

MY  
DAYS



JULY  
2023

LINDSAY  
WINCHERAUK

Lindsay Wincherauk

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MERCHANTS OF GREED  
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Yesterday, J and I managed to escape our challenging situation for another day. I decided to take a break from the Fitness Asylum, even though some people may argue that I don't take enough time off. But they're wrong. I'm a finely tuned 63-year-old athlete, comparable to an Olympian. By the way, would you like to see a picture of my nephew?

I spent the day writing, reading, and walking, not expecting to reach the impressive 30,000 steps goal. But we surprised ourselves and achieved it. We pushed ourselves to the limit, even though it wasn't the wisest decision considering our financial situation. Nonetheless, we found a brief moment of respite, although worry was never far behind.

I decided to take a break for the rest of the day and turned on the television.

To my surprise, GSOB TV was featuring an interview with Fernando, who had recently made the list of the top 10 Greediest Business People in their Fifties. I couldn't help but wonder why Fernando would agree to this interview.

Allow me to answer that question. Well, it's probably due to his narcissism, greed, and lack of intelligence when it comes to making wise decisions. But what intrigued me even more was the fact that Charlie Tuna, a journalist notorious for breaking down his guests, reducing them to tears or stunned expressions, was conducting the interview.

Fernando arrived at the **GSOB Studios** and was greeted by a greeter.

**Greeter:** Hello, Fernando! I'm glad you're here. Many people are afraid to come.

Can I offer you anything?

**Fernando:** Do you happen to have any cocaine or steroids?

**Greeter:** We actually brought some just for you. Also, I think it would be best if you wore this jacket instead of a wife-beater for the interview.

As the lights in the studio dimmed, ominous music filled the air.

**Charlie Tuna:** Today, we have a special treat for you. I'll be interviewing Fernando, who some would describe as a greedy individual, about how he has received **FIVE EXPLOITY AWARDS** for his contributions to the suffering we witness on our streets. You know what they say, keep your foot on the heads of those you exploit, and you can profit off their misery indefinitely.

Well, I might have just made that up.

Now, let's give a big round of applause for Fernando, the owner of **DGCW Industries**.

The studio audience responded with boos and jeers, but Sam and the Other Guy sitting in the back row clapped.

**Charlie Tuna:** Fernando, you're a wealthy individual. Can you share the keys to your success?

**Fernando:** You promised you'd only ask me snowball questions.

**Charlie Tuna:** It's softball questions.

**Fernando:** Whatever.

**Charlie Tuna:** How did you get started in the exploitative business?

**Fernando:** Well, Charlie, it all began with my popularity in high school. Some may have called me a bully, but I surrounded myself with people who idolized me.

Sam and the Other Guy in the audience applauded.

**Fernando:** I excelled in sports and had a great sense of humor. I also had access to certain substances if you catch my drift. And, of course, I played hockey, which was my dream.

Want to do a line with me, Charlie? No? More for me, then.

**Charlie Tuna:** You're not really answering my question.

**Fernando:** I got lucky. My friends' parents had money, while all I had were the amazing qualities I mentioned earlier.

**Charlie Tuna:** And the cocaine.

**Fernando:** Damn right, the cocaine. You wouldn't believe how easily people can be manipulated after a few lines.

**Charlie Tuna:** What about your business?

**Fernando:** Nice snowball question.

I believe people need to hear how extraordinary I am. I started by partying at nightclubs, turning that into bounce, bounce, bouncing, as my hockey career wasn't going anywhere. Then, after another line, I found someone who could provide me with steroids. I became strong and unstoppable.

**Charlie Tuna:** So, basically, you're just an unpleasant person.

**Fernando:** I prefer to think of myself as chosen. Sam and the Other Guy worshipped me, as did some others who are no longer around because they had nothing left to offer. I rid myself of them, and honestly, Charlie, they didn't deserve to be my friends anymore.

**Charlie Tuna:** Wait, let me get this straight. You built a business around exploiting suffering people?

**Fernando:** Well, I wouldn't put it that way exactly. I mean, yes, I did take advantage of people who were struggling, but they deserved it and I gave them opportunities to make me rich by working themselves to death for me.

**Charlie Tuna:** Opportunities? You preyed on vulnerable individuals with addiction, homelessness, and mental health issues.

