

***It's a Wonderful World:
Volume 4***

David Bruce



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Note: I will make no money from this book.

This book is royalty free.

NOTES

The English in this book is a combination of English and British and no doubt other forms of English.

I recommend that readers go to YouTube and watch old movies of Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, and other comedy stars of the silent era. The movies weren't really silent, for they were accompanied by music and sound effects played in the movie theaters and often available on film.

Lots of cursing is in this book because many Redditors curse a lot.

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Chapter 1: Questions 1-20

1. “What Did You Do As A Kid That Makes You Cringe When You Remember It?”

1) Cleverusername18 wrote, “I put chewing gum on my balls when I was five and freaked out when I couldn’t get it off. Went to the living room crying to my parents, aunt, and uncle. That was damn near 30 years ago and I can still see my uncle laughing harder than anyone since. As a matter of fact any time is brought up he loses his shit and can’t stop cry-laughing for about 15 minutes. Hands down my least favorite childhood memory.”

2) FallenWings_ wrote, “I thought my voice was a weapon, so I screamed at people.”

3) RenataFleury wrote:

“In history class, I decided to try and be funny by standing up and dancing when the teacher wasn’t looking or facing the class. I did it maybe once or twice, but no one laughed.

“It turned out there was another adult in the room who was watching, while grading the teacher, I didn’t notice her until afterward and she just gave me this stern look like, ‘What the hell are you doing? Stop.’

“I slowly turned back, fully embarrassed and didn’t speak for the rest of the class. She didn’t tattle on me or get me in trouble, and I appreciate that. The moment was cringe enough.”

4) I_hate_traveling wrote:

“I was five or six and I saw in a school book a picture of an open mouth, and the epiglottis drew my attention. I wanted to find out if I had one, too, so I stuck my finger down my throat trying to touch it.

“I puked all over my desk and my teacher had to call my parents to take me home.”

5) My-Username_Is_Dis wrote, “I watched a lot of *Spy Kids*, so when I would ride my scooter I would wait until I saw people older than me and talk into my invisible spy watch and say, ‘Got it, I’m on my way,’ and speed off.”

6) bigjigglyballsack wrote, “I sent a girl lyrics to a Korn song and pretended it was a poem I wrote, hoping it would impress her.”

7) Tinmania wrote, “When I was in fifth grade, I broke a window in a friend’s screen door (in winter it had glass) with a damned yo-yo. My mom and dad had separated, money was really tight, and I just couldn’t face the prospect of her having to pay for it so I just ran. Next day friend’s dad called me over to ask if I broke it. I denied it even though he was holding half of my yo-yo that had broken off. But he either understood my then-current situation or was just polite enough to let it go. I still cringe about that to this day. I tried to pay when I was 17, but he pretended he didn’t remember it happening and refused to accept anything. Now I cringe because I didn’t try harder to pay.”

8) fishfingerchipbean wrote:

“Lassie the dog was my absolute hero and I couldn’t watch an episode of *Lassie* without sobbing uncontrollably the whole way through and for several hours afterwards. I genuinely thought I was somehow descended from / related to Lassie because I could go upstairs on all fours quite quickly, which I used to do every time I went upstairs, and ‘run’ on all fours quite quickly. Because of this I used to frequently declare, ‘I’m not just a star, I’m a real-life superstar’ which my family found utterly hilarious. Once I got over this delusion, I swore my family to secrecy about this little phase but I suspect that, at the very least, my older

brother has told his wife, but probably also all his friends throughout his life.

“Also, my older brother and his friend asked me what was the scariest book I had ever read. They meant books like those by James Herbert and Stephen King, and I said *Five Go to Mystery Moor* by Enid Blyton.

“I think I was an exquisitely cringeworthy and embarrassing kid! A lot of my recollections seem to be of my family in hysterics at something I said in all seriousness, which made me really angry, which made them laugh even more! Believe it or not, I somehow turned out quite a normal adult!”

9) melancholia wrote:

“All the seventh graders in Mr. Barrios’ history class had to complete a ‘millennium project’ where you pick five (ten? can’t remember, this was 19 years ago) key moments that defined the last thousand years. I was OBSESSED with Michael Jackson (like, Michael Jackson-themed bar mitzvah obsessed) and I included the first time he performed the moonwalk at the *Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever* award-winning show as one of those moments. I shudder to think what the teacher thought.

“I guess also having a Michael Jackson-themed bar mitzvah qualifies for that, too, though everyone loved my faithful performance of ‘Billie Jean,’ where I basically recreated the *Motown 25* performance.

“I’ve come a long way since then ... I swear.”¹

¹ Source: Pyrezz, “What did you do as a kid, that makes you cringe when you remember it?” Reddit. AskReddit. 22 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/yxw3f64s>>.

2. “Deaf People Of Reddit, Who Told You Farts Make Noise And What Was Your Reaction?”

1) zarina897 wrote, “I was five when I got my first set of hearing aids, and a few days later I farted — I got such a fright.”

2) masammo wrote:

“A friend of our family is an ASL Terp [American Sign Language Interpreter?] and shared a story with us on this subject.

“She was working with a kindergarten-age student and one day this kiddo started to fart like a howitzer. Other kids started to giggle and our friend had to sign to her student that what she was doing was actually making noise where others could hear it and it wasn’t considered to be good manners to pass gas like that as it was disruptive.

“That kid was shocked, slightly embarrassed but mostly surprised that she was actually making noise from her nether regions.

“At the end of the day, the ASL Terp actually caught sight of her student enthusiastically signing to her mother something along the lines of ‘Did you know sound can come out of your bottom when you pass gas?’

“Of all the things to find out from your kid what they learned today, that one had to be a funny one for the mother.”

3) henejido wrote, “I used to go to a college that had a very strong deaf program. When I would go to the restroom, there’d often be someone in there dropping a deuce and making more noise than anyone would imagine. Sometimes even two and it would be a chorus of terrible sounds. I would always leave in tears from laughter.”

4) Smooth_Glove_2208 wrote, “I had a deaf friend who said he knew they made noise because of the vibrations he felt on bus seats before smelling shit.”

5) patatasbagyow wrote, “I’m not deaf, but once, in a grocery store, while listening to music in headphones, I farted a couple times. Not those silent ones. I felt dem vibrations travel through my butt cheeks, bro. But back to your question, I knew immediately after a stranger’s reaction. And well, through the vibration. So I think deaf people do know it makes a noise.”²

3. “What’s A Bullshit Explanation Your Parents Gave You That You STILL Remember?”

1) Nandysokar wrote, “When I was younger, my mom would say that if I never finish what’s in my plate, on Judgment Day, the food will come back and chase me for eternity! I kept imagining the chicken drumsticks and rice running after me. I remember the memory was horrifying!”

2) The ButUglySwans wrote:

“We couldn’t leave booze out for Santa because he’d be too drunk to fly the sleigh.

“That’s what the reindeer are for. *Duh.*”

Met41King commented, “Yes, Officer, I drank a bit. But the car is completely sober, so what is the problem?”

3) WhoDatKrit wrote, “Not me, but my now 14-year-old still brings up the time I told her we couldn’t go to Chuck E Cheese because it was night and at night it was the zombie kids’ turn to play. She has always been a horror fan, so even

² Source: Waffle_bird, “Deaf people of Reddit, who told you farts make noise and what was your reaction?” Reddit. AskReddit. 23 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y62vumo5>>.

though she was young (five-ish), she would watch *The Walking Dead* with me. I still have no idea how that explanation worked, but she believed it until about two years ago and mentions it often. I don't think she will ever forget that one simply to mess with me ... I deserve it."

4) franktopus wrote, "My mom and dad were in the bathroom so they could shave each other's heads (they said). Then they came out with hair and said they decided not to go through with it even though they were in there 20+ minutes."

5) Zenfudo wrote:

"Details about my brother and me. My older brother is circumcised, but I'm not. My mom's heart broke when she saw my brother come back from it and it was clear he had been and was in pain so I didn't get it as a result.

"When I was like five or six and didn't understand things, I sat down for supper but my brother wasn't there yet so I asked why my brother was circumcised, to which my dad just answered, 'Because he's Jewish.' My brother then sat down and I asked him why he was Jewish, to which he answered, 'What?' Good laughs."

6) chuya90 wrote:

"That all the 90s pop music we used to watch was about love.. English is my second language so as a child I'd often ask my parents, 'What's the song about?' while having our family *Top of the Pops* evenings. Now that I've heard some of those songs again and understand the lyrics, I know why my parents would briefly panic before saying, 'It's about ... love ... yeah ... love.'

“Edit: I’m referring to songs like ‘Mambo #5,’ ‘Boom Boom’ (Vengaboys), ‘The Thong Song,’ etc.”³

4. “What’s The Craziest Butterfly Effect That Happened To You Because Of A Small Decision You Made?”

1) myeggsarebig wrote:

“I had to call my heart surgeon to give him my new insurance #s (I had only just gotten them because the person who had them had the flu and was not getting back to me) as soon as I got my numbers, I called the surgeon, and the receptionist said, ‘Oh, hey, we just had a cancelation for this Friday. Do you want it?’ Of course I wanted to get it over and not wait another month, so I decided to take the open-heart surgery cancelation appointment (a month before my actual appointment), and well, surgeon said that thank goodness I did because once he got a look inside, he realized I would not have survived to the original appointment date.

“So, if the insurance lady didn’t have the flu, I would have gotten those numbers a lot sooner, and I would never have gotten the offer to have the surgery when I did.

“Someone else’s flu saved my life.”

2) Mutchie wrote, “I had to renew the sticker on my license plate a couple of years ago and really didn’t feel like sitting in the waiting room by myself forever, so I told my mom I’d take her out to dinner after if she came with me. The guy working at the counter turned out to be my mom’s long-lost biological brother. If she hadn’t come with me, I would have never known.”

³ Source: Asscreamundae667, “What’s a bullshit explanation your parents gave you that you STILL remember?” Reddit. AskReddit. 23 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y2a2lg5x>>.

Mutchiue added:

“I can’t remember exactly how names came up, but my mom realized he had the same last name she was born with, and asked if he was related to [name of her biological dad], and he said, ‘Yeah, he’s my father.’

“At this point my mother had figured out her biological parents’ names but decided that they weren’t worth contacting because they gave her up at birth, and the people who adopted her (my grandparents) were amazing people. She was unaware that her biological parents had another child, though, but my uncle Jeff was aware that she existed.”

3) A911owner wrote:

“My existence.

“When my dad was about 20, he needed a phone number so he called the operator from a pay phone, she gave him the number, he hung up, and she accidentally refunded the money back to the pay phone. She called the pay phone back and asked him if he could put the money back in, which he did and hung up again. She accidentally refunded the money again and had to call back again to ask him to put the money back in; he did and hung up again. She was so flustered, she refunded the money *again* and called back *again* and my father got to chatting with her and got her number. They set up a date (which she stood him up for), then she forgot his name when he called her again, then they actually got coffee and four years later were married. This coming August it’ll be 50 years for them.

“If my dad didn’t need that phone number, I wouldn’t be here.

“Edit: My dad still calls it ‘the most expensive phone call’ he ever made.”

4) daveillfuckyeah wrote, “I finished working half an hour earlier, and I was sent home by my boss. An old friend, on holiday in our hometown, texted me out of the blue and asked me if I could pick up her American friend because she could not make it in time and I was the only one who spoke English. I took a shower, shaved my head, picked her up, and 10 months later I married her.”

katfromjersey asked, “Shaved your head?”

daveillfuckyeah responded, “Yeah, I’ve been bald since I was 18 and the only way to look remotely nice is to rock a massive beard and a freshly shaved head!”

5) wanderingdrew wrote:

“I was given two start dates for an entry-level job in a large organisation.

“The date I choose to start led to working in a small but high-profile team, so I got lots of exposure with senior management and I became the can-do guy who’d fix a million tiny problems. That recognition led to promotions, a fantastic career, further professional qualifications and working overseas for several years. I also met my best friend and my partner.

“If I’d chosen the other date, I’d have been sent to a data-processing pool and been fairly anonymous.”

AlegalHuman commented:

“I was given two start dates for my new job in March. If I had chosen the earlier one, I would have come in to the office for a week before we all went on WFH [Work From Home] due to COVID; instead, I started on the WFH start date and had my computer mailed to me.

“My desk was next to a person on my team who turned out to have COVID. He’s young (31), just a couple years

younger than me but has been out of commission and working part-time because of how tired he's been due to the illness, even months out. If I had chosen the earlier start date, I would have been seated right next to him in a tiny coworking space for a week."

6) ZTrev10 wrote:

"I decided to go to a 'real people' audition that IBM was holding 11 years ago. I went as a joke because it was being held at a bar and some friends were also going. I had no desire to act other than maybe try community theater or something.

"As I arrived at the bar, the friends I was meeting were on their way out. I was going to skip the audition, but one of them suggested I just do it since I was already there and then meet them afterward. So I did. A month later, I get a call saying they want to use me in their commercial.

"During the shoot, I read for most of the day and get paid essentially at the rate of \$50 an hour. I thought, I *wouldn't mind doing this more*. Then during my shot, they gave me some lines and I just repeated what they said. One of them was 'Trains.' That made it onto the final commercial. It ended up being a national and I was in two of their spots. I thought someone made a mistake as the residuals started rolling in. I made more in one day of working in commercials than I did in a year in my real job!

"I thought I was going to get rich and start acting. Little did I know that I hit the jackpot and opportunities like this almost never happen. In my pursuit of acting, I also found writing and directing because there weren't many roles for Asian-Americans so I started making my own work.

"In my short career, I've been in countless commercials, a couple of TV shows and some films. As a director, I've written and directed four short films and won a handful of

awards. This year was especially productive due to lockdowns. I finished writing a pilot and two feature films. I was also the top supporting actor in a BET/Paramount film that premiered a few months ago. And I'm honing one of my scripts right now to be my debut feature film!

“That decision to audition led me to discover my passion in life: filmmaking!

“Edit: This is the actual commercial — I'm at the nine-second mark:

“<<https://vimeo.com/250320876>>.”

linkdawink asked, “What Paramount film was it?”

ZTrev10 responded, “It was called *Alieu the Dreamer*. I played the character Cheng. This is the link to the trailer if you're interested in checking it out:

“<<https://vimeo.com/470794688>>.”⁴

5. “What Was A Dumb Belief You Had As A Kid?”

1) 1000bugswritten wrote, “Muscles prevent body hair. Because the muscled dudes on TV didn't have body hair and the slobs in my family definitely did.”

FondoE1 wrote, “My grandpa told me that I could grow rocks. He took me outside and grabbed a rock with me and then we put it in a jar of water. I watched it for a while waiting for it to grow but it never did. So I took a nap and when I woke up the rock was a lot bigger. I was so excited and confused. Then I went and ate dinner with my grandma, and when we got back to their house there was a bunch of

⁴ Source: SidneyRL, “What's the craziest butterfly effect that happened to you because of a small decision you made?” Reddit. AskReddit. 23 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/yyr4q4ec>>.

pebbles along with my rock. The bastard had babies. Turns out rocks can't really grow and my grandpa was just fucking with me. Oh, well."

FuckTon_of_Frosting commented:

"My mom is blonde / blue [blue-eyed?] and has no body hair. I am also blonde / blue and have no body hair. (Literally — I've never had to shave my legs because hair just doesn't grow there.)

"So my brother didn't realize until he was in college that women could have body hair at all: He'd never seen either of us with body hair and the women on TV don't have it either. Even the women in the razor ads don't actually have hair on their legs when the camera zooms in while they are shaving — so it just looks like they are exfoliating their skin, making it shiny/moisturized, but not actually removing any hair.

"He says the first time he ever saw a woman with leg hair he started laughing so hard and couldn't stop. He thought there was something wrong with her.

"This was all pre-Internet, of course. The Internet age is a very different time."

2) psychologythrill wrote, "The only place we ever flew in a plane was to see family in another province, so I grew up thinking that Winnipeg was literally in the sky."

3) JunkBoy287 wrote:

"That all bridges are very likely to collapse as I'm crossing them.

"I blame this fear on watching *Thomas the Tank Engine* a lot as a kid. You see more infrastructure destruction in that show than you'd get in a Michael Bay movie."

4) theWildBore wrote, “I posted this once to a post that got deleted. But I thought the smell of Christmas trees was actually the smell of presents. And the more presents coming your way, the more I could smell them. I’d go over to friends’ houses around Christmas time, smile with pride and whisper in my friend’s ear, ‘You must have been really good this year. I can already smell all the presents you’re getting from Santa!’ It didn’t help that one year my dad surprised my mom with a new car for Christmas. And she had one of those pine-scented car air fresheners. (This was the 1980’s.) I thought for years it smelled that way because it was a present. I have a summer birthday, so any moderately intelligent person, would probably question why those birthday gifts didn’t smell like Christmas presents. To this day when I smell pine, my brain automatically thinks ‘presents,’ then ‘No! PINE! It’s PINE!’”

5) CrouxR wrote, “Not me, but I remember when I was starting middle school, this younger pair of boys in my neighbourhood thought that school would eventually teach you about Pokemon, because they’re real critters, and you’ll become a trainer after graduation.”

MetaGigaZ commented, “Dammit, that would have been the best thing ever.”⁵

6. “Women, What Is The Best Prank You Pulled On Your Significant Other?”

1) bored_panda78 wrote, “I got one of those wind-up cockroaches from a dollar store and I stuck it under a cup so when he picked it up the roach would take off towards him.

⁵ Source: ok-bomber, “What was a dumb belief you had as a kid?”
 Reddit. AskReddit. 25 November 2020
 <<https://tinyurl.com/yy3kn243>>.

It took him a few days for him to pick it up so I completely forgot about it. I got an angry text at work because of it.”

2) miss_sugar_tits wrote, “I asked him, ‘Don’t you remember what day it is today?’ like that day was something special. He froze like a deer in headlights.”

PenguinOffLedge commented, “I do this every single month-anniversary of my birthday. Like every 10th of the month I look all pissed and say “‘Well? Do you have anything to say to me?’ And then he stops, says, ‘Huh?’ and calculates for a minute and says, ‘Oh, yeah, sorry I forgot your 26 and 7/12 birthday.’”

bradykay01 commented, “My mother just used to say to my father, ‘I know.’ Like implying that she knew his secret. Then she’d just wait and see what he confessed to. When they first started dating, it made him come clean about some mild STD he’d had that had cleared up. Eww.”

3) mandypandawiftie wrote:

“I was showering once and my husband said he was going to dump a glass of ice water on me. I told him if he did, he would regret it. He dumped the water on me. In the shower I devised my plan. I had to wait for the right timing, which ended up being three weeks.

“My husband gets in the shower. He showers quick, so I had to move fast to get everything set. When he was done, he couldn’t find his towel. I had taken all the towels out of the bathroom. I stepped around the corner laughing, but not just because I stole all the towels. I was holding a box fan on full blast pointing into the bathroom. He was now wet and towel-less with a fan blowing on him. I moved into the bathroom to block him in. He finally ran around me, only to come to a SECOND fan I had set up just outside of the bathroom. His reaction was well worth the wait.”

4) stefanley wrote:

“This was more for petty revenge. He always left his enormous shoes where I walk. And I’m clumsy.

“So one night I stuffed a hoodie and pants so it sat upright like a person and faced it at our bedroom door. In the low light it was terrifying.

