

I Wish

By Elizabeth Langston

Bonus Material

In *I Wish*, Grant the “genie” writes a status report to his boss each day. The book does not include Boss’s responses, but you can read them here.

Spoiler Alert: Grant’s status reports summarize the story. If you haven’t read *I Wish* yet, this bonus material will give you the major plot points.

Status Report #1

Friday's Wish: Pass

Dear Boss,

I was discovered today.

This assignment is unexpected. Haven't I reached my quota of self-centered American teens yet? My new mistress has significant attitude issues. She burned her first wish when I refused to give her cash.

I am disappointed. I thought this would be the last assignment before my promotion. I don't see how this case will be challenging enough to earn the qualifications I lack.

Naturally, I will strive to do my best.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

If you complete the assignment the way I expect, then yes, you'll be promoted to principal.

You must trust me, Grant. I wouldn't have approved the assignment with Lacey Linden unless she could help you to earn the emotions you lack.

Be open to the possibilities.

Status Report #2

Saturday's Wish: Garage Cleaning

Dear Boss,

I cleaned a garage. It contained a jumbled mess, heavily coated by a layer of dust. Evidently, my mistress hasn't bothered to clean the space for several months. I don't understand the point in doing so now, unless it was her attempt to test my resolve.

In addition to being rude and argumentative, my mistress has squandered one wish and displayed an acute lack of imagination with the second. Indeed, she spent more time discussing how she wants to be addressed than on her expectations for the garage.

I cannot believe that Lacey Linden and I are a good match. Why did you send me?

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

One of the skills that you have yet to qualify on is Judgment. Please consider the possibility that your deficiencies there are affecting your ability to understand your new mistress.

I suggest you draw on your considerable skill with Patience and not second-guess my judgment, which is clearly more highly developed than yours.

Status Report #3

Sunday's Wish: Crafting Frames

Dear Boss,

Forgive me. It was inappropriate to question your decision to assign me here. I accept that your wisdom is superior to mine. Of course, I shall take your suggestions. Until my judgment skills mature, I shall rely on my patience instead.

Today's request allowed me to exercise more creativity. It was a pleasure, although it appears that Chief intends to sell the frames for profit.

Why didn't you mention her stepfather's death? Are there other surprises in store for me? I can't be as effective if I don't know what I'm facing.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

We're not always armed with perfect knowledge when we take on a case. Part of your job is to move forward cautiously as you gather information and adjust as each new bit of data arrives.

Decision-making is not only about discerning the facts. It's about organizing them correctly and using good judgment to the benefit of your assignment.

Status Report #4

Monday's Wish: Schedule and Budget

Dear Boss,

I owe Chief an apology. Why didn't you prepare me for this assignment?

Chief is remarkably adept at hiding her family's circumstances. I have lived in this household for three days and never suspected the depths of their difficulties. No doubt her close friends are unaware of the family's financial straits.

You chide me for my tendency to jump to conclusions, yet with this assignment, you allowed me to misjudge my new mistress. Today's conversation with Chief was awkward and avoidable. I hope that it doesn't set the tone for the remainder of our time together.

She's asked me to dress as her equal. I don't think it's necessary, but I've chosen to concede the point.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

You've reached the end of your fourth day with this family and have only now uncovered the true nature of their lives. That is too long, Grant. You need to up your game. In the future, four days is a luxury you will rarely have.

It is not too late to put your relationship on even ground. She has much to teach you. Seize the opportunity.

Status Report #5

Tuesday's Wish: Auto Repair

Dear Boss,

I can't imagine what you expect Chief to teach me.

Her behavior is rather unpredictable. She is the most closefisted teen I have ever met, yet she frequents a full-service gas station. She wants to control how I dress around her family, yet she has not warned them of my existence.

Is her mother my real mission?

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Lacey is the real mission. Help her and you will have helped her family.

Just remember that she is an apprentice human. She is learning too. She doesn't have sufficient experience to handle what life is thrusting upon her.

Lacey Linden is doing the best she can, and that is all we should expect.

Just like you.

Status Report #6

Wednesday's Wish: Landscaping

Dear Boss,

I acquired and distributed pine straw around the flower beds. It was more than Chief asked for, but I didn't mind the effort. If that is how generosity feels, it is quite an intriguing sensation.