**Fernando:** I guess you could say that, but it's not as black and white as it sounds. These were people who had been dealt a tough hand in life, and I saw a chance to provide them with a means to make me dollar, dollar, bills, yeah!

**Charlie Tuna:** So, you're admitting to being a greedy opportunist?

**Fernando:** Hold on, let me explain. I didn't start off with malicious intent. I initially entered the industry working for another company, but I soon realized my boss was a greedy ass and I wanted the money for myself.

**Charlie Tuna:** But didn't you betray your friend and steal from him?

**Fernando:** Well, we had our differences, and I really like cocaine, steroids and counting money. It wasn't an easy decision, but I saw an opportunity to steal his business model and do the exact same thing myself, only not better, but just the exact same.

Unfortunately, not everyone saw eye to eye with me.

**Charlie Tuna:** And what about all the legal issues with your former partners?

**Fernando:** Ah, those misunderstandings. Look, business can be tough, and sometimes disagreements arise. It doesn't mean I'm a bad person. Cracker Jacks. One, two, three, I'm a good counter. Really good. All. Money. Mine.

**Charlie Tuna:** It seems like your success came at the expense of others' suffering.

**Fernando:** I won't deny that there were sacrifices along the way, but I genuinely believe that I've made a positive impact on the lives of many. I may not be the most likable person, but I've surrounded myself with people who are willing to agree with everything I say.

**Charlie Tuna:** I still can't support what you've done. You truly are a despicable one-dimensional coward.

**Fernando:** That's your prerogative. But remember, life isn't always black and white. I've made mistakes, but I've also made a difference. A difference to my bank account, Dog! And in the end, I believe that's what matters most. Snort.

**Charlie Tuna:** So, I repeat; you prey on vulnerable people with addiction, homelessness, and mental health issues.

**Fernando:** Don't forget those who have been dealt a difficult hand in life.

**Charlie Tuna:** So, you are driven by greed?

**Fernando:** That's a loaded question. I wouldn't call it greed, but rather a desire for success and wealth. I can't seem to find the right word for it, but I'm sure you understand. I am a business-minded individual.

**Charlie Tuna:** What?

**Fernando:** I made some questionable choices, fueled by substances and steroids. No. I. Did. Not.

Initially, I entered the industry through a side-door, working for another company. I even persuaded one of my employees, who was struggling with addiction, to obtain special pills for me from vendors on the mean streets.

Unfortunately, his girlfriend overdosed and died, so I had to let him go. After a year, I realized that there were many people out there who are homeless and battling addiction, and I saw an opportunity to create my own money-making exploitative business. Yay. Exploitative!

**Charlie Tuna:** Didn't he used to be your friend, your business partner?

**Fernando:** Friend? I'm not sure I know what that means.

**Charlie Tuna:** Someone you trust and would do anything for.

**Fernando:** I've never really had those kinds of people in my life.

Sam and the Other Guy clap.

**Fernando:** So, after realizing that there were countless suffering people who were easy to exploit, I left that company and started my own business with someone of similar ilk to me.

**Charlie Tuna:** Interesting.

**Fernando:** What's interesting?

**Charlie Tuna:** You used the word "ilk."

**Fernando:** But you know what, Charlie? My partner and I didn't see eye to eye. He wanted some of the loot for himself. So, I decided to leave, taking all the procedures with me, and start my own exploitative business.

**Charlie Tuna:** I don't like you.

**Fernando:** Oh well. I indulged in more substances, more steroids, and focused on building my business.

**Charlie Tuna:** How did you do that?

**Fernando:** I used alcohol and strippers as incentives to attract potential clients. It worked because I didn't have any other skills to rely on. I consider it a stroke of luck.

**Charlie Tuna:** So, let me get this straight, you built a business by profiting off the suffering of others?

**Fernando:** Smart, isn't it?

**Charlie Tuna:** You are not a likable person.

**Fernando:** I surrounded myself with people who I could use, even my key employees.

**Charlie Tuna:** Hasn't every one of your former business partners ended up in legal disputes with you?

**Fernando:** What's your point? Well, they should've known what they were getting into. I have to thank the suffering people for my success.

**Charlie Tuna:** And what about your last business partner?

**Fernando:** He sued me and started his own company.

**Charlie Tuna:** And the one before that?

**Fernando:** He sued me too and started his own company.

**Charlie Tuna:** Maybe you should reconsider your choices.



**Fernando** Is this some sort of intervention? I am who I am, and I am successful.

**Charlie Tuna:** I think this is a good place to end the interview.

What can I say about Fernando?