“Worked a treat and he, until recently, remembers to put his shoes away. But he’s been slipping, so I might have to revisit.”⁶

7. “What Did Someone Say To You That Eased One Of Your Insecurities?”

1) Last_Worldliness8926 wrote, “I once told my boyfriend and friends that I was going to get a rhinoplasty to fix my minimal dorsal hump on my nose. I didn’t get the operation the day I was supposed to and they all congratulated me and thought I looked really good before I told them I changed nothing. It just made me realize that nobody really cares or notices the ‘little’ things you don’t like about yourself.”

2) shockolat19 wrote, “I’ve always been self-conscious about my one lazy eye; it’s normally a normal eye, but if I’m exhausted it tends to turn in without me noticing. Always self-conscious when making eye contact and in general. One day I admitted it to my partner that I was self-conscious about it and he said, ‘Yeah, I’ve noticed it a few times when you’ve got home from work, and I think it makes you special. You don’t need to feel self-conscious about it.’”

⁶ Source: NekoNinja666, “Women, what is the best prank you pulled on your SO?” Reddit. AskWomen. 26 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y4z72fbv>>.

GothAdjacent commented, “My best friend has a somewhat lazy eye that shows more when she drinks or smokes. It’s one of my favorite things about her and it’s adorable. :) I’m glad your partner gave your self-esteem a boost!”

3) MADSeraphina wrote, “Someone reminded me I didn’t have to be friendly and respond to people I am uncomfortable around even if they are friendly and inviting to me. It was a great reminder that it is not selfish / mean / stuck up to have personal boundaries.”⁷

8. “What Is The Best Decision You’ve Made While Drunk?”

1) wine_n_mrbean wrote:

“I got really hammered one night and started missing my mom (even though I talked to her regularly) because I lived very far away so I didn’t see her often. Apparently I called her and spoke to her for about an hour (according to my phone log). The next day when I called her to apologize for whatever dumb shit I said, she told me that it was the most wonderful conversation she’d ever had and that I made her feel so proud to be my mom. I have NO CLUE what I said to her and I never had the heart to tell her that I couldn’t remember the call. She died two years ago and I never did find out what I said to her.

“Edit to Add: Just gonna to say how wonderful it has been to be able to share memories of my mom. She really was wonderful and I’m so glad for any chance I have to tell people how much she meant to me.”

⁷ Source: Crazed_waffle_party, “What did someone say to you that eased one of your insecurities?” Reddit. AskWomen. 26 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y6x8dfkq>>.

Pinealdan wrote, “You more than likely told her exactly how you feel about her because drunk words are sober thoughts we sometimes don’t have the courage to say.”

wine_n_mrbean responded, “I imagine I did. My mom and I were extremely close and I can’t imagine there’s anything I hadn’t already told her.”

verbleabuse97 commented, “That happens so much with me and my girlfriend. She sometimes gets very emotional when drunk, and I always try to comfort her. And she always thanks me the next morning for what I said and half the time I don’t remember.”

2) pullin2 wrote:

“I used to deliver small airplanes as a sort of side-gig. The best part for me was simply being by myself, often for days, and just enjoying leisurely flights over the US.

“One evening several years ago, I’d had a few too many and invited my dad to join me on a three- or four-day trip to deliver some guy’s new plane from the Northwest. Disclaimer: Although I care about him, dad can be very stressful to travel with on long trips. So the next morning I was a little annoyed with myself for doing this.

“Due to medical issues, that turned out to be the last vacation he ever had, and we had a great time. I’d hate to have missed that week with him.”

3) Jaxien99 wrote, “I made grilled cheese at 2 am once, but instead of using plain toast I made it with garlic bread.”

4) fcmonk wrote, “I booked a vacation to New Orleans at 3 AM while blackout drunk. I got awesome deals on airfare and a nice hotel. Even booked it to perfectly fit into my work schedule. I have no idea how I pulled it off, but it was like getting a gift from a stranger.”

5) ThatsMcGuffin2U wrote, “My friend and I were drunk when we decided to do a 2000-mile motorcycle trip. We did it a few months later and had a blast. We now have a rule that if we both agree to a ridiculous trip while drinking, The Agreement must be Honored.”

6) swol23 wrote, “I went to a party in college and came home with a cat. I was petting the house owner’s cat and he asked if I wanted a kitten; they had found him outside and he was in rough shape. He is now seven years old and is appropriately named Molson.”

Note by David Bruce: Molson is a beer.⁸

9. “If ‘Anime’ Is The Answer, What Is The Question?”

HandLion wrote, “Who is Spider-Man’s aunt?”⁹

10. “As Kids, We Find Pure Joy In The Simplest Of Things. What Are Some Things That Bring You Joy As An Adult?”

1) fo2shayaman wrote, “When I was in kindergarten, I was obsessed with Spider-Man: He was my favourite superhero, all my school supplies and even my bedsheets were Spider-Man themed. And I had a Spider-Man game on my PS2, being in kindergarten I didn’t know what to do in the game I just swung around New York for hours, but I’d always get super excited whenever my older cousin would come help me play the game. I watched in amazement while he went through all types of levels and I always thought to myself

⁸ Source: Feerka, “What is the best decision you’ve made while drunk?” Reddit. AskReddit. 27 November 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/y4fot3sh>>.

⁹ Source: Risor_, “If ‘Anime’ is the answer, what is the question?” Reddit. AskReddit. 29 November 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/y6s2mkaw>>.

how does he know what to do without instructions; playing the game with him is the highlight of my early childhood. Fast forward 10 years later, I'm 15 and I have a little cousin of my own and guess what, he also is obsessed with Spider-Man and he also has Spider-Man school supplies and stuff. He has a PS4 and the Marvel *Spider-Man* game on it and when I watched him play, he also didn't know what to do and he asked me to help him. So I'd play for him and teach him how to play and stuff. Watching the amazement on his face while I was playing always brought a smile to my face. that's when it hit me I, that I was probably making his most memorable childhood moments. I always try to visit and play with him whenever I can because the idea of me being the reason for some of his happiest childhood moments truly makes me happy. I might not be an adult yet, but this is one of the simple things in life that makes me happy."

Wiesbaden121486 commented, "I was keeping one of the little kids occupied while everyone was busy cooking during Thanksgiving the other day. She kept referring to herself as 'Spider-Girl.' It was kinda adorable."

hellochoy wrote, "This almost made me tear up — it's so sweet. It's also pretty cool think about how long Spider-Man has been around. He was one of my 50-year-old dad's favorite characters when he was growing up and it's super cool how timeless the character is."

2) KALO6II6 wrote, "As a kid and even now I always liked staring into the sky. At night for the stars and during the day to watch the clouds fly by."

V02D commented, "Similar here. We had a stone table in the middle of our backyard. I used to spend several hours in summer just lying on it, counting the clouds until my brain made me feel that I was falling into the sky. Best sensation ever."

3) tealgrayone wrote:

“I’m old: 60. Had some good mattresses in my lifetime but never a great one. Divorced about two years ago. Bought myself a very good mattress. \$4000. It’s amazing. Every night I lie there and chant, ‘I love my bed!’

“As for joy in free or less expensive things, I enjoy taking a walk on a sunny Spring day in a partially wooded area, maybe a lake nearby, ducks floating around, wildflowers starting to bloom.”

tealgrayone added, “Milily is the brand of mattress. They are outstanding!”

4) G01denW01f11 wrote:

“Lying on my recliner with my cat purring on my chest.

“Drinking tea before bed.

“The accomplished feeling after a good workout.

“Lazing around with an old favourite game.”

5) Dream_Lands wrote, “My house is at the top of a hill and I love to lean over the rail in my back garden while it rains at night and look at all the lights from the town at the bottom of the hill. I usually do this with jazz playing through headphones, but it’s fun on its own.”

6) xSolid_Snakex wrote, “Driving with the windows down when the weather is perfect. Bonus points if you have the road all to yourself.”

7) AV80Rboi wrote, “Seeing my mom smile whenever I tell her I liked her food.”

8) PinkRabbits4 wrote, “Stepping on a crunchy leaf.”¹⁰

11. “What Was Your 15 Minutes Of Fame?”

1) legendaryboomer wrote, “You know when you see your username in a screenshot on Reddit? That feeling is probably what celebrities feel when they see their name in magazines.”

2) cwerd wrote:

“I made a six-second video with my girlfriend where she exhaled her vape while using the Faceswap filter and the filter carried her face away in the vape cloud. We thought it was funny so we posted it to Reddit and went to sleep.

“We woke up to it being number one on the front page of Reddit and messages from Unilad telling us we should monetize it.

“We ended up selling the video for 1500 bucks to a licensing company. We then saw ourselves on Yahoo, NYT, the Chive, and eventually one night on Ridiculousness.

“TL;dr: We went viral and made 1500 bucks.”

3) Repulsive Software wrote, “It was only a few seconds. Getting hit in the face by a soccer ball during an important European match. I guess a few million people have seen my mug getting banged in slow motion.”

4) PiRat314 wrote:

¹⁰ Source: Dannnnny4, “As kids, we find pure joy in the simplest of things. What are some things that bring you joy as an adult?” Reddit. AskReddit. 28 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y6jhw5re>>.

“I worked for the music department back in college and regularly was on stage crew for student recitals, ensembles, and faculty performances.

“As is tradition, as you open the door to let the performers walk on stage, you begin clapping to let the audience to know to clap for the performers as they walk in.

“I had to do a set change between pieces, but as I walked onstage to rearrange the chairs the audience thought it was the performers and all clapped for me. I was a bit embarrassed but thought it was a funny mistake on their part.

“Until ...

“When I got backstage, the performers told me I had the chairs wrong and I had to go out and fix them. Not only did all 200 people clap again, but in the awkward silence following someone in the audience yelled out, ‘You messed up, didn’t ya!’”¹¹

12. “What Have You Overheard — Good Or Bad — Said About Yourself?”

karen_here:

“Everyone is always talking about me! Karen *this* and Karen *that*!

“Stop it RIGHT THIS INSTANT!”

¹¹ Source: Aspyr99, “What was your 15 minutes of fame?” Reddit. AskReddit. 29 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/yywx22tm>>.

ItchyFormal9 asked, “Having you considered speaking with a manager?”¹²

13. “Mall Santas Of Reddit, What Is The Most Memorable Thing A Child Has Asked For?”

1) Ulavala wrote, “I’ve been a Mall Santa every Christmas for a couple years. This one, I’d have to say ... a four-year-old once asked for his ‘mommy and daddy to love each other.’ His dad was the one taking him. The next year, he came back and thanked me. Both his parents were there. I almost cried.”

dudenumberA commented, “Imaginary Reddit gold award because I don’t have a real one.”

Invests_In_STONKS commented, “It never ceases to amaze me that random strangers spend money on me because I had a comment they liked. A gold award costs five dollars! I’ve told myself that every time I get an award, I’ll calculate the rough amount it’s worth and give that much to Leukemia Research.”

qts34643 responded, “Wait until you get a platinum award.”

Invests_In_STONKS responded, “Fifteen dollars isn’t that bad, but that Ternion All-powerful Award would be \$500. Please don’t give me one: I don’t have that kind of money.”

2) triviaprof wrote:

“Not a mall Santa, but played the part at craft shows and school functions for a few years when I was in high school. Yeah, I know, a teen playing Santa in a drama club-caliber outfit sounds like a bad idea, but you would be amazed how

¹² Source: mrsm69, “What have you overheard—good or bad—said about yourself?” Reddit. AskReddit. 29 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y6occu3>>.

many kids bought the line that my real suit was being cleaned to prepare for Christmas and that I needed a fake beard because I shaved for vacation with Mrs. Claus, but the real one would grow back by Christmas.

“The two most memorable asks were at the same craft show, maybe 30 minutes apart. The first was a group of three women, probably in their 40s or 50s, who were clearly half in the bag and wanted a photo with Santa. Not much of an ask, really, except for the one who said, ‘I won’t tell my husband if you don’t tell Mrs. Claus.’ We got that picture and moved them right along real fast.

“The second one came from a kid who was visiting with a group from, I think, a local home for folks with developmental disabilities. Five or six kids were in the group and most asked for pretty standard things, but the last one asked if I could make sure their dog got better. I panicked because, you know, Santa can handle bikes a whole lot easier than veterinary medicine. I looked at one of the chaperones who was with him and she gave me a nod and a thumbs up, so I told the kid that I would do my very best, and if he kept being good then it would help his dog get better even faster. He lit up like a decorated tree! After we took a photo, the chaperone came over and told me that the dog was okay, but needed some procedure or another and would be back in a few days. It didn’t even hit me until later that he had asked for the dog to get better rather than something for himself. It was a very sweet and memorable ask of a very panicked Santa.”

3) Substantial_Remote62 wrote, “Not a mall Santa, but I took over a property from a friend once that was being rented out to drug addicts. They were already way behind on rent payments, and we put them out. They left behind the worst mess imaginable. As I was cleaning out the kids’ room, I found a letter to Santa from what I guess must have been a

six- or seven-year-old girl. It read, ‘Dear Santa, if you can, please get me one thing for Christmas. If you can’t, it’s ok.’”

4) AM_Conspiracy wrote, “This was in 2005 so I was a junior in high school and I was Santa’s helper (elf) along with another girl who was also Santa’s helper and this little boy came and asked Santa for a pirate ship. But the kid couldn’t pronounce his r’s that well, so it sounded like he said he wanted a pile of sh** for Christmas. The mall Santa I was working with looked confused as hell, so I had to tell him that he said he wanted a pirate ship not a pile of sh**. When my shift was done, I went to my car and laughed until I couldn’t breathe. I tell this story every Christmas.”

5) lostsoullover wrote, “Not a mall Santa, but I know I asked for something that probably hurt a Santa’s heart. I asked for my mom to be able to walk again.”¹³

14. “Historians, What Are The Biggest F* You Moments In History?”**

1) MrsObedient wrote:

“Operation Wrath of God.

“A covert campaign conducted by Mossad to assassinate the perpetrators of the 1972 Munich massacre. It is believed to have been conducted over a period of twenty years with a body count of 30-40 killed.

“The fuck you? Several hours before each assassination, each target’s family received flowers with a condolence card reading: ‘A reminder we do not forget or forgive.’”

¹³ Source: Witt461, “Mall Santas of Reddit, what is the most memorable thing a child has asked for?” Reddit. AskReddit. 29 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y5fyrzbb>>.

2) MinutesTaker wrote, “In 1940, Hitler made the French sign its surrender to the Third Reich in the same train carriage where the Germans previously signed the 1918 armistice. The harsh terms of the 1918 armistice were very humiliating to the Germans so Hitler sought the ultimate revenge.”

3) YaiKorczak wrote:

“Teddy Roosevelt invited African-American educator Booker T. Washington to dine with his family at the White House. The first African-American to formally dine there. At the time in 1901, segregation was law. Teddy had hesitated but then felt ashamed that he had even hesitated and sent the invite to Washington.

“News got out and Roosevelt got some heat. The dinner was top news for a long period and even caused a great debate all over the country. An assassin was hired to kill Booker T. Washington, and Roosevelt was criticized in ways that presidents were not criticized before.

“The scandal escalated to the point where this one dinner divided the country and men swore never to vote for Roosevelt in future elections.

Roosevelt decided to make a public statement about the dinner and he said: ‘I shall have him to dine as often as I please.’”

4) Burstofstar wrote, “A pirate known as Jean Lafitte had a bounty of \$500 put on him by a governor. So he put a \$5000 bounty on the governor.”

5) MulanTheDude wrote, “Anything Diogenes did.”

zenyl commented, “I still don’t understand why history teachers rarely discuss him: He’s the perfect mix of funny

and absurd that students might actually give a fuck about history as a school subject.”

SsurebreC commented:

“My favorite examples:

- He often walked around the day with a lamp. When asked why, he said that he was looking for an honest man.
- When Plato said that the definition of a man is a featherless biped, he showed him a plucked a chicken and said, ‘Behold, I brought you a man.’
- Alexander the Great met him and asked if there was anything he could do for him. Diogenes asked Alexander the Great to stop blocking the sunlight. Alexander said that if he wasn’t who he is, he wished to be Diogenes. Diogenes replied that if he wasn’t himself, he’d also wished to be Diogenes. He was later looking at a pile of bones and Alexander asked what he was doing and Diogenes said that he was looking for the bones of Philip II (Alexander’s father) but added that he couldn’t distinguish them from the bones of a slave.”

6) CalHockleySwag wrote, “Snowden and the Panama Papers are both awesome examples of individuals exposing the corruption and invasive reality of our political and economic systems. Despite 911 and both those leaks, nothing has happened to change the system for the better in any significant way.”¹⁴

¹⁴ Source: Fred_the_human_1, “Historians, what are the biggest f*** you moments in history?” Reddit. AskReddit. 30 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y54rodd2>>.

15. “When Was A Time Where You Couldn’t Control Your Laughter?”

1) Burstofstar wrote:

“My grandmothers wake / funeral.

“She loved collecting the toys and prizes from fast-food places — ya know, McDonald’s, Burger King. Anyways, we had a box of some of her favourites sitting under her casket during the viewing. One of these items was a stuffed, talking Taco Bell dog.

“The room was mostly silent, save for some crying people, when suddenly, this damn dog decides to spit out one of his lines. The line? ‘I think I need a bigger box.’ So picture this, in a silent room full of mourning family, all you hear is that line coming from what seems to be the casket (the box was underneath, remember). Everyone just lost it. We were loud enough that the mortician came to complain we were disturbing the other patrons.

“Grammy would have loved that story!

“EDIT: It makes me happy to see you guys enjoying this. She never would have wanted us being all sad at her funeral (Especially since she was in a lot of pain at the end and was waiting to go — fuck lung cancer) but with her being the family’s matriarch it was hard not to be. I like to think that, if there is an afterlife she was watching and was like, ‘Fuck this, these assholes need to cheer up.’”

2) diamond_lover123 wrote, “So this one time back in the first grade, I had finished my test early and had gotten really bored. To quench my boredom, I decided to draw. What did I draw? Butts. I found this hilarious and could not contain my laughter. The teacher was not amused, and I got in trouble for making too much noise.”

3) lesleyandjoe wrote:

Was having a rough time with my partner and someone recommended a marriage counselor. At the end of the session, the lady made us hold hands, look into each other's eyes, and then she started to sing a song, really loudly, in a horrible, cackly voice, 'You are special, you are special, you are special to me.' Needless to say, we were both struggling not to laugh until a small, high-pitched 'mmmmmmm' escaped through my husband's lips and we both lost it. The therapist lady was not pleased.

"Edit for clarity, and update: This happened over ten years ago. We never went back to therapy ever again with anyone after that happened, but we are happily married and sing the special song to each other all the time, especially if the other person is acting particularly special at the moment."

4) JY_the_Irie wrote, "When I was younger, I'd make my little sister laugh to the point where she would fart. Sometimes I would have her in an almost endless loop of laughing and farting, which in turn made me laugh until I cried."

5) Klown1327 wrote, "I went out to eat with a female friend of mine. She pointed out this one waiter she found very attractive. Our waiter was a friend of hers, and she made a comment about, 'You got some cute guys who work here.' The guy kinda laughs and asks, 'Yeah, which one?' As if on cue, the guy in question walks right behind her, unbeknownst to her. The timing was too perfect, and I fucking lost it. I tried to contain myself, but the more I tried to fight it, the worse it got. The waiter looked, saw the guy and said, 'Him?' and I laughed even harder as I tried desperately to not totally sell her out. She's looking at me like, 'What the fuck, dude?' as our waiter shouts at the guy, 'YO, DUDE, THIS GIRL THINKS YOU'RE CUTE!' which made me laugh even harder. At this point I'm gasping

for air and I can feel myself turning red. I felt awful for embarrassing my friend, but man, it was funny. She and I still talk about it from time to time.”

