

All Good/Bad Things Must Come to an End  
by Marilyn Reeves

Imagine that you are a mild-mannered high school chemistry teacher whose genius IQ is being under-utilized in your current situation. You have a smart and beautiful wife named Skylar who is pregnant with a mid-life child and a bright teenage son who is mildly afflicted with cerebral palsy. Your close-knit family includes Skylar's sister Marie and her husband Hank, who works as an agent for the DEA.

Imagine that on your 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, despite the fact that you have never smoked, you are diagnosed with lung cancer, and your utmost concern is that – after all the requisite chemo treatments and likely funeral expenses – you will leave your family destitute. So you lie awake nights trying to come up with some sort of plan that will enable you to make the most money in the least amount of time.

Your musings lead you to call upon a former student by the name of Jesse Pinkman. Jesse is a nice young man, not particularly intellectual, but seems to have a degree of “street smarts.” And like his friends, Jesse has been known not only to partake upon occasion, but to do a little selling on the side.

You and the young Mr. Pinkman come to a sort of arrangement. Being a quick study, you will share your learning – and your earnings – with Jesse, who will provide you with the necessary contacts.

Things start out a bit rough. You and Jesse have your disagreements, and you are having to drive an old modified camper out into the Albuquerque desert in order to prepare your wares. You begin having to tell little white lies to your wife regarding your whereabouts, and as time goes by, you find yourself telling more

and more lies, until eventually your entire life becomes one big lie.

Add to this the stress of having to dodge bullets aimed in your direction by other dealers who are not happy to welcome you to the drug scene, because your new product – known as Crystal Blue – is selling like hotcakes. It is the finest, purest, product to be found anywhere in the country.

And imagine that all this time you are trying to hide your business dealings not only from your wife and son, but from your brother-in-law, the agent for the DEA.

Such is the life of Walter White, known in the underworld as Heisenberg, who eventually finds himself becoming the biggest, baddest drug manufacturer in the entire Southwest. And his story comprises the television phenomenon called *Breaking Bad*.

A mixture of action, suspense, dark comedy, and intense drama, in my opinion *Breaking Bad* is the best written, best directed and best acted series ever produced. Period. It is superbly cast with each actor playing off the other, and love and hate playing tug-o-war in each relationship. The characters impact you, the viewer, each in their own way. They become your “adopted” family.

Over a period of six years, the series has won numerous awards, including a total of 29 Emmy's to date, with three for Bryan Cranston's portrayal of Walter White, and two for Aaron Paul, who plays Jesse.

*Breaking Bad* is my hands-down, all-time favorite. I am now in mourning, because, as of this writing, there are only two episodes remaining in the series, and I feel sure its equal will never come again.