



My definition of nightmares has changed

By Puck, 50 years old, 14 years in prison

Everything I write is written out by hand on paper before it ever reaches the typewriter. This allows me to re-gather my thoughts and re-arrange what I am trying to convey to the reader, in some form of order and coherence! My brain processes information way faster than my hand can write it all out, so there are a lot of times when a simple letter will become a jumbled mess of confusing psychobabble, before I get back and edit it. There is also the case of having ADHD, which causes me to lose focus on a subject and / or become sidetracked in the middle of a topic, or task.

Someone asked me whether I have nightmares. That's a tough one... my definition of the word has changed / evolved between childhood and adulthood. Here's an example: Upon seeing the movie "Jaws" as a child, I had nightmares for years, and grew up with an irrational fear of sharks. On the other hand, I also saw a movie called "Night of the living dead" as a kid, but I never had scary dreams of dead people chasing me around to get a bite of my tasty brain. As a matter of fact, I enjoyed that nonsense so much, I'm writing about it as an adult. But sharks? Hell no!

I do still have unusual dreams on occasion, but not ones I'd consider nightmares exactly. I mean, I may be sitting in prison for the rest of my natural waking life – so how much scarier could my dreams possibly be?

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