

SUPPLY CHAINS

THERE IS
A TREE AT THE
EDGE OF A FOREST.



ONE DAY,
A LUMBERJACK COMES BY
AND CUTS THE TREE DOWN.



HE LOADS IT ONTO THE
BACK OF A TRUCK AND
HAULS IT TO A SAWMILL.





THE TREE IS CUT INTO
A STACK OF LARGE PLANKS.



THE PLANKS ARE PULPED
AND SENT OFF TO A PAPER MILL.



AT THE MILL, THE PULP IS PRESSED
INTO ROLLS OF PAPER.



THE PAPER IS THEN SENT TO A
PRINTING PLANT AND TRIMMED
INTO SIGNATURES.



THE SIGNATURES ARE PRINTED,
COLLATED AND BOUND
INTO BOOKS.



THE BOOKS ARE SHIPPED TO
A DISTRIBUTION WAREHOUSE.



THE WAREHOUSE SHIPS
THE BOOKS TO STORES.



THE BOOKS
DO NOT SELL.



THEY ARE MARKED DOWN
IN PRICE AND STILL
DON'T SELL.



THEY ARE REMAINDERED
TO A DISCOUNT CHAIN
AND STILL DON'T SELL.



MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE OF
THE BAD REVIEW?



THE UNSOLD BOOKS ARE SHIPPED
BACK TO THE PUBLISHER
TO BE PULPED.



THE PULP IS REFORMED
INTO CARDBOARD SHEETS.



IN A COST-TRIMMING MOVE, THE PUBLISHER
DROPS THE BOOK'S AUTHOR AND LAYS HIM OFF.



MEANWHILE, HIS GIRLFRIEND
LEAVES HIM. SHE HAS MET
SOMEBODY ELSE.



THE WRITER IS TRULY
DESPERATE AND ALONE.



HE FEELS COMPLETELY EMPTY.



AT THE LAST MINUTE, HE IS OFFERED
A TEACHING POSITION AT A
SMALL UNIVERSITY.



A CHANGE OF SCENE WILL
DO HIM GOOD.



THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR HIM
IN THE CITY.



THE UNIVERSITY IS WAY OUT IN THE COUNTRY.
IT'S A LONG DRIVE.



WHILE DRIVING ALONG THE HIGHWAY,
HE STUDIES THE TREES.



WHEN HE ARRIVES, HE HAS LUNCH AT
A CAFE IN THE SMALL TOWN.



IT WAS A VERY GOOD LUNCH.



THE TEACHING POSITION TURNS OUT TO BE A
WONDERFUL CHANGE.



HE LIKES THE SCHOOL AND IS WELL
REGARDED BY THE STUDENTS.



WHILE UNPACKING, HE FINDS A COPY OF HIS BOOK.
HE PUTS IT UP ON A SHELF.



TIME PASSES. HE IS HAPPY
AND STARTS TO WRITE A NEW NOVEL.



AND RECENTLY,
HIS OLD GIRLFRIEND HAS STARTED
E-MAILING HIM.



SHE MISSES HIM AND WANTS TO
GIVE THE RELATIONSHIP
ANOTHER TRY.



HE HAS MISGIVINGS
BUT RELUCTANTLY AGREES.



THAT WEEKEND, HE DRIVES
BACK TO THE CITY TO
HELP HER MOVE.



THEY PACK UP ALL HER STUFF
IN CARDBOARD BOXES.



THEY DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT THE CARDBOARD
WAS MADE FROM HIS PULPED BOOK.



WHILE THEY DRIVE BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY,
SHE TALKS ALL THE WAY.



THE WRITER SETS THE PACKING
BOXES OUT FOR RECYCLING.



EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, A MAN
PICKS UP THE CARDBOARD.



HE'S THE SAME MAN WHO
CUT DOWN THE TREE.



HE LOST HIS JOB WHEN
THE SAW MILL CLOSED.



HE GOT A NEW JOB,
DOING RECYCLING, BUT IT
DOESN'T PAY AS WELL.



HE TAKES THE CARDBOARD
TO THE RECYCLING PLANT.



THE CARDBOARD IS BUNDLED UP
AND SHIPPED TO CHINA.



MEANWHILE, THE WRITER'S GIRLFRIEND
NEEDS A JOB. THE WRITER
SUGGESTS THE CAFE.



SHE BEGINS WORKING
THERE AS A WAITRESS.



THE WRITER IS BUSY WORKING ON HIS NEW NOVEL
WHILE ALSO CARRYING A HEAVY
TEACHING LOAD.



HE AND HIS GIRLFRIEND
SLOWLY GROW APART.



THE RECYCLING MAN COMES TO
THE CAFE FOR BEERS
AFTER WORK.



THE GIRLFRIEND CATCHES HIS EYE.
SHE'S ATTRACTIVE AND BORED.



THE RECYCLING MAN AND THE GIRLFRIEND
BEGIN AN AFFAIR.



FOR HER, IT'S JUST CASUAL, BUT HE'S REALLY
FALLEN IN LOVE.



MEANWHILE, THE CARDBOARD IS PULPED
IN CHINA AND REFASHIONED INTO
PAPER BAGS.



THE BAGS ARE LOADED ONTO A CONTAINER SHIP
AND SENT BACK TO THE U.S.



