

## ***Thoughts and Smiles – November 25, 2024***

A strange old lady has taken up residence in my house. I have no idea who she is, where she came from, or how she managed to get in. I certainly didn't invite her. One day she simply wasn't there, and the next day, she was.



She's a sneaky one, too—manages to stay out of sight most of the time. But whenever I pass by a mirror, I catch a glimpse of her. And when I look in the mirror to check my appearance, there she is, hogging the whole thing, completely blocking out my beautiful face and figure. The nerve! I've tried yelling at her, but she just yells back.

She doesn't even help out with the bills. Every once in a while, I'll find a \$5 bill in a coat pocket or a few coins under the sofa cushion, but it's nowhere near enough. And, though I don't want to make assumptions, I'm starting to think she might be

stealing from me. I'll go to the ATM, withdraw \$50, and a few days later, it's gone! I'm not one to spend money that fast, so clearly, she's sneaking into my wallet. You'd think she'd use it to buy some wrinkle cream, but no. And it's not just the money she's taking.

Food has been disappearing at an alarming rate—especially the good stuff like ice cream, chips, and sweets. She must have a sweet tooth, but honestly, she'd better watch it because she's really packing on the pounds. I think she's noticed, too, because she's tampering with my scale to make it seem like I'm gaining weight along with her.

And she's not just a thief—she's childish, too. She sneaks into my closet when I'm not home and shrinks my clothes so they don't fit right. She jumbles up my papers and messes with my files, which is incredibly irritating because I am so neat and organized.

She has other tricks up her sleeve, too. She gets to my mail and newspapers before I do and blurs the print so I can barely read it. She's tampered with the volume controls on my TV, radio, and phone; now, all I hear are muffled voices. She even made my stairs steeper, my vacuum heavier, and the faucet handles tougher to turn. And she raised my bed height so

getting in and out is now a full-body workout.

Recently, she's taken to putting glue on my jar lids, so opening anything is nearly impossible. She's also ruined the fun of shopping for clothes. When I try something on, she hogs the dressing room mirror, looking ridiculous in some outfits, all while keeping me from admiring how great they'd look on me.

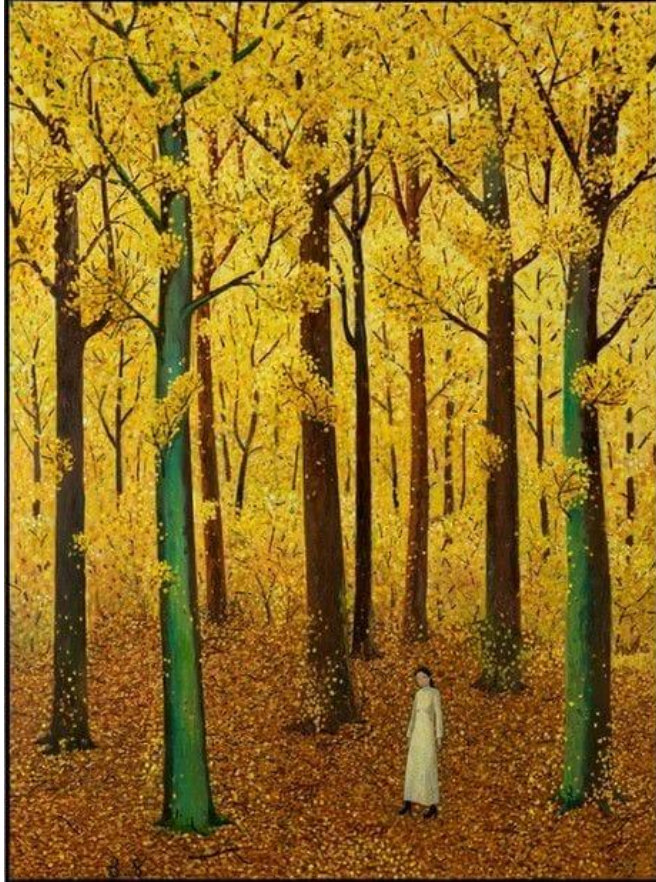
Just when I thought she couldn't get any meaner, she proved me wrong. She tagged along when I went to get my driver's license photo, and just as the camera snapped, she jumped right in front of me.

I just hope she never finds out where you live!

November doesn't have  
afternoons. It's just  
morning until 2, then night.



November whispers truth in falling leaves,  
A month when courage meets possibility.  
This is your time to rise above the quiet,  
To let your authentic self shine through the autumn light.



These amber days are more than just a  
bridge to winter—  
They're your canvas for transformation.  
When doubt creeps in like early dusk,  
Remember: your dreams weren't meant  
to be muted.  
Your hopes weren't meant to be  
shelved.

This is your season of becoming,  
When hesitation turns to action,  
When "someday" transforms into  
"today."  
Let your voice rise above the November  
wind,  
Strong and clear, even if it trembles.

The year may be growing older,  
But your story is still unfolding.  
Each golden hour is an invitation  
To step boldly toward your truth,

To chase what sets your soul alight.

