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## The Truth

by Pauline Walden

Two unrelated incidents occurring within a couple of hours; I couldn't have invented either of them.

The question is, does this confirm the claim that 'the truth always makes a better story'?

The answer is both 'yes' and 'no'. 'Yes, because I couldn't have invented it, therefore there would have been no story - always assuming that the existence of a story is preferable to its non-existence, which is debatable when one considers the times that, either out of courtesy or lack of courage, we squirm our way through yet another recounted tale which is of no interest whatsoever other than to the self-indulgent storyteller - but 'no' because the outcome I could have invented would have been considerably more interesting and infinitely more satisfying, to me, than the factual outcome, which was neither interesting nor satisfying, largely because it drear-ed on and is still drear-ing on because the law does not allow the implementation of my invention and I'm all for expediency when self preservation is involved.

So, does the truth always make a better story? Which is not dissimilar from the claim that fact is stranger than fiction. Like all platitudes both, in my view, should be either taken with a pinch of salt, or simply ignored.

I think I'll go for the latter.