THE WRITER FINALLY
FINISHES HIS NEW NOVEL.



THE UNIVERSITY AGREES
TO PUBLISH IT.



IT RECEIVES
INDIFFERENT REVIEWS.



THE LOCAL BOOKSTORE HOSTS A BOOK SIGNING,
BUT IT'S LIGHTLY ATTENDED.



ON HER WAY TO THE CAFE,
THE GIRLFRIEND SEES THE BOOK
IN THE STORE WINDOW.



LATELY, SHE'S FELT GUILTY
ABOUT THE AFFAIR AND
HAS BROKEN IT OFF.



SHE BUYS A COPY OF THE BOOK
TO CHEER THE WRITER UP.



THE BOOKSTORE CLERK PUTS IT
IN A PAPER BAG MADE FROM
THE PULPED CARDBOARD.



ON HER WAY OUT,
SHE RUNS INTO THE
RECYCLING MAN.



HE IS HEARTBROKEN THAT
SHE'S ENDED THE AFFAIR.



IN A JEALOUS RAGE, HE GRABS
THE BAG OUT OF HER HAND.



HE RACES OVER TO THE WRITER'S APARTMENT
AND BANGS ON THE DOOR.



AT THE TOP OF HIS LUNGS, HE TELLS THE WRITER HE HAS
BEEN HAVING AN AFFAIR
WITH THE WRITER'S
GIRLFRIEND.



HE TELLS THE WRITER
THAT ALL HIS EDUCATION CAN'T MAKE
HIS GIRLFRIEND LOVE HIM.



THE RECYCLING MAN MAY NOT HAVE MONEY,
BUT HE DEEPLY LOVES THE
WRITER'S GIRLFRIEND.



THROWING THE BOOK ON THE GROUND,
HE STORMS OFF, LEAVING
THE WRITER ALONE.



THE WRITER IS STUNNED. HE THOUGHT THINGS
WERE WORKING OUT, BUT HE
WAS MISTAKEN.



HE DECIDES TO LEAVE, TO MOVE BACK
TO THE CITY AND PUT THIS FAILED
LIFE BEHIND HIM.



AFTER WRITING A GOODBYE NOTE, HE PACKS A BAG AND WALKS OUT THE DOOR.



RETURNING HOME FROM WORK, THE GIRLFRIEND FINDS THE NOTE.



SHE FOUND OUT SHE'S PREGNANT THAT AFTERNOON, AND THE MISSING WRITER IS THE FATHER.



FEELING DESPERATE, SHE REUNITES WITH THE RECYCLING MAN, TELLING HIM THE CHILD IS HIS.



HE IS OVERJOYED AT THE NEWS AND PROPOSES TO HER.



THEY QUICKLY GET MARRIED, AND EIGHT MONTHS LATER SHE GIVES BIRTH TO A GIRL.



MEANWHILE, THE "GOODBYE NOTE" AND ALL THE WRITER'S PAPERS HAVE BEEN RECYCLED.



THE NOTES AND LETTERS ARE SHREDDED, SOAKED, BLEACHED AND FASHIONED INTO MANILA ENVELOPES.



THE WRITER HAS MOVED BACK TO THE CITY AND NEEDS A JOB.



HIS OLD PUBLISHER HIRES HIM BACK AS AN ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR.



HE'S NOT REALLY A WRITER ANYMORE AND HE DOESN'T MISS IT.



BACK IN THE UNIVERSITY TOWN, THE MAN AND THE WAITRESS HAVE SEPARATED.



THEY TRIED COUNSELING, BUT SHE JUST NEVER LOVED HIM THE WAY HE LOVED HER.



THEIR DAUGHTER IS THE ONE GREAT SUCCESS OF THEIR LIFE TOGETHER.



WHEN THE GIRL GETS OLDER, SHE FINDS THE WRITER'S FIRST BOOK ON A SHELF.



INTRIGUED BY THE WRITING, SHE READS IT OVER AND OVER.



THE MOTHER TELLS THE GIRL THAT THE WRITER WAS HER ACTUAL FATHER.



WHEN HE LEFT TOWN, SHE HADN'T TOLD HIM SHE WAS PREGNANT.



THE GIRL FINDS A DIRECTORY OF PUBLISHERS AND SENDS THE FORMER WRITER A LETTER.



SHE EXPLAINS TO THE FORMER WRITER THAT HE IS HER FATHER.



HE'S DUMBFOUNDED. HE KNEW HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND HAD A DAUGHTER, BUT HE HAD NO IDEA HE WAS THE FATHER.



HE DECIDES TO WRITE HER BACK. HE WRITES A VERY LONG LETTER, 200 PAGES.



IT'S THE BEST THING HE'S EVER WRITTEN.



HE MAILES IT IN AN OVERSIZED MANILA ENVELOPE MADE FROM THE RE-PULPED BAG.



THE GIRL READS THE LETTER THREE TIMES BEFORE DECIDING TO LEAVE TOWN ON HER OWN.



WALKING TO THE BUS DEPOT, SHE SEES HER MOM AT WORK, WIPING OFF THE COUNTERTOP IN THE CAFE.



SHE KEEPS GOING, NEVER LOOKING BACK.



ON HER WAY OUT OF TOWN, THE GIRL STUDIES THE TREES.

End