

a matter of life **EASY /3/** the **boomerang**

I **started looking for** work again and I got a job **as** a shipping clerk **at** a record place. the guy that owned the place was a **soft-hearted middle-aged** Jewish guy, a **former** high-school teacher. he **was doing real well** but his employees **weren't** paid **as much as** they thought they **deserved**.

at first I worked **hard so that** I wouldn't **get fired**. but one day during a meeting the owner **announced**. "you people **have been complaining instead of working** so **none** of you has really earned a **raise**. Harvey here **has been working** hard, **though**, and I'm giving him a **raise**. \$2.50 a week. "

I **couldn't believe my ears**. a \$2.50 a week raise was **ridiculous to** me. it **wasn't worth working** for. I slowly started losing **respect for** the owner. he was **cheap** and people **would** steal things from him. **at the same time**, he was Jewish like me so he **thought of me as** family and **wouldn't think of doing** me **harm** (or **at least that's what** I thought).

I started **insulting** him and **calling him names** but he **didn't seem to mind**. I also **treated** the people who **came to see him as if** they were **garbage**. I **didn't** think he **had the guts to fire** me.

I THOUGHT I'D BETTER WORK HARD OR ELSE I MIGHT LOSE THE JOB
MAYBE I **SHOULD HAVE TOLD** THE GUY WHAT **EVERYONE THOUGHT** OF HIM,
BUT I **GUESS** I DIDN'T **CARE ABOUT** THE JOB **ENOUGH** TO DO IT
LOOKING BACK, I **CAN'T BELIEVE** HOW **BADLY** I **TREATED** HIM AND WHAT HE
HAD TO **PUT UP WITH**, I'M A LITTLE **ASHAMED OF MYSELF** NOW
A RAISE **SHOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE** OR IT **SHOULDN'T BE GIVEN AT ALL**
LOOK, IF WE **WERE PAID** BETTER, WE **WOULD WORK MUCH HARDER**
THE STORE IS **DOING** PRETTY WELL, I **WONDER** WHERE ALL THE MONEY **IS** GOING