

My Life on the Slush Pile \rightarrow Glue in a fire \rightarrow Croe



A story about a man trying to find himself after his parents come back to life.

And then, he witnesses a gay-bashing.

And then, he suffers a catastrophic stroke.

And then \rightarrow

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EMERGENCY ROOM: CONTINUED

A nurse enters the waiting area. She calls out four names. John Smith, *who's still going up*—answers.

He's tweaking.

The nurse has trouble finding a vein.

He's foaming at the mouth.

I avoid eye contact with everyone.

Another nurse enters. Calls my name, draws my blood, takes me to a room for an EKG.

I feel fat when I take off my shirt.

I'm nervous.

I'm terrified.

A nurse inserts an IV tube into my arm, and I have good veins. The nurse confirms this fact.

You have good veins.

I'm in my fifties.

I'm young.

I work out intensely.

I fear the worst.

Two days ago, I woke up, and everything was okay. A quick turn, I was greeted with light-headedness, and the need to be supported by walls—maybe tomorrow isn't coming.

I am beginning to despise the "altered" in the waiting room.

They're clogging the system.

I think they're regulars.

My mortality is staring at me steely-eyed. I've had the flu, where I thought the end was near—I knew it wasn't. I've had umpteen surgeries in my adult life, with excruciating pain being a part of the program—but I knew it would subside. I've never, well, this is the first time; I'm not sure what's happening. My fingers, only on my right hand, are vibrating. I can't write a word even though my brain's instructions are clear. My gait is skewed right. I've become a Weeble—capable of falling down.

I trip into my brain. I want to be alone. But I need someone to hold me. I don't want to appear weak. But I need someone I love, to know somethings wrong. I'm conflicted. I have a propensity to hide my vulnerability from loved ones. I consider pushing them away. I don't want them to feel my pain.

MY LIFE ON THE SLUSH PILE -> GLUE

WHO IS LINDSAY WINCHERAUK?

Indsay Wincherauk is a fearless writer. He has published two books and has had more than eighteen OPEDs appear in major commuter newspapers. Lindsay wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth. His father (who wasn't his father) worked as a mechanic. His mother (who wasn't his mother) worked as an excellent chef in a diner. In fact, his birth was in a secret place where | society deemed | unfit mothers were sent to give birth in isolation—shading families from shame. If the babies survived being born, usually, they were sold to wealthy Americans or adopted out to farm families.

Lindsay's life began with a lie.

Despite Lindsay's perilous beginnings, starting with deception, Lindsay knew no better and went through life excelling at things, usually in two-year stints. Be that athletics (hall of fame, record holding, one-eyed quarterback), scholastically, career-wise (generating more than \$70 million in revenue for one company), socially, + without question: creatively!

Lindsay's challenging beginning instilled in Lindsay heaping doses of compassion and empathy. Lindsay's life starting out as a lie gave him a keen sense to spot BS from miles away. It also provided him with a dry sense of humour and an understanding those born with silver spoons in their mouths will never be self-aware enough to understand (or admit) their good fortune.

During Lindsay's work career, he was well-liked by all coworkers. Lindsay was also well respected by his diverse collection of clients, developing several fantastic friendships, primarily because Lindsay is known for his unflinching integrity and ability to hold conversations on most topics.

Lindsay's life mantra is:

The most valuable part of life is the fabulous people we meet during our journeys. If you treat people with respect (leaving judgment at the door), and more importantly, by opening doors for those less fortunate or who can't speak up for themselves, you are living a good, compassionate life. Making money at all costs is not the only thing mattering. Life can be difficult + devastatingly unfair.

Lindsay believes sharing vulnerability is what makes us human. Lindsay will never shy away from being honest about his pain.

Lindsay also believes we must stand up for ourselves, + more importantly, for those who are too burdened by the injustices of life, they can't find the strength to stand up for themselves.

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SOME THINGS LINDSAY IS MOST PROUD OF ARE WHEN:

- A sixty-year-old employee of his, who had entered a point of life where life had become more struggle than joy (it happens to all of us as we age), said to Lindsay, "I must thank you. I've listened to how you treat people, + by listening, I've learned so much about compassion and patience. Thank you. I consider you a great friend."
- Another employee who was struggling with addiction thanked Lindsay for his kindness, presenting Lindsay with a Christmas card from him and his girlfriend. Tucked inside the card: lottery tickets.

LINDSAY WINCHERAUK, compassionate, empathetic, well-read, kind, blessed with unflinching integrity, humour in balance, loved by coworkers + friends alike.

Lindsay will always stick up for the underdog. Lindsay understands there are countless older people suffering job loss because COVID gave some companies an opportunity to —

Lindsay thinks it is essential to draw attention to this life-threatening issue by being the voice for those too broken to speak up for themselves.

Lindsay is currently pitching four manuscripts to publishers and literary agencies. One of the manuscripts (he can't talk about) will blow the roof off the predatory practices of —

Lindsay is writing relentlessly and is also pitching OPEDs and short stories, fiction, + non to literary magazines around the globe.

Lindsay has appeared on Breakfast Television, radio programs in Montreal, + several others in the Vancouver area. Lindsay has also been a featured guest on CKNW + CBC, both on several occasions. And Lindsay was a vital witness of a Hate Crime. This led to the first Hate Crime conviction in Canadian legal history, resulting in him being a speaker at an Enough is Enough Rally (anti-violence rally) with dignitaries, politicians, law enforcement, and community leaders in front of a crowd of approximately five thousand.

Lindsay was the **#1 MIXED-TAPE DJ** at the UNIVERSITY OF **S**ASKATCHEWAN for most of the nineteen-eighties, a fact bringing him joy.

Lindsay resides in Vancouver.