He is far from being a genius entrepreneur. In fact, he can't even spell the word.

People like Fernando are nothing more than parasites, only concerned with filling their own pockets. He does very little work and uses his bravado to exploit others. His only talent seems to be manipulating people with alcohol and drugs. Fernando fails to realize the harm he is causing to the world. It sickens me to spend time with someone like him.

Sam and the Other Guy clap.

**Charlie Tuna:** Why are you clapping?

Don't you realize that Fernando sees you as nothing more than minions to be used?

You are too blinded by his promises of ownership to see the truth. I urge you to take a step back and reflect on what you do and compare it to what Fernando does.

Sam, Fernando is visibly upset about the declining numbers.

The Other Guy, "Hey, Other Guy, I did a ton of blow tonight at this party that is a front for my employees, but it's really just a way for me to show off to my temporary friends how successful I am. They worship me, even the temporary friend I brought to the work function, you know the "Reality TV Star" who spent two hours boasting about his conquests. Anyway, Other Guy, can you clean up after me? Thanks."

Security!!!

**Fernando:** I'm a god.

**Security Guard (Roger):** Sir, you need to leave the studio.

**Fernando:** Do you know who I am?

**Security Guard (Roger):** Yes, you provided my sister's boyfriend with the drugs that killed her.

**Fernando:** He was working for me. At least your sister went out on a high. Hey, let go of my arm. I'm strong, you know. Want some blow?

**Charlie Tuna:** I have one final question.

Several years ago, **DGCW Industries** was in a difficult position, and it was rumored that someone in your employ saved the company.

How did you show your appreciation to this person?

**Fernando:** I am a successful businessman, and I am grateful for what he brought to my

company. He had a challenging life, and I took advantage of that. I believe people are put on this earth to serve my interests. That's just a fact. My first wife had to go. My second wife ran an illegal daycare – and you call me an exploitative person. I did more blow. I'm feeling really down, and I don't know how to be a better person. In all reality, I am nothing more than a meek cowardly, coward.

**Charlie Tuna:** What did you do to this person?

**Fernando:** He allowed himself to be used by me. He often provided valuable insights and alternative solutions in meetings, but I would intimidate him and shut him down. You know, to maintain control.

The problem started when I saw him becoming friends with Sam. I wasn't finished using Sam to get to people he knew, so I had to get rid of the man who saved my company.

**Charlie Tuna:** You are a... Did your actions work?

**Fernando:** No because he had integrity. He was different from the rest.

I'm sure my relationships with Sam and the Other Guy will end in litigation. I'm counting on them being too stupid to realise I'm using them. I don't really like them.

**Charlie Tuna:** Perhaps you should reconsider your choices.

**Fernando:** I'll think about it after another line.

**Charlie Tuna (vomits):** That's all for today. I can't stand being in the presence of someone like Fernando any longer. He represents everything that is wrong with the world. He is truly a predator. I wish him nothing but failure.

