

MY  
DAYS



JULY  
2023

LINDSAY  
WINCHERAUK

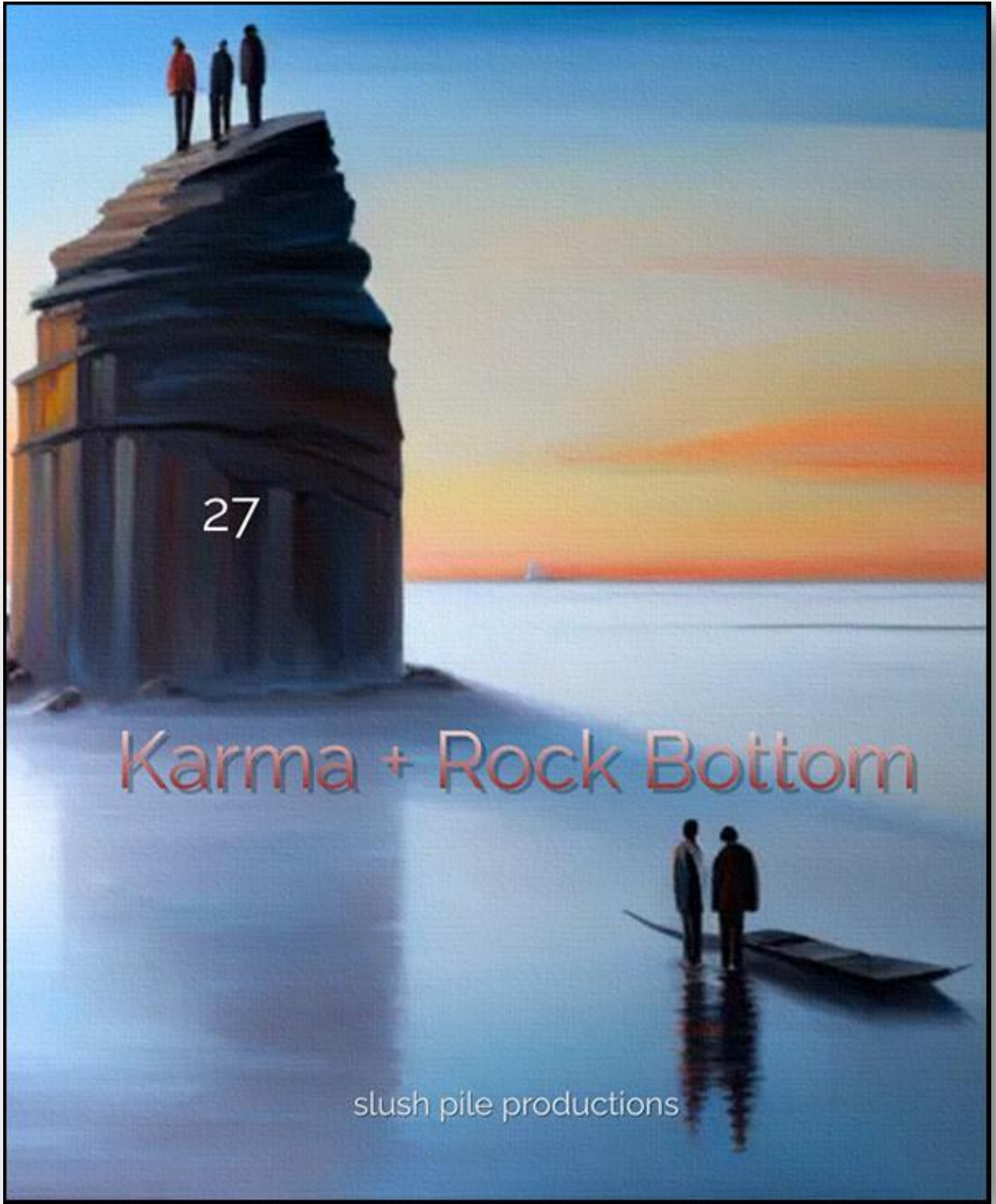
Lindsay Wincherauk

**JULY 2023**

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**MY DAYS: JULY 2023**

LINDSAY WINCHERAUK  
ЛИНДСЯИ МИНЧЕРАУК



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MY DAYS: JULY 2023  
МЯ ДЯИ: ЮЛЯ 2023

KARMA + ROCK BOTTOM  
KARMA + ROCK BOTTOM



I believe karma is a complex concept to understand. One can perform countless acts of kindness and still face immense difficulties in life. So, if karma truly exists, doing good deeds may not necessarily be the sole solution to escape challenging situations. Nevertheless, regardless of our circumstances, we should strive to be good people from day one.

