

## Losers

*by Joan Black*

We are all losers – individually, nationally and globally – all guilty of losing it, them; tangibles and intangibles.

The human psyche is programmed to lose. As far back as 800 BC we lost Ten Tribes of Israel. One day they all wandered off into the desert and have never been seen since. Skip forward a couple of thousand years to the Middle Ages and whole armies of knights went off looking for the Holy Grail but they never found it. Heck, in 1667 even Paradise went missing followed just 200 years later by Arthur Sullivan losing that magnificent chord and then damned if James Hilton didn't go misplace the Horizon. And in more recent years, our own lifetime actually, Jimmy Hoffa disappeared and so did eighteen minutes of the Watergate Tapes.

You're not convinced? Where are Bo-Peep's sheep? Those little kittens – did they ever find their mittens? Sadly there is a bunch of Lost Boys who Peter Pan dumped in Never-Never Land – has anyone ever gone looking for them, other than Michael Jackson? Several times there have been claims to finding the Lost City of Atlantis and I do believe there are people still hoping to find it but we're running out of places to look. That damned Yellow Basket – I'm tired of everyone trucking around looking for that!

There must be millions of Lost Causes, stacks and stacks of Lost Property, and who hasn't experienced a Lost Love? Think of all the things Lost in Antiquity or Lost in Confusion, let alone Lost in Translation.

As the great philosopher Vince Lombardy preached, "Show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser." But then again, "It matters not if you won or lost but how you played the game."

I constantly console myself with the fact that "All is not lost," but I do seem to be on a bit of a losing streak.