

Bourne toWrite...

creative writing
workshops

Stash of Cash

by Sue Hitchcock

I've often fantasised about finding a massive stash of cash. You never know where you might find it. When I was a child we had a gold sovereign. It was dated 1837 with a hole in the top, obviously intended for wearing on a chain. I can't imagine where it came from, as my parents were both from poverty-stricken backgrounds. The only possibility is that my mother was given it by her employer when she left service to get married. The fate of that coin is unknown, because I dropped it inside our piano when I was about seven. It was impossible to retrieve and I suppose my parents thought they would remember when the opportunity arose.

After I had left home to go to university, they moved house but did not take the piano, which was worthless, having become untunable as its wooden frame became worn. Presumably it was smashed with relish by a house clearance man and maybe he found the small gold treasure. Perhaps there is a piano somewhere with a stash of sovereigns inside.

If the stash of cash were mine, what would I do? To buy a beautiful, paradise island is the first thought, but it would be lonely without my friends and even living on "coconuts and fish from the sea" wouldn't be good for long. Of course the weather would have to be perfect – no hurricanes, thank you! So isolation from the world is out.

If I were sensible, maybe I'd calculate how much I could spend each week, but how many weeks?

Maybe there's only this week! Could I spend it in a week? Traditional valuable things like a yacht or a rolls Royce wouldn't do me much good.

OK. So I'm going to share it. Where do I start? If I give it to my daughter, I've dumped my problem on her. Perhaps all my relatives would like a new house – just a bit bigger. We could just buy one big house and line up like hermit crabs and simply move up one size.

Perhaps I should employ people. I could make a film – fantasy film instead of football. Now that sounds like fun. First a story...! Now you're talking! I'll write a script! Should it fit the actors I like, or should I pick them after? Shall we film it on a paradise island? We might destroy it with equipment. Maybe I should film it in a desert and use natives as extras – they need the money. Maybe I should just give the money to the natives. Do they need to work for it?

Well that's it then! Who needs it most?