

Of All the Things I've Ever Lost ...

by Marilyn Reeves

"OF ALL THE THINGS I'VE EVER LOST I MISS MY MIND THE MOST". I saw that phrase on a bumper sticker one time and had to laugh. That says it all!

Actually, I do pretty well for a senile old bat. Sometimes I just need a little help. My sister Rosie understands me, so when I bring up the same old tired stories for the umpteenth time she sits there, glassy-eyed, and helps fill in the blanks whenever I falter.

There are some good things about having Halfzheimers. I can watch the same movie I watched a month ago and still be surprised by the ending. A book that I've read three or four times in the past is still brand new when I open it again. People can tell me jokes over and over, because I always forget the punch line. Sometimes I forget it's my turn to pay when I go out to eat with my son. The reward? A free lunch.

Did you happen to see that great movie the other night? It was on Friday or Saturday, I forget which channel. But it was one of the best war movies I've ever seen, and I usually don't like war movies. It starred Robert Mitchum. No, that's not right... Robert Mitchum was in that other war movie with Deborah Kerr. Or was that Burt Lancaster? Well, Robert Mitchum was also in a movie with Deborah Kerr, but that wasn't the one. But the one the other night had Robert Somebody-or-Other... or was it William Dafoe? No, it's not William, it's Willem, and he's not the one. He was in that other movie.

Anyway, they were prisoners of war and were ordered to build a bridge for the Japanese, but the old guy, Hans Solo (was that his name?) protested and they locked him in the hot box. Now you know in real life he wouldn't have survived, but he did, and when he got out he ordered his men to build the finest bridge anyone ever could build, and show those Japanese a thing or two about British know-how. And after they were all done, Obi-Wan-Kenobi was very proud, but William Hurt was ordered to blow up the bridge, and that old guy – was it Alexander Pope? – nearly stopped him, and oh my! I won't reveal the ending but everybody died.

What was that guy's name anyway? I know. I'll use the Internet. I know he was in a movie with Kim Novak. Don't remember the name, so I'll look up Kim Novak. Let's see. Gosh, she was in a lot of movies. Oh, there it is – "Picnic", starring Kim Novak and William Holden. *William Holden!* OK, so now all I have to do is look up William Holden, and there it is: "The Bridge on the River Kwai" starring William Holden and Alec Guinness. Piece of cake! Sometimes I just need a little help.