After a hard day of hauling rebar, Sam, and Fernando return to the office. Sam complains about his shoulder, which has been severely strained from the physical labour, and his heart feels as if it may explode at any moment.

Fernando, on the other hand, complains about owning a company with multiple locations, oblivious to the fact that he now works for me.

Currently, the only work available for him is rebar. He accuses me of trying to make him suffer as payback for what he had done to me. I explain that his perspective is short-sighted since he came to my office, not the other way around.

Despite his plight and the fact that he lost everything, I apologize and assure him that I will do my best to help him, regardless of everything he has done. I admit that I don't particularly want to help him, but I feel obligated to live a morally upright life, no matter who or what the circumstances may be.

As Fernando continues to complain and Sam persists in his whining, they show me the scars on their bodies from their laborious work.

Sam then asks if there are any office jobs available.

It becomes clear to me that I don't want to use people, especially not for personal gain. So, I make a genuine and generous offer to them, thanking them for the impact they had on turning my life upside down. This unexpected gratitude surprises them, as they wonder why I would thank them for causing such turmoil in my life. I explain that their actions have made it abundantly clear what my path forward is: telling stories and writing, while striving to be a good person.

Instead of harboring anger and seeking revenge, something inside me had changed. Despite their cruelty, I remember the years we spent together, breaking bread every Monday, with Sam. I recall the knowledge I gained about Sam's family and about the job Fernando gave me, even if it wasn't always fair. I realize that I ignored the signs of nepotism and am partly to blame. Therefore, I express gratitude towards them because, without their unkindness, I wouldn't be where I am today.

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Starting Retro was not my initial intention; it was merely a result of being backed into a corner. Nonetheless, I am determined to pursue my writing path while also keeping Retro afloat.

I vow to treat all employees fairly and with empathy, even though it may not align with the typical business model that focuses solely on profit. My plan is to help people transition out of rough situations, using all my earnings for their benefit.

I presented them with an alternative for the day, suggesting, "Hey, guys, I have a different job opportunity. Instead of doing rebar tomorrow, I can send you to a recycling plant. Sure, it's a bit stinky, but trust me, you'll eventually get used to it. Perhaps the smell might even become a part of you, indelibly tattooed onto your skin, but rest assured, those around you will likely adapt as well."

However, upon reflection, I realized that wasn't the right course of action. So, here's my decision: despite your actions and the intentional harm you've caused others, I refuse to

reciprocate. I am determined to stay true to my own path, the path of writing, and I desperately need to pursue it.

As I tirelessly toil away at Retro, ensuring its financial stability, I remain unwavering in my commitment to treating all individuals with fairness and compassion. I understand that you may perceive this as an unorthodox approach to business, as you believe that profit should be the sole driving force. However, I vehemently disagree. Just look at where that mindset has landed the two of you.

Ah, do I sense that you need assistance? Would you like me to extend a helping hand to extricate you from this quagmire?

Fear not, for I am here to lend my support.

Why, you may ask?

Simply because I am not you. Feel free to express your gratitude at a later time.

My intention has always been to assist others, including both of you. And now, I have a solution that could help you escape your current predicament at the bottom of the rock.

Surprisingly, my plan involves involving you in our operations. I understand that this may come as a shock, considering your past actions. However, instead of sending you off to rebar or the recycling plant tomorrow, I propose that you drive our most valuable asset, our workers, to their jobs. This will give you the opportunity to get to know them and experience life without entitlement.

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As time goes by and, when I secure a book deal, I envision bringing you into management.

Fernando, you could be the bigwig, relishing the comforts of home and indulging in whatever you did before. I'll even provide you with a new calculator, or I will give you The Other Guy as an assistant.

Sam, you can certainly choose to confine yourself behind a desk, metaphorically exerting control over no one but yourself. However, I will not tolerate any attempts on your part to exert your power over our valuable employees. This is most certainly not literally surreal.

However, I want to emphasize that under no circumstances will I tolerate any disrespect towards our workers. They are human beings, and you are no better than them.

Rest assured, you will receive a fair salary, starting at \$100,000 per year.

As for me, I will limit myself to an annual income of \$50,000, dedicating its entirety to aiding those in poverty and improving their lives.

Furthermore, I will establish a board composed of our workers to oversee your actions.

You will enjoy a comfortable life, just like before, with a 10% raise each year. However, it is crucial to note that the board, consisting of three members, holds the power to terminate your employment immediately, without any recourse, if they believe you have disrespected or acted out of greed. This condition will be included in your contract. I understand that you may feel as though you are sinking deeper into the abyss, hitting rock bottom.

