

# **THE TALE OF THE DARK CLOUD**

by Cathy D. Slaght

## **Part II WELCOME TO PARADISE**

Kristyl had followed the doctor's advice and JUMPED.

He'd done his research first, of course - HOURS on all the major networks had explained the brilliance behind the procedure:

As a person jumped, they realized they really wanted to LIVE. Imagine their JOY and RELIEF as they saw, the closer they got to the ground, a bunch of people holding a big safety net!

The jumper would be filled with gratitude and joy for just being alive!

How fortunate he was to live in a time where such medical advancements were in place! And just in time! There was an epidemic of hopelessness sweeping the country.

EXCEPT

The fall had been so traumatic, despite getting caught at the last minute, that now he had severe PTSD.

His heart wasn't acting right either.

AND- the hopelessness was back.

A visit to the doctor had produced the following information: "that's yesterday's news. Now you must focus on phase II of this treatment for hopelessness, which is jumping off a bridge. That will be another \$949.50 to be paid immediately.

You will be notified of which bridge to jump off within 30 days.

Dazed, he had simply gotten out his card, paid, and started the long walk home.

At a distance he saw a group of ANTI-JUMPERS- they were all over the place now, evil, ignorant people. He would just ignore them, like always.

BUT- one was holding a big sign that said “500,000 Americans have died from the hopelessness therapy.”

THIS gave him pause, so he approached.

“You idiots”, he began, “There are safety nets to catch people. You are spreading misinformation.”

“Back Atcha”, said the sign holder. (An exclamation used to express the same sentiment back to the original speaker; same as "you too" and "same to you. People talk differently now, things like Latin X, breakfast tacos, etc., so need translations from time to time.)

The sign holder continued, “The authorities don’t report that the net doesn’t always catch people. Old people often miss it, especially if they’re on social security and Medicare. Others, both young and old, have heart attacks. Some are dead before they even hit the ground.

Still, they keep calling it safe, effective, even though – and yes, I can tell you’re a jumper by that dazed look in your eyes- it doesn’t work. I’ll bet you still feel hopeless.”

Kristyl then felt his first ray of hope. HE would set the record straight by informing these ANTI-JUMPERS of the facts. For one thing, what if he HADN’T jumped...then he would REALLY feel hopeless!!

The jump WAS working!

**Stay tuned for Part III**