I had to barter for the pine straw. Mrs. Williford is a kind but lonely woman.

The vegetable garden received a special application of compost. It should be exceptionally productive this fall.

Henry Jones has a real talent for soccer.

Chief has claimed that her mother is hollow. Now that I have met Mrs. Jones, it is my opinion that the opposite is true. She is saturated with pain. May I reveal myself to her?

My mistress has serious control issues. I allowed her to goad me into accepting a dinner invitation. The meal turned out to be pleasant. Chief had to work tonight and could not attend.

I detected an odd note in her voice when she uttered the word "charity," as if it were an expletive. Is her attitude part of the family's problem?

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

You may not reveal yourself to Crystal Jones. Lacey is in control of that information. She may choose when or if to reveal your identity. If she does not, then you may not.

And, yes, Lacey's attitude is part of the problem. Since you recognize that, her attitude has become one of the factors you must work around, but respectfully. Her attitude may be problematic, but it is not without basis.

Status Report #7

Thursday's Wish: Plumbing

Dear Boss,

The plumbing is like new.

I repaired all leaks and added insulation to the pipes. The utility bills should yield an improvement.

There was an infestation of insects under the house. Since I didn't care to share the crawl space with them, I persuaded them to find other accommodations.

Henry helped me. He confessed to a phobia about confined spaces. I am proud to report he triumphed over his fears and joined me for part of the time, primarily in a supervisory capacity.

I walked with him to his soccer practice. On the way, he discussed his father. As I was unsure if he expected me to respond, I chose to remain silent. It was a relief when he didn't press me for comments.

Mrs. Jones didn't sleep well last night. I could detect the scent of exhaustion on her skin. I offered to cook supper, and she accepted. The lack of variety in their pantry limited me to pasta with tomato sauce.

Afterwards, she and I sat on the deck, watching Henry kick a ball around. He was delighted to show off for an audience. She shared stories from his childhood, but none from Chief's. It was a pleasant yet puzzling hour.

The needs of this family are great. I struggle to remain detached from them.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Why do you think it is necessary to detach? There is a place for objectivity in our missions—but emotional engagement, handled well, can add the edge needed to transform a mere success into a great victory.

Status Report #9

Saturday's Wish: Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning

Dear Boss,

I completed a reconditioning of the HVAC system this afternoon. It was installed only two years ago and was already in good repair. I did not point out to Chief that she had essentially wasted a wish.

The other parts of the day were unusually eventful.

I enjoyed Henry's game. He's a natural on the field and a leader for his team.

Afterwards, Chief called me a machine. I did not like that description. It is hardly accurate.

Chief stayed at home to watch a movie while her mother and brother paid a visit to a shopping mall. I thought that was a promising sign. My optimism was misplaced, however. Crystal Jones forgot her son. I can only imagine the terror Henry must have felt as he awaited his rescue.

As we hunted for him, Chief's desperation thickened the air like smoke, filling me with every breath. If that is how empathy feels, I do not care for it.

Do you truly believe that emotional engagement will help on this case? The idea makes me uncomfortable. I do best when my thinking remains logical and objective.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Update to Status Report #9

Dear Boss,

What is happening with this case? It is unprecedented in the challenges it brings.

My previous assignments were focused on specific, personal goals. I learned discipline beside a mistress training for a cross-country race. I observed passion in a master pursuing an acting career.

I cannot recall working for a teen who wished so desperately to tend to the other people in her life, and not herself.

Why have I been assigned here? I am only an apprentice. Surely the severity of their problems deserves a Being with more experience in helping families.

Although I acknowledge Chief's concerns about her brother, I don't believe her fears are well-founded. Surely the local government would not separate Henry from his family when he is so clearly cared for.

Chief underestimates the depth of her mother's illness. Crystal Jones requires professional mental health care. Her need is urgent.

For the first time since the League instituted the revised rules, I find myself fretting under their restrictions. This family could use so much more than the guidelines permit. I have never asked for an exception before, but I wonder if it might not be warranted for them. May I use my powers on their behalf?

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

It's not your job to decide if Lacey is right or wrong about her concerns. It's your job to help her through them however you can.

You know the rules concerning your powers. They are yours to apply according to your best judgment. Exceptions are permitted—as long as they are exceptional.

