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EXPERT APPRAISAL

on the instructor course evaluation is a question asking the student to rate the instructor's knowledge of the material.

the forms are submitted anonymously.

one mystery guest in my remedial English course blacked in the dot besides "very poor."

the act raises two questions: how could he know? and what would (or could) he have written had he been forced to use his own words?

A HOPEFUL PUN

at least my nails and hair keep growing at a fast clip.

CHECK UNDER THE HOOD

the official notice that the divorce was final came in an envelope cloaked like junk mail. inside was a carbon with an X in the block beside "Final dissolution of marriage."

O, he didn't expect trumpets to blare with Claude Rains stepping forth to read solemnly from a scroll, but he had expected perhaps a sign of human communication at the wire: if not "It gives us great pleasure to inform you," at least maybe a "Dear Sir."

but no, it was a pink copy, just like he gets when he has his oil changed. then he realized that's what had happened.