

home alone (3) o bury me not

The next day seemed pretty much like an _____ day, except that I remembered while I was brushing my teeth that I would have _____ on the paper route. I'd _____ Callie to help me out although she made me promise that this was a one-time thing and I'd never ask her to get up this early again. I _____ it to the corner five minutes early. I was surprised to find that it was still dark out. It could have been the middle of the night. I stood in the _____ by the bus stop, waiting for Callie to ride over on her bike. I was feeling kind of lonesome, but it was the opposite of the night before—I didn't _____ being alone now. In fact, I enjoyed every second of it.

I _____ like singing one of those cowboy songs, O Bury Me Not or something. The cowboys are supposed to sing those songs at night when they're all alone and keeping _____ on the cattle. I mean real cowboys, not the kind you see on television. I didn't start singing, though, because I knew Callie might show up any minute and _____ me. Sometimes it's ok to sing out loud—in church or at camp—but not when you're all by yourself waiting for a bunch of papers to deliver.

**AN EYE | BETTER | COMPANY | EMBARRASS | FELT | KEPT |
MADE | MIND | MUMBLED | OBVIOUS | ORDINARY |
PERSUADED | PUT UP | SHELTER | STUMBLED | TROUBLE**

Callie showed up on time. She wasn't good company early in the morning, though. She _____ blinking and I had _____ understanding what she was saying. Every once in a while, she took a few steps and tripped over her own feet. She didn't fall down. She just _____ a little, _____ something under her breath and kept walking alongside the bike. But it was _____ she wasn't at her best at five in the morning. I wondered if she was help enough for me to _____ with this. She wasn't speeding things up. In fact, she was slowing me down. I was going to suggest that maybe she should go back home and get some more sleep but the look in her eyes told me I'd _____ not.