



# EVEN SWAPS

by John S.



System update: After indexing all of Aesop's Fables, Shakespeare, Poor Richard's Almanac, and the Book of Proverbs, I think I've learned some things about equivalent values, and about bartering, too. But you can't judge a book by its cover, you know, so I'm putting this newfound knowledge to use. Practice makes perfect!

Here I have some people who want things. I'm pretty sure I can trade them something as good or better than what they're looking for, and there's no time like the present.

Once we've sorted out who gets what, I need your help answering one more question.

## PEOPLE

**Charles** needs the truest kind of compliments.

**Dave** needs a paycheck made out to him for \$0.01.

**Delia** needs  $10^3$  vocabulary terms.

**Dick** needs something inexpensive.

**Edgar** needs some guy's stone palace.

**Emily** needs cash.

**Hank** needs something made from element 79 (Au).

**Hannah** needs some infernal demon you've never heard of.

**Harold** needs gravy to serve with a male farm bird.

**Hester** needs faith.

**Ian** needs the album "Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me," enough copies to weigh 16 oz. total.

**Ivy** needs an additional twenty-four hours.

**Larry** needs ecstasy.

**Mark** needs one eyelid to close slyly and open again.

**Oliver** needs a sabre.

**Oona** needs to be almost a deity.

**Oscar** needs too many people.

**Robert** needs friends to hang out with.

**Ted** needs the most effective drug.

**Thea** needs to swear whenever the lights go out.

**Timothy** needs a noggin.

**Tom** needs an encouraging update.

**Wendy** needs political clout.

**Wes** needs a pair of turtledoves in some shrubbery.

**Yannis** needs the piquant flavoring of existence.

## ITEMS

\_\_\_\_\_ No sound at all.

\_\_\_\_\_ A Sharpie.

\_\_\_\_\_ A fist clutching a pigeon.

\_\_\_\_\_ A photograph.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 tbsp. of vaccine.

\_\_\_\_\_ A copper coin in a piggybank.

\_\_\_\_\_ Conversation.

\_\_\_\_\_ A thorough scrubbing.

\_\_\_\_\_ A duo.

\_\_\_\_\_ A trio.

\_\_\_\_\_ Setting fire to a wick.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your old pal Satan.

\_\_\_\_\_ Many different choices.

\_\_\_\_\_ A quick head bob.

\_\_\_\_\_ Some guy's residence.

\_\_\_\_\_ Stupidity.

\_\_\_\_\_ Guffaws.

\_\_\_\_\_ Complete lack of current events.

\_\_\_\_\_ Observing.

\_\_\_\_\_ The fourth dimension.

\_\_\_\_\_ Information.

\_\_\_\_\_ The day after today.

\_\_\_\_\_ A pair of noggins.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mimicry.

\_\_\_\_\_ Gravy to serve with a female farm bird.

**ANSWER:** \_\_\_\_\_ !