

Writing prompt: Where are you running with the devil on your heels?

You know the joke, right?

What do you do if you see a naked man running down the street, balls flapping freely, just pounding away on the asphalt as fast as he can go?

You run *with* that man, because there is some scary shit coming up behind him.

Right? You know that one.

So today I'm the naked man.

And you know, I thought a lot more people had heard that joke, but nobody's running yet; just staring, maybe pointing. Once I heard somebody shriek, then gasp out that nervous laughter some women do when they see somebody like me impinging on their social norms. Not a real scream yet, thank god. Still gave me a burst of speed and a third wind.

It's early. Lot of folks I'm passing probably haven't had their coffee yet, are still puttering around, being morning zombies. I'd shout warnings as I go, but I need my breath for running.

Yeah, I'm a selfish bastard. That's the way the world turns.

Soon enough, they'll see why I'm running. It might be too late for them though. Tough breaks.

There's that other joke, you know, about the bear. Or maybe it's not a joke. Maybe it was some guy like me, who knows what it's like when the shit goes down.

When a bear is chasing you, you don't have to run faster than the bear; you just have to run faster than the guy next to you.

There's nobody next to me--yet. But I figure I've got a decent head start, sore balls or not. I'm not going to stop running, though. Just gonna keep going. As long and as fast as I can.

There's the first real scream. And a few more. A lot closer than I thought they'd be.

Winners never quit, quitters never win. I really, really want to be a winner today. Please. Please. Ple--

Drabble version:

A naked man's running down the street, balls flapping. What'dya do?

You run too, because some scary shit's following behind.

Today I'm the naked man.

Nobody else is running yet. Buncha morning zombies. I'd shout warnings, but I need my breath.

Yeah, I'm a selfish bastard. Them's the breaks.

There's another saying, about when a bear is chasing you. You don't have to beat the bear, just the other guy.

There's the first real scream. A lot closer than I thought it'd be.

Winners never quit, quitters never win. I really want to be a winner today. Please. Please. Ple--