

My Birthday Surprise – Humorous Adult Version

Blue text is where the information you
provide will be placed.

Pages 1 & 2 - illustration pages.

Page 3

"My Birthday Surprise"

was created especially for

Ralph Thomas Gonzales

from Phil

2002

Page 4

Yes, it was birthday time again, March 3rd. Ralph Gonzales of Paramus, had reached yet another major plateau in his life - age 50.

Ralph was a high flier, a born leader, and a man of many accomplishments. There was no doubt about it - Ralph was a legend in his own mind.

Pages 5 & 6 - illustration pages.

Page 7

Pat, Chris and Jack had planned a big birthday bash for Ralph this year. Hand-written invitations had been sent to all his friends.

Fortunately for Pat, Chris and Jack, the job had been very easy. Only a few invitations had to be written.

Page 8

Pat, Chris and Jack had spent a lot of time developing a theme for this special birthday party.

It was:

Ralph Gonzalez

The ten keys to success in your life

Obviously, the theme was a very popular one. The party room was packed.

Pages 9 & 10 - illustration pages.

Page 11

Pat, Chris and Jack started **his** success story by explaining that the path **Ralph** had followed through life had been met with a series of closed doors. Over the years, judging from the shape of **his** beak, many of these doors had been slammed in **his** face.

Despite these setbacks, **Ralph** had still managed to become a success in **Paramus**. It was evident that these ten keys had worked a miracle for **Ralph**.

Page 12

Ralph and the rest of the party group were quiet when **Pat, Chris and Jack** announced the first key to **his** success.

"Always be full of hot air."

Ralph had devoted much of **his** life to achieving this goal. Those who knew **him** agreed that **he** was definitely full of it.

Pages 13 & 14 - illustration pages.

Page 15

The second key of success was.

"Stay young."

Ralph maintained **his** youthful appearance by following a strict exercise program. **His** favorite activity seemed to be jogging to the refrigerator.

Unfortunately, staying young was difficult after **50** birthday celebrations. In fact, lighting the candles on **his** birthday cake was considered a fire hazard for **Ralph** and everyone else present at the party.

Page 16

Believing that:

"No mountain is too hard to climb"

was another component of the success formula for **Ralph**.

Anyone who had ever seen **Ralph** demolish a mountain of ice cream topped with whipped cream and a cherry realized the truth of this statement. **He** could whittle it down in seconds.

Pages 17 & 18 - illustration pages.

Page 19

The fourth key was a critical factor in making **Ralph** the success **he** is.

"Surround yourself with intelligent, responsible people."

Ralph always kept snapshots of **his** trusted friends in **his** wallet. Come to think of it, that was about all you could ever find in **his** wallet!

Page 20

The excitement of the party had almost been too much for everyone. They decided to briefly interrupt this spell-binding "Success Story" and have **Ralph** open **his** many gifts.

Nobody had trouble buying **Ralph** a present. After all, what can't you buy for a man who needs everything?

Pages 21 & 22 - illustration pages.

Page 23

After watching **Ralph** open **his** gifts, the anxious crowd was eager to hear the fifth key to **his** success. It was:

Don't be a horse's ... behind.

Unfortunately, **Ralph** couldn't help himself. It was just **his** nature.

Page 24

The saga of **Ralph** continued. The next key to **his** success was

"Enjoy the sweet things in life."

There are many sweet things in life: the presence of a wonderful companion, adventure-filled vacations and lots of money.

Whenever **Ralph** wanted to enjoy sweet things, **he** went to **his** pantry. This was the only source of sweet things for **Ralph**.

Pages 25 & 26 - illustration pages.

Page 27

The seventh key was vitally important for social climbers like **Ralph**:
Home of the Books That Make Your Child The STAR of the Story

"Don't forget from whence you came."

On his long climb up the ladder of success, **Ralph** never once forgot **his** roots. **He** was so very proud of all **his** ancestors.

Page 28

To really be successful, you must

"Only play games you can win."

Talented individuals like **Ralph** pride themselves on their athletic and business prowess. Very few adults had ever beaten **Ralph** at

any of **his** favorite games. Everybody knew **he** would have a temper tantrum if they did.

Pages 29 & 30 - illustration pages.

Page 31

"Blow your own horn" was certainly another vital part of **his** success formula.

Everyone agreed that if **Ralph** didn't blow **his** own horn, nobody would do it for **him**. In fact, **he** kept stacks of horns and whistles handy for all the important moments in **his** life. **Ralph** would do almost anything to call attention to **himself!**

Page 32

Ralph always maintained that, to be successful, you must

"Picture yourself as you want to be."

Ralph thought that once **he** was successful, **his** portrait would be hung in the homes of all of **his** friends.

Pages 33 & 34 - illustration pages.

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Home of the Books That Make Your Child The STAR of the Story

Dear **Ralph**:

Now you know the ten keys to the success in your life. We had originally planned to have you say a few words, but we remembered that brevity is not one of your ten keys.

Congratulations on yet another "successful" year. Happy Birthday!

Phil

2002