6) inthedarkbesideyou wrote, “One time in middle school, we were talking about different birds and my teacher wrote ‘masked booby’ on the board. I couldn’t stop laughing. I was also the only one laughing.”¹⁵

16. “Cat Owners Of Reddit: Where Is The Weirdest Place You’ve Found Your Cat Sleeping?”

1) borisdidnothingwrong wrote:

“When I was a kid, we had a stray sneak into our garage to get out of the snow. Mom had my brothers and I guard the doors and windows, and then she coaxed her to come to her with some food and just picked her up and carried her inside.

“Poor little thing was a mess. Mom washed her in the tub, and she went from being a matted brown cat, to a grey and white cat. She purred the whole bath, with five kids peeking in the bathroom door at the procedure.

“A few days later, and she had one, teeny little butterscotch kitten. And thus, two cats were part of the family.

“Momma kitty used to sleep in the dirty clothes, to the point we learned to look for her before tossing dirty clothes in. We think she liked it because the dirty clothes smelled like *ALL* of us.”

2) Apprehensive-Wank wrote, “Apparently my cat snuck into the fridge as I was closing it in the morning before work. Came home and opened the fridge and my cat rolled out,

¹⁵ Source: OtherwisePasts8, “A time where you couldn’t control your laughter?” Reddit. AskReddit. 30 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y6e8nvx6>>.

having fallen asleep against the door after eating a huge amount of hamburger meat. He was quite cold but otherwise fine. He was a pretty fluffy cat so I think he was otherwise all right; I'm just glad he didn't suffocate."

3) WiseOldChicken wrote, "Across my Xbox. I had been playing for hours so it was hot, but it is a freaking tiny place. He managed to squeeze into the space pretty well."

little_blue_penguin commented, "My friend told me that she and her husband were so confused for a while because the Xbox would be on at random times and both of them swore they turned it off. Finally they caught the cat curling up on top of it, casually reaching down with one paw, and turning on her personal heater."

4) BloChan wrote, "They don't really sleep anywhere weird but they do sleep weird. They fall asleep on their backs with all four legs in the air; they legitimately look dead a lot of the time."¹⁶

17. "People Who Sleep Naked, When Has It Backfired?"

1) datacollect_ct wrote:

"Not me, but I was spending the night at my friend's house in a suburban neighborhood.

"In the middle of the night, his mom had let their toy fox terrier out to go pee and it got snatched by a coyote. She screamed and woke us all up: 'A WOLF GOT NOODLE!'

¹⁶ Source: KatieCat365, "Cat owners of Reddit: Where is the weirdest place you've found your cat sleeping?" Reddit. AskReddit. 30 November 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y2bvgrk>>.

“Within 10 seconds his dad was sprinting out of the house completely butt ass naked with a Glock in his hand and went running down the street.

“Came back about 15 minutes later WITH THE DOG and obviously still completely naked.

“EDIT: It’s come to my attention that this isn’t exactly a backfire, but I think anything that causes you to run around your neighborhood naked should qualify.”

gustus10 commented, “Not all heroes wear capes ... or clothes.”

monstertots509 commented, “Oddly enough, my step-dad sleeps completely naked and one night in high school my brother’s girlfriend was leaving and when they left his room they noticed the stove was sparking / on fire. They yelled that the kitchen was on fire and the next thing you see is my step-dad sprinting out from his bedroom towards the kitchen completely naked except for his robe that he had thrown on, which was fluttering behind him like a cape.”

aghrivaine commented:

“Something pretty close happened to me — I was in bed, naked, and one of my dogs poked me with his nose, which means he either has to poop or barf, so even though I was settled in for the night, I got up, put on my bathrobe, and walked outside with both my dogs.

“I live in a canyon in the foothills, at the top of a hill. We get coyotes a lot, so going out with the dogs off the leash at night wasn’t very bright. One of my dogs caught sight of a coyote at the bottom of the hill and took off after it. I have two dogs, one floppy, loving and dumb, and one pointy, lean and a little aloof. Floppy dog is the one that took off after the coyote, but pointy dog didn’t really notice as he was busy doing his thing.

“So I go running after floppy dog, down my driveway, which points in the other direction but the hill is too steep to go down in nothing but sandals and a bathrobe. As I go floundering past, robe blowing in the breeze like a majestic cape — pointy dog finally notices. He’s lean, he’s black, he’s fast, and a mysterious mix of German shepherd and something else that makes him look a lot like Anubis. Anyway, at this point the coyotes — there must be a half dozen of them — are all yipping and howling, and floppy dog has gone completely silent. I’m convinced they’ve nabbed her, even though she’s bigger than most coyotes. So pointy dog takes off.

“And I’ve never seen him move like that — not him or any dog. He poured over the edge of the driveway like he was made out of liquid. All I could see was a black streak, a blacker-than-the-night bolt of dogness arrowing down the canyon to the rescue of his pal and packmate. He’s never run that fast before. He was made of speed.

“He disappeared into the bushes after floppy dog and the yowling and clamor of the coyotes goes up to an even more fevered pitch, but I don’t hear anything at all from either of my dogs. I’m running as fast I can — lost one sandal, my robe is flying and I’m absolutely butt-naked underneath. I’m calling for my dogs. Terrified. There are a LOT of coyotes in the brush at the bottom of the canyon.

“Out of the darkness floppy dog appeared. She runs up to me, and curls up against my legs and I can’t disentangle myself from her to keep running. She’s trembling, but still silent. I’m calling for the pointy dog — ‘Blink! Blink!’ — and trying to unstick floppy dog. I’ve got one hand on her collar, half-dragging her down to the arroyo, but it’s slow going because she doesn’t want to go.

“Suddenly the coyote clamor goes down a notch, and pointy dog comes loping out of the darkness back up the hill. He

doesn't stop, doesn't look at me, just trots back up the hill, up the driveway, never looks back, and goes and sits by the door until floppy dog and I catch up to let him in. Never seen him move like that since, either. Just that once, when he had to face down a whole pack of coyotes and rescue his packmate.”

2) Hrekires wrote:

“There was one morning in high school when my dad decided to wake me up for school by ripping the covers off me in bed.

“That was the last time that happened.”

3) eclectic_collector wrote, “My dad wouldn't let me have an alarm clock. I have hearing loss that he ‘didn't believe in’ — and he wouldn't let me get the old-fashioned clanging alarm, which is the only one that would wake me up. So he would come in every morning to wake me up for school. Super irritating. Anyway, I wasn't naked, but one morning when I was in high school, my boob had migrated out of my tank top while I was sleeping. My dad just kind of kept facing the door, like walking backwards, and shook my foot until I woke up. We didn't make eye contact for a few days after that.”¹⁷

18. “What’s The Single Most Important Item In Your Home That Has A Value Of \$1 Or Less?”

1) nonamebatman wrote:

¹⁷ Source: CosmoPeter, “People who sleep naked, when has it backfired?” Reddit. AskReddit. 1 December 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/y2aervx4>>.

“One time, about five years into our relationship, my girlfriend (now wife) and I were in separate rooms in our one-bedroom apartment in early December.

“From the other room, she hollered to me, ‘What do you want for Christmas?’

“I had been working full-time, taking part-time university classes to finish my degree, and had been volunteering as part of a youth mentor program ... so I said, ‘All I really want is a break.’

“Three weeks later, I’m unwrapping a very heavy shoebox. After getting through the mountain of duct tape and several layers of wrapping paper, I had my very own ... brick.

“‘I really didn’t understand what you wanted it for,’ she said, ‘but you sounded so sure of it. So here you go!’

“‘Cue about ten minutes of laughs, and now that brick sits proudly on my desk. Every time I am overwhelmed or feeling like I’ve taken on too much, I look at it, pick it up, have a little laugh, and put it back so I can carry on. Best gift ever.’”

2) annamolly wrote, “I have a \$1 bill saved and put away in a drawer. The significance behind it is it was my last dollar before I decided to stop gambling and doing hard drugs. I had to stop cold turkey. I was so fuckin’ done being a half-human, or an empty shell. At first it was just a dollar that sat in my center console in my car. I would look at it and be reminded what I was doing. I’ve been sober for well over a year now. I feel like that \$1 is special. I know in Narcotics Anonymous they get something saying how long they’ve been sober or whatever. That \$1 is my token. My token for fighting a silent battle that I cannot share with people; otherwise, I could lose my job.”

3) Ayan94123 wrote, “My son found a rock on the way home from school in kindergarten. We were walking home through this park we always cut through and he grabbed the rock and fell in love with it. It just looked like mud to me but who cares he loved it. When we got home I helped him wash it off in the sink and it was black and kinda blueish. He said it was awesome and then gave it to me. It’s one of my most precious things in the world to me.”

4) VariationInfamous wrote:

“‘The Donovan.’

“It’s a one-dollar bill with a picture of ex-UF basketball coach Billy Donovan taped over the President.

“It was a single dollar a friend and I would pass back and forth that we would bet on different things.

“It’s a trophy we have passed back and forth over the last 20 years. It’s an item that has kept us in touch.”

5) Chl0e1sn0tmyre4ln4me wrote:

“A tiny paper crane a Japanese grandmother gave me when I was in Osaka at a museum.

“She worked there and was waiting for tourists to come play an educational board game with her. She got no interest, obviously. I reluctantly sat down and played after she caught me on my own with a smile and a beckoning wave. Even though we couldn’t speak each other’s language and I kept messing up, she was so kind to me. So happy that I sat with her.

“She made me deal with my impatience and sit with the distress I was feeling that day by slowing me down and making me do something plain and simple. When we were done, she gave me a tiny paper crane from the pile she had made to give to all the tourists who should have sat with her

and didn't. It made me really sad. And really happy I'd met her. And I hope she's doing well."

gothucig commened, "This is why I'd also sit with the old people who ran the themed stations at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. I was there once a week for a while and sometimes I'd hit every single station so the 80+-year-old person there would have someone to talk to."

loquedijoella commented, "I'm already looking forward to being an old docent at a museum and talking to people like you. I'm in my mid-40s and have always loved talking to older people. I had a friend who was in WWII (US Army), and he had the best stories and a ton of Nazi stuff that he took from soldiers he killed. Dude was a straight-up badass — he was an Airborne Ranger who was part of the Alsace death camp liberation. I met the guy while working in the mall; he was just a lonely man walking around talking to young people."

kellysmom01 commented, "Good for you. I'm an old lady, and people just kind of pass me by (their eyes do a quick skim-over ... I can see the wheels turning) with no idea of the deep well of interesting stories I could share. I always want to say, 'You'll be old someday, too.' *Their loss*. I'm happy alone."

mewthulhu commented:

"So this is a fascinating example, in practice, of the Japanese concept of 'Ma' — negative space, the gap, the pause. It's where you just ... stop.

"Doing lots of busy things in your day, getting from A-to-B nonstop? Take just ... five minutes. Buy an ice cream. Sit in the sun. Enjoy it.

“Life got you stressed? Stop and pet your cat. They need more love, and don’t understand why you pet your phone more than them. Take the time.

“Sit with the little old lady. There’s little moments in life that will add contrast to the noise, and without them, it just becomes static, a blur with no distinction. You’ll miss out on both if you neglect one.”¹⁸

19. “What Random Stranger Whom You Encountered Only Briefly Do You Still Think About Often?”

1) Back2 Bach wrote:

“At the cemetery, a lady was visiting her husband’s grave next to where I was standing at my grandmother’s monument. (I was reflecting on many good times we shared while she was still alive.)

“She apparently noticed that I looked sad and handed me some of the flowers she had brought to place on her spouse’s grave. At that point we shared happy memories about our loved ones.

“I never saw her again, but sometimes there’d be flowers on Nana’s grave when I went to visit, and I knew exactly who had kindly placed them there.”

2) TheSlothsAreWatching wrote, “A bus driver who let me on the bus free on Valentine’s Day when I was 15, I was carrying loads of gifts for my girlfriend and left my wallet at home. The guy just said she’s a lucky lady and to forget about it.”

¹⁸ Source: 0-----0, “What’s the single most important item in your home that has a value of \$1 or less?” Reddit. AskReddit. 1 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y3hvwum>>.

3) ccasella wrote, "I met a beautiful Indian girl on a plane ride sometime when I was in college. She was sitting next to her husband, who was sleeping and we chatted for a long time. She told me that their marriage had been arranged and how happy she was that it was to a good guy, etc. She was only like 18 or 19, and our time together was short, but she taught me a lot about a culture very foreign to my own and really opened my eyes to a whole other world I had no idea existed prior to that. I also impressed her greatly with my crossword skills, but little did she know, I'd already worked that same puzzle on the previous flight."

4) adamh909 wrote:

"I was traveling around Europe alone ... I was in Poland, and I took a day trip to Auschwitz. On the way back, in the van that brought us back to Krakow, I sat next to an elderly Scottish lady. She was retired and sold everything to just travel. She realized too late in life she didn't need people or things to be happy, and that she'd spend the rest of her life doing what she liked, which was seeing the world. At the end she asked if she could give me a gift, and asked that I would accept it. She gave me 10 Euros, and asked that I use it for a nice expensive drink, and to sit somewhere and just enjoy the moment.

"It was maybe a one-hour drive, but it helped me understand that I needed to be happy with myself before I could be happy with someone else."

5) sickof_malarky wrote:

"I was going for a walk downtown at midnight; the streets were quiet and empty.

"I was walking through a crosswalk, and a rough pickup truck stopped.

“Eighteen- to 20-year-old guys were in it. They were wearing backwards hats and playing loud music.

“Guy in the passenger’s seat yells out, ‘Hey, buddy, hope you’re having a great night!’ before taking off.

“Something about it just felt so genuine, like he really cared.”

6) WebbedFingers wrote, “This one woman at a food fair last year complimented my appearance, saying I was gorgeous and looked like a ballerina. Like most people, I struggle a lot with my looks and it was just such a genuinely kind thing of her to say. I made sure to tell her how lovely she was and that she made my day. It was just a simple thing, but when I feel down I like to remember that she went out of her way to try to make a stranger’s day better. :)”

YXJessi commented:

“I love this.

“One time I saw this woman who had the most flawless skin I had ever seen. I swear this bitch didn’t have a single pore. I told her I was mesmerized by her skin and it looked like velvet.

“She said it was the best compliment she had ever received and from that day forward I swore I would always give people genuine compliments I was thinking.

“It’s fun to see people light up.”

7) neya-lex wrote, “A few months ago I was riding home away from my boyfriend and got suicidal when I drove past the train tracks. I stopped my moped and sat on the side of the road crying hysterically, not knowing what to do. Some people passed me but ignored me and I was too ashamed to ask for help. Then two teenage girls passed me, one on a bicycle and one on rollerblades. They stopped immediately

and sat by me. One of the girls held my hand every time a train passed and talked me through it. They told me to put on the rollerblades and hang onto the bike while one of them rode the bike. I fell pretty hard, but it made me laugh really hard. I'm probably not dead now because of those two girls."

8) librarianjenn wrote:

"I'm originally from the south, and I loooooove fried chicken livers. They're ... not so popular in Pittsburgh. I had just returned from seeing family down south, and had eaten them down there every chance I got. Went to the grocery store upon returning, and couldn't believe what I saw — a guy next to me in the meat department was picking up three or four tubs of chicken livers. Fresh from my chicken liver high of the previous week, I decided to strike up a conversation.

"That is so cool! I hardly EVER see anyone up here buying chicken livers, and I LOVE THEM. You must like them, too!"

"I'll never forget the look of disdain in his eyes when he turned toward me and said, 'These are for my dog,' and walked off."¹⁹

20. "What Did That One Teacher Do To You That You'll Never Forget?"

1) TheDassaultRafale wrote:

"I had a geography teacher who used to be a pretty good athlete when he was younger. His specialty was the 400M sprint, but the last time he ran seriously was like 15 years ago, and he was now in his late 30's.

¹⁹ Source: merricat_blackwood, "What random stranger that you encountered only briefly do you still think about often?" Reddit. AskReddit. 1 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/yywx4crc>>.

“One day, it was unusually hot, it was like a heatwave in early June, and geography was our last class of the day, and we just had gym class on top of that. We were asking to ‘go easy’ in his class as we were tired and had low concentration. As we were in the last grade of high school and thus adults, we kinda could speak to the teacher like that.

“One of the kids got the idea to hold a race on the schoolyard. Fastest kid in our class (a very talented football player who was about to be pro, and he now actually is, versus the geography teacher ex-athlete). If the kid wins, we can go home early. Teacher agreed.

“Guess what? The teacher fucking rekt him. He was wearing jeans, dress shoes and a shirt and fucking beat the semi-professional athlete in sneakers, t-shirt and shorts.

“It was an unbelievable sight. The teacher was gasping for air and panting during the whole class afterwards, but man, did he win gloriously. Dude was mad quick.”

gthatch2 commented:

“I had a similar situation (well at least in regards to a bet with a teacher).

“It was also the last class of the day, and we had a test in this class the next day. Well, our teacher (also the baseball coach) liked to do test review outside in the quad. Somehow a bet was formed — if the baseball player could throw a rock and hit the big tree by the woods, we could do the test as a class-wide group -discussion type deal. BUT if the teacher could throw the rock and hit the tree, we’d take it normally. Each person was allowed one throw and the student had to throw first.

“Student threw first and barely hit it, we got excited. Teacher picked up a rock, walked over to the tree and tossed it and hit it.

“‘If you’re going to make a bet with, someone make sure you’re going to win,’ said the teacher, who then reiterated the words used in the bet and the loopholes that ensured his win. We were all idiots and never said they couldn’t get closer to the tree.”

2) Gar_Eval wrote:

“I was anorexic when I was in school. She took me aside after class and told me that if I didn’t stop doing what I was doing to myself I was going to die. That my body was going to start shutting down, my organs would fail, that it would not be beautiful and I was going to die an awful and painful death.

“I still catch myself slipping back into that mindset ten years later sometimes. But I will never forget that. She saved my life.”

3) canadadhd wrote, “We had 10 minutes to spare before lunch bell and he told us all to ‘go jerk off or whatever it is you do.’ I don’t know what he wanted to say and he apologized to us, but it was funny as hell.”

theoreticaldickjokes commented:

“Sometimes you forget to use your teacher persona. I once had a student tell me that she would be working on Christmas Day (at McDonald’s). She was excited to get the holiday pay rate.

“I forgot myself for a second and told her, ‘Make that money, girl. Don’t let it make you.’

“In case you’re wondering, that’s essentially the tag for the movie *The Player’s Club*, a rated-R film from the 1990s that every Black child (including myself) has seen, but had no business watching.”

4) DragonHeart2006 wrote:

“This teacher was extremely strict and HATED by my class, but loved me because I was one of the few who respected her and did well in her class.

“When school ended, she gave me a crystal bear. Nothing too fancy or expensive, but I felt as if I was glowing as I left that classroom with the bear in my hand. I still have it and will treasure it forever.”

