
SOMETHING LIKE MAGIC

ON REMEMBERING
HOW TO BE ALIVE



StoryPeople
Decorah

ISBN 978-1-937137-02-1
LCCN 2014914313
Copyright ©2014 by Brian Andreas

The people in this book, if at one time real, are now entirely fictitious, having been subjected to a combination of a selective memory and a fertile imagination. Any resemblance to real people or situations is entirely coincidental, but if you want to believe you know these people, go right ahead. We're not going to stop you.

Other than that, all rights are reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Publisher.

Or you can ask Brian directly, if you happen to run into him in an airport or a restaurant somewhere. If he says it's OK, then it's fine with us, too. We'll do the paperwork afterwards.

StoryPeople
P.O. Box 7
Decorah, IA 52101
USA

563.382.8060
866.564.4552 toll-free

storypeople@storypeople.com
www.storypeople.com

First Edition: October, 2014

To you, my readers, who have followed the stories over the years. From countless conversations with you, I think it's clear by now: these were never my stories alone. You remind me daily with your own stories of love & gratitude & heartache & loss that I have the great privilege of telling all of our stories. I thank you for the gift of that.

& to my beloved sons, Gabriel Quinn & Matthew Shea. I've watched you, from the very beginning, become who you are & I can tell you this, not only as someone who loves you, but as a fellow traveler: this world is better for you both being in it.

& to my beloved Marian. For all the fierce & gentle ways you're willing to let Love love you & lead us into places neither of us ever imagined & for that moment I will never forget, when you first put your hand on my chest & it felt like home.

Other books by Brian Andreas available
from StoryPeople Press:

Mostly True

Still Mostly True

Going Somewhere Soon

Strange Dreams

Hearing Voices

Story People

Trusting Soul

Traveling Light

Some Kind of Ride

Peculiar Times (e-book)

Theories of Everything

**SOMETHING LIKE
MAGIC**

ON REMEMBERING
HOW TO BE ALIVE

Love & Secrets

Not too long ago, I was at a sprawling party with a lot of people I didn't know. Halfway through the night, I found myself a quiet place on a bench in the garden. I'd only been there for a couple of minutes when a woman came down the path & sat at the far end of the bench. We nodded at each other. Neither of us spoke. We sat in the dusk together & listened to the cricket songs & thought our own private thoughts. After awhile, she stood up. Sometimes, she said, you just need to remember the most important thing. Then she smiled & made her way back to the party.

Long after she left, her words floated quietly in the dark. It felt like she had given me something precious in those words: you just need to remember the most important thing.

She didn't say find the most important thing. Or make a list with the most important thing at the top. Or ask someone else what they think is the most important thing. No, it was much, much simpler than that. It was remember the most important thing.

Because we already know what the most important thing is. Our work here is to remember..

When I finally showed this to a few friends, I prefaced it by saying that this was a book filled with love & secrets. Of course it's about love, they said, that's what you do. But what about the secrets? How will we know where the secrets are?

Oh, you'll know, I said. They all start with the word 'secret'.

Which is very funny. Because that's not how most secrets work. Most secrets are secret because not everybody knows them. These secrets are different, though. These are secret because a lot of us know them & along the way, a lot of us forgot.

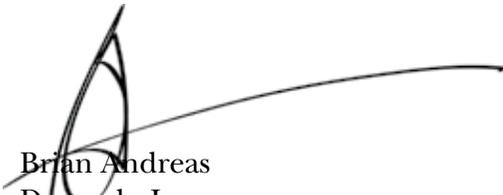
That's exactly why I call them secrets. Each one is something like magic, because all it takes is a moment of remembering them & suddenly the whole world sparkles again. The funny thing is it never stopped sparkling. We just stopped seeing it, because it was too simple & we were convinced it must be something different. We let ourselves be convinced the most important thing was something different than the love & magic that's been here all along.

I sat in the garden that night & I thought about the most important thing for me. That we love & are loved. All the time, in every moment, no matter how it looks to other eyes that don't remember quite yet. That's why I think remembering is one of the most important things we can do right now. It's how we stop & see the world again for the very first time. In all of its aching beauty & joy & pain. The immensity of all of it. It's how we open to being loved wildly & deliciously until we are filled beyond anything we ever thought we could hold.

I hope the stories here are a reminder to you. A reminder to stop & see the world again for the very first time. When you do & one day not long after, your most important thing ripples through you like an immense wave of light, I hope you'll see why I say it's something like magic. Because you'll see it's been there all along in the heart of you, waiting for you to remember you're alive now & everything you are is Love.

But, like I said, you already know that...

with all my love,



Brian Andreas
Decorah, Iowa
24 August 2014

START HERE

I see you doubt the parts of you
that love the world so much
you wonder if you'll ever
be able to show it

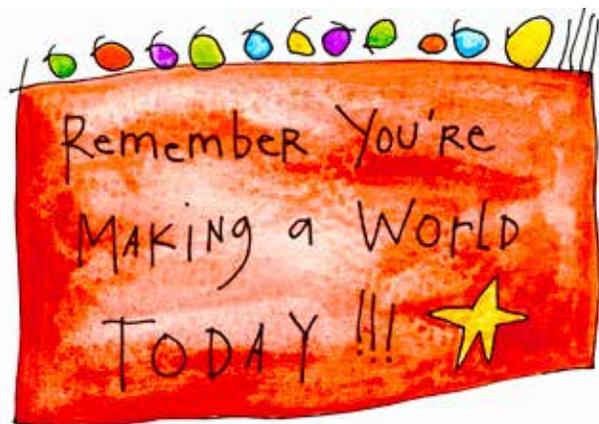
I want to take your face in
my hands & say, You who love
the world so much?

That's what you are here to do.



SECRET # 1:

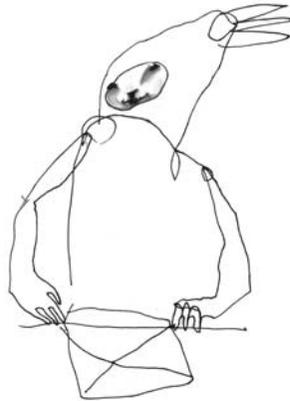
Every single
moment say Yes
to Life (& don't
be afraid to say No
IN ORDER to do that.)



UNICORN LIFE

Today, after some reflection,
I decided I'm never going to
pretend I know anything
about Life ever again, other
than there's a word for it.

Like there's a word for unicorn,
though no one has ever seen one,
except from far away & maybe
it was just a trick of the light.



THE POINT

This is a pretty small space
to fit all the stuff I've been
thinking lately, but it's also
a pretty good reminder to
get to the point.