightful and energising with sack loads of humour, then I can help.

I'm very effective at sales and staff conferences and in particular the after lunch slot when an audience needs energising.

I'm not saying I would be a perfect fit for your event; that, of course, would be for you to decide. What I am saying is that if you do have an event coming up, then when would now be a good time to give me a call on +44 (0) 1274 685 152 or email me at john@hotowka.co.uk and find out how I can help?

Until next time, stun the world... be astonishing.

John Hotowka

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