5) egnards wrote:

“Freshman English teacher in college. He had a last name with two capital letters in it, so something like ‘McConnor.’ On the top of one of my first papers I wrote ‘Mcconnor’ and he told me that I spelt his name incorrectly. Now obviously this confused me because the spelling was indeed correct and it took a few minutes of back-and-forth confusion before he told me what I did wrong, and like a typical 18-year-old I kind of just shrugged it off, like, ‘Ehh, who the fuck cares?’

“His response was essentially, ‘If you don’t care enough about your writing to get it correct, why the hell should somebody else care enough to read it?’

“The response hit pretty close to home. Not initially, of course, because I was an 18-year-old shithead, but now, 15 years later, I still think about it from time to time and it does force me to put more effort into many of the things that I do.”

6) sangresangria wrote, “I broke up with my boyfriend the night before my final and as I was walking to class to take it, my teacher saw me, [realized I was upset, and] told me that I could take it the following day with his afternoon class without me even saying a word. He was a really great teacher!”

xtra_why commented, “Wow, teachers do that?”

sangresangria replied, “Well, he was a college teacher.”²⁰

²⁰ Source: xtra_why, “What did that one teacher do to you that you’ll never forget?” Reddit. AskReddit. 2 December 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/yymyekbj>>.

Chapter 2: Questions 21-40

21. “What’s Immoral But Not Necessarily Illegal?”

Shermino wrote, “Leaving meat or dairy on some random unrefrigerated shelf in the grocery store.”

RedditFact-Checker wrote, “Generally, you can go to a grocery store, fill a cart with whatever you want, then just leave. Sucks, but certainly not against the law.”

heisdeadjim_au commented:

“I did it once.

“I was looking after three kids — not mine — and the nine-year-old wanted a Mars Bar. No. Cherry Ripe. No. Snickers. No.

“I gave him a general idea that the only food that is going into this trolley is food for the house, and ‘no’ applies to anything else.

“So he tantrums. Literally ran away from me in the store. Found a Mars Bar, ripped it open, took one bite and dropped it on the floor. Repeated it with a Snickers. When he reached for the Cherry Ripe I stopped.

“I’m not playing this kid’s game.

“Took the trolley to the service desk and apologised, ‘I have to leave, but I’m bringing it here so you can save the perishables.’

“They’d seen the nine-year-old perform with the Mars and Snickers and understood.

“I said, ‘Hey, (tantrum thrower’s name), we are going!’

“And I left the store with his five-year-old brother and seven-year-old sister.

“He realised I was serious and followed me to the car.

“Home. ‘Where’s dinner?’ I got asked. ‘Still in that trolley, though I do hope they got the frozen stuff back in their freezers.’

“Still hadn’t twigged. ‘So, what are we having?’

“‘Nothing. Trolley, remember?’ His brother and sister went nuts at him. ‘So, (name), have we joined the dots?’

“So anyway, I rang the supermarket. Did I need to pay for anything, particularly the Mars Bar, Snickers or Cherry Ripe that were half eaten, apologise, that sort of thing.

“Manager was great. So, I had an idea. Next day, the Manager came round. Explained to tantrum-thrower that the three chocolate bars had to be paid for or he will call the police. Tantrum almost literally shit himself, went pale. So we got out his pocket money box and made him pay the manager for the chocolates.

“Never happened again.”

2) plankto-ed wrote:

“Unplugging your friends’ phone to charge your own when visiting their house.

“One of my friends does it, so I unplugged it just enough that it doesn’t charge but looks like it was plugged in.

“And when her battery died, it was like ‘Ahhh, yeah, must be something up with my charger ... Mwahaha (EVIL LAUGH).”²¹

²¹ Source: msoliviop, “What’s immoral but not necessarily illegal?” Reddit. AskReddit. 2 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y2hwxo49>>.

22. “What Is A Reason To Live?”

1) rifrif wrote, “Because if I killed myself, then a bunch of frickin’ girls who bullied me in school would post about me on Instagram about how sad they are and how nice they were to me.”

2) dalekreject wrote, “To crush your enemies, see them driven before you, and hear the lamentation of their women.”

3) moon-suit wrote:

“One for me is music. Just when I thought my music was getting stale, this year I discovered my new favorite artist and it makes me excited for what other amazing music I’ll discover in the future.

“Edit: Many people have been asking who the artist mentioned is, so I figured I’d put it here: It’s Phoebe Bridgers!”

wendigobass commented:

“I genuinely think we’re all living in the best time to be listening to music. On top of having access to a significant portion of what’s come out in the past several decades, there are so many new styles of music that are constantly emerging and evolving, many of which are the result of several genres blended together by some incredibly talented performers and producers. Every few years I stumble upon new artists and genres, and I fall in love with music all over again.

“If there’s anything that keeps me going, it’s certainly how excited I am for what music will sound like several years from now.”

4) wheredoigowithit wrote, “For a while when I was really depressed, what kept me going was the small things. A video call with a friend, seeing my friend’s cat, a great meal I was waiting for, a movie I’d been wanting to see. The small

things eventually add up to a series of lived days and the days become weeks and months and eventually years.”

5) ASK_ABOUT_VOIDSPACE wrote, “Some good-ass cinnamon rolls.”

saik90 wrote:

“I once ate a cinnamon roll that came out of the oven when I walked into the bakery.

“Now I understand why people give themselves diabetes.”

6) captainthor wrote:

“For me, a big one is curiosity. About lots of stuff. Including what happens to the world in weeks, months, and years to come.

“Plus, there’s always the possibility you might someday find joy in another person. But there’s zero chance of that if you don’t show up for it.”²²

23. “What Is The Most Beautiful Place You’ve Ever Visited?”

ashtonp990 wrote, “Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, USA. You can look at pictures and it’s pretty, but in person it is absolutely breathtaking.”

i_like-sp1ce commented:

“I found out that if you try to hike from the bottom to the top of the South Rim, it is literally breathtaking.

“As a side note, I saw a little rattlesnake crossing the trail. He had the right-of-way, so I let him go first.”

²² Source: TtalgiKitty, “What is a reason to live?” Reddit. AskReddit. 3 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y63ojgc8>>.

Motherofcats782 commented, “I’m terrified of snakes, and when my husband and I visited the Badlands, I kept trying to psych myself up for seeing one. I knew there was a pretty good chance of encountering a snake, so I was trying to be prepared and kept telling myself it would be OK. Our final trail for the day I was walking ahead of my husband and the tiniest baby snake started to slither out in front of me. All rational thought went out the window, and I screamed my head off. My husband started looking around expecting a huge full-size rattlesnake and he saw the tiny baby reversing course and going back under the rocks.”²³

24. “What Was The Craziest Reason A Teacher At Your School Got Fired?”

rhymnliming wrote, “Our high school art teacher got fired after someone found an old YouTube video of him painting with his ass cheeks. We held a protest to try to keep him around, but they fired him anyway.”

iuguy34 commented, “Pablo PicASSo?”²⁴

25. “What Is The Most Valuable Thing You Ever Got For Free?”

1) msstark wrote, “I had my eye on a \$600 pair of shoes that I was obviously never gonna buy. My sister got them for herself (she makes *way* more money than I do), and when she saw my face, she went back and got a pair for me, too.”

²³ Source: harleybug88, “What is the most beautiful place you’ve ever visited?” Reddit. AskReddit. 4 December 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/yd3ouyg>>.

²⁴ Source: YEEEEEEeEeseresrsr, “What was the craziest reason a teacher at your school got fired?” Reddit. AskReddit. 4 December 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/y2g5hlrx>>.

2) dah94 wrote, “A \$500 Dyson vacuum when the cashier scanned it and it didn’t register on my order. I called and paid for it a couple days later when I realized what had happened. So I got it for free for a little while.”²⁵

26. “What Was The Last Thing / Event That Made You Really Truly Laugh?”

1) CadenceQuandry wrote:

“Today my five-year-old was asking about our dogs.

“Did we buy the younger dog? Yes. I bought him before you were born, honey.

“Did we buy the older dog? (Passed away a year ago.) Yes. We bought her when your older brother was little.

“But the best question?

“So did you buy older brother, too?

“Hahaha. No, son, we didn’t buy him, though I’ve sometimes considered selling him.”

2) CootieRack wrote, “My friend reading a *World of Warcraft* erotica she wrote her freshman year of college. We both knew it was trash but embraced every little letter of it.”

3) soutedoudloud wrote:

“School is remote now, but we were asked to come in for information and to get whatever we may need because the situation is likely going to be remote for a while. I stopped

²⁵ Source: shortstory16, “What is the most valuable thing you ever got for free?” Reddit. AskWomen. 5 December 2020.

<<https://tinyurl.com/y6bkstec>>.

to talk to a teacher and saw something under one of her kids' desks.

“It was a ball of shit. Most likely human or dog, based on size.

“This is a school that has been claiming to be ‘deep cleaning’ on a regular basis due to COVID, but ... there was a piece of shit on the floor. When I pointed it out to my co-worker, we had to laugh at how fucking gross and ridiculous that is. Of course, during a pandemic, one of the gross little kids would have shit fall out of their pants or something and it would be left on the ground for two weeks. Either that or ... a dog? An adult? It’s nuts. Kids are so gross and so oblivious to it.

“My admin isn’t bad, but it was very satisfying to send an email to them. Talking to my co-workers, everyone’s suspicions were confirmed that our school (like nearly every other school) is not taking precautions seriously enough and that we are doomed.”²⁶

27. “What Is Your ‘I’m Totally Broke’ Go-To Meal?”

Professional_March54 wrote, “The gas station near my apartment would sell dented cans missing the labels for like 5 for a \$1. Half sure I ate dog food at least once.”

steelgate601 commented: “A couple I used to know did almost all their shopping at a nearby liquidation store. One had grown up pretty poor and so always bought the missing label cans, even though they were well past having to economize so. One day we were out for lunch and the one mentioned that it was a better meal than they had last night.

²⁶ Source: ComfortBeginning6422, “What was the last thing/event that made you really truly laugh?” Reddit. AskWomen. 4 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y27vzuam>>.

Knowing the hit-or-miss nature of their canned meal combinations (the rule was it had to be used, it couldn't be thrown out) I asked what had been for dinner last night. He laughed and explained that they had multiple courses ... of beets!"

Quadrapolegic commented:

"So my best beet story goes like this ... I was probably 12 or so and had just recently seen a news program my grandma was watching about colon cancer and how to spot symptoms and whatnot. A few days later I tried pickled beets for the first time and gorged myself. The next day after I pooped I got so scared that I had colon cancer I cried to my mom. For a while after that I couldn't eat beets without the family having a good chuckle."

inthrees commented:

"At least beets are really, really good for you. Astoundingly so. I resolved recently to bring them back into my regular rotation, like they were in my childhood because of mom's menus.

"And promptly forgot to include them in the groceries I just ordered. Go, me!"²⁷

28. "If Santa Was Real, What Would Be The Best Explanation As To Why He Delivers Expensive Gifts To Rich People And Inexpensive Gifts To Poor People?"

1) Elly_Higgenbottom wrote, "When I was a kid, I asked my mother where Santa got all the money for presents. She said Mommy's bank account. I guess that explained how expensive they'd be."

²⁷ Source: DealTight, "What is your 'I'm totally broke' go to meal?" Reddit. AskReddit. 4 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y5ypjkxz>>.

2) Zhoenish wrote, “I was told that Santa only brought the stuff in the stocking, an orange, nuts, little toys. And all the big presents were always from the parents, although some parents told their kids those were also from Santa. So, rich kids got a lot of big stuff, and a stocking with much the same as I got. During lean years, I might not get much from my parents, but I would get the same as every other kid in my stocking.”

FruityNLoopy commented, “My parents were the same. We were quite poor, so I didn’t always get presents from my parents, but I always got a stocking with treats and trinkets. Stocking was from Santa, and my parents would be upfront about the presents, even the community donated ones.”

Joe_Jeep commented, “I’ve seen a few posts go around about how Jewish kids in the US basically had a code to keep the Santa thing hush hush for the rest. Kind of funny and very cute.”

propagandathedino commented, “I can confirm! My brother and I both knew, but never said anything to anyone and then would feel like spies with a secret! (We both thought it was kinda obvious Santa wasn’t real but still believed in the Tooth Fairy.)”

New_Expression_5724 commented:

“I can confirm as well. In fact, I had a cousin (at the time, he must have been in his 30s or 40s) who did a calculation with me (he made me look up information in the encyclopedia, so this was a learning exercise) proving that it could not be done. Santa’s sleigh would be among the largest moving objects ever built, Santa would have to travel at enormous velocities. I don’t recall if we discussed the Southern Hemisphere.

“At the end of the discussion, I was told in no uncertain terms not to tell anybody who wasn’t Jewish.”

FauxReal commented, “I’m not Jewish, but my mom said if you don’t believe in Santa then you don’t get any presents. That shut me up quick.”

EmiliuReturns wrote:

“In fourth grade I already knew Santa wasn’t real, but I kept that to myself. One kid in my class, who was kind of a bratty kid in general, came in early November and announced to the entire class, very smugly: ‘Santa isn’t real! It’s just your parents! They lied!’

“I’d say about half the class already knew, but the other half were in absolute shambles. The teacher was NOT happy she had to deal with that.”

Newcago commented, “I found out in eighth grade (kinda late, but I believed EVERYTHING) when my art teacher announced that Santa wasn’t real in the middle of class. Everyone just laughed and continued with their day, but I was just figuring this out for the first time and I was heartbroken. I had to pretend for the rest of the day that my world hadn’t just crumbled and that I, like all the other kids, definitely already knew.”²⁸

29. “What Are Some Wholesome Facts That Could Brighten Up A Sad Day?”

benjobeans wrote:

“This four-year-old whom I nanny once blew on a dandelion and I asked what he wished for. (I know you’re not supposed

²⁸ Source: ChoiceStar1, “If Santa was real, what would be the best explanation as to why he delivers expensive gifts to rich people and inexpensive gifts to poor people?” Reddit. AskReddit. 5 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y2cw69rw>>.

to tell, but that's silly — anytime his wish is doable I make it happen.)

“He wished to see a leaf fall from a tree.

“I’m not sure why it hit me the way it did. I think because he said it just so ... earnestly. Just hoping like hell he’d get to see a leaf fall. And, being fall and all, I figured he’d get his wish. But, man! It’s surprisingly rare to see! Like we saw plenty of leaves floating down and such, but to actually see the very moment a leaf falls off a tree? Rare!

“So anyway, I kept my eyes peeled (odd saying, by the way) for like a week straight with no luck. Then one kinda breezy day, I’m sitting on the porch with my roommate groaning about something or other, and I see it. This tiny gasp of a breeze sweeps through the birch tree out front and one little leaf slips off its stem and floats right into my goddamn lap. I almost lost my mind! I genuinely jumped for joy. I brought the leaf next time I saw him and he was ELATED for me. His wish had become my wish and had come true! He didn’t mind that he hadn’t seen it.

“I’m not sure what the fact is here, but I think about it a lot. Maybe just that kids are sweet enough to wish for these slight, slight miracles. And that somewhere in our hearts, we’re all still sweet, wishful kids.”²⁹

30. “Bilinguals Of Reddit, What Are Your Best ‘They Didn’t Know I Could Understand Them’ Stories?”

1) jsveiga wrote:

“Not me, but my sister.

²⁹ Source: Winter-Improvement, “What are some wholesome facts that could brighten up a sad day?” Reddit. AskReddit. 6 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y3nzhecy>>.

“She (Brazilian, journalist) lived in Italy for some years in the 1990s, and spoke fluent Italian.

“Our cousin spent a vacation with her, and they were travelling by train around Europe.

“Deep inside France, they ended up in the same cabin with an Italian couple, whose conversation went like this (with my sister simultaneously translating to Portuguese to my cousin):

“‘What language is that?’

“‘It’s Portuguese.’

“‘Doesn’t sound like Portuguese.’

“‘It’s Brazilian Portuguese; it sounds different from Portuguese from Portugal.’

“‘Brazilians? The mulatto girl there, maybe, but what about the white one?’

“‘(My sister and I are 25% Italian, 25% Portuguese, 50% Japanese mix. My cousin doesn’t have the Japanese component and looks more Caucasian. So the ‘mulatto girl’ was my sister.)

“‘No, not everyone in Brazil is mulatto or black, they have many different races there,’

“‘But what are they doing here, in the middle of France?’

“‘They’re probably hookers, looking for some men. Some even get married in Europe.’

“At this point, my cousin wanted my sister to tell them she could understand, but she didn’t. I would at least have said something at the end of the trip, like ‘Well, that was quite informative, thank you, have a nice day. We’re not hookers’ in perfect Italian.

“She didn’t say anything.

“My mother, on the other hand ...

“She went to visit my sister in Italy and do some touring; they were arriving in Paris by train. My sister, who didn’t speak French so well, politely asked a woman in the same cabin if she was from Paris, and then if she knew what would be the best station to disembark, to get to the Louvre.

“The woman answered with a rispid [unfriendly] ‘I have no idea,’ and then she muttered, ‘I don’t know why tourists think that just because you’re from Paris, you’re a tourist guide.’

“Well, my mom (born in Brazil from Japanese parents) was a French (and Spanish, and Portuguese Literature) teacher. She lived in France when she was a student and worked at the Radio Nationale.

“So that woman had to hear from that shorty Japanese old lady, ‘No, we don’t think that. In Brazil, tourists will also ask locals for information, and we are glad to help. And when we don’t know the answer — which I doubt it’s your case — we at least answer in a polite manner. We did not mistake you for a tourist guide, but we did mistake you for an educated, civilized person!’”

jsveiga added:

“My mom was then already retired as a teacher. She taught on public and private schools for her whole professional life, all kinds of students, and also raised my sister and me alone (my dad died when I was two). She was tough and had that imposing old-school authority way of speaking. When she gave us ‘the lectures,’ we wish she had just spanked us instead (which she never did).

“So the young woman was both startled for her speaking perfect French and intimidated by her ‘teacher superpower’ (and maybe also not willing to confront a crazy angry old lady and her daughter), and just shut up.

“When she left (before my sister and mom), my mother did give her an icy ‘Thank you very much, goodbye.’”

2) braxistExtremist wrote:

“This is actually the opposite of your question. But I’ll throw it out there anyway. I’m barely bilingual, and for the purpose of this story it makes it even funnier.

“Years ago, I was in Canada and went to a concert with some friends in Montreal. Before it started, I had to use the restroom. So I’m in there at the urinal pissing when this French Canadian rocker-looking guy comes staggering in and chooses the urinal right next to me.

“This guy is clearly smashed out of his brain, I think on a combination of alcohol and pot, but he’s clearly really happy and excited. And he starts talking to me in French. I could tell from the few words of French that I know that he was telling me how excited he was about the concert.

“So not wanting to be rude, I smiled and said, ‘Ah, oui.’ It’s worth bearing in mind here that while my understanding of the French language is terrible, I can generally pronounce the words very well.

“Not unreasonably, he took my response as acknowledgement that I understood him perfectly. And he proceeded to get really chatty and enthusiastic. And I could tell from his inflection that he was asking me one question after another.

“I had no fucking clue what he was asking me! So I just kept saying ‘oui’! I think at one point I threw in an ‘ahh, non’ too, just to mix it up.

“Whatever answers I gave, he clearly approved. Once he was done peppering me with questions, he said (still in French) something along the lines of ‘All right, brother, rock on! Have a great night, pal!’

“And with that my very drunk new buddy staggered off back into the main hall to enjoy the music.”