I will not tell you the correct course of action. You must discern it.

Status Report #10

Sunday's Wish: Repair Henry's Clothing

Dear Boss,

It was an unusually long day.

When I asked to borrow the sewing machine, Chief's mother volunteered to do the stitching. We spent the evening turning old clothes into shorts and jeans for Henry.

I can barely contain my desire to help Crystal. She has confided her despair over losing her husband. Perhaps I have gained some influence with her. Since Chief won't permit me to seek assistance for Crystal, may I intervene on my own? I would keep my efforts to humanly possible actions, if you think that best.

I hoped there would be a positive change in our relationship when Chief treated me to vanilla ice cream. Her face as she remembered her father was lovely to behold. Yet what began as a pleasant conversation was ruined by her theories about my motivation.

It is maddening. A fake, indeed. My interest in humans is genuine. She is utterly mistaken.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

You may encourage Crystal to help herself. Suggest that she leave the house. Offer to assist her with simple chores that have obvious and fast results.

However, do not lose sight of your true mission. Lacey is your mistress, not Crystal. You may be friendly with Crystal, but you serve Lacey.

Never undermine Lacey's wishes.

Status Report #11

Monday's Wish: Painting

Dear Boss,

I painted the doors and shutters today. There were five partially filled cans of paint in the garage. Once I'd mixed them, the color was an unappealing gray. And, yes, I did use my powers to change the gray to blue. It was truly my wish.

Crystal cleaned the deck furniture. You were correct, of course. She enjoyed being outside and feeling productive. How else might I help her without violating the conditions of my assignment?

Eli accompanied Chief home from work, for which I am grateful. I had planned to do the same, but I had also promised to stay with Henry, who was quite happy to see his coach and sister together. Frankly, I find the improvement in their relationship both predictable and oddly unsettling.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

A good day. You may finally be finding your rhythm with this family.

Status Report #12

Tuesday's Wish: Attic Storage Area

Dear Boss,

Crystal asked if she could help me today. Per your suggestion, I accepted her offer and coached her through the chore. I detect a small improvement in her mood.

She participated in the cleaning of the half of the attic used for storage. Her goal was to organize one trunk. We uncovered many useful items, some of which belonged to Josh. After a good deal of persuasion, she has agreed to sell his things in a yard sale. I was initially concerned that she might react badly to parting with his personal items, but she handled the decision surprisingly well.

An old friend of Eric Linden's dropped by for a visit. Mr. Taylor was understandably suspicious of my appearance. He left after reassurances from Crystal and a review of my ID, although he had clearly not shed his concerns.

Chief is a good actress. When she pretended to be my girlfriend, I found it remarkably easy to follow her lead.

Henry and I kicked a ball around at the park. I enjoy my time with him.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Tread carefully.

With Crystal and Henry, it is good to be their companion or their coach—to follow their lead.

But you are the servant of Lacey. Learn the distinction well.

Status Report #13

Wednesday's Wish: Haircuts

Dear Boss,

I received an injury today. Suffering is a human experience that I do not care to repeat. At least physical pain heals with hardly a trace.

Chief was kind throughout the ordeal. I can never recall anyone offering to delay a wish on my behalf. It was extraordinary.

Though anxious to start her homework, she remained at my side until the pain eased. I reciprocated by allowing her a quick nap and a brief bit of tutoring.

She was shocked by her appearance after the haircut. How can she be so utterly unaware of her own beauty?

This day has been the most productive of my assignment.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

You are on the brink of achieving what I had hoped for you—acceptance of the eccentricities of your mistress; understanding of the proper application of power; but most of all, you have glimpsed the strength of struggling alongside someone, instead of against them.

Status Report #14

Thursday's Wish: Restoration of a Stained Glass Window

Dear Boss,

I found the day's assignment to be entirely satisfying. Stained glass is a new skill, with both dexterity and creativity involved. It is a lovely addition to the house and will certainly broaden its appeal.

Chief argued with a friend. I couldn't help overhearing the end of it. Kimberley Rey is a true friend to show such concern for Chief's welfare; it's a shame that Chief will not allow herself to accept such concern.

It has surprised me how little interest the neighborhood has shown over my presence. Did the Linden-Joneses keep to themselves so much?

