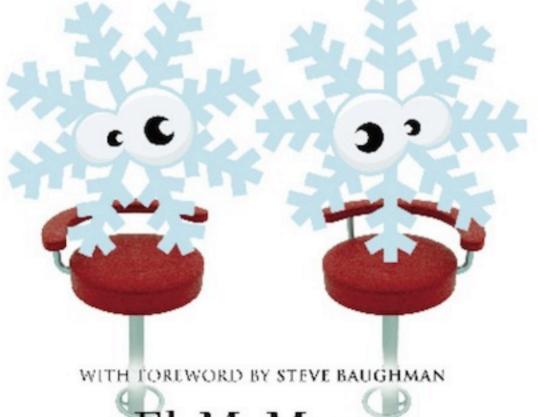
The Essential Handbook of Snowflake Jokes



El McMeen



Whimsy and fun are terms rarely associated with the legal profession, but El McMeen and Steve Baughman are not your typical lawyers. Steve came up with the idea for a joke: "Two snowflakes walk into a bar." El jumped on it. A flurry and then a blizzard of snowflake jokes from El ensued. The result is this "essential handbook of snowflake jokes." Get ready to chuckle, laugh, guffaw, and, yes, groan!

Two Snowflakes Walk Into a Bar

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El McMeen

(With Foreword by Steve Baughman)

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With love and gratitude to Jesus, my Lord and Savior, who gives life in abundance and may very well approve of the idea of snowflakes entering into bars (as mission fields, potential of course); and to my wife Sheila, to our four children, and to their three spouses and one fiancée; and with deep appreciation to and for my friend affection and co-author sometime Steve Baughman for the brilliant, whimsical, and, yes, flaky idea of his that resulted in this book, and for the Mother of All Forewords.

* *

Foreword

Snowflake Jokes: The Birth of a Species

Like most things already underway, this one began some time ago. I cannot tell you exactly when, but sometime in the last 72 hours I sent my Pennsylvania pal, El McMeen, a joke I had made up. It was a joke of which I was rather proud, not because it was a good joke but because I had made it up. Anyone can pass along jokes that others have made up. But to create and share one's own joke, that takes a special person. If the joke is not funny, sharing it also takes a special humility, and if the joke is especially lame, an especially deep humility.

"A snowflake walks into a bar, sits down and orders a patty melt."

Clearly, I had the humility thing down, cold. It has long been a part of my spiritual practice to attempt humor, to fail, and then to breathe the rejection into my Being and accept it as one of the Four Noble Truths. (I forget which one.) The power of self-denial had intrigued me since I first read about celibate monks overcoming desire by their 80's or so. I prefer failed humor as my avenue of growth and the snowflake joke was just one more small step in my learning to accept suffering, if you catch my drift.

But over in the hills of central PA my little joke had snowballed into something that would change the world, and not in a small way. It was avalanche time.

I woke on Sunday morning to find a flurry of emails from El, each containing a half dozen or so newly minted jokes about snowflakes walking into bars. A few hours later there were a dozen more. They kept coming. I would call it a blizzard but that would make people laugh.

What was happening in PA? El gives complete credit to the Holy Spirit working in his life. Those familiar with our earlier book <u>Objection! Overruled!</u> will not be surprised that I have a different view. But we agree: Something had possessed El. Something had decided that the time had come for the world to receive, for the first time, jokes about snowflakes walking into bars. And that same Something had anointed El McMeen as the fountain from which those gifts would flow. By Monday morning I had received nearly 60 pages of snowflake jokes, each one unlike the other.

The world can always use more jokes. But snowflake jokes are different. Some are like Zen koans (mind riddles) for the masses. We call those Snow-koans. Others increase compassion or help us see through fluff. Each provides a unique avenue for insight into our deepest self. Pick any joke in this book. Bring your awareness to its opening scene -- one or more snowflakes walking into a bar. Does the temperature in the room change as the snowflake enters? Does the quality of the air flowing through your nostrils feel different? Bring your attention then to the next scene. How does the bartender react? Do you care? Should you care? Why?

Proceed mindfully through each step of the joke, never plowing through. With each changing scene, invite your awareness into the various parts of your body. Where do you feel the sadness when you learn of the snowflake who lost a loved one to an Irish Coffee? Where does the anger arise when you encounter the bartender who uses the legal drinking age as a pretext to discriminate against a thirsty snowflake?

Eventually you reach the punch-line. Is it funny? If not, read it again, this time attentive to the "moha" (the Pali word for delusion) that has infected you. Still not funny? Read it again, now with no attachment to the dualism that divides funny and not funny. Still not funny? Recognize now that there is something wrong with you. And accept that although the snowflake joke cannot immediately tell you what your defect is, mere recognition that you have one is a precious first step in your recovery process. Allow yourself then to feel gratitude for this book, and recognize the Ultimate Truth that before it came along there was

only Nothingness in the vast potential of jokes about snowflakes walking into bars.

By now you may have chosen to join me in seeking enlightenment in the pages of this unique book. Or maybe you just want to have a ball with some snow. In either event, get ready for a grand journey (and if you're driving, carry chains).

Steve Baughman San Francisco February 2014

How It All Started

A snowflake walks into a bar, sits down and orders a patty melt. The bartender brings it over, and the snowflake tastes it. "This is way too cheesy," he exclaims. The bartender retorts, "That's exactly how I made it for the snowflake who came in here yesterday, and he loved it." The snowflake says, "We're all different, you know."

* *

Dealing with the Issues of Identity, Diversity, and Sense of Humor of Snowflakes

Two snowflakes walk into a bar. They order drinks and clearly are infatuated with each other. The bartender says, "I didn't know there were girl and boy snowflakes." The one looks up with a sly smile: "Vive la différence!"

Two snowflakes walk into a bar and sit on barstools. The bartender is stunned. He has never seen anything like this before. One snowflake says, "We'll each have an Absolut and tonic." The bartender just stares. Finally, after receiving no service, the snowflakes leave. As they are exiting, one points to a bowl on the counter, shrugs, and says to the other, "They serve nuts so I thought they would serve flakes."

A snowflake walks into a bar. He says, "Whiskey, but no rocks; never any rocks!" The bartender is intrigued. "You seem very emphatic about having no ice in your drink," the bartender replies. "Professional courtesy," says the snowflake.

A snowflake walks into a bar. He jumps on a swizzle stick, bounces up and down the entire length of the bar, shimmies up a pole, and slides down a wire holding some football pennants. He then proceeds to a barstool and sits down. The bartender looks at him and says, "You can't do that in here!" The snowflake responds: "What do you expect? I'm a flake!" A bunch of snowflakes charge into a bar. They are jumping up and down, all excited. They keep saying, "We did it; we always wanted to do it!" The bartender asks, "What's going on?" It seems they were part of a snow shower that hit a small farm on the outskirts of town. Some straw had been left on the ground there as food for the animals. The snowflakes are running around claiming to be "the drink that stirred the straw!"



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