3) Victor_Twinkenstein wrote:

“My boyfriend’s sister (deaf) signed to him that I looked nice. He was about to interpret it for me, but I signed back, ‘Thank you.’”

“It was a nice night; things went great.”

4) WMComey wrote:

“Kind of the inverse of what you’re looking for, but nonetheless:

“My first time in Tokyo and I managed to set up dinner with two friends who were there also but for different reasons. Jack looks like the model American — think Clark Kent with red hair. He had a master’s in Japanese literature and was about as fluent as could be. Katy, on the other hand, was third-generation Japanese American back to Tokyo to find her roots and [like me] spoke no Japanese.

“So we get to the restaurant and walk up to the waiter with me in-between my friends. He looks at us and turns to Katy with a rapid-fire burst of Japanese. Cue look of complete confusion on Katy’s face, so Jack leans forward and [I assume] answers his remarks in perfect Japanese. The waiter does the most perfect double-take I’ve ever seen, almost taking a step back in his shock. He turns from one of them

to the other, then looks me straight in the eyes and says in English, ‘Your table will be right this way.’”

WMComey added, “Jack told me he would stop people on the street and ask in Japanese for directions, only to be told, ‘Sorry, I don’t speak English.’ They literally could not comprehend he was speaking their language.”³⁰

31. “What’s Something You’ve Always Wanted To Flex About But Are Too Shy To?”

1) Kitten7383 wrote:

“I went to an all-girls high school that was next to an all-boys high school and it was kind of a trope to ask someone random from the opposite school to go to a dance with you and then ignore them all night.

“Well, I’m marrying mine.”

2) tambrico wrote, “I won the competition where you had to guess how many M&Ms are in the jar at the library when I was a kid. I measured the size of the jar and the size of an M&M and did a volume calculation.”

3) rithc137 wrote, “Fifth-grade spelling bee champ. Please, no autographs.”

motolyfe318 wrote, “I was in the fourth-grade spelling bee and spelled ‘pickle’ wrong on the first round and I was the

³⁰ Source: crown_brooklyn, “Bilinguals of Reddit: What are your best ‘they didn’t know I could understand them’ stories?” Reddit. AskReddit. 5 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y286hxad>>.

only kid sitting in the front row for like three rounds. LMAO.”³¹

32. “Hey, Shy People, What Is Your Worst Experience?”

1kirbysmashgrl wrote, “In my high-school Spanish class, some kid screamed ‘Do you ever talk?’ at me in front of the entire class.

“Super embarrassing at the time, but hilarious to look back on.

“Edit: For those curious, I said nothing in response. If only I could go back in time.”

whatnameisnttaken098 commented, “I had a similar incident in freshman science class in high school. I hardly ever talked, and I guess the teacher somehow got it in her head that I was mute. She came up to me early one morning just before class with a sign-language interpreter and asked if I needed help participating in class. I looked her dead in the eye and said, ‘I can talk.’ She turned about seven different shades of red before telling the interpreter they wouldn’t be needed.”³²

33. “When You’re Lying In Bed At Night, Do You Ever Randomly Remember Some Relatively Minor Social Missteps Or Poorly Chosen Words You Did / Said Years Earlier? And Then Beat Yourself Up Over It Even

³¹ Source: Joshs_Reddit, “What’s something you’ve always wanted to flex about but are too shy to?” Reddit. AskReddit. 5 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y2j3h2qj>>.

³² Source: yaman007, “Hey shy people what is your worst experience?” Reddit. AskReddit. 6 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y2bt2szu>>.

Though It Really Wasn't A Big Deal? If So, What Happened?"

1) MorrisseysUnderbite wrote:

“My current one happened a month ago, when I was serving a couple on a checkout in a supermarket. Both were deaf and I had some minor issues understanding how much cash back they wanted but was fine. Right at the end I decided to try and say ‘thank you’ in sign language but only realised when I was home that I’d actually signed ‘fuck.’

“I knew it was something to do with the chin. I hate myself.”

thatLifeVibe commented, “Eh, just like in English, context matters. I find it pretty unlikely they interpreted it as ‘fuck’ given the context.”

MorrisseysUnderbite replied, “That’s what I’m praying. She didn’t look annoyed, thankfully!”

davidildo commented:

“I once bought a candy bar from a blind merchant, he asked what I had, and without realizing he was blind I said, ‘Just this.’ He asked me to say it out loud and I thought he was just messing with me so I dropped it on the counter and said to forget it. I took about five steps away before understanding he was blind and turned around to see him running his hands over the counter and taking the candy bar back to the shelf.

“I was so mortified I went back and gave the most awkward apology before running off embarrassed. The next time I was in the building I bought some stuff and out of embarrassment I put on a fake voice so he wouldn’t recognize me.

“This was over 20 years ago, and I still cringe while thinking about it.”

John-Smith12 commented, “The fake voice part is absolutely hilarious. I’d love to know what was going on in his head. Good on you for going back to apologize; it would’ve been so much easier to just walk away, but it probably made him feel much better that you didn’t treat him badly because you realized he’s blind.”

MrsTurtlebones wrote, “I had a blind friend over and went to grab a few Hershey’s Kisses to eat. Without thinking it through, obviously, I asked him, ‘Jack, do you want a kiss?’ He looked surprised, then answered eagerly, ‘Yes, of course!’ I felt horrible and stammered, ‘A Hershey’s chocolate kiss?’ which he still accepted, but seemed disappointed. We were just friends and I am not a kissy person; I feared he thought I was messing with him for a joke, but he was gracious about it.”

2) overtimeoverit wrote, “I went to college in Virginia and I told one of my peers that Christopher Columbus made his first landing nearby. A professor took me aside a few weeks later after hearing this story from my peer and he corrected me. Columbus never landed in Virginia, I was thinking of John Smith. It’s a small thing but it seems like something I should’ve remembered from elementary school and having to be taken aside after class to be corrected in private made me feel like a massive idiot.”

Kwarshaw wrote, “That’s a great professor, though; it’s much better to correct you privately than to make a public example out of you like some professors would.”

MrsTurtlebones commented, “Something I learned from a librarian at college was demonstrated, not told, to me. I was looking for books of poetry by Rilke, which I had never heard said, so I pronounced it simply as ‘Rilk.’ Without missing a beat, he answered, ‘Oh, yes, I love reading Rilke’s [pronounced the correct way, Rilk-uh] poems! We actually have a good selection of Rilke here ... let’s see, Rilke, Rilke,

oh, here it is!’ He showed me and left. In that short monologue, he had taught me the correct way to say it without even acknowledging that I had said it wrong. That was over 30 years ago, and to this day, if anyone says a word incorrectly, I will repeat it a few times the right way in my response, always staying positive and never admitting they did not. I figure after that it’s on them to look it up if they want to be sure, but at least I tried and did not shame them, any more than that kind librarian did not embarrass me.”

3) ohheyhihellthere wrote, “I was once at a resort in Mexico when I was 18 and enjoying the free-flowing alcohol. I was sitting at a bar waiting for my friend to meet me and the song ‘We Speak No Americano’ was playing, a popular choice at the time, but new to me. I was grooving and bopping and then I leaned over to the girl next to me and asked her what the song was. She replied, ‘We speak no Americano,’ and then I said, ‘Oh! Sorry,’ because I assumed FOR NO REASON that this woman without an accent couldn’t speak English. She gave me a weird look, and I was drunk enough to let the moment slide. I ended up getting the song stuck in my head a month or so after the trip and looked it up and saw the name was really ‘We Speak No Americano’ and instantly remembered that moment at the bar in Mexico. I’ll never see that girl again, but she knows how dumb I am.”

4) charlieetuna wrote:

“Years ago when I lived with a guy and a girl. The guy was out for the weekend and the girl and I had no plans so we grabbed beers and watched movies until late. Instead of saying, ‘Shall we call it a night?’ I said, ‘Want to go to bed?’ Meaning ‘Shall we turn off the TV and lights and go to our respective beds?’ She said nothing and made no movement for like 10-20 seconds and then quietly said, ‘Yes.’ So while I was turning everything off, she took off her giant hoodie and took her hair out of a ponytail and was waiting for me.

When I walked to my room, she was like, ‘Oh! To our own BEDS! La la la.’” “That’s when I was like, ‘Yeah, what did you ...’ then clicked in to what she thought and quietly closed my bedroom door.

“I liked her as a friend. She was kind of cute but if sleeping with a coworker is a bad idea sleeping with a roommate is even worse. So after that she was no longer just ‘one of the guys.’”

Difficult_Hornet_100 commented, “Lmao, though this isn’t cringe on your part, but hers. That poor girl, haha.”

5) slambiero wrote:

“I was about 14 and had a sleepover at my buddy’s house. The next morning his mom made us pancakes for breakfast. I had a glass of milk and I can’t explain why, but I took a big sip and then said, ‘Milk, the other white liquid.’ This was while eating with his entire family including older siblings and parents.

“I think I was trying to make a joke of the old pork commercials that said, ‘Pork, the other white meat.’ I think about it regularly 17 years later and get embarrassed.”

6) Scarlettstitches wrote:

“I was being shown around me and my partner’s first house and the bedroom was painted bright orange.

“‘Wow this is a bit much ... who would paint a bedroom this awful colour!’

“Then my eyes moved to the landlady’s top. It was practically the same colour as the walls.

“She smiled at me but said nothing.

“This was over 14 years ago, and it still randomly makes me throw my head in my hands and cringe violently.”³³

34. “What’s The Story Behind A Time When You Felt Secondhand Embarrassment?”

1) AaronVsMusic wrote in a comment about another story:

“That reminds me of the time a girl in my class was doing a presentation about Jim Carrey (we all had to pick a famous Canadian), and was talking about how he worked as a janitor, ‘scrubbing public hairs off of toilets.’

“The teacher piped up from the back of the class: ‘I think that word was ‘pubic.’

“The poor girl just said, ‘Oh ...,’ turned red, and continued.”

2) The DrunkenChud wrote in a comment about another story, “Wow. And I thought it was bad when a girl in my high school aerospace science class gave a ten-minute report on rocket engines and the entire time referred to nozzles as noozles. Yours is way worse.”

MattRexPuns commented, “As an aerospace engineer, that makes me cringe and desperately wish I could have witnessed that.”

The DrunkenChud replied, “Luckily it was a very small class and we were all pretty close friends. So it wasn’t super embarrassing for her, but she fucking argued with us about it being called a noozle. It was hilarious.”

³³ Source: AnTanci, “When you’re lying in bed at night, do you ever randomly remember some relatively minor social missteps or poorly chosen words you did/said years earlier? And then beat yourself up over it even though it really wasn’t a big deal? If so, what happened?” Reddit. AskReddit. 5 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y3rogu2z>>.

3) snekfer wrote:

“Had an interviewer come into our office for an important role, and she warned us that morning that she had been sprayed by a skunk the previous week so she might ‘have a teensy bit of the odour lingering.’

“Well we got in the interview room with her and it wasn’t ‘teensy.’ We were wincing, coughing, and she looks mortified, saying, ‘Oh, oh god, it’s really that bad? I’ve taken 100 showers, oh no.’”

4) TheLostViking98 wrote:

“I work retail and I got called a pervert for being in the girls underwear isle by some crazy lady ... while I was on the clock and in full uniform. She went tomato red and looked like she wanted to vanish into thin air when I turned around and she saw the name tag on my chest and the company patch on my arm.

“No apology or anything she just said, ‘Oh ... oh.’ And walked away. Random crazy lady, I hope you learned not to call random people perverts in stores. And if not, I hope someone calls you a pervert in a store one day.”

5) Calendar-Careless wrote, “My best friend asking a woman ‘when she was due.’ She gave birth the month before.”³⁴

35. “What is your best insult without swearing?”

1) jeff_the_nurse wrote:

“I once asked a girl, ‘Where have you been all my life?’

³⁴ Source: TeachMeTheWayz, “What’s the story behind a time when you felt secondhand embarrassment?” Reddit. AskReddit. 6 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y6d2h9mj>>.

“Her response was, ‘I don’t know, but I wish I was still there.’”

2) masheduppotato wrote:

“In 2004 I once told a girl, ‘You’re like Visa — everywhere I want to be.’ She giggled and then went on with her life.

“In 2013, while drunk at a wedding-after party of one of my best friends, I was sharing stories of dumb things I did as a teen and young adult to a table full of people when a very pretty lady sitting on her fiancée’s lap drunkenly slurred out, ‘Where have you been all my life?’ I replied, ‘I’m not sure, but I got here as fast as I could.’

“The two of them left soon after that statement was made.”

Remembers_that_time commented, “I call myself American Express. Three and a half inches long and gets rejected everywhere.”

3) WatchTheBoom wrote, “I bet your parents change the subject when their friends ask about you.”

4) ItsShoesHere wrote, “I envy the people who haven’t met you.”

5) DonaldKey wrote, “You’re a conversation starter. Not when you are around, but once you leave.”

SheriffBartholomew commented, “Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go. — Oscar Wilde.”

6) russellvt commented, “Dad’s old one is ‘You couldn’t pour piss out of a boot with the instructions written on the heel.’”

sylveonce commented:

“Oh no ... this one got me because at first I was picturing someone lifting the boot above their head to read the underside. Took me a few seconds to realize you would flip it over instead.

“Turns out I couldn’t pour piss out of a boot.”³⁵

36. “Teachers Of Reddit, What’s Something A Student Did You Thought Was Hilarious But Had To Stay ‘Mad’ About?”

1) vomrath wrote:

“My 70-year-old female advisor was spectating one of my US history lessons, and the point of the lesson was that things that were seen as ‘radical’ back in the day are seen as normal today (ex. anti-segregation).

“My advisor gave the example that in the 1970s she was denied a home loan because she was a single woman. An online student (half the class was online due to COVID) then piped up and said rather loudly, ‘You still single?’

“I could not help but laugh, but my advisor also laughed so it was hard to avoid. Kid was very clever.”

potatomato commented, “What a chill woman.”

fallingleaf_271 commented, “Reminds me of one time in middle school, when my teacher said, ‘There’s a very important date coming up,’ and my friend asked, ‘Who is it?’ The class thought it was so funny.”

2) JacobasNile wrote:

³⁵ Source: AvPlayz, “What is your best insult without swearing?”
Reddit. AskReddit. 7 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/yyusbwzx>>.

“I am a teacher, but this happened in high school to a classmate and my science teacher who I swear was going to have a stroke as he tried not to laugh.

“I had a classmate accept a dare to glue his hand to his cock. Why? Because he was an idiot. I was not friends with him as he ran in a different group of friends. He was wearing track pants so he put some regular glue (thank God, not Superglue) on his hand and shoved it down his pants, grabbing his cock. He held it there for a while until panic crossed his face that he couldn’t easily remove it.

“The look on the teacher’s face as he led the student away to the office/school nurse was priceless.”³⁶

37. “What Were Some Of Your Favorite Things To Do With Your Family Growing Up?”

1) Addalady wrote:

“When I was a kid, my parents would just round us up, load us up in the car and start driving. When we asked where we were going, the answer was ‘Crazy! Now get your shoes on.’

“Going crazy might mean getting ice cream, or going to the dollar movies, or maybe roller skating. It was always a surprise and always fun.”

2) Greylaces wrote:

“Running throughout the house to check in on everyone when they’re were getting ready for guests to arrive (seeing them put finishing touches on makeup / hair, fixing the table setting, lighting candles, seeing my siblings push me from their room because they were extra cool talking on the phone

³⁶ Source: MildlyAmusedMars, “Teachers of Reddit, what’s something a student did you thought was hilarious but had to stay ‘mad’ about?” Reddit. AskReddit. 8 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y3d2w4t5>>.

to their friend or playing a game with their friend or a cousin on the PC).

“Going to McDonald’s drive-through for ice cream.

“Being surprised with a Slurpie from 7-Eleven.

“Helping with the cooking.

“Hearing how important and special we were as kids. Those little speeches that reminded me to believe in myself.”

3) Omaknowsbest wrote, “Picnics, museums, and water fights! Dad always cheated by getting on the roof and pouring buckets of water on our heads. We fell for it every time!”³⁷

38. “Teachers Of Reddit, What Student Will You Never Forget?”

1) MrHill1971 wrote:

“A wonderful young man who was killed in a car accident back in early June 2020. He was in his Grade 11 year.

“Took him under my wing in Grade 9. Worked on his impulsive behaviour, colourful language, anger management and questionable life choices. By Grade 10, he was a mentor to incoming Grade 9s who had similar issues as himself. In Grade 11, he was a leader here in the school, volunteering, joined the Arts community and held down two after-school jobs.

³⁷ Source: 22AgentBrown, “What were some of your favorite things do with your family growing up?” Reddit. AskReddit. 8 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y6degtoz>>.

“We shook hands everyday, he’d bring me coffee, his last text to me said, ‘Life is beautiful, man,’ and he had recently told me that he wished that I was his dad.

“He wasn’t wearing a seatbelt coming home from one of those jobs. He was killed instantly after being ejected from a car he was a passenger in. My commute to and from work everyday passes by the exact spot he was killed.

“Miss you, Edward.”

2) ThereGoesChickrenJane wrote:

“Not a teacher anymore, but there are so, so many of them.

“I’ll never forget the little boy who was abused from birth to age three before he was finally taken away from his mother (who was struggling with a serious drug addiction) and adopted by his maternal grandmother. He had some delays but he was such a smart little kid who absolutely *loved* dinosaurs.

“I’ll never forget the student who didn’t have anything to give me for Christmas, but he wanted to give me something so badly that he taped his fruit roll up from his lunch onto a piece of paper and handwrote a Christmas card.

“I’ll never forget the kid who sobbed in my lap at recess when her mother was going through chemotherapy, because she was terrified. Months later, this same kid came running down the hallway and literally *leapt* into my arms while screaming, ‘Miss N, my mom is going to be okay!’

“I’ll never forget the kid who noticed that my pencil jar (for students who needed pencils) was empty, so he filled it with his own.

“I’ll never forget the little girl who came to school every day with dirty clothes, sometimes the same clothes she had on the day before. She made her lunch herself at six years old,

and she never had anything fresh or healthy, it was generally packaged because that's what they had. She would also hug anyone and everyone because she was so desperate for affection. I was a student teacher, but the principal was trying to get authorities involved by the time I left. I hope she got help.

“I'll never forget the kid who emailed me on the weekends and over holidays, just to tell me what's going on and to say hello.

“There are so many more, I could go on for ages.”

3) JacobasNile wrote, “I teach at a prison. The first inmate I had graduate under my teaching cried when he looked at his diploma. He was the first in his entire family to graduate. It was quite the accomplishment, and I was very moved.”

TheGoodJudgeZHolden commented:

“I taught GED [equivalent of high-school degree] classes in a local prison to the men's SAP [Substance Abuse Professional] program. These weren't violent offenders; they were just addicts who got caught up.

“Totally the most rewarding position I have EVER had in education. Seeing those men get their GED was incredible. One old man, he was a carny who traveled the US his entire adult life, never made it past eighth grade, got his GED right before the COVID virus shut everything down.

“He came and found me in my classroom and hugged me like a brother and thanked me. I still remember his full name — he made that much of an impression on me. He was due to get released a few weeks later, and I really hope he's doing well.”

sweetnesssa commented, “I worked at a community college as a tutor and helped a lot of adults. It was really rewarding

seeing one of my tutoring students go from the point where they struggled to write a complete paragraph, trying to finish their GED, and then four years later they are asking me to help read over their application to a master's program.”

wardsac commented:

“Big Mike.

