

SANIBEL SHELL SHOCKED

The Most Boring Man in the World

By Art Stevens

You may have seen the TV commercials featuring the world's most interesting man. He's suave, sophisticated and very experienced.

I'd now like to tell you about the world's most boring man. He is so boring that the CIA uses him instead of water boarding to extract vital information from suspected terrorists. Suspects beg for mercy and spill their guts.

He is used by physicians to cure patients of insomnia. Airlines ban him from their flights because no one will sit near him after the first five minutes.

He has earned his laurels as the world's most boring man.. Being totally boring is a personality flaw that few of us have. At the very least, many of us are boring some of the time but not all the time. The world's most boring man is boring all the time.

You may ask just who made the determination that this thriving dullard stands head and shoulders above all other boring people you've ever met? Listen to him speak and then tell me if his scintillating repartee doesn't qualify him. Your eye lids may begin to droop after his very first sentence.

His name is Marvin and ever since he was a child people avoided him like the plague. When he entered a room people would run the other way. And if he got closer, some people would actually jump out the window.

But if Marvin succeeded in trapping you in a room that had no escape he would live up to his reputation as the world's most boring person. He would torture you with tedia and regale you with conversation so trivial and banal that you would begin screaming.

Marvin would find subjects to talk about and opinions to

share that were so below the radar of reasonable interest that you'd force yourself to go deaf, which, as we all know, is injurious to your health. How could anyone be this boring you think as you find yourself tuning out and falling into a catatonic state?

To better understand the effect Marvin has on people we need to define boring. To be boring is to be so lacking in interest as to cause mental weariness and fatal ennui. To be boring is to be deadening, irksome, tedious, and tiresome.

In its more extreme state to be boring is to cause people with you to break out in hives, excuse themselves continuously to go to the bathroom, drink more booze than they usually would and glare at their watches frequently. In truly advanced cases of boredom, the body spirals even further out of control by assuming a fetal position and remaining that way until the boredom virus clears the air.

A boring person is someone who thinks he's interesting and captivating. To be a boree – someone who inadvertently finds himself in the presence of a boring person –there is nothing more painful than to be –well, just plain bored out of your mind.

Boree: Hello, Marvin. You sure snuck up on me. I didn't see you coming. What brings you to this tattoo parlor?

Marvin: I thought I recognized you from across the street. I could swear you saw me and then ducked into this tattoo parlor.

Boree: Oh, no, Marvin. I'm here to explore if body tattoos have a place in my life.

Marvin: I haven't seen you in a while so I thought I'd come over and say hello. I've had quite a day. I tried out a new brand of toothpaste this morning and it was very refreshing. And that new underarm deodorant worked wonders. Usually, when I'm in an elevator people seem to sniff the air a lot. But not this morning.

B: That's fascinating, Marvin. But I really have to go now. I need to crush out a cigarette even though I haven't smoked in twenty years.

M: And let me tell you about the great lunch I had. I had tuna on rye with just a touch of mayonnaise. I washed it down with a diet cola because I had iced tea yesterday. I don't like to have iced tea two days in a row.

B: That's really very interesting, Marvin. But I'm in an awful hurry. I'm just window shopping in this tattoo parlor. But I'm late for an appointment to have my hair dyed green. I also feel an earthquake coming and I think I need to be away from here.

M: Before you go, let me tell you what I've been up to. I was home yesterday ironing my new khakis and the iron I used really brings out the sharpest crease. I really recommend this iron. I can write down the name if you like. In fact, if you drop over I can show you the khakis. I'm very proud of the crease. The last time I felt this kind of pride was when I scrambled three eggs and got the texture just right.

B: (Yawning) That's very interesting, Marvin, but I really can't drop by. I have an appointment with a mind boggler.

M: You know, last night I had a thought about the world. I thought that it would have been nice to invent cotton because cotton is used in everything we wear. But I personally prefer denim to cotton because it's easier to wash. I usually wash all my clothes with detergents instead of soap. They come out really soft that way.

B: (Beginning to pull hair out) Marvin, it was really good seeing you. But as you can see my nose is running and if I don't leave very soon I'll make a mess of things.

M: Did I ever tell you about the time I had a dog when I was a boy? Other kids had dogs too, but my dog was really special. He was so kind to me. He sat at my feet all the time.

B: (Feeling the urge to scream) Marvin, didn't you just feel some tremors? I think we're having an earthquake. Or are those tremors coming from me?

M: The other day I thought about how things could change if they could be changed. It's so hard to change things but sometimes things can be changed. What are those pills you're taking?

B: They're arsenic pills, Marvin. They help shut my mind down during crises and emergencies. I think I'm in that mode right now. No offense, of course, but my head feels like an arrow has been shot through it.

M: I remember reading a book once about bows and arrows. I don't read books very often because I want to protect my eyesight. Eyes are very important in getting around and doing things. Ears come a close second but they don't do what eyes can do.

B: (Screaming) Marvin, I need to tell you this once and for all. I've known you for a long time and always duck when I see you coming. You know why? Because you're the most boring person I've ever met. Whenever I have a conversation with you I need to take a variety of medications. You make me want to jump out windows and that's not good for my health.

M: Oh, I'm sorry you're not feeling well. You should have some chicken soup. My grandmother used to make chicken soup. She would buy chickens at the neighborhood butcher shop. She was very proud of her ability to pick just the right chickens.

B: (Body erupting in hives) Marvin, please don't do this to me. The last time I ran into you I spent two hours pounding my head against the wall and I had to be restrained by the emergency medical service. Aren't you aware of the effect you have on people?

M: Oh, I love people. But for some reason people seem to get nervous when I'm around. I wish I knew why. I seem to always catch people when they're late for an appointment because they're always looking at their watches. People always seem to fidget when I'm around. Do you have any idea why?

B: It's because you're boring, Marvin. Nothing you ever say is of the remotest interest to anyone.

M: Oh, and I thought it's because of my dandruff.