You are not just passing time—  
You are gathering strength,  
Building momentum,  
Creating your tomorrow.  
These precious November days  
Are yours to claim.

As the year's end approaches,  
Plant your feet firmly in your power.  
Let each falling leaf remind you:  
Sometimes we must let go  
To truly soar.



Your time is now.  
Your path is clear.  
Your heart knows the way.  
Make these moments matter,  
For they belong to you.

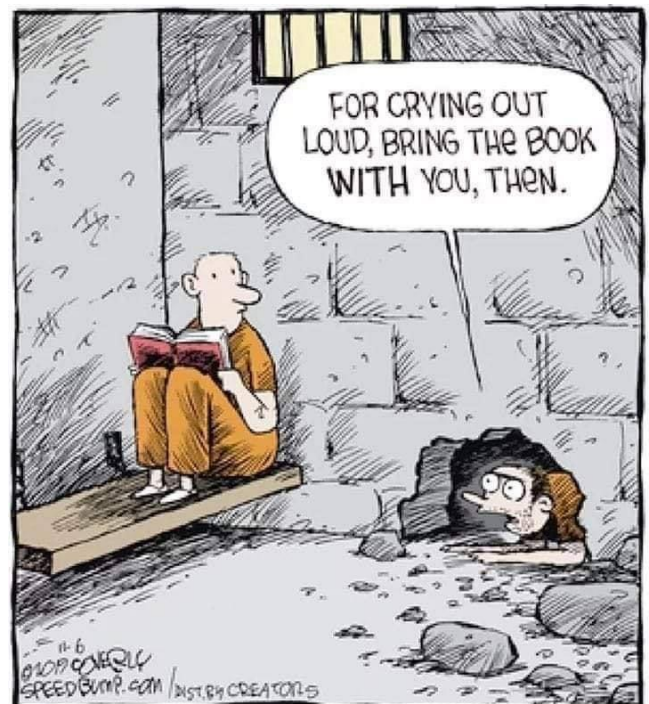
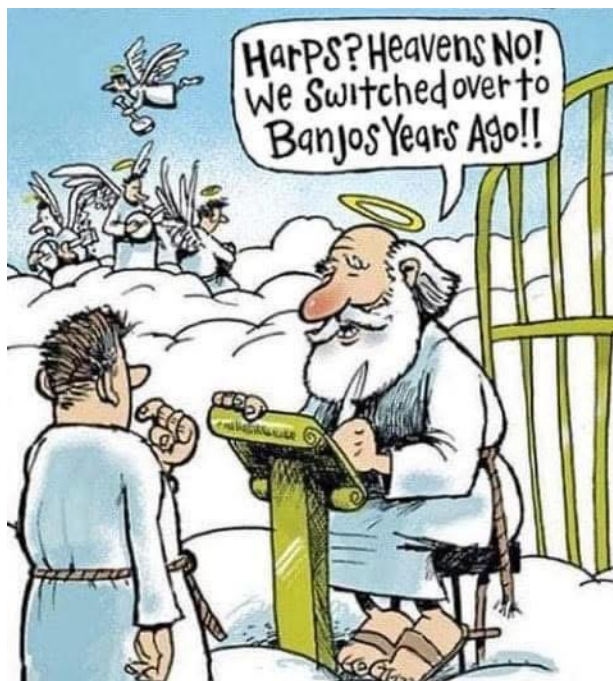
~ 'November's Promise' by Etheric Echoes,  
~ Art 'Autumn Walk' by Ben Sledens

*A lion woke up one morning feeling really rowdy  
and mean. He went out and cornered a small  
monkey and roared,  
"Who is the mightiest of all jungle animals?"  
The trembling monkey says, "You are, mighty lion!  
Later, the lion confronts an ox and fiercely bellows,  
"Who is the mightiest of all jungle animals?"  
The terrified ox stammers, "Oh great lion, you are  
the mightiest animal in the jungle!"  
On a roll now, the lion swaggers up to an elephant  
and roars,  
"Who is the mightiest of all jungle animals?"  
Fast as lightning, the elephant snatches up the lion  
with his trunk and slams him against a tree half a  
dozen times, leaving the lion feeling like it'd been  
run over by a safari wagon. The elephant then  
stomps on the lion until it looks like a corn tortilla  
and ambles away.  
The lion lets out a moan of pain, lifts his head  
weakly and hollers after the elephant –  
"Just because you don't know the answer, you don't  
have to get so huffy about it!"*



## MY XMAS LIST IS SHORT THIS YEAR:

1. \$1,000,000 IN CASH
2. THE SOULS OF ALL WHO HAVE DISPLEASED ME
3. A KITTEN



You have \$400 your daughter text she needs \$200 and your son text he needs \$150 How much you have left??

Me: \$400 & 2 unread messages





*Have a terrific week!*

*Blessings to you all!*

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Check out "David's Blog" on the Sauble Beach United Church website.

<https://saubleunitedchurch.ca/category/davids-blog/>