“I’m a high-school science teacher in an affluent suburb. We get this transfer kid in who is about 6’8”, 350 pounds, long thin Hulk Hogan mullet (not bald, though) and big glasses. Mike hailed from the hollers of Kentucky, had a thick southern accent, and was the most quotable kid I ever met.

“‘I hate books, Mr. xxxxx. They PISS me off.’

“‘My grandma made me sleep on the porch because she cooked some veggies and I told her, ‘Dang it, woman, where’s the meat?’

“‘I ain’t never seen a pencil like this. Can I keep this and show my dad?’ (Talking about a regular mechanical pencil.)

“‘They threw me out of Golden Corral because I ate eight of them steaks they had. I was pissed, next time I’m trying for nine.’

“And we were supposed to have a fire drill at like 1:55 or some odd time, at 1:57 he went ahead and pulled it honest to god thinking he would help out whoever forgot.”

wardsac added, “Legit one of my favorite students ever. Kid was a C, D student but damn if he wasn’t the funniest kid to have in class. I’ll never forget another science teacher the next year running into my room to tell me, ‘He said it! I thought you were embellishing, but Big Mike told me he hates books and they piss him off!’”

4) teaching-man wrote:

“I had a kid, age 16, total addict. Alcoholic, meth, pills, heroin. Really rough childhood. Started smoking crack with his dad at 13, stepdad committed suicide in front of him at 14, unimaginable shit in between.

“He’d come to school high or drunk and we would send him home. Nice kid, always respectful and just had ‘a good soul.’

“One day he was all sorts of messed up and I pulled him out of class. I told him that I loved him and I was worried and if he kept this up he would more than likely be dead by age 30. He freaked out and ran to the principal’s office and complained that I had just told him that I loved him and cared about him. Principal said, ‘Well, maybe he loves you and cares about you.’

“We kicked him out of school after we had to.

“He got sober. He came back to track me down. He grabbed me and started sobbing. He said when I said I loved him it was the first time an adult had said that to him and he believed it.

“He has stayed sober for years, went to college, and is doing really well as a nurse now.”

DPEisonREDDIT commented, “You saved that kid’s life.”

5) onthenextmaury wrote, “Dance instructor. Student had one hemisphere of her brain removed as an infant and she was paralyzed on one side. She said that she wanted to dance because she wanted people to see that she wasn’t ashamed of her body. After months and months, she finally managed one spin around. The other instructor cried, I cried, she cried. It was fucking incredible.”

IronDominion commented:

“I don’t know why, but it seems dance instructors have been some of the most supportive people I’ve ever met as a

disabled student. Auditioned for color guard as a visually impaired sophomore, where the judges were the rifle coach, the director, and the dance.

“I wrote a letter stapled to my audition form explaining that I was going to do my best, but I may not be as good as the other kids. The rifle coach told me I would never do rifle, the head director was doubtful, but the dance coaches told me yes. I barely made the team. I did dance line my first year as I learned to spinning a flag with limited visual cues, even adapting my pole to make learning easier. The dance coaches helped me a lot, giving me confidence when the other sections doubted me, working one on one with me, and guiding me to befriend one of the best dancers on the team to help me.

“By the end of my second season, I auditioned for the Boston Crusaders, one of the best color guards in drum core, and the whole country. While I didn’t make the core, they did commend my skill. I’m now finishing out my third year, as an officer, teaching the younger kids that they can do it no matter their limitations. I’m now learning rifle from the same coach who told me I could never do it. Just because some dance coaches had a little confidence in me.”

6) TheGoodJudgeHolden wrote:

“I was getting my middle-school certification in my state. This was maybe three or four years ago, and my college would place us in local schools in the area to partner with an accomplished teacher and get our observation hours in.

“The college had a reputation of putting male teacher-candidates in the roughest schools in the area. (My fellow male students and I had a theory about this, but of course we couldn’t prove it.)

“Anyway, my first morning there, in a very rough all-boys middle school in the worst part of the city, the first period a

little boy maybe 10-11 walks into class, looks at me and says, ‘What are you looking at, you Ryan Gosling-lookin’ motherfucker?’

“I was utterly speechless. I can only assume that was his catch-all term for white men, lol.

“I’ll definitely never forget him! Hahahahaaha!”

TheGoodJudgeHolden added, “I’m skinny as a rail, covered in tattoos, and have a beard the size of a small child on my face.”³⁸

39. “What Do You Need Right Now To Make It All Better?”

odddutchman wrote:

“I’d just like the current me to have a two- to three-hour talk with the youngun me. I’d tell him:

1. For God’s sake, get your weight down and do strength training to stay uninjured. All the fun stuff and older mobility follows from that.
 2. Make an hour or so two, three nights a week to study something that helps your skills or career. Incremental efforts add up.
 3. Make love to your wife as much as you and she can stand and still enjoy it. That stuff don’t last forever.
- 3.5. Spend quality time with your kids. Any time you spend you are unlikely to regret.

³⁸ Source: Jade-Spade, “Teachers of reddit, what student will you never forget?” Reddit. AskReddit. 8 December 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/yy7fvpre>>.

4. Make sure to save as much as you can stand in a retirement fund. Compound interest is powerful.
5. You are gonna go bald. We are talking Patrick Stewart bald here. Get used to it and accept it. Hair is a pain to take care of.
6. Consider investing a few bucks in Apple and Google.”

odddutchman added, “And have a good long talk with Dad. He passed away way too early.”

hesitantmaneatingcat commented, “This one. I’ve fucked up a lot, but this is my only real regret in life.”

23z7 commented, “This hits home. My father passed away today. I wish I could have had one last long talk, but with COVID he couldn’t speak the last couple weeks.”³⁹

40. “Cops Of Reddit, Has There Ever Been A Time Where You Had Assistance From A Member Of The Public?”

1) QuarantineTitans wrote:

“My cousin’s a cop. He has lots of stories, and this one stuck with me.

“A few years ago, he was holding a police line at, of all things, an anti-police demonstration. He was there to make sure the demonstrators were remaining peaceful, didn’t destroy anything, and to also protect the demonstrators from any potential pro-police instigators.

³⁹ Source: JustOscar1, “What do you need right now to make it all better?” Reddit. AskReddit. 8 December 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/y467pav5>>.

“This dude, I tell you straight up, can’t *stand* pro-police nutcases. The phrase ‘blue lives matter’ makes him cringe like nothing else. ‘I ain’t born a fuckin’ Smurf’ is his response to that.

“Anyhoo. The protest mobilized, and began its planned march down the main boulevard downtown. My cousin took his position alongside the demonstrators, ensuring everything was peaceful, and for the most part it was going fine. Suddenly some smartass kid with a phone starts recording him, harassing him, then begging him and his fellow officers to assault him. Cousin describes him as ‘the lanky hair-bun weirdo you immediately imagine.’ He makes all sorts of threatening gestures towards my cousin and his fellow officers, getting bolder and bolder, more in their face, yelling in vociferous escalation, basically trying to manufacture a viral video of him getting arrested.

“One of the event organizers sees what’s happening and intervenes. She breaks away, actually *defending* my cousin and the other officers beside him. Nothing too dramatic or drawn out, she just drops in between them, looks this crazy hair-bunned psycho in the face, and tells him to go away. Basically shoos him like a stray cat. Go on! Git!

“And so the day ended without too many incidents. They had a successful march, got a lot of positive news coverage, and didn’t leave the park in litter-coated shambles. Because the organizers of this demonstration, contrary to the wacko claims of pro-police pundits, still care about maintaining order and peace.”

2) Gingrpenguin wrote:

“My dad was driving years ago and this bloke pegs it out of an alleyway right in front of us. We can’t stop quick enough and hit him. Before we can fully grasp what’s going on, two

officers grabbed him and wrestled him to the ground while telling us not to move.

“They took my dad’s details and said they may be in touch for a statement, but we were free to go and quote a number if we needed to invoke the insurance (which we didn’t).

“One officer jokingly said to my dad they were doing a special offer of not prosecuting those who ran over criminals for one day only.”⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Source: criteriaz, “Cops of Reddit, has there ever been a time where you had assistance from a member of the public?” Reddit. AskReddit. 10 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y3j555ul>>.

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41. “What’s The Funniest / Most Awkward Thing You’ve Done Around Someone You Liked?”

1) SpiderSilk666 wrote, “I was at Jiu Jitsu, rolling with the very handsome man who is now my Significant Other. There was some kind of scramble, and he ends up in some weird position on top of me (he is several rankings higher and much more skilled than I) and I look him right in the eyes and go, ‘I’ve never been in this position before,’ and then giggled like an idiot as I died inside because it came out very sexual even though it wasn’t intended to sound like that ... but thankfully he was receptive and laughed about it.”

2) queenoreo wrote:

“I went on a date and realized about ten minutes into the movie I had already seen it. Didn’t say anything because clearly I’m a dumbass. Met up with friends after and when we mentioned the movie my friend said, ‘You saw it again?’ and I was like, ‘Yeah, it was so good,’ super enthusiastically.

“The movie? *Lethal Weapon 2*.”

split_pois commented, “HAHAHAAH! I would never manage to say that with a straight face.”

queenoreo replied, “I was young and really liked the guy.”

3) PerfectNail8 wrote, “When I was 11, I had a huge crush on our paperboy, and I would always make sure that I was the one to answer the door if it was him. One time I took 50 dollars out of my dad’s wallet and told him to keep the

change. My dad was pissed, but my mom thought it was funny and cute.”⁴¹

42. “What Was The Most Thought-Provoking / Mind Blowing Experience You Had In School?”

1) PressureAwkward wrote:

“I had a teacher (English, 10th grade) who decided to teach us to spot product placements in film and TV, so we’d know when we were being advertised to outside of commercial breaks. We watched a lot of different clips from popular media and pointed out moments like, a character visibly drinking a Pepsi or driving a Volkswagen, etc., and wrote a short thing on how the marketing was associating that brand / item with an idea, like being cool, smart, or alluring.

“It’s one of those things where, once you have these tricks pointed out to you, you will never un-see them, and this type of advertising loses a lot of its power when you’re aware of it.

“One downside, though: I’ve been known to laugh out loud during serious parts of a film when a character very obviously reaches for some branded item or it’s prominently shown in the background.”

2) hauteburrito wrote:

“One of my teachers came out as intersex / trans back when I was a middle-school student in the early 2000’s. There had been rumours circling for a while, so she took 30 minutes of class one day to address them and to answer any questions. I remember that being my first-ever exposure to intersex and

⁴¹ Source: split_pois, “What’s the funniest/most awkward thing you’ve around someone you liked?” Reddit. AskWomen. 10 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y49zb635>>.

trans people — I was barely even aware of their existence prior. I also remember that the questions were generally respectful and that people stopped gossiping about it in the hallways afterward.

“Looking back, I’m really astonished by the bravery that teacher demonstrated in ‘coming out’ to a classroom full of middle-school demons.”

3) keyboardsmash wrote, “One of my teachers, inside about 20 minutes, took the very popular anti-immigrant sentiment in the United Kingdom APART. She drew a big map of the UK and Ireland and outlined all the different groups that had immigrated here up until 1066. The map was covered in arrows and by the end it was just so obvious that to be anti-immigrant was a totally absurd position.”

4) DLVSH wrote:

“I was the lead editor of my high school yearbook. Back in the day, *that was our Facebook*. I have no idea if yearbooks are still as meaningful or popular as they were back then, but I’m guessing no.

“Anyways, the high school I went to was seriously messed up. Gang violence. Drugs. Teachers who did little but babysit when they weren’t hitting on students.

“Students at my high school had a ‘reputation’ because we weren’t getting the help we needed, so I decided to take a stand.

“I slapped an illustration of our mascot in a mugshot pose on the front of our yearbook.

“Is this who we are as students and future leaders of our community? Hell no, we can do better, so let’s at least try to be better even if we don’t have the support of adults to pull us out.”

5) Lady_of_Lomond wrote:

“We were chatting to our wonderful music teacher, Mr. Starr (seriously his real name) one break time and had this short conversation. I was about 12.

“Me: Oh, we’ve got French next.

“Mr. Starr: What are you learning in French at the moment?

“Me: The past historic.

“Mr. Starr: That’s very exciting.

“Me: ...yes, it is. [Lightbulb turns on in my brain.]

“It was the way he said it that made me realise that it WAS really exciting that I was learning FRENCH and how brilliant that was. It was less than a minute of my life and I’ve never forgotten it.”⁴²

43. “What’s The Worst Genuine Reason You’ve Given For Being Late To Work?”

1) InannasPocket wrote:

“It took longer than expected to get my boots on.

“I was extremely pregnant; my boss just laughed and said she could see why. And after that she let me just work from home.”

2) forever_useless wrote, “I called in drunk one time. Went partying the night before and was still drunk the next day. I remember leaving a message saying, ‘If I drive now and get pulled over, I’ll blow a 1.5 on the Richter scale.’ I had just

⁴² Source: outsideparadigms, “What was the most thought-provoking/mind blowing experience you had in school?” reddit. AskReddit. 11 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y3j5sozn>>.

gotten away from eight years of marital abuse, so it was met with understanding from the boss. Turns out, I left it on my voicemail because I owned the shop ... but seemed drunk enough to have forgotten that. Being the boss, I was very understanding, too.”

3) OptimusPrimeNumber wrote:

“I had an employee call his supervisor, and very apologetically say he didn’t want to cause trouble but wouldn’t be able to make it work because he’d tried to commit suicide the night before and was at the hospital.

“We knew he’d had problems with drug abuse in the past and was trying hard to stay clean and get his act together. Turns out his dog had been ran over by a car the day before and died in his arms. Still, his worry was he didn’t wanna burden the rest of the team by not showing up to work.

“This young man had Asperger’s and his dog was his best friend (brought him along to the office daily) and somehow his support system, too. That dog lived for the man. I’ve had dogs all my life but never seen anything like the bond they shared. As if the dog *knew* he was needed as more than just a dog, if it makes sense.

“I called him to the hospital and told him not to worry about anything and asked if he’d be ok with me going to visit him. He agreed and I went. I made sure he knew I had his back and he didn’t need to worry about work. I offered to pay for rehab and therapy for him to heal and take his time to get better.

“People just need to be offered a hand when they’re down, to feel supported. This young man took the chance and put in the work to get better. By the time he got back, we had put up a plaque at the main door commemorating the dog, thanking him for being a part of the team and taking care of us.

“It took a while until this young man was ready to adopt a new dog. He ended up choosing a black Newfoundland that’s now the size of an elephant and has his own bed next to my employee’s desk where he (the dog) lies down and sleeps most of the time. Throughout the day he blesses us with some rounds around the office demanding scratches and belly rubs from everybody.

“I know how polarizing it is the subject of having dogs in office environments, but I see no problem with it.

“As for the young man, it fills my heart with joy to see how he conquered his demons and came so far. There’s a bright future ahead for him.”⁴³

44. “What Is The Strangest Thing You’ve Seen That You Cannot Explain?”

rosegolddaisy wrote, “When I worked in the medical field, I had a dream one night about a patient of mine, a very kind elderly woman, whom I visited once or twice a week. In the dream she came to me, dancing, and called out to me that she wasn’t hurting any more. I was so happy watching her dance after seeing her decline for years. When I got to work the next morning, I told my coworkers about the dream and later that morning we got the call from her daughter that she had passed away the night before. I cannot explain that, but I am glad I had told my coworkers about it before the call and not after, otherwise they’d never have believed me. Such a

⁴³ Source: PikachuCupcake101, “What’s the worst but genuine reason you’ve given for being late to work?” Reddit. AskReddit. 12 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y6f75zen>>.

bizarre experience but so wonderful to feel she was at peace.”⁴⁴

45. “What’s Something That Really Made Your Day?”

1) Professional-Tower76 wrote:

“When I call my mom at 7 a.m.

“Then wish her the best day ever.

“My mom has worked almost every day of her life.

“Twelve-hour week days.

“Even many weekends.

“When I was young, I wanted to help her.

“I didn’t know how.

“My jobs paid me close to nothing.

“Construction and dishwashing wasn’t ideal for a family of five.

“So I gave her something else besides money.

“I gave her time.

“Every morning she’d wake up at 6 a.m. to make coffee.

“Then one day, I woke up at 5:30 a.m. to get it ready for her.

“This way she could wake up to a hot cup.

“No wait time.

⁴⁴ Source: 1982throwaway1, “What is the strangest thing you’ve seen that you cannot explain?” Reddit. AskReddit. 13 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y4r6z2r4>>.

“She almost cried.

“It was the first time someone really lent her a hand.

“I did it again.

“And continued to do it for years.

“Even through her divorce and depression.

“It was a simple reminder that someone cared about her.

“When I joined the workforce after college, I moved to San Francisco.

“She no longer had that reminder.

“Rather than stop.

“I did something different.

“I called her every morning to wish her the best day ever.

“It’s selfish —

“Because it’s the best gift I’ve given myself:

“To understand how you can change someone’s life with appreciation.”

2) Nixium99 wrote:

“A few years ago, my hair was really long and blonde and I had it braided off to the side while I was wearing a blue shirt and shopping at Meijer with my blue-haired mom and silver-haired grandma, about to check out.

“This little girl, couldn’t be much older than two, was in line with her mom in front of me, when the girl sees me and her eyes get really big and her jaw drops. She whispers something to her mom and her mom turns around and tells me that her daughter thinks I look like Elsa.

“I love Disney and would have loved to meet a real-life Disney character when I was younger. So I did the only thing I thought was right. I told the kiddo, ‘Well, I **am** Elsa.’”

“I did not think her eyes could get any bigger, but they did.

“I had a great little chat with about the snow, and she told me about how she saw ‘me’ and Anna and Sven and Kristoff at the parade. She asked about my mom’s blue hair and why it was blue, and I told it was because I froze it. Her eyes I swear were enormous.

“This little experience sticks with me to this day and makes me feel better when I’m down. I definitely suggest if you have depression, try and look like a casual Disney character and act like them throughout stores. Children can be so amazing and inspiring.”

3) 23toastypumpkins wrote, “It made my life actually. Years ago I went to Costco with my mum, we did every weekend but right when they opened and I was usually dead tired, and this day they were sampling coffee at the entrance and this lady, I don’t know where she was from, I’m guessing Boston area, and she shouted, ‘Oh, my gwaud, cwoffee!’ and bolted to the table. I felt it with my soul so much and will always say it just like that.”⁴⁵

46. “Who Is The Most Famous Person You’ve Met?”

thefaiht1029 wrote:

“Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes at Adam Sandler’s Christmas party in 2006. I also met Paris Hilton, Matthew Perry, and of course Adam Sandler himself.

⁴⁵ Source: Dakemonster, “What’s something that really made your day?” Reddit. AskReddit. 13 December 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/y2dspt9e>>.

“I worked at a flower shop in Beverly Hills that did the floral arrangements for his annual party. So, every year he’d invite the staff to enjoy the party. I was like 16, and it was the coolest thing ever. Paris Hilton recorded a voice memo in my old flip phone that says, ‘This is Paris. Merry Christmas. That’s Hot.’ We weren’t allowed to take photos, so I asked for a voice memo instead to commemorate it.

“My favorite moment of the night was when I actually met Adam Sandler. My mom had sent me with a box of Belgium chocolate to give to him as a host gift. So I gave him the chocolates and he was the nicest guy ever, he introduced me to his wife and kid who was an infant at the time.

