

Ice Pick Soup

A Summary of the Collected Works

As translated by Alexis Mandell and Joshua Book.

Orion Smiley
Editor

Forgetful House
K-Block 1345
Kansas

Response to the Proposal

To the Managing Editor, Forgetful House:

Your proposal came as a surprise. I have spoken to Alexis about your ideas and she has decided to leave the matter entirely in my hands.

The Newfoundland premier had unintended side effects, one of which was to thrust my friend's remarkable journey into a public light. This was not anticipated. The Newfoundland venture was designed to offer the story in a way meaningful to Alexis and the others. There was no plan to do more.

Now, you wish to illuminate the entire story in more detail. This brought on a good deal of discussion that touched upon many unanswered questions in the original work.

Alexis and I agree that there is more to share. The critical issue is how this would be accomplished, and when. Neither of us trust the traditional ways of publishers. I understand your previous efforts and I do not question your commitment. Our encounters have been satisfactory to all involved. However, undertaking your proposal of a collected works is another animal altogether.

You must provide, contractually, assurances that any work published by you will be completely correct and true to the original material. That means no editing of any nature without my prior approval. If that is not acceptable, please consider the issue closed.

If you agree to this requirement, I am willing to consider your proposal in more detail. You must understand that Alexis does not want to become embroiled in the usual dance common to publication. You must work exclusively through me, and with me, if you choose to move forward.

Regards,

Orion Smiley

Note from the Editor

Since the premier of *Ice Pick Soup* in Newfoundland, I have received many inquiries about Alexis Mandell's journey from Kansas to Verona and back. Some time ago, after her return to the home land, Alexis entrusted me with all her raw material for safekeeping. Her initial thoughts never included publishing beyond what has already taken place. My job was to edit her work, organize it as best as I was able, and preserve it for others. It was intended to be a private library, of sorts.

Since then, time has brought a new purpose my way. There is a growing interest in more detail about what Alexis first presented in *Ice Pick Soup*. So, this is now my role in life – to organize and offer those details and aspects of her journey that demand more dimension.

Here is an overview of the Collected Works. A final publishing schedule has not yet been fixed and I am working with Forgetful House to arrange loose ends. Since the staff of Forgetful House, like any publisher, has its own ideas about scheduling and production, I am not in the loop about when this material will be released, or how. My only certainty is that the publisher will not edit her words. When the Collected Works appear, they will be unchanged from the original, excluding my editorial work.

The Two Histories of Forgetful House

Before the Banishment, the publishing industry was fraught with jagged edges, misrepresentations and a general malaise that took no account of the Art Bubblers who provided for their existence. In modern times, this has changed for the better. Forgetful House survived the Banishment, which was a rare occurrence. However, it did not do so easily or without a good deal of chaos. It's reincarnation was due mostly to the work of Alexis Mandell and good fortune.

The Banishment

An intermediate period when all time lines changed and allowed an unexpected light to shine on us all. It was not an abrupt or planned event, nor even a single one. It was cumulative. From this time line, it seems an inevitability. For those before the Banishment, it must have felt cataclysmic and final. Looking back, it began an unexpected era that opened us all to a refreshed view of ourselves and our world. However, this progress did not come without considerable pain.

In Sogni

Translated, *sogni* means *dreams*. For Alexis, this village was much more than a landscape of dreams. It was a sanctuary in which she discovered protection, wisdom and information. The weeks she spent with Venoli Bernatucci, and the Intuinoobs Adam and Joshua, were the happiest of her long journey. This is the story of that village and its inhabitants.

Joshua Book

Joshua Book introduced Alexis to the ways of the Intuinoobs. Originally employed as her translator, Joshua became her protector and friend. Alexis has always spoken of him as one of her closest partners and teachers. This is his story, before and after he met Alexis.

Common Bubblers and Art Bubblers

As Alexis pointed out in *Ice Pick Soup*, not all bubblers are created equal. Nor do they relate well to each other. There are the common bubblers, like Emmett Burley, whose reputations are known. Within the same time lines, Art Bubblers also toil to quietly mark the stream that rushes to the sea. This story looks at both and makes the differences clear.

Smiley, Before and After

Your editor did not jump forth fully-formed from the time line of Alexis Mandell. There was a prior life, and undisclosed escapades, that put him in just the right trajectory for Alexis to discover. This is his story. It is one of synchronicity and good fortune.

Trade Craft

Trade craft is an ancient practice with a history ultimately lost to time. Before the Banishment, trade craft was mostly hidden, monolithic and considered an unfit subject for face time. Since the Banishment, it has taken on new meaning. Smiley provides a brief history of the practice and updates his personal handbook on the subject.

Vin

The story of Vin is inseparable from the Intuinoob legends and Sogni. Joshua Book recounts the history of Vin and its meaning to the Intuinoobs.

Venoli and Adam

The shared history of a Great Watcher and Teller, and his Intuinoob culinary sidekick, as told to Alexis during her stay in Sogni. Their stories, in their own words, mostly.

Palmo Brach Stew

The favorite dish shared by Alexis and Venoli, always prepared by Adam. It can be literally translated as “palm branch” stew. Sogni offers no palm trees, nor are there any to be found in the entire hemisphere. How, then, could this sumptuous meal become the mainstay of Venoli's trattoria and the specialty dish of the Intuinoob, Adam? What is its hidden meaning? Where are those palm trees? What is the secret of Adam's famous pasta sauce?

Digipoint Locators and Beamers

After the Banishment there came enormous changes in the daily life of home land citizens. Knowing where to move, how to arrive and depart, learning modern ways to share information all became unexpected elements of comfortable survival. Key to these changes were the Digipoint Locators and beamers. In any world, connectivity is vital to survival and growth. These are the two most important technological elements in the *Ice Pick Soup* saga. Learn how Alexis came to use them in her journey to Verona.

Kansas

The back story of Alexis Mandell, her early life and library experiences.

The Producers

The story of those who helped bring the travels of Alexis Mandell into public view at the Newfoundland premier. What was their origin and purpose? Why did they choose Newfoundland? What is the secret of St. John's? How did the producers slide into the time line that Alexis claimed so unexpectedly?

Verona

Legendary Verona, the ancestral home of the Intuinoobs, base camp for Emmett Burley and the central transfer point for all night lines used by Alexis throughout her journey. Travel to Verona via a quilt of tales and experiences picked up along the way.

Night Lines

The common thread of communication after the Banishment. How it worked, why it was necessary, how to use and abuse it.

The Intuinoob Round Book

Some of the more important teachings of the Intuinoobs, re-written in a somewhat comprehensible form. This is an inter-generational collection from many sources. It is not the complete Round Book of legend. Each of the teachings offered has been vetted to every extent possible.

Annotations by A. Rileumsome, Forgetful House

An annotated version of *Ice Pick Soup* by a senior editor at Forgetful House. Not endorsed by Smiley or Mandell but released with their consent. It may prove valuable to certain readers as a unique view of the symbolism inherent to the story.

Annotations by Joshua Book, Verona

The annotated version endorsed by both Smiley and Mandell. More cryptic than the Rileumsome effort, this version is unique to the Intuinoob view. It is offered by one who shared much of the journey Alexis first documented.

Why Talk So Funny?

The idioms and expressions unique to *Ice Pick Soup*, with their intended meanings.