

The
**SECRET
LIFE**

of WALTER MITTY

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RETOLD BY
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Retold by Sara Simpson

Walter Mitty looked at his wife sitting next to him in the car. He had been daydreaming again, and it took him a minute to come back to reality. He wasn't the commander of an air force plane, driving his men through a storm. He was middle-aged Walter Mitty, driving his wife on her errands.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

Create a list of words that describes Walter Mitty.

Explain how the real Walter Mitty is different from

Explain how the real Walter Mitty is different from Commander Walter Mitty from his fantasy.

[illegible]

Pritchard-Mitford. They are doing their best, but they need you right away!"

Dr. Walter Mitty slowly took off his gloves. He was calm and ready.

Dr. Renshaw came out of the operating room. He looked tired and very upset.

"You have to come right now!" Dr. Renshaw said. "It's McMillan, millionaire banker and close friend of President Roosevelt! He has obstreosis of the ductal tract! It's bad! We need you!"

"Glad to help," Dr. Mitty said calmly. "Let's see the patient."

Dr. Mitty put on a surgical gown and gloves and went into the operating room. All the doctors looked up at Dr. Mitty.

"Dr. Mitty, it's an honor to get to work with you," said Dr. Pritchard-Mitsford. "I read your book on streptothricosis. It was brilliant!"

"I couldn't believe our luck, catching you home from traveling the world," Dr. Remington said.

Just then, a huge, complicated machine full of wires and tubes started to go pocketa-pocketa-pocketa.

"The new anaesthetizer is breaking!" cried a nurse. "There's no one within 100 miles who knows how to fix it!"

The machine was now going pocketa-pocketa-pocketa-queep, which was even worse.

"Everyone be quiet," Dr. Mitty said in a calm, cool voice. "Give me a pen!"

Someone handed Dr. Mitty a pen. He pulled a piece of metal out of the machine and put the pen in its place.

Explain why you think Walter Mitty daydreams about being a surgeon. Hint: How is the surgeon in his daydream different from Mitty in real life?

“That will fix the machine for 10 minutes,” Dr. Mitty said. “Let’s finish this operation.”

“Oh, no!” cried Dr. Renshaw. “Coreopsis has set in! McMillan will never make it!”

“I’ll take over,” Dr. Mitty said. All the other doctors looked relieved. Dr. Mitty put on gloves, a nurse handed him a scalpel, then---

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“Mister! You’re trying to go in the parking lot the wrong way! Look out for that car!” shouted the parking lot attendant. “The sign says ‘exit only!’”

Mitty slowly and carefully backed his car out.

“Just leave the car there,” the parking lot attendant said. “I’ll put it away. Give me the key.”

Mitty got out of the car and gave the key to the parking lot attendant. The attendant jumped into the car and parked it perfectly.

“That guy is a jerk,” Mitty thought to himself as he walked down Main Street. “He thinks he knows everything.” One time, Mitty tried to take the snow chains off his car himself, but he got the chains so tangled up the car had to get towed to the repair shop to get fixed. After that, Mrs. Mitty made him go to the mechanic to get the chains taken off.

“Next time I need the chains taken off,” Mitty thought, “I’ll wear a sling on my arm. The guys at the garage will think I have a broken arm, and they won’t laugh at me for not being able to take off my own snow chains.”

Mitty kicked a pile of slush on the sidewalk. He remembered: snow boots. Mitty went into shoe store and bought snow boots. When he came out of the shoe store, he tried to remember the other thing his wife wanted him to buy. She told him twice before they left the house. He hated running errands for his wife; he was always messing up and

What does the story about the tangled snow chains tell you about the real Walter Mitty’s character?

getting something wrong. What was it she wanted...? Kleenex? No. Toothpaste? No. Toothbrush? No. He gave up. He knew his wife would remember. She would ask him "Where's the what's-its-name?" and he'd feel like a failure. Again.

A boy selling newspapers was shouting out a headline about a murder trial in the news...

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"Perhaps THIS will refresh your memory!" shouted the District Attorney, shoving a handgun across the witness stand at Walter Mitty. "Have you ever seen this gun before?"