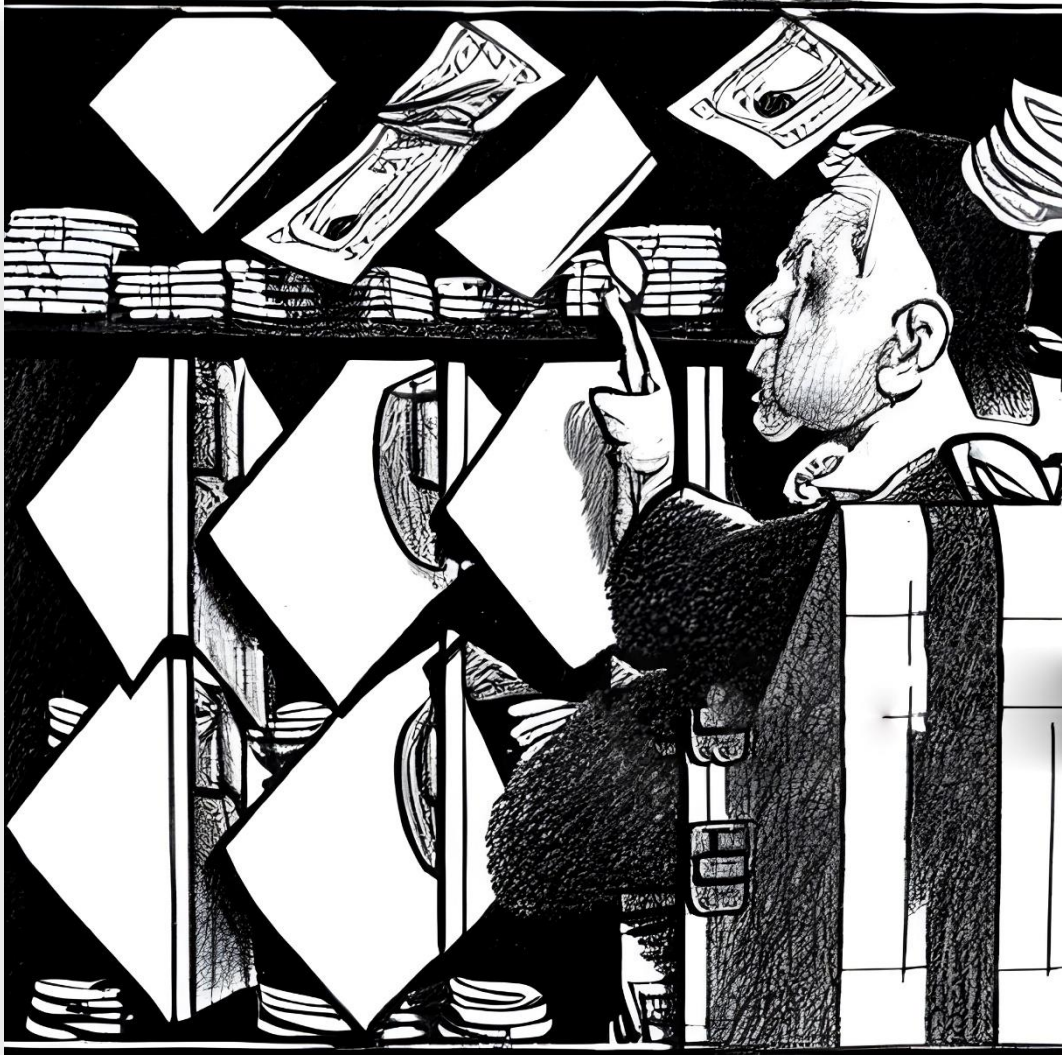
**Fernando:** (being escorted out by Roger, his face covered in powder) Thanks for the snowball interview. Hey, I thought you were going to ask me about my **FIVE EXPLOITY AWARDS**.

Sam and the Other Guy clap.

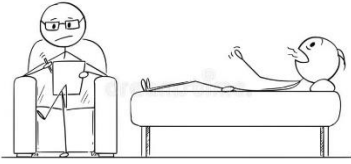
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Grammarly Readability Score = 93.

Grammarly Readability Record = 99 (May 1, 2023)



## A 60ish-Year-Old-Man Talks to a Shrink about Movement



I heard you are walking a ton lately, why?

Well, there are several reasons:

I lost my job.

I sank into depression because—

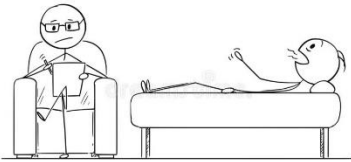


—my future is uncertain. I am 60, and I risk—

—losing everything. Starting over at 60—

—daunting to say the least.

I decided I could wallow about what had—



—been done to me, or I could do something to—

—make the world a better place.

I could lament about nefarious forces who—

—would rather destroy lives because of—

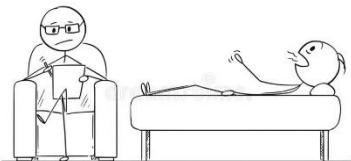


Greed?

I don't know, Doc?

I'm not sure what motivates the nefarious.

Anyway, enough about the garbage.



I simply want to make a difference.

What's in it for me?

Nothing really, wait—health, weight loss,

a sunburnt nose, mental well-being—



—and my lovely 60-year-old legs have gone—

—from lovely, to spectacular.

Movement is saving my life and mind.

Won't you kick in a dollar or two?!?

The fictitious Stickman is raising funds for

The BC Children's Hospital Foundation