

Bourne
toWrite...
creative writing
workshops

Well-hidden

A timed exercise

by Lou Beckerman

I have a little evil side. I just keep it well-hidden. I'm good at hiding things. I can hide things on any level you care to mention. Where shall we start...perhaps on the inside and work outwards?

So – deep, deep down there sits my little evil mind. It's evil *and* powerful. You've heard of self-fulfilling prophecies? Right. Of course you have. Well I can predict when something bad is going to happen to somebody – and guess what...it does. Sooner or later it just does. Now the thing is – it's not a prediction at all. You see, I have the power to make it happen. I am the cause. I think it, I will it, and then it happens. I've always been able to – even when I was small. It was a game then. Like when old sour-face Mary (employed to look after us) so sadly missed her footing on the stairs – the top stair in fact, and down she went – thump, thump, thump etc. I did that. It was all me. Just me.

Then my brother – that was easy – he choked on a balloon. Red it was. Flaccid. Like him. I was getting into my stride.

What I have perfected is an outward demeanor of caring (like I'd care two hoots...). I can mist over my eyes in empathy. I can put my head on one side as if I'm listening intently to some unfortunate while all the time I'm plotting their mishaps. I can smile compassionately but it's a knowing smile – and only I know why. I can fake being in love – though can only guess what that might feel like. It's my entertainment and has been immensely satisfying over the years.

I don't know why I'm telling you all now. Showing off I suppose. Oh yes, I know you'll tell everybody as soon as my back is turned. But so be it - now you know. You'll also realise by now that I'm planning a little something for each of you. It might not be immediate...but oh what delicious fun I'll have. Just you wait and see my dears...