

*“Very Short Stories”*

*by Paolo Silingardi*

# Lost Village



Lost Village was a little village which was famous because everything tended to get lost there, from the simplest things to the most important. We all lose things now and then: a button, a coin, a toy. But in Lost Village, you could lose absolutely anything. It had become famous when a pirate had lost his treasure, accumulated over years and years of plundering, and no one ever

found it again. Everyone who went to Lost Village hoping to find the treasure ended up losing something before they went home, either their map or their shovel, their car keys or their passport. There had even been a case of someone who lost their memory, and they say he's still there searching for it.

The strange thing about Lost Village is that no one can figure out where the lost things go. Some people say that they are **taken away immediately by a secret gang**, with just a few members, and some are sure that there is **a huge cave full of lost objects** under Lost Village, but that the entrance has been lost too, forever.

**A wise old man** lived in Lost Village and, despite having lost several things himself, **he had succeeded in hanging onto his wisdom, a very rare virtue**. One day, a television crew arrived in the village to shoot a programme on the pirate's lost treasure, and the reporter thought it would be a good idea to interview the wise old man to try and find out the secret of that strange place.

"Wise man, you know everything there is to know about everything, so can you tell us why the only place where everything gets lost is Lost Village?"

"Yes", replied the wise man. The reporter became really excited, thinking that she was about to land the scoop of the century and maybe even discover the hidden treasure. She was so surprised that she just stood there, motionless, pointing her microphone like a weapon at the wise man.

Then she shook herself and asked: “Well, if you know the secret of Lost Village, why don’t you share it, just with our viewers”.

“The difference between Lost Village and the rest of the world is very simple”, said the wise man. **“Here in Lost Village, when we lose things, we realise that they’re missing, while the rest of the world doesn’t”.**

The reporter asked him: “Can you give us an example?”. And the wise man replied: “We all miss out on opportunities and we waste time, **but most of all, we miss out on the things we know nothing about.** We need to pay more attention because the things we don’t know are lost forever, irreparably”.

The reporter ended the interview and went back to the television studio, rather disappointed that she hadn’t learned the secret of the pirate’s treasure but cheered by the wise man’s words. When it was time for the programme to go on air, she went to download the file from her computer but couldn’t find it: it had got lost.

But she was still filled with the desire for knowledge, because only the things we don’t know are lost forever.

Colour me