I hope Chief makes things right with Kimberley soon. May I introduce the topic?

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

No, you may not introduce the topic. Lacey does not need your help on the issue of friendship.

Josh Jones was this family's connection to the neighborhood. Since that connection is gone now, it will take effort to rebuild. Lacey has no time to rebuild it, and Crystal has no desire. It will return when the time is right.

Status Report # 15

Friday's Wish: Closet Cleaning

Dear Boss,

Crystal performed volunteer work today. She received food as compensation. It pleased her to contribute. She talked of her husband as we worked. She chuckled as she shared stories of their courtship.

The folder from the closet is more valuable than Chief realizes. If she neglects to add it to the wish list, I shall remind her.

I do not care to partner on a project with Chief. May I refuse next time?

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

You are hers to serve. Do as she asks and make the best of it.

Status Report #16

Saturday's Wish: Floors

Dear Boss,

You need not worry about my exposure to the spectrum of human emotion. I experienced more variety today than I care for.

There have been numerous times in my career that my masters have treated me like a common servant. It is something I ought to be accustomed to. Coming from Chief, the slight cut deeper. Crystal and Henry have treated me as an equal from the moment they met me. It made Chief's attempt to demote me all the more raw.

The scene changed so rapidly that I could hardly adjust. She flowed from angry to distraught in a matter of moments. Her loss of control—her abject misery—nearly undid me.

Why is she unhappy with Crystal's attempts to improve? Surely it doesn't matter who brings about the change.

I cannot figure my mistress out. She is unlike any human I have ever met.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Lacey has been encouraging her mother for a year and has seen little success. Yet you influenced improvements in two weeks. Lacey feels envy, not recognizing that her efforts built a foundation for yours to rest upon.

Overlook her reaction. She's just being human. They are rarely logical or predictable.

The Lacey you glimpsed today gave you a great honor—for you finally saw the real person under the armor she wears to get through her day.

Status Report #18

Monday's Wish: Refurbishing Appliances and a wish on credit

Dear Boss,

The appliances in the kitchen, as well as the washing machine and dryer, are now in impeccable condition. They should last for years.

I heard a familiar voice today. I had not seen Camarin since her promotion to Principal. Did you send her to investigate my effectiveness? I assure you—it is unnecessary. Especially from her. She lacks sufficient humility to assess me, nor is she subtle enough to handle Chief's family with the sensitivity they require. Don't do this again, please.

I am puzzled over Crystal. Although her mood remains uneven, it had been many days since it had sunk quite this low. I had spent a large portion of the morning helping her plan a yard sale. It had given her great pleasure to think that she might contribute to the family's income. This was a small victory for her; I can't imagine how it could have changed so quickly.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

I do not have to explain my actions to you. If I need other Beings to be my eyes and ears, they will go and you will not get in their way.

Perhaps you should ponder whether Camarin had reasons to visit besides you.

Status Report #19 & #20

Tuesday's and Wednesday's Wishes: Important Papers and Vehicle Towing

Dear Boss,

I shared my discovery of the key with Chief at approximately four PM on Tuesday. At four-fifteen, I received a signal from her.

Chief had driven her car into a pothole and ruined a tire.

If you were watching, you might have thought I stretched the rules, but I believe my solution fell within guidelines. Duct tape is an extraordinarily useful product. It patched the tire sufficiently well to push the car home.

We did, of course, wait until after midnight so the vehicle towing task could be fulfilled on Wednesday. Chief is, understandably, upset.

Perhaps Thursday is the day to collect on the "credit wish."

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

I have no problem with your judgment call in this instance. The rules are there to protect *you* from greed. They are not there to trip you up from filling a genuine need.

Update to Status Report #20

Dear Boss,

I will not be collecting the credit wish on Thursday. Chief needs a party gown, and it must be completed by Friday.

We have reached Wish #21, and it will be the first wish that benefits only her.

My previous assignments were, frankly, dull. I knew that my masters were in need. The goals they pursued were important and required their complete dedication, but that did not alter how intensely conventional the tasks were. Chief's home-repair requests are among the most basic tasks I have ever attempted. Yet, now that I know how much they impact her entire family, her assignments have also proven to be the most rewarding.

