

Honesty Is the Best Policy

By Marilyn Reeves

I cannot tell a lie. Which is not to say I haven't tried – I was just never able to get away with it.

When I was a kid I tried telling a few fibs, but they always backfired on me. Perhaps it was because my cheeks turned bright red, my hands got all sweaty, and I wasn't able to look them in the eye, but somehow my parents always knew. I also found it difficult to stick with whatever lie I was trying to live by. I would have to make up more lies to cover up the other lies, and then I'd forget whatever lie it was I had told in the first place! So, it was only a matter of time before I would tearfully confess that I had just made up a story, but such a relief to get it off my chest.

I have to admit that I do occasionally make up bits of blarney if I'm just having fun with someone. At times, I get carried away, telling a tale so tall that they finally catch on that I'm simply leading them down the proverbial primrose path. If nothing else gives me away, they can read it in the twinkle of my eye.

And I do enjoy writing works of fiction. I love to indulge in a world of fantasy. But anyone who might read what I have written knows it's a made-up story. If they are willing to follow along, my words may take them on a journey to places that have never been, meet characters straight out of my imagination, perhaps even feel their emotions, which mimic the ones we sometimes experience in real life. But if they know in advance that they're reading a work of fiction, then there's no harm done. It's not the same as telling a lie.

I'm always deeply hurt and offended if I find out someone I trust has been lying to me. Something sacred has been shattered and I may never be able to trust that person again. It baffles me how so many people can be taken in by someone who is a habitual liar. How can they possibly have faith in someone like him?

People who tell lies often assume everyone else is a liar, too. If that were the case than no one would be able to trust anyone, and nothing constructive would ever get done. If you say what you mean and mean what you say, then others will have faith in you. Honesty is still the best policy. It may seem strange, but it's true.