“I had also printed out two 4x6 copies of his *Big Daddy* poster and told him something along the lines of, ‘I know they said no autographs from anyone here, so feel free to say no, but I brought two 4x6 posters. One is for my brother, and the other is for me.’ He was like, ‘Awh! Naw! Never mind those rules. You got a pen?’”⁴⁶

47. “People Of Reddit, What Is The Dumbest Thing You Believed When You Were Younger?”

1) DevilsYoung1 wrote, “When I was a kid, I believed that all the stars were just alien ‘windows’ like a view to the backyard only it was a view of Earth from their perspective. So I’d spend a long time waving at each star just hoping I made an alien’s day.”

PomPomBird commented, “You were so wholesome and nice that the aliens postponed the invasion for the next century.”

⁴⁶ Source: Wargoatgaming, “Who is the most famous person you’ve met?” Reddit. AskReddit. 14 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y9fdmfew>>.

2) purppuma wrote, “I didn’t understand the concept of God, so I prayed to Santa.”

someguyithinkiknow commented, “They both keep tabs on whether you’ve been good or bad and reward you for being good or do something fire related if you’re bad. Plus they are usually depicted with an kick-ass beard. Not too different.”

3) jactan_18 wrote:

“Men had boy babies and women had girl babies.

“Also, crocodiles lived in the bathtub drain, so it was imperative to haul ass out of the bath tub as quickly as possible once you undid the tub drain so that the crocodile couldn’t come up and grab your legs.”

ageingstudent commented, “I thought one testicle was for boy sperms and one was for girl sperms. When a friend got kicked in the nuts and lost a testicle I told him that once he had his first child he’d know the sex of all his children to come.”

4) synesthesiah wrote:

“My mom convinced me that a small bump (a colourless mole, I assume) on my cheek was a camera and she could see what I was doing at any time.

“Needless to say, I was very fucking concerned.”

5) collinsshore wrote, “When I was very young, I figured that everybody had a penis at birth and it just fell off by the time you became a ‘mommy.’”

6) filipovanastassja wrote, “When I was like four, I thought my clit was a penis.”

PomPomBird asked, “How did you know the word ‘penis’ in the first place?”

filipovanastassja replied, “Didn’t know the exact word, my train of thought was more like: Hmmm, what is this thing? Maybe that thing boys have?”

PomPomBird asked, “Did you not know your gender?”

filipovanastassja replied, “I did, but my confusion was more focused on not knowing what that thing was, so penis was one of many options. My delusions didn’t last long.”

7) justbiteme2k wrote, “I always thought quicksand was going to be a bigger problem for me than it turned out to be.”

8) Tamborimo wrote:

“Kissing too long made a baby.

“I distinctly remember watching the ending of *The Little Mermaid* in preschool and worrying they were going to have a baby since they were kissing for so long.”⁴⁷

48. “What Was The Funniest Experience Of Instant Karma You’ve Seen?”

1) 0-----0 wrote:

“I made a post in [r/confidentlyincorrect](#) about a YouTube comment I’d seen saying that a particular word was pronounced in a certain way, which I knew was wrong. LMAO, this idiot thinks that’s how you say this word, sort of thing.

“My post and comments were immediately and decisively downvoted to hell because apparently that’s exactly how

⁴⁷ Source: PomPomBird, “People of Reddit, what is the dumbest thing you believed when you were younger?” Reddit. AskReddit. 16 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/ya3dqseq>>.

most Americans *do* in fact pronounce the word and it was me who was the confidently incorrect idiot.

“Live and learn, Reddit, and be prepared to laugh at your own mistakes. I know I am.”

0-----0 added, “The word was *clique* and I believed it should be pronounced /kleek/ but it turns out that most Americans pronounce it /klik/ and did not like being told they were wrong.”

2) Muzik_Bro_Hero wrote:

“Old chemistry teacher told me I wasn’t paying enough attention and called me a ‘failing idiot.’ As he said that, the Benson burner he hung his arm over to point at me set his lab coat ablaze.

“He was all right, just had me laughing.”

3) I_Liked_WaterWorld wrote:

“I help coach my kid’s Little League team. This summer we were able to get some games in thanks to COVID calming down over the summer. We played this one team where the coach is a huge asshole. I hate this guy. He barks at the kids. His kid is no better.

“One game, one of his weaker players is up at bat. Decent swing, but just newer to the game than most so he swings at some bad pitches. Asshole coach is coaching third. Kid swings at a bad pitch. Strike one. Coach loses his shit. ‘What are you swinging at? Damn it, c’mon’ type stuff. Next pitch, kid gets a hold of one foul, a laser beam into the coach’s balls. The other coaches and I did that laugh you quickly try and turn off and go see if he’s okay. I saw a few of our kids as they were kneeling laughing into their gloves. It was glorious.”

4) Captain_Coco_Koala wrote:

“Working in a book shop next to an alley in a busy part of the city. Asshole pulls out of laneway straight into traffic and cuts someone off.

“The car that was cut off beeped their horn, but the asshole doubled down and gave them the finger. The other car happened to be an undercover police car who did pull asshole over.”

5) Bluellan wrote, “I work at factory where we put things on a fast-moving belt. It’s actually really hard. We also have line leaders who control the belt’s speed and give bathroom breaks and such. Well, this one line leader was recently promoted and decided to ‘show off’ how great a boss she was by jacking up the speed and denying bathroom breaks. At the end of the day, the big boss comes over and says that the numbers for today are impressive. She puffs out her chest, smiles all smug, and starts to brag about how hard SHE worked when the boss cuts her off and says, ‘No! You didn’t do anything. They (pointing to us workers) did. They are the ones who worked this line.’ She never was a line leader again after that.”⁴⁸

49. “What Made You Happy Today?”

1) Guyontheinternet25 wrote, “My daughter gave me a hug before she left this morning and said, ‘I love you, dad, I know that you already know, but it’s just so you know, ya know?’

“It took me a second to decide the speech, but it did make me happier, like always.”

⁴⁸ Source: See_Eye_Eh, “What was the funniest experience of instant karma you’ve seen?” Reddit. AskReddit. 16 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y9ecrfoj>>.

karmagod13000 joked, “Until you take away one of her toys and then you become her sworn enemy again.”

Guyontheinternet25 replied, “She’s 16 and it’s very hard to get her mad at me and vice versa. It’s just how we both are, I guess.”

2) EPIC_BOY_CHOLDE wrote:

“Earlier, I noticed an inconspicuous movement behind the window I’m facing when sitting at my PC. I peered over the screen, squinted, and saw a friendly little man (my elderly neighbor), wave at me, from out in the street. Perhaps because I barely had any human contact during quarantine, or maybe because it’s been too long since anybody has even *perceived* me, it stirred something in me. I waved back, probably too vehemently, and immediately felt the pressure of tears behind my eyes.

“The waving stopped; the guy had moved on. I blew my nose and soon realized that ‘he’ had been a shrub, dancing in the wind. I’m still grateful for that moment, even though it was not entirely ‘real’”⁴⁹

50. “Parents Of Reddit, What Sneaky Things Do Your Kids Do?”

1) CheaperThanTherapy wrote about a kid sneaking alcohol: “I knew that stuff [alcohol] wasn’t evaporating, so I replaced it with diluted soy sauce. Funny as fuck how the evaporation stopped. I wish I could’ve seen your face.”

2) Anom8675309 wrote, “We know when you masturbate, which is all the goddamn time.”

⁴⁹ Source: Satures, “What made you happy today?” Reddit. AskReddit. 16 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y7fw7opa>>.

3) Caspars_Shadow wrote, “My parents set up an electric clock on the same outlet as the living room light and hid it behind some books. When I was in high school, I was supposed to turn off the light when I got home and before I went to bed. I never knew it also shut the clock off so they knew what time I came in. They NEVER told me until I was away at college.”

4) jpoolio wrote, “‘Accidentally’ drop food (usually a veggie) on the ground so that the dogs eat it.”⁵⁰

51. “Women Of Reddit, What Is Your ‘I Am The Client, Not My Husband. Stop Ignoring Me’ Story?”

1) JazzberryJimJam wrote:

“My husband and I had our backyard completely dug up and relandscaped when we bought our house. The landscaper was an older guy, probably around my dad’s age, and my husband and I are pretty young to be homeowners, so I could kinda understand this dude’s condescending attitude. When he came over the first time to do the estimate, he almost exclusively addressed my husband even though I’d made it clear I was the one who was doing the designing and knew what I wanted done. When the work was done and I paid him, he kept looking behind me for my husband and almost didn’t give me the aftercare instructions for the new sod, saying he wanted to make sure it was done right so he’d email them to my husband. I finally snapped, ‘Give me the damn piece of paper, Bruce! I’m the one who will be home during the day to do the damn thing!’ (I worked nights at the time.) He reluctantly handed it over and called my husband

⁵⁰ Source: ANinjaShadow, “Parents of Reddit, what sneaky things do your kids do that you only know about because you did the same thing when you were a kid?” Reddit. AskReddit. 18 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y7zruoug>>.

the next day to make sure the lawn got watered. My husband told him, ‘You’d have to ask her, Bruce. She told you she’d do the damn thing,’ and hung up.

“I had, indeed, done the damn thing.”

2) chases_squirrels wrote, “We were looking into replacing our roof and found a metal roof company that was running a promotion, so I gave them a call and scheduled for someone to come out and give us a quote. I was able to answer all of his questions, but he refused to give me a quote without my husband present (with some ‘sign before we leave for best price’ excuse), and was intent on driving back over the following day (when my husband would be home). I called their main office shortly after he left and said I wasn’t interested in any high-pressure sales tactics, I just wanted a quote, and if they wouldn’t give that to me, the one who would be paying for it, then to not bother coming back out. Didn’t see them again. The three other roofing companies I contacted had no problem dealing solely with me.”

lisy_cook commented:

“I had this with a new patio door — he walked in, looked me up and down and outright asked if I had permission to make a decision on whether to accept their quote. When I said I had that power but wouldn’t be making a decision until I had spoken to a few more companies, he said he had better come back ‘when the man is around to sort this out.’ I told him he wasn’t welcome back in MY house and I would take my business elsewhere.

“Their follow-up customer-service call employee got a right ear full when they rang a few days later to see if my husband and I had had any more thoughts on the matter. Oh. I had some thoughts....”

3) ireadvogonpoetry wrote:

“My old teacher told me a story about a cold caller. A man phoned the house phone (this was around the 1980s / 1990s when people still had house phones) asking for the man of the house to talk about changing his supplier for something or other. My teacher (a woman) told the man that her husband was away on a business trip and to call back the next day.

“He called the next day, again asking for the man of the house, and she informed him that her husband had been delayed and to call back the next day. He called the next day, and she informed him that due to bad weather his flight had been delayed until later on that night, so please call back the next day. He called the next day, she put her husband on, the man asked about changing to his company’s service. The husband informing him that his wife dealt with all the bills and please talk to her. My teacher took the phone, said, ‘No, thank you,’ and hung up.”⁵¹

52. “What’s Your Childhood Mystery That You Finally Solved Years Later?”

1) Salt_Paint8157 wrote:

“I solved a family mystery for my mom. I wasn’t allowed to play console video games during the week all the way until I was 18, but some nights I’d really be craving it so I would noiselessly creep through my house into my basement where I could play video games in peace. But once every 30 times or so, one of my parents would need something from the basement and I’d quickly turn off the tv monitor, hide in the guest room and pray they didn’t turn on a light or notice the Xbox was on. One night I ducked into the guest room and

⁵¹ Source: teacherspet5859438e, “Woman of reddit, what is your, "I am the client not my husband stop ignoring me." Story?" Reddit. AskReddit. 18 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y87vohgh>>.

hid behind the bed. To my horror my mom followed me into the room and turned on the lights. I was panicking so when she started digging through the closet with her back to me I made a run for it. I nearly brushed her shirt and if she'd seen me I'd probably have given her a heart attack. But I made it and kept going all the way to bed.

“About five years went by and my mom said something like, ‘You’re such a quiet walker,’ and I told her it was because of my basement trips thinking I had nothing to lose. My mom’s face went kinda solemn and when I explained she said, ‘So there really was someone down there.’ And she explained that she remembered that exact night and the feeling that there was a ghost in the room. Over the next couple days, she’d stare into space and just say, ‘I can’t believe you were really there.’ She seemed to get over it, but she probably checks empty rooms closer now.”

Kurotan commented:

“I used to sneak to the basement as a teen. Watch TV, play games. Almost got caught a few times. Never told them. Not sure if they knew or remember.

“Those trips were more fun after I discovered my father’s *Playboy* magazines.”

Zambeeno commented:

“From a parent: They knew the whole time.

“You gotta give the kids a couple harmless things they think they’re getting away with. I certainly thought I was cool sneaking in midnight video games at that age.

“My daughter right now thinks I don’t know she sneaks downstairs after everyone heads to bed so she can watch the tv shows we tell her not to watch.

“Joke’s on you, kid: My wife and I get to bang without being heard and traumatizing anyone. I win.”

Aeris_ commented:

“Back in 10th grade, I was a running back for the football team. Back then, I was a 6ft, 250lb dude, who also was dipping my toes into the goth scene as much as I could, with my hyper-religious parents allowing some things but not others. One of those allowed things were knee-high platform boots, which I wore every day though I couldn’t get any metal spikes on them. I also was under a strict videogame schedule, as well as curfew and other shenanigans, which meant I did a lot of sneaking around and out of the house. As such, I learned how to walk quietly and very quickly, even while wearing the boots.

“It got to the point where I would do it pretty much naturally all the time, so I would always end up startling my parents whenever I walked in and spoke to them. It got so bad, and my parents so fed up, that they made me Super Glue metal tacks to the sole of my boots, so I would make noise on the hardwood floor. Incidentally, I stopped wearing them whenever I wanted to sneak out.”

dorianfinch commented:

“The idea of a giant goth football player child sneaking out in platform boots is so precious.

“Kids are little scum bags but also so innocent and pure and creative, bless them. This is why I work with teens!”

Aeris_ responded:

“Heh. You’ll love this then.

Our house at the time was a two-floor house with a central stairway. You could visit any room of the bottom floor by going around the stairs. On the top right corner of the house

was the kitchen. South of that was a small studio connected by French doors. To the east of that was the foyer and master bedroom. North of that we had the living room, and east of that we had the dining room and kitchen. The stairs faced the foyer, and my room was above the studio.

“I dressed in all black, wearing a black t-shirt as a ninja mask, and my black leather gloves. The only bit of me you could see were my eyes. My plan was to sneak to the dining room and hit the lights, then go to the studio and wait for my mom to hit the lights in the dining room as she had a tendency to use that switch, so I could turn them off again from the opposite end by the studio.

“As I’m waiting behind the French doors for my mom to hit the lights, instead the doors swing open. I stood there frozen. My mom stood there frozen, eyes wide and mouth open. Next thing I know, a left hook knocks my block off and sends my ass to the floor, followed by kicks and stomps. After a few grunts, my mom recognized my voice and let off.

“She said her first thought was to call out to me for help, but she realized that screaming first would be bad, so she punched me in the face and forgot to call for help.

“That’s the worse scare I pulled off, completely by accident, too, and it makes all my other attempts pale in comparison.”

smiteghpstie commented:

“My mom was a horror freak and loved anything ghost like, so growing up we always watched scary movies, played pranks on each other and so on. I got really good at sneaking around without making any noise. This also reminded me of a mystery my sister had. Growing up she was afraid of the closet and always kept it closed. Well, during the night I would sneak into her room and just crack the door open. In the morning she would freak out saying it was haunted. I did it a couple times a week over the summer.

“She got used to it and just started saying the ghost visited her again. but to this day she still has to have the closet door closed 20 years later.

“It was last year that I finally told her it was me and she hit me ... a few times for freaking her out for so long, but in my defense I thought everyone knew. I was the only one up all night and everyone knew I stayed up all night since it was summer break.”

2) badboringusername wrote, “Who ate all the cherries in the cherry cake. I was blamed for this for YEARS after someone picked out all of the cherries and ate them during a family Christmas party. Eight years later my little sister confessed to me that it had been her.”

3) MorningStar_16 wrote:

“One evening when camping, my brother caught a fish that we decided to keep alive in the cooler for some reason. Well, the next morning we ran out to see the fish and it had grown like five inches! We were so excited and didn’t know how the fish grew that much overnight! Last year we brought it up and my dad said that he had got up that morning and seen the fish being taken by a raccoon and that he spent the next hour or so frantically fishing for another one. He said he caught the new fish (the first one he was able to catch) just a few minutes before we got up.

“I had never questioned that the fish growing that much as I grew up, but after hearing what really happened I did feel like we probably should have wondered about that more.”

Grimmy430 commented:

“I have a similar story. When we were young, we got a pair of kittens, a black one (mine) and a grey one (my brother’s). They got some vaccines and some days later we woke up and the grey kitten had grown. Wow, cool! Why didn’t my black

kitten grow, too? Strange but whatever. Stopped questioning it.

“Turns out, grey kitten randomly passed away one night. So my mom sent my dad out to get a new grey kitten so we kids wouldn’t be sad. All he could find was a slightly older and bigger grey kitten. So they told us one of his shots helped him grow. Believed that until late high school when my mom came clean.”

Betty2theWhite wrote, “Your family is a million times cooler than mine. I used to catch frogs to keep and they’d disappear; it turned out my family was using them for bait.”

4) charvey1 wrote, “I figured out my dad wasn’t on a ‘business trip’ in 2005, he was at my uncle’s wedding and didn’t want to take me all the way there because it was in Ireland and he knew I’d want to go if he told me. In hindsight, I probably should have picked up on the lie. My dad is a school custodian.”

5) Bustersbltch wrote, “My mom used to call us in for dinner by yelling out the back door from the kitchen. I was in middle school before I realized the screen door was actually called a screen door.”

6) Bixlord wrote, “I was watching *Star Trek: The Next Generation* with my dad when someone told Ryker to ‘wash his back.’ When I asked my father why someone would say that to another person, he said, ‘So you can smell someone coming up behind you.’ It wasn’t until years later that I understood how easy it was to hear WATCH as WASH ... and how committed my Dad was to willfully deceiving his children for personal satisfaction.”

Bixlord added: “As a P.S. here: My brother and I were convinced that he spoke Spanish until we were teenagers ... he did not ... he simply rattled off a string of Taco Bell items as fast as he could.”

whetwitch commented, “HAHA! My parents were the same. They taught me a lot of made-up words, especially for food items, I’m still realising at almost 30 that there are made-up words I’m still using, hahah.”

akien0222 commented, “This. One kid wanted cake but not lasagna. I was babysitting him. It was for dinner. So I told him he got a special cake. He got to eat noodle cake (lasagna). His mom checked in, and I told her the little lie. She laughed. She picks him up. He goes, ‘I ATE CAKE FOR DINNER! I like noodle cake.’ It’s been two years. No one’s told him.”

7) dpderay wrote:

“I met my wife in college, and when we were dating she often mentioned that when she was a kid she had a play doctor’s kit that was stolen from her house. She had some surgeries really young and so her parents bought it for her to demystify the doctor’s office. She’d use it all the time on her dad poking and prodding him.

“One day I asked her about the robbery. Did they take everything? Jewelry? The TV? Other valuables? No, no, and no. It hit me.

“I asked ‘So, someone broke into your house and stole only your doctor’s kit, leaving anything worth fencing there?’

