

The Story Behind the Story

An interview with Barry Morrow, writer of *Rain Man*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aeZX-XJHWk>



Cast Interview - Barry Morrow - How did you begin writing these types of stories?

Read the transcript from an interview with American author and screenwriter, Barry Morrow.

Then, listen to the interview and complete the text with the missing words from the box below.

authority waitress kidnapped screenwriter posterity charming
dishwasher except emotional institutionalized functioning
sequel Emmy network The Human Condition producer
relationship gift toothpaste wonderful feature film
grandchildren harmonica injury reciprocity expecting a baby

1. I didn't plan on being a writer of any kind, let alone a **a)** _____ or a **b)** _____ or any of the things that I've become. When I was just out of college, I met a mentally retarded man who had been **c)** _____ for fifty years, and so he was now an old man and a **d)** _____ at this country club where my wife was a **e)** _____. And he was the most **f)** _____ human being I'd ever met, but he couldn't read. He didn't know his last name. He played the **g)** _____, which was his single greatest and proudest **h)** _____, but beyond that, he had a hard time **i)** _____ in this world.

2. And I'm not sure why but I just decided I could help him. He had no family, and he never left his little room **j)** _____ to go to work, and he needed things like **k)** _____. I mean it wasn't hard for me to get into the first step of helping Bill, but as time went on, the **l)** _____ deepened his dependence on me, and an emotional kind of **m)** _____ took place where I felt good to be with him, because you know you feel good when you're doing good.

3. And then we - my wife and I - were **n)** _____, and I had to get a real job, and we left the area. And later, I went and got him because he was not functioning without me anymore very well. So, I in effect **o)** _____ him. I guess that's what the state said I did because you know this state had **p)** _____ over him and I wasn't in the same state. But I did that because I knew that he would have a better life you know with us. And we moved him and set him up in his own little place, and we made a job for him, and he had a **q)** _____ life.

4. And one day, I just decided to kind of write this down, I guess for **r)** _____ or my future **s)** _____ or something. Whatever. I didn't know, and I gave it to friends, and they passed it around. And one day, I got a call from a **t)** _____ in New York saying they wanted to do a movie about this. And next thing I know we're making a movie. And the next thing I know, I've won an **u)** _____. And the next thing I know, I'm doing the **v)** _____, and the next thing I know, I'm doing a lot of TV.

5. And then, I decide my first **w)** _____ would be in this same pool from which I've drawn all this good luck and understanding of **x)** _____ and that was *Rain Man*, and *Remember Sunday* is in that same vein you know. It comes from that same pool. It's not one person with an **y)** _____. It's two. And that's the *healing myth* as it's referred to sometimes. You know there's a different kind of damage that people sustain **z)** _____ and physical.