"Yes," Walter Mitty said calmly, picking up the gun. "This is my Webley-Vickers 50.80."

Everyone in the courtroom started to talk in excited whispers. The judge rapped his gavel and told everyone to be quiet.

"You are an expert at shooting guns, Mr. Mitty? It that true?" said the District Attorney.

"I object!" shouted Mitty's lawyer. "We have shown that Mr. Mitty could not have been the one who fired the shot. His right arm was in a sling on the night of the murder!"

Mitty raised his hand. The courtroom became silent. Everyone looked at him to see what he would say

"I could have killed him even with my LEFT hand," Mitty said.

The courtroom went wild. A beautiful girl with black hair screamed, then ran to Mitty and threw herself into his arms. The District Attorney hit the girl. Without even getting up from his chair, Mitty punched the man in the face and knocked him unconscious.

Who is the "boss" in Mr. and Mrs. Mitty's marriage? Describe two examples from the story that prove your answer.

Webley-Vickers is a made-up gun name; there is no actual gun called a Webley-Vickers. Explain what it tells you about Mitty that he uses a made-up name for the brand of the gun.

Explain why you think Mitty daydreams about the pretty girl throwing herself at him.

"You should never hit a woman," Mitty said. The girl----

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"Puppy biscuits!" cried Walter Mitty.

He stopped walking and looked up at the tall building on Main Street. A woman walking by him laughed.

"That man just said 'puppy biscuits' to himself!" the woman said to the man she was walking with.

Walter Mitty looked down at his feet and quickly kept walking. He went into the grocery store.

"I'm looking for dog biscuits," Mitty said to the clerk. "The kind you give to small, young dogs."

"What brand?" said the clerk.

"I can't remember the brand, but it says 'Puppies Bark for It' on the box," Mitty said.

Walter Mitty bought the dog biscuits and went to the hotel lobby to wait for his wife. He looked at his watch; his wife would be done at the hair salon in 15 minutes. He had gotten back just in time; Mrs. Mitty hated it when he wasn't there waiting for her.

Walter Mitty sat down in a big, leather chair in the hotel lobby. He picked up an old magazine. On the cover, it read "Can Germany Take Over the World With Its Planes?" There was a picture of bomber planes and ruined streets on the cover...

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"Captain!" the young sargent said to Walter Mitty. "Airman Raleigh can't take any more! All the bombing has driven him crazy!"

"Get him to bed. He needs rest," Air Force Captain Mitty said. "I can fly alone."

What effect does it have on the reader when Mitty cuts off his daydream and yells out "Puppy biscuits!"

"You can't, sir!" said the young sargent. "It takes two men to fly that plane, and the Germans are bombing everything in sight!"

"It doesn't matter," Captain Mitty said. "Someone has to make sure the men on the ground get more bullets, and I'm the only man who can do it."

Walter Mitty poured two glasses of brandy--one for himself and one for the young sargent. A bomb exploded outside, and the building shook. The sargent looked afraid.

"It's getting closer," Mitty said. He was totally relaxed in spite of the danger. "You only live once!"

Mitty drank another glass of brandy. He picked up his Weebly-Vickers gun.

"You're about to fly through Hell, sir!" the sargent said, still looking scared.

Mitty drank one more glass of brandy. The sound of guns and bombs was getting louder. The bullets were hitting the building with a pocketa-pocketa-pocketa sound. Mitty walked to the door, humming a song.

"Goodbye!" Mitty said, going out into the battle.

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"I've been looking everywhere for you!" Mrs. Mitty said. "You've been hiding in his big chair! How was I supposed to find you? Did you get the things I told you to buy?"

Mitty showed her the box of puppy biscuits and the snow boots. He looked at his wife.

"Does it ever occur to you that I'm thinking about things?" Mitty asked.

Mrs. Mitty looked at her husband. She looked confused.

In his daydream, Mitty drinks three glasses of brandy in just a few minutes. What inference can you make about the drinking habits of the real-life Walter Mitty based on his daydream?

"I'm going to take your temperature when we get

[illegible]

Mitty's last daydream is about being shot and killed by a firing squad. Why does he fantasize about being executed? Hint: How does he feel about his real life?

[illegible][illegible]
