

The Tunnel

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A man gets fired from his job, and he isn't sure what to do with himself. So he asks his friends:

"If you can afford to not work for 6 months, what would you do?"

But he couldn't get satisfying answers. Most people would say something like: "travel" or "vacation". And when he asked "After travelling for 6 months, what then?" they would say "get back to work".

It was a cycle he didn't want to re-enter. His friends never seemed to consider it seriously; only hypothetically, as if it isn't possible in real life unless they're rich.

He joins a mountain hiking package tour, to unwind for a bit. But in the middle of the tour, he disappears. Rescue teams were called in to search for him, and he was never found. After one week, he re-emerges. He tells authorities he doesn't know what happened.

But he does. He just didn't bother to tell anyone.

During the tour, he found a tunnel. It didn't seem to go very far, so he entered it. But the entrance suddenly closed and he wasn't able to go out. So he continued.

In the tunnel, he met 3 strange individuals:

1. A man with a large jewelled watch, with whom he explored his ego and his drive for money;
2. A stock photo model, who made him realize the nuances of being generic;
3. A girl playing bingo with her grandmother, who reminded him of his real dream.

After finding his direction and re-emerging from the mountains, he plans the following months of his life.

DESIRE: He wants to know what direction to take in life, now that he's fired.

AWARENESS: He knows he doesn't want to just get back to working his old job (Tech Start-up)

POWER: He can afford to not work for 6 months. Being born poor, he has spent his childhood to adulthood trying to make money. After his last high-paying position at a tech start-up, he is left with a good severance windfall. So he can technically do anything he wants (within reason).

Narrative: Cause & Effect; Cause – he gets fired; Effect – he embarks on a search for purpose and direction

Center: Character-oriented

Agency: Active