Perhaps, unintentionally, you led me into this desperate situation while I was attempting to take care of myself and J, finding a way to survive. However, I refuse to abandon you in the same heartless manner.

Nevertheless, if you harm or disrespect any of our employees, that will mark your last day working for us. My offer to the two of you is more than a fair offer, and you can choose to accept or reject it. Most people think I'm insane even offering it to you, many of whom, would love to see you bathing in acid.

Rock Bottom signifies self-inflicted suffering, and in my case, I crashed into its depths due to your wicked inclinations. On the other hand, you brought this upon yourself, and I must admit, it suits you well – have you finally grasped the wisdom it holds?

I am aware that you are spiraling downward, but I am extending my hand to help you rise. If you find the strength to let some of your ego, go, grasp onto my hand, I promise to pull you upward, and together we can make a small difference on this spinning rock.

This is not about forgiveness; it is about acknowledging that you cannot survive without some assistance from those you have harmed. And there are many.

Naturally, all of this depends on me securing a book deal, which I anticipate will happen soon.

Therefore, it is in your best interest to support and hope for my success.

Once that occurs, your life can begin to return to its previous path, but this time with an added dose of compassion.

Anyway, I must get back to my writing, as my success is crucial in leading you towards the individuals you are destined to become.

So, do we have an agreement?

And Fernando, I must sincerely request that you reduce your cocaine consumption. Can you manage that?

No ... seriously ... can you?

Of course, you can.

Have you ever wondered why I advocated for the ban on plastic straws?

It was a strategic move to ultimately benefit people like you.

To further assist you, Fernando, I have decided that one of our valuable employees will conduct routine checks to ensure you are not in possession of any straws.

Let me ask both of you one final time, do we have an agreement?

Or would you prefer a trip to the recycling plant?

Oh, and one more thing.

While I may have altruistic tendencies, I will never be able to forgive you for the deliberate harm you caused to my family. If you ever repeat such actions towards anyone else, it will not only mark your termination at Retro, but also the end of your existence on this planet.

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Do you understand the gravity of my words?

Yes.

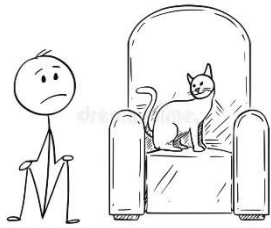
Good!

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## A 60ish-Year-Old-Man's Cat Talks to his Shrink

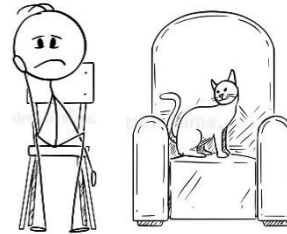


You take my chair. I'll sit on the floor.

Meow.

You're welcome.

You want me to get a chair?

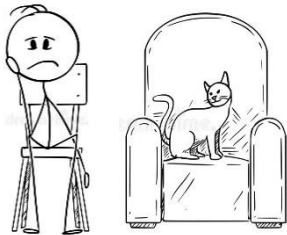


I think I got one in the closet. That's better.

What brings you here today?

You walked. You're worried about your dad?

Why? What's going on?

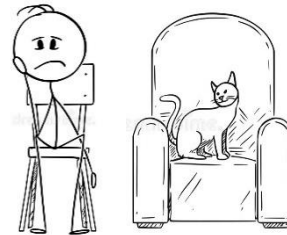


Meow. Meow. Meow.

You think he's depressed, eating his emotions.

You think he's suffering from PTSD?

You think [inaudible] holes are punishing him?

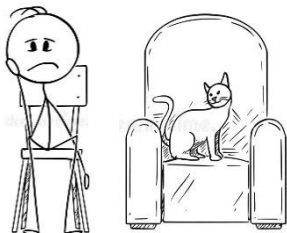


Meow. Meow. Meow.

I see. You think he is feigning he's okay.

Nice vocabulary, by the way.

Meow. Meow. Meow.

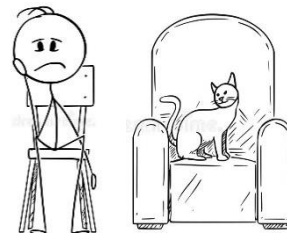


He's endured that much in his life, wow?

Family deception. Deaths. Surgery.

Unfair treatment. A lost livelihood.

So much. I know. You think he's going to break?



Meow. Meow. Meow.

He just wants to be treated fairly?

He wants the documents he needs?

He'll be okay. I'll talk to him. He's strong.