

**ONE  
KNIGHT  
STAND  
ON  
MOUNT OLYMPUS**

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JOHN M. BARTOSH

**ONE KNIGHT STAND ON MOUNT OLYMPUS**

*The Wacky Adventures of Sir Wantsalittle Morefromlife*

Rated PG-13 (some strong language/some sexual inferences)

Print-on-demand Publishing Services by Lulu.com

Cover/Back-cover Design by John M. Bartosh

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## ONE KNIGHT STAND ON MOUNT OLYMPUS

**T**O DANIELLE, a former co-worker from Evergreen, Colorado. Danielle, who read an earlier draft of this book, inspired me to rewrite portions of the book, edit it, and do everything within my ability to get this encouraging, publicly beneficial book published.

## About the Author

**A** NATIVE OF COLORADO who now resides in Evergreen, John M. Bartosh graduated from Golden High School in Golden, Colorado in 1965. Then he attended Mesa Junior



College in Grand Junction and received an Associates Degree before he transferred to Colorado State University in Fort Collins. John later completed his schooling at Metro State College in Denver, where he received a B.A. Degree in Psychology in 1971. With respect to other than his formal education, John said,

“More important, as so many people who have made their fair share of mistakes in life, I also graduated with honors from the ‘school of hard knocks.’”

John’s business background includes twenty-eight years of retail furniture sales and management. Along the way, he worked as a store manager and management-training manager for Furniture Row Companies, one of America’s largest privately owned furniture companies. John has authored and successfully marketed two self-published books on the subject of business leadership: *The Heart of Management* and *Practicing Dynamic Leadership in the Workplace*.

At the ripe age of sixty-two, John has learned that the most effective way to teach various aspects of self-improvement is to employ subtle, self-instructing, motivational techniques. The author said, “The elements of tact and humor in conjunction with the practice of basic or reverse psychology are also important. I tried to combine all of these factors in writing this book.”

As to what motivated John to write and complete *One Knight Stand on Mount Olympus*, he said, “I began writing the book just

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over eleven years ago, right after the tragedy at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado on April 20, 1999. Largely because I grew up just a few miles from Littleton, the appalling event really hit home with me. I became insistent from that day forward to do everything within my God-given talent and ability to do my part to insure that any such future senseless catastrophe, anywhere else and at any time, could be avoided. The deplorable and ill-fated incident at Columbine High School was in the forefront of my mind as I deliberately wrote each subsequent word of this socially important self-help book.”

The author added, “Few people in the world truly make an effort, almost daily, to help others. Oprah Winfrey and ‘Dr. Phil’ McGraw are two such people. Much of what I wrote in this book was inspired by the continuous psychological and motivational efforts of people like Oprah Winfrey and Dr. Phil McGraw. I sincerely thank all of those individuals who have been a positive influence in my life; particularly, I want to thank Oprah and Dr. Phil!”

Finally, John said, “I wasn’t born with a natural gift to write, particularly fiction. When I first started to put my pen to paper in writing this book, *eye strugguld wit bowth tha basik elements an tha fein pointz a wel grammir*. Or perhaps that should be: *I struggled with both the basic elements and the fine points of good grammar*. Anyway, I was saved, for the most part, when I purchased a handy little book titled *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Grammar and Style*, written by Laurie E. Rozakis, Ph.D.

“For some unknown *idiotic* reason, and as compared with *The Chicago Manual of Style* or Kate Terabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, I easily understood Rozakis’s rights and wrongs of sentence structure, word usage, spelling, punctuation, etc. For that valuable reference book, whether it was written for literary scholars or for ‘idiots,’ I am eternally grateful. Now, I hope that you will enjoy reading and learning from *One Knight Stand on Mount Olympus* as much as I enjoyed and learned from writing and editing it.”

## Foreword

**D**oes anybody in his or her right mind really believe that any just-published book could be *worth* a million dollars? Try to look at it this way: Any one of a multitude of material things—a precious gemstone, a valued work of art, a tract of undeveloped real estate, a luxurious home, a fancy yacht, etc.—is commonly purchased at a price of a million dollars or more.

Even a few, rare, historical books have sold in auctions for millions of dollars. For example, Leonardo da Vinci's *Codex Leicester*, a notebook filled with original drawings and notes and sketches, was purchased at auction in 1994 by Microsoft founder Bill Gates for an incredible \$30.8 million dollars. And James Audobon's *Birds of America* was auctioned in 2000 for \$8.8 million, the most expensive price ever paid to date for a printed book.

An unparalleled and superior *new* book might also be so treasured and be valued at a million dollars or more, especially if that extraordinary book would be of personal benefit, to some greater extent, to each and every human being on the face of the planet. With 50 character-enriching, life-improving lessons in living, *One Knight Stand on Mount Olympus*—the most comprehensive, most educational, and most inspirational self-improvement literature written to date—could (and should) be considered such a book.

