

Two things you need to know

By George Cunningham

There are two things you need to know, my 91-year-old father-in-law tells his grandchildren. “Stupidity prevails, and I’ll love you forever.”

As I understand it, that’s a little different message than he told his own sons and daughters. None of them recall that there were two things they needed to know and one of them was that he would love them forever. For them it was only one thing they needed to know and that was that stupidity prevails.

Back in my father-in-law’s day, men didn’t go around saying, I love you, I love you, I love you all the time. They expressed their love by going to work every day, bringing home the bacon, and not ditching out when the going got rough.

But my father-in-law is getting mellow in his old age and that is how it should be. So the grandchildren get two great truths they need to keep in mind. One of them a little cynical, the other one a lot sweet.

The cynical part is easy to understand. My father-in-law served as a sheriff’s deputy for many years until he retired in 1981. He was almost killed during the Watts riots in 1965, when he bent down in the patrol car to pick up something he had dropped and a bullet came through the windshield right where he had been sitting.

During his service, both as a lawman and as a Navy seaman during World War II, he spent a lot of his life seeing people at their worst and their most stupid.

Still, if I had two special pieces of wisdom to impart to a new generation, I’m not sure I would pick the same two truths. But I’m also not sure that whatever I chose would be as good as or better than what he did.

Stupidity does prevail. It exists all around us like a thick fog that limits humans’ ability to think. We see it on television. We see it on the internet. We see it on the highway and in shopping centers. It’s impossible to walk down the street without seeing stupid people doing stupid things.

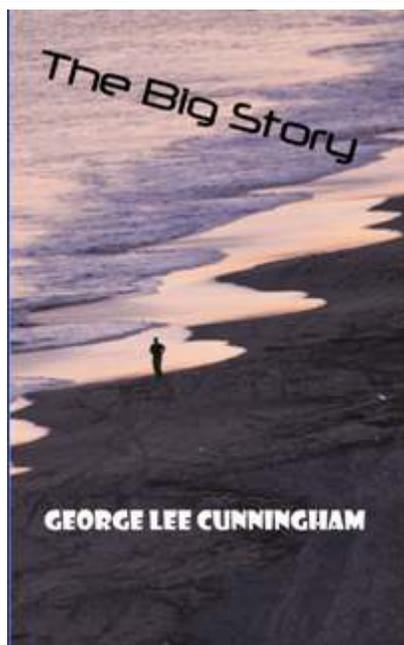
And sometimes, when we look in the mirror or we lie in bed late at night unable to sleep, we realize that not all the stupidity exists apart from ourselves. It’s important to recognize stupidity for what it is so we can correct it – if not in others, at least in ourselves.

And what better thing can a grandfather tell his grandchildren than that he will love them forever.

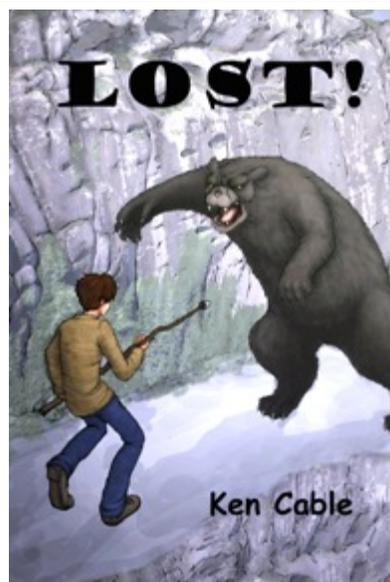
No matter how much stupidity there is in the world, no matter how crazy things get, no matter how cruel people may act, there is also and always will be love. The love between a husband and wife, a brother and sister, a mother and child, and a grandfather and his grandchildren.

It will take more than a mountain of stupidity to overcome that.

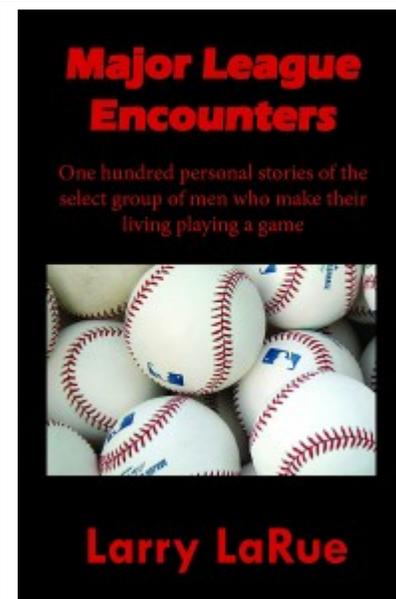
You can contact George Cunningham at george@readerpublishing.com be his friend on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/george.cunningham.94695> and be his tweetheart at <http://twitter.com/#!/GeoCunham> His novel, *The Big Story*, can be ordered at www.readerpublishing.com. His new novel, *Kaboom*, will be available early next year.



A hard drinking reporter has to decide whether to keep chasing his big story or to make his bosses happy, rekindle the flame with his ex-wife, and be a responsible adult. Guess what he chooses. Mobsters, corrupt police, sissy editors, and the body of a nude girl on the beach. What more could you ask for?



Three boys – trapped in an early summer snow storm – struggle to survive in California's Sierra Nevada mountains. This story by author Ken Cable marks a return to the traditional youth story – with the focus on adventure rather than social or political issue. The book – set in 1970 – follows the boys as they learn to deal with cold, hunger and a rogue bear in order to stay alive.



Author Larry LaRue gives an inside look at the world of Major League Baseball as he relates 100 personal encounters with the men who make their living playing a game. LaRue, who spent more than 30 years writing about a sport that he loves, tells tales that are sometimes inspiring, sometimes heartbreaking, and often very funny. This book is both easy to read and hard to put down.