

TO FRIENDS OF ZBS

Our tale begins...



Threats is good, but guilt is what gets results. Like, "We're dyin' here, come on, give us a hand, will ya?" You can squeeze a lot outta somebody wit some well applied guilt.

But it takes real norve to write somethin' like dis, wit out no threat, no guilt, no nothin'. Especially since some of youse knows how to use good grammer, and readin' dis may cause intestinal consternations if not combustions.

I should mention that this is Ricco speaking. Not me.

Da Prez



So last summer, Meatball got real sick. He's dah weird one who writes our stuff. He sez he's never been in a hospital in his entire life, except mebbe to visit some poor sucker who is stuck in there. But comes the 4th of July and kerplonk, he's in the hospital. In & out & in & out & all those tests and nobody knows what's wrong!



This is all true, by the way. It certainly gave us a scare.

So finally, this gypsy friend of Meatball's sez, "Get a test for lyme." And he did, and that's what he got, Lyme Disease! Unbeknowest to him, he got bit by a tiny little deer tick. So he was laid up for three months, not writing, not doin' nothin' but laying there moanin'. "This is it, good-bye cruel world." Except for the gypsy who finally sez, "Aw, shut yer yap, yer not gonna die."



Ricco is saying, this is the reason why we have so few new productions this year.

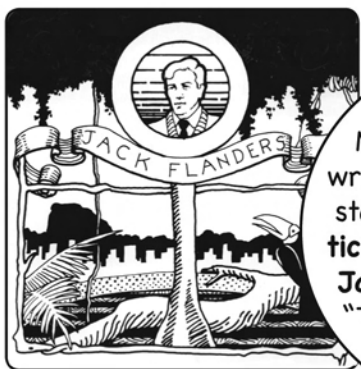
So they feeds dah Meatball antibiotics, an we prop him upright, he starts writing and we got 50 stories outta him! 50 stories called, "2 Minute Film Noir." It's a kind of honoring of dat great American art form. You know, gangsters, detectives, platinum blondes in mink coats, an' of course some Wise Guys.

Hopefully, this may explain what's going on here.



Now, you know Jack, right? Well, Meatball's writin' another one of those. Plus he's writin' a Ruby wit dat tentacled guy, dah Tookah, and he's writin' somethin' called, **RUBY 8**. Can you imagine dat?

Meatball



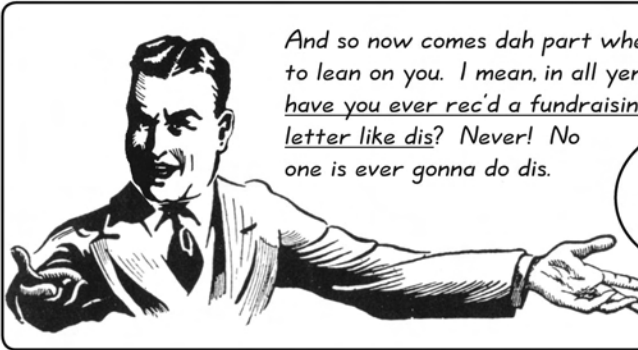
Ricco is saying, Meatball Fulton is writing the concluding story in "The Fantastic Voyages of Captain Jack Flanders", plus, "The Tookah's Tales," plus, "Ruby 8!"



We're squeezin' everything we can outta dat Meatball. You never know, one day he may croak, though I doubts it'll be another deer tick. Somebody saw him huntin' deer wit a tommy gun. I think dat's stretchin' dah truth a little.

Meatball does not like to shoot things, but he doesn't mind eating them.

Pretty Pitch Girl




And so now comes dah part where I gets to lean on you. I mean, in all yer life, have you ever rec'd a fundraisin' letter like dis? Never! No one is ever gonna do dis.

No one in their right mind.



So, what we do's is different. And you know dat stuff we do's is fun, it even sez somethin'. But easy to do it is not. Grants we used to get, but you write grammer like dis, and they give you nothin'. No sense of humor.

Okay, now comes the pitch.




I mean, I'd not ask so nice if I could think of a good threat, but I got nothin' good to threat you wit. Except, wit out help. ZBS is gonna be no more. Of course, some of youse are thinkin', "Let 'em croak, at least I won't be gettin' letters like dis."

Ricco, of course, doesn't really exist.

And so now I steps aside and lets dah Prez do what he does. I'm outta here. Ciao.



Alright. In June of 1970, ZBS was formed. We're still here, and we're still telling stories that touch people. But to continue, we do need help.



Stories like **The Fourth Tower of Inverness** and **Moon Over Morocco** and **Ruby** helped change a few lives. And they still sound amazingly fresh.

We keep the ZBS classics alive and out there on Satellite Radio, on CDs, and as downloads on our website, www.zbs.org. We also continue to produce new Jacks, new Rubys, and new ... strange talking characters.

ZBS Foundation, 174 North River Road, Fort Edward, NY 12828

And so, as Ricco might say, "If youse gonna put dah touch on somebodys, you gotta touch 'em. You know what I mean?"

Please help ZBS to continue.

Sincerely,

Thomas Lopez

Thomas Lopez
President



PS: A donation of \$20, \$30, \$50 or more, will help ZBS to continue creating stories that nourish hearts and minds and maybe even souls. ZBS Foundation is a not-for-profit arts organization, your donation is tax deductible.

A copy of our latest annual report may be obtained upon request, from ZBS Foundation or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.