Many years ago, Barney Visser, founder and CEO of Denver-based Furniture Row Companies, once told me, “John, I don’t completely understand what makes you tick, but you are the best leader of people that I have ever known.” Well, I've otherwise seldom been complemented for being in my “right mind,” so why should anybody be surprised that I am now inferring that my

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recently revised, self-published, self-help book could or should be worth a million dollars?

Most of those who really know me would tell anybody who doesn't know me either one or both of these things: First, "There's generally a method to John's madness." Second, "Those who believe that the older-looking, bearded spokesperson for the popular Dos Equis beer commercials is 'the most interesting man in the world' haven't as yet met John Bartosh." By the way, I don't always drink beer. But when I do, I prefer an ice-cold mug of *Bud!*

On the bottom line, *One Knight Stand on Mount Olympus* will likely never be read by other than a handful of my relatives and friends unless I get very creative and do something out of the ordinary to bring *public awareness* to this truly outstanding self-improvement book. Generally speaking, unless an aspiring author already has a "household" name—a popular actor, a professional sports star, a politician, a talk-show host, a media personality, etc.—he or she will likely, as in my case, have to resort to self-publishing to kick-start his or her writing career.

I won't bore you with the details of my marketing plan for *One Knight Stand on Mount Olympus*. Suffice it to say that if a major publishing house finally discovers this book and it becomes a runaway best-seller, then it will come to bear that there actually *was* a thread of genius intertwined with my upcoming book-promotion madness.

Tragic events such as those that took place in New York City, in Washington D.C., and in Pennsylvania on Tuesday, September 11, 2001 could happen anywhere, at any time. Ditto for tragic events such as the one that occurred at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado on April 20, 1999, whereby two high school boys shot and killed twelve innocent students and one teacher/coach. Other appalling events, such as sexual assaults and/or murders of adults or sexual assaults and/or murders of children at the hands of pedophiles or other criminals, can also happen at any place and time.

To a greater extent, people commit horrific crimes either because *they don't like themselves* or because *they don't feel good about themselves* to varying degrees. When people sink into deeper depths of personal despair or when they experience total losses of

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personal hope, increased self-hatred and hatred of others can build up to unbearable levels of frustration, severe depression, or personal anger. Highly negative thoughts and pent-up emotions can trigger actions of aggression, hostility, rage, road-rage, suicide, or other socially unacceptable patterns of behavior. In extreme cases, people can “snap,” mentally, and commit almost unthinkable, deplorable acts of violence. And people who are driven by radical religious beliefs or individuals who are mentally ill may also commit horrendous crimes.

As long as human beings may harbor self-hatred or feelings of revenge in their hearts, civilized people will be at risk. Violence in schools or elsewhere has no single solution. It simply isn't realistic to think that all or even most of the weapons in the world could be eliminated. *Only with more effective character education, through time, will it be possible to measurably reduce incidents of crime and violence in America and elsewhere.* More people should put their best efforts toward trying to take *all* weapons out of people's hearts!

*One Knight Stand on Mount Olympus* won't be a cure-all for all of the ills that are affecting society today. And it won't stop all of the incidents of innocent people being killed at the hands of murderers or all of the incidents of kids killing kids in schools, etc. Nor will this book be a cure-all for all of the incidents of alcohol/drug-related fatal automobile accidents, all of the incidents of innocent people being critically injured or losing their lives in automobile accidents attributed to careless/reckless driving, or the multitude of circumstances of other abhorrent criminal behavior.

However, the thoroughly entertaining, thought-provoking, episodic narrative will boost attentive readers' self-confidence and self-esteem. Consequently, those individuals will *feel better* about themselves. And almost anyone who truly feels good about himself or herself simply does *not* have the personal desire or the personal incentive to smoke, drink excessively, use illegal drugs, or engage in any form of criminal activity. If this literature helps to improve the character and the lifestyle of just *one* serious reader, the entire literary project will have served its primary purpose.

Imagine for a moment the following scenario: Authors, comedy writers, educators, and leading politicians (representing all political parties) would be locked up in a room and asked to write *one* book—a light-hearted, more appealing, self-help book that would

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address the issues of character, morality, ethics, and interpersonal communications. We would also ask that such a book should be strictly *nonpolitical* and *nondenominational*. The proposed book would neither promote any political viewpoint nor would it promote any particular religion or religious philosophy. Possibly, the world's leaders would combine their best efforts to write a book very much like the one that you are about to read.