She amazes me.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Yes, Grant. You are finally seeing what I had hoped for.

Bravo.

Status Report #21

Thursday's Wish: Dress Creation

Dear Boss,

Today I created a party dress for Chief. She reacted with utter delight.

Crystal helped with the dress, making suggestions as I sketched and cut. Once the garment was ready to be assembled, she offered to stitch it. Her sewing machine is capable of intricate work, and she has a large stock of lace, trim, and beading. Crystal took such pleasure in the project that I am surprised she ever gave this skill up.

Chief revealed the truth about their finances. Until today, neither her mother nor I knew how dependent the family's survival was on her. It is humbling to realize the extent to which I have misjudged Chief's intentions.

The wishes on this assignment have been simple. I believe that I have been completing them with care and competence. Yet I can't help but wonder if I understand humans less now than when I arrived.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

It is not your place to intervene unless there is imminent danger. It is well that you did not.

Your realization that you do not understand the ways of humans is a critical lesson to learn. Their unpredictability is exciting—not problematic.

Status Report #22

Friday's Wish: Mental Health Research

Dear Boss,

The research went well. There are many possibilities that do not involve governmental agencies, although it may take some persuasion to ease Crystal into cutting back on caffeine.

I have located a free clinic at a local church. They promise confidentiality as long as no one is in danger. I have hopes that they can provide a high quality of care.

There is more to report but I must keep it brief, for I have an unexpected engagement this evening. Lacey has asked me to escort her to a dance at her high school.

She is beautiful.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Indeed, she is.

Be careful.

Update to Status Report #22

Dear Boss,

I have fallen in love with a human. What are my options?

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

That is, of course, for you to decide. You are a week from completing this case. Barring any major errors in judgment, you are on track to qualify on all remaining emotions. Even then, LOVE would have trumped them all. So your promotion to Principal is safe at this point. You could move on to greater assignments within a matter of days.

As an alternative, it is possible for you to remain behind after this case ends and explore the complete nature of human love—with its joys and vagaries.

I know that most apprentices fear love—for its total absorption, its tendency to dull logic, its intoxicating need for more. Experience it if you will as long as you embrace the severity of its consequences—known and unknown.

Status Report #23

Saturday's Wish: Healing

Dear Boss,

I confess that I healed an injured boy. I did so fully understanding that the consequence for my action was to delay my promotion.

I will prepare for the next case.

You are correct. Until I experienced human love, I never understood its nature.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

You have confirmed your own consequence.

Status Report #24

Sunday's Wish: Shoe Factory Construction

Dear Boss,

I confess. I invited a human into my home. If that is another offense requiring discipline, then so be it.

The leave of absence will begin Saturday, following the completion of her final wish. And yes, I am completely clear about the consequences. I don't care.

I have never been so happy.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Be sure to research carefully all aspects of a Leave of Absence. Read the policy. Ask questions of other Beings who have attempted it as well.

You are already aware, no doubt, that our regular communications will come to an end. I will make spot checks from time to time—to ensure your well-being. And you may always use your own tattoo for emergencies.

Status Report #25

Monday's Wish: Shoe Production

Dear Boss,

Why did you send Camarin again? Were you truly concerned about my work for this family? Or was her real goal to remind me of the gravity of what I'm about to do?

I have made my choice. After reviewing the Leave of Absence Protocol, I'm clear about its directives. I understand that I am to contact you only if I wish to return to the League—and that you will monitor me only in case of a health emergency that requires an immediate extraction.

Do not concern yourself about Lacey's family. I have met their needs well, and I will continue to serve them on my leave of absence. I resent the implication that my judgment is clouded or my skills compromised by human love.

I have unfinished business here. Crystal is at a fragile stage in her improvement. If I leave as scheduled, she will suffer. Henry and I have become good friends. I am not prepared to abandon him yet.

And Lacey? I cannot fathom the thought of saying goodbye. I love her. It makes no sense for us to part.

You encourage Beings to understand love. Why then are you throwing up obstacles when I wish to experience it for myself?

Please do not investigate again. Camarin's presence has raised unnecessary questions in Lacey's mind. I am comfortable with my decision.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Indeed.

Unless I hear differently from you, the Leave of Absence Protocol will be engaged as you wish. You must formally notify me when you are ready to resume your training.