*One Knight Stand on Mount Olympus* contains an underlying, nondenominational, spiritual theme. But the book is *not* really about religion. Various religious founders are occasionally quoted, but their words of wisdom serve only to support many of the fifty nonfiction food-for-thought messages set forth in this otherwise fictional fable.

The book is about *you!* It is about character education and self-improvement for all teenagers and adults, including publicly known athletes, pop stars, models, entertainers, politicians, etc. The book is also about using good common sense and acquiring sound psychological principles for better living. In addition, the book is about reducing the incidents of crime and violence, worldwide. *One Knight Stand on Mount Olympus* represents my best individual effort to take *all* weapons out of people's *hearts* and help readers to become the *very best* that they can be!

They say that almost everybody has a good personal story to tell. If this were a contest for the world's all-time best "knight-time" tale or for the world's all-time best self-improvement/inspirational-fiction work, *One Knight Stand on Mount Olympus* would be my entry. The book may or may not win any awards for scholarly writing, but it should win a Pulitzer Prize in fiction for *literary value* with respect to its socially significant content.

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## Prologue

*Barnes & Noble Booksellers;  
Caresville, California; November 15, 2011*

**S**OME 200 PEOPLE WERE ON HAND for my scheduled book-reading and book-signing engagement at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Caresville, California. Almost every seat in the bookstore's spacious public-events room was occupied.

Richard Johnson, the bookstore manager, who had been sitting beside me before the proceedings began, stood up and announced, "Good morning, everyone! Today, it is my pleasure to introduce all of you to a very special guest. As many of you already know, this young man is from Camelot. He has recently been visiting a number of bookstores all across our country and throughout the world. His autobiography, *The Wacky Adventures of Sir Wantsalittle Morefromlife*, has been at the top of the *New York Times* Best Seller list for the past fourteen weeks. We are both privileged and honored that he has accepted our invitation to come here and speak to us in person. Ladies and gentlemen, let's show our utmost appreciation and extend our warmest welcome to *Sir Wantsalittle Morefromlife!*"

As I walked up to the podium, I received a thunderous, standing ovation. I tried to relax and better prepare myself to address the highly receptive audience. Except for my helmet, which I had placed under the chair when I first sat down, I was dressed in my full suit of armor.

After the applause died down, I said, "Thank you! And I'd like to thank Mr. Johnson, the store manager, for inviting me here today. Indeed, I am from the Land of Camelot. I'm one of the surviving members of King Arthur's exalted 'Knights of the Round Table.'

"Many of you may be asking how Sir Wantsalittle Morefromlife or any other medieval knight could still be living.

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Obviously, I'm not 1,400 years old. But the answer is simple: I accidentally discovered a time machine, which has made it possible for me to travel, among other times and places, to twenty-first century America.

"Lately, I've had to remind myself, at times, that I *really am* from Camelot. However, it's been easy for me to adapt to your time and culture. I'm already spoiled by numerous modern-day conveniences.

"Take the Post Office, for example. Just last night, I started to write a letter to a friend of mine in Camelot. After scribbling a few lines, I paused and asked myself, 'How am I going to get a letter delivered to someone who lives approximately *fourteen centuries* from here?' And when I stopped to think about it, I knew that I would have a problem with *postage*. After all, how much would it cost for a *stamp* to send a letter as far as 1,400 years into time? Needless to say, I gave up on the idea of writing a letter to my friend.

"In case you haven't heard about me up to now, I'm not too surprised. Sir Thomas Malory didn't bother to write about me in his *Le Morte d'Arthur*, the most popular account of the Arthurian legend.

"I can't blame Malory for not making mention of me in his historical epoch. During Arthur's reign as King of England, I wanted to stake my claim to fame. But I never really did anything that gave me any public notoriety. More prominent and romantic figures such as King Arthur, Queen Guinevere, and Sir Lancelot captured the lion's share of Malory's attention. Those three characters hogged most of the glory from the Golden-Age-of-Chivalry era in England.

"Shortly after the quirky and peculiar 'life and times' of King Arthur, I found my way under the spotlight. But when the bright beam finally shined on me, the illumination put me in the limelight among onlookers who lived in the future—people from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. I didn't think that any of my friends or knightly colleagues in England would really understand the time-travel-remote device that I found or the freakish chain of events that swept me off my feet and altered the course in my life. So I haven't told anyone who lives back in the Land of Camelot

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about my mostly amusing or whimsical episodes, except for Spirit, my loyal talking horse.

“Now that my autobiography has been published and has been so readily received, I am anxious to talk about my generally wacky but personally enlightening adventures with people everywhere. Perhaps millions of teenagers and young adults will be entertained and individually benefit, in one way or another, from my recent travels and personal experiences. In any case, I’d like to share my extraordinary and hopefully inspirational story with you . . .”