“‘Yeah, why?’

“‘Did you ever consider your folks were tired of you using the kit on them all the time after you got better?’

“‘Oh, damn.’

“We confirmed it with her dad later, but for 15 years she had believed some thief broke in and stole ONLY her beloved doctor’s kit.”⁵²

53. “People Of Reddit, What Is The Creepiest Thing Someone Has Said To You?”

theWildBore wrote, “A friend and I were coming back from a fashion show during Fashion Week. This was so long ago; it was when Fashion Week was in Bryant Park. Anyway we stepped into a little weird bookstore to get directions to a street we couldn’t find. An old man was working there and he saw our digital cameras and asked if we wanted him to take our picture. We didn’t really but whatever. So he takes the picture and looks at it, and then he says, ‘I wish you girls were more exposed.’ It creeped us out and we left in a huff. The next morning it dawned on us that he was probably meaning the camera exposure. We were such idiots. He probably wasn’t being creepy at all. I’m cringing just thinking about it.”⁵³

54. “What’s Something You’d Never Ever Tell Your Kid?”

ibenthinkin2much wrote:

“Named him after the cable guy.

⁵² Source: Biggrock03, “What’s your childhood mystery that you finally solved years later?” Reddit. AskReddit. 18 December 2020 <https://tinyurl.com/y9yy698m>.

⁵³ Source: hotdankybaby, “People of reddit, what is the creepiest thing someone has said to you?” Reddit. AskReddit. 18 December 2020 <https://tinyurl.com/ycffoqtv>.

“In the 1980s I couldn’t figure out how to connect cable, stereo, TV, and VCR. Called cable company and nice guy talked me through it.

“Bought a new TV eight months later, called cable company ... Same nice guy! Told him I’d name a kid after him. It’s a good wholesome name. No regrets.”⁵⁴

55. “Police Officers Of Reddit, What Was The Silliest Thing You’ve Heard From Someone Trying To Avoid A Ticket For Speeding?”

1) MajorDadSucked wrote:

“When I was 20, I was coming home from a really late night poker game, where I had been smoking weed all night. The game broke at like 4am and I got pulled over while driving home. The cop talked to me for a few minutes and then said, ‘Son, I’m not sure if you realize this or not but you are speaking very, very slowly and it’s suspicious.’

“To which I replied, ‘I’m so sorry, officer. I’m just coming from my girlfriend’s house and we’ve been fighting all night. And I love her a lot but to be honest she’s not the brightest girl in the world and I have to speak really slowly to her sometimes so she’ll understand.’

“He looked at me, smiled, and said, ‘I understand. Go home and get some sleep and try to drive a little slower.’”

2) Ballbapapa wrote:

“My brother is a cop.

⁵⁴ Source: DrinkingSoup, “What’s something you’d never ever tell your kid?” Reddit. AskReddit. 18 December 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/y7j3gh3n>>.

“He said one guy told him, ‘I saw the wife cheating on me in the nanny cam and I’m trying to get home to confront them during the act.’

“He gave him an escort.”

3) senseixoxo wrote, “Not a cop, but my dad said we’re rushing to get period pads for my sister.”⁵⁵

56. “What Are Some Interesting Or Fun Christmas Traditions You Follow?”

1) Essendxle wrote, “Every Christmas the kids in the house have wrapping paper put over the entrances to their rooms so they get to rip through it in the morning. It originally started as a way to keep a certain kid in when he kept coming out early and opening presents before everyone was awake.”

kirmichelle commented, “My husband’s family did this, too! Except they would wrap the doorway to the living room, and everyone would have to wake up, get dressed, and have a big sit-down breakfast before they could bust through the wrapping-paper barrier and get to the presents. I cannot imagine how you could get four kids to be that patient, but somehow his mother managed it!”

bornsanddy commented, “My family would have to sit on the stairs and get a group picture before we could go into the family room to see the presents. We still do it. As a kid I just wanted to go in to see the presents, but my parents always woke up before us and we’d have to pass their room to get down the stairs. Now that I’m older, I think my mom never

⁵⁵ Source: CaptainRonny, “Police Officers of Reddit, what was the silliest thing you’ve heard from someone trying to avoid a ticket for speeding?” Reddit. AskReddit. 21 December 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/ybq5ps6j>>.

actually went to bed. I think she spent that night wrapping the presents and getting stuff ready for the morning.”

TAPgryhongirl commented, “As a former kid who’s sometimes gotten up so early on Christmas morning that she was nauseatingly, painfully hungry by the time she was allowed downstairs to see the tree ‘for the first time’ (always peeked from the landing while I waited), I think that having at least a LITTLE to eat is wise.

“Nowadays our new tradition is bagels from a specific place that we order on Christmas Eve so we can have them for Christmas Day breakfast. The bagels are delicious, and they act as a nice quick breakfast we can whip up and eat in the living room where the presents are.”

2) JohnnyBrillCream wrote:

“Twenty-eight years ago I was one of the first 100 customers at an HEB grand opening, for that honor I got two cans of Armour Potted Meat.

“That Christmas we had a fun Dollar Store White Elephant exchange with the family Christmas Eve. I wrapped a can of the potted meat as my contribution. My mom got it and got a real kick out of it; she immediately re-gifted it to me the next day.

“Well, next year I wrapped it and gave it to my sister, and the year after that she wrapped it and gave it to my dad.

“For the last 28 years this has been the most coveted gift of Christmas. I gave it to my son last year and he happily wrapped it for his cousin this Christmas.”

Pinkmandms commented:

“One year my great-aunt got her older sister, my grandmother, a bottle of Elizabeth Taylor perfume. The perfume happened to come with a watch — a shiny gold

pleather-y affair with fake ‘white diamonds’ around the face. It was hideous, but my aunt wrapped up the watch, too, and hammed it up like it was a big deal. My grandma laughed and wore it all day, showing it off like, ‘Look at my goood watch.’

“The next year, my grandma wrapped the watch and gave it to her sister — laughter, surprise, etc.

“The watch was gifted back and forth each year with great joy.

“A few years ago my grandma died in June. Later that year, when I was opening my Christmas present from my younger sister, I completely unsuspectingly unwrapped the gold watch. I sobbed and laughed, of course, and we have been trading it at Christmas ever since.”

3) MyNameIsRay wrote:

“My family has a tradition of leaving riddles on cards and guessing what the gift is before opening.

“We go around one by one, reading our hint out loud so everyone can guess, then open it and show the room.

“Ends up taking like five hours for everyone to get through their gifts, but it’s always a fun time.”

MyNameIsRay added, “Everyone brings their own style to it. My mom always writes some sort of poem or haiku, the grandparents word it like Jeopardy questions, and my uncle packs it in some really weird box so you have no clue what it is, etc.”

Netlawyer commented, “My family always takes turns opening presents — no melee allowed. It does take a while but every gift gets attention and everyone can ooh and ahh over it and we even make sure to thank people who aren’t there but sent gifts out loud. It just makes the whole thing

more mindful to acknowledge the gift and what it means. (And sometimes we crack up if a particular gift falls flat, but it's all in good fun.)”

4) Barrucuda wrote, “Every year my wife and I buy an ornament for our tree that corresponds with something that happened that year. So we have a tree filled with all of these weird wacky ornaments like a tennis ball (we started playing tennis that year), Swedish chef (Europe trip), Ship Captain Nutcracker (our first cruise), amongst many others. It's such a fun tradition in December to debate what to get and then finding something. And then reliving them all when we put them up.”

5) joceydoodles wrote, “We have signs all over our house spelling out Leon instead of Noel. It started out as a joke because my dad is dyslexic, but it stuck and we even named our dog Leon and we've been doing it since I can remember.”

6) OneParticularHarbour wrote, “Every year my family buys each other member a gag / joke / small gift, then writes a poem about it, for the recipient to read on Christmas Eve. It's probably the highlight of the entire season for me, as it's always filled with laughter at how terrible we all are at poetry. No matter how old we all get, this is a really fun way to bring everyone back to that root joy of spending time together. (This [COVID] year it will be virtual, but still fun.)”

OneParticulatHarbour added, “Each person reads the poem out loud before opening the gift, so we tend to either be super confused as to what could possibly be inside for how bad the poem is, or, we get a pretty close guess! As for an example, this year I made my sister a mug covered in photos of really unflattering pictures she's sent us of her dog, and my poem is about 10 lines about how thick his neck is. Haha. I

generally take an afternoon where I dedicate the time to writing them, so not that tough!”⁵⁶

57. “Florists Of Reddit, What’s The Strangest Thing You’ve Had To Write On A Card For A Customer?”

1) Aniosophy wrote:

“Obligatory I am not a florist, but I worked at a Home Depot where I would organize and separate pickup orders that would be sent by customers that would then get picked up by usually their gardener or contractor.

“Anyways, sometimes customers would also send notes that would be printed out in big letters on the receipt for their gardener or contractor to get with the stuff they pick up. One time on an order that was 20 bags of red mulch and 20 bags of brown mulch, the note that I had to attach to the order said, ‘Now I swear to god, Gary, if you put the red mulch in the front yard again, when I get home you are fired.’ Before this Gary was a regular customer whom I saw usually two to four times a month (always on my shift), however, after he picked up this order, I never saw him again.

“Another time, for an order that had a bunch of shit including two fountains, the note that I attached said, ‘Remember, the white one for the bathroom, and the pink one is for the front yard.’ Just to clarify, these were not tiny fountains that could theoretically maybe be used as a bidet for some reason; these were fully six-foot-tall, three-tier fountains, so the idea of putting one of these in a bathroom is just kind of wild to me.”

2) NormanVename wrote:

⁵⁶ Source: hellotintin, “What are some interesting or fun Christmas traditions you follow?” Reddit. AskReddit. 21 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y76kmkfu>>.

“I AM a florist. Here are some I remember:

“No one expects the Spanish Inquisition.’

“Had a guy buy flowers for his wife AND mistress in one go, and he wrote the same card for both.

“In a very wealthy community I worked in, there was a swingers party every year called ‘Band Camp.’ These people would send \$150 arrangements to each other with these weird messages like ‘Can’t wait for you to show me your flute skills at Band Camp’ or ‘Thanks for coming over with Frank to “tune up” my piano for Band Camp.’ We could not figure out what was going on! I eventually met a dog walker in that town who had been invited to Band Camp, and the richies gather up all the attractive landscapers, dog walkers, housekeepers, etc. and invite them to Band Camp (one of the estates throws a big party with bands) and everyone tries to fuck the help. I was slightly offended I never got invited.

“A lot of sappy sweet shit. We do read them and discuss any unusual ones amongst ourselves. What I don’t think a lot of people realize is that we get allllll the dirt on people. We are there for births, weddings, graduations, deaths.”⁵⁷

58. “What Has A Child Said To You That Was So Sweet It Made You Cry?”

1) duucky wrote:

“I work with kids ages seven-12 over the summers. This one girl, 11, was at the camp I work at over this summer, and she quickly became attached to me. She would tell her parents about me and spend a lot of the day with me. She was so sad

⁵⁷ Source: urgent-kazoo, “florists of reddit - what’s the strangest thing you’re had to write on a card for a customer?” reddit. AskReddit. 23 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y8z5sac7>>.

to go at the end of the summer that she cried and hugged me (her parents allowed it, and I asked permission) and told me she was going to miss me. I walked her over to her dad, reassuring her that we would meet again next summer. She came back with her dad a few minutes later, still crying, and handed me a pen and a paper and said her dad said it was okay if we stay in contact. So I gave her my contact info and we play *Animal Crossing* together every weekend that I can.

“Last weekend, we were playing *Animal Crossing* and she sent me a message saying all she wants for her birthday that was coming up was to see me and some of my coworkers again. I told her that we can’t because of COVID, but we could call! And she agreed. So we called on her birthday, and as soon as I said hello she started crying. She told me that it was the best birthday present she got that day. I started crying.

“She was this really shy girl when she showed up at my work and when she left, she was outgoing and made a lot of friends. I live for moments where I know I have made a significant impact on a kid’s life. I plan to never lose touch, and I told her that if she ever needs help with school she is always free to give me a call, and when she gets older and needs tutoring I would be happy to help. Her family thanked me profusely. I’m the youngest sibling in my family, so I don’t know what it’s like having a younger one, but I imagine this is it. I hope I can be there for her always.”

2) DiabolicalDee wrote, “After my grandma died in August (my last grandparent), my three-year-old came up to me and said, ‘Let’s go get Grandma!’ When I said ‘huh?’, she then explained, ‘Cause you need her!’ It was the sweetest thing and made me start bawling.”

3) Bubly_vheerioohno wrote, “My seven-year-old son told me that I ‘smell like love.’”

4) dertygirl wrote, “A few years ago my then-14-year-old daughter was sitting beside me in the car. After a few moments of silence, she said, ‘I feel sorry for my friends.’ When I asked her why, she looked at me and said, ‘Because they don’t have you for a mom.’”⁵⁸

59. “Dear Pet Owners Of Reddit, What Is The Lore You Created Around Your Pet?”

1) SirDinkleburrrrrg wrote, “When my cat meows, she either sounds like a dying frog, or like she’s actually say ‘Mao.’ As a joke my dad told her to stop saying that name, and that she shouldn’t be a fan of communist China. Now she is my Kremlin Gremlin, seeking to assert her authoritative power anywhere she can.”

Greigebaby commented, “My family has discussed the political leanings of each of our cats.”

2) KatesgivawayAccount commented, “My cat Bubba was picked up off the streets and neutered when he was five. Shortly after that we adopted him. My husband I call him a dead-beat dad, because he probably fathered tons of litters. Every time we see a cat on the shelter website that looks like him we ask him if that’s one of his offspring.”

3) cfrewandhobbies wrote:

“There’s treasure under my deck, and my cat wants to lead me to it.

“OK, so basically she always does this thing where she chirrup at me, gets me to follow her, and then goes under the deck (which FYI [for your information] I can’t get under

⁵⁸ Source: amoco162, “What has your child said to you that was so sweet it made you cry?” Reddit. AskWomen. 22 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/ya2tjd5a>>.

without unscrewing boards) and my theory is that she can't believe I won't just come see this amazing thing down there, so it must be treasure."

4) killer_burrito wrote:

"Gizmo, our five-pound black Persian cat, has a friend named Rodriguez. They're in a Metallica cover band together. We think they met in prison.

"She makes sneezing powder from the vacuum cleaner dust.

"She helped Donald Trump win the first election by voting eight times."

5) elvisrabbit wrote, "My dog is an Aussie so when she doesn't listen to commands I say them again with an Australian accent to make sure she can understand me properly. My wife thinks I'm crazy."

6) TemptCiderFan wrote, "I'm pretty sure my youngest cat is trying to convince my older cat to murder me."⁵⁹

60. "Mall Santas Of Reddit. What Is The Scariest Thing You've Heard A Child Ask For?"

tn_notahick wrote:

"I had to fill in for our Santa when we were doing Santa photos.

One kid sat down and said, 'I want a bopped head.'

"I said, 'Ho ho ho, that doesn't sound like a very good present.'

⁵⁹ Source: fetus-yeetus, "Dear pet owners of Reddit, what is the lore you created around your pet?" Reddit. AskReddit. 24 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/yce3x2yo>>.

“Then the woman came over and whispered in my ear, ‘He wants to be adopted.’”

“They then explained to my wife, who was taking the photos, that the adoption had just gone through that day, but they were waiting until Christmas Day to tell the kid.”

Rynie2121 commented, “As an adopted person, this makes my soul smile.”

2) LKJNAElhjberg wrote, “I wasn’t Santa, I was a helper. The worst I heard was a child asking for their sister to be happy in heaven. Punched me in the gut.”

LKJNAElhjberg added:

“It was heartbreaking. The kid was maybe five or six. Death is already so traumatic, but to lose a sibling that young.

“I’ll say, though, the Santa was amazing ... everyone close by was brought to tears. When the child asked, we all even knelt down and said a prayer.

“Lemme tell ya ... I am not a religious person, but I felt the warmth and love of that moment and that prayer brought me to tears. I couldn’t tell you what all was said now because I was 17 at the time and in my 30s now but I remember thinking it was the most beautiful prayer I ever heard. That moment will never leave me.”

3) Ibacala wrote:

“When I was five years old (49 years ago), I asked a Santa in JC Penny’s at the time for a real lawn mower, the kind that my dad uses.

“They had me hold a microphone up to my mouth. My answer (along with every other kid I presume) was broadcast throughout the whole store.

“I can still hear the laughter from the adults.”

4) theColonelsc2 wrote, “Not an answer to your question but here is my story. I played Santa 12 years ago. The year 2008 was a tough year. I was in my late 30’s with a very good red beard that took 45 minutes to paint white. It looked good in person, but the flash made it shine like a flashlight. Anyway, a 12-year-old or close-to-it kid came up to me and was all like ‘You’re not Santa’ and just acting all cool that he knew all about how the whole Santa thing worked. He wasn’t being rude, just acting tough and such. I teased him back and said, ‘I know someone who is getting a lump of coal for Christmas.’ To see that kid’s face turn from smirky to utter horror at the thought that he was getting a lump of coal taught me that I needed to be careful at what I said.”

5) PressureAckward wrote, “One year I asked the mall Santa for a ‘Kid Sister.’ Kid Sister was a brand name of a doll that was popular that year, but the Santa apparently didn’t know that. Instead, he glanced up and down at my mom and said, ‘I can’t promise anything, but you might get your wish.’ My mom had recently gained some weight and Santa thought she was pregnant. She was fucking pissed.”⁶⁰

⁶⁰ Source: Ollay0202, “Mall Santa’s of Reddit. What is the scariest thing you’ve heard a child ask for?” Reddit. AskReddit. 25 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/ydhfk9y>>.

Chapter 4: Questions 61-80

61. “What’s The Kindest Thing You’ve Ever Done When You Had Extra Cash?”

SilhouetteNoir wrote, “I used to put all my change in a bucket, and when the bucket was full, I’d give the bucket to my little sister. She loved counting it all, sorting it, going to the bank to get it in rolls, than going on a big candy shopping spree. I don’t do this anymore because she lives a few hours away with her boyfriend now, but to this day she still does this with her change. I may have lost literally several hundred dollars to this over the years of me doing this with her, but it taught her to be smarter with her change than I was, so I’m happy. Also, I loved how excited she’d get every time when I would give her the bucket of change.”⁶¹

62. “What Is The Scariest Thing You’ve Witnessed At Sea?”

1) tavijoh583 wrote:

“Giant spears plunging in and out of the sea.

“In the gulf of Alaska, I have seen some shit. But one of the most terror-inspiring things I’ve seen is what can happen with some of the loose logs from the logging trade.

“Sometimes when a big log gets loose from a raft, it becomes partially waterlogged and floats small end up. So you have this four-foot-diameter telephone pole in the sea, sticking up 40 feet into the air. No biggie. Shows up on radar, and easy to spot.

⁶¹ Source: BrotherXerxes, “What’s The Kindest Thing You’ve Ever Done When You Had Extra Cash?” Reddit. AskReddit. 25 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/yapxa4v8>>.

“Now, give that pole 20 years of floating around or so. It rots in such a way that it becomes filed to a point by wind and waves, and looks quite menacing.

“Now, put it in a gale with 25-foot waves (50 feet trough to peak) And it becomes a towering spike of death that shoots up from the sea every 15 to 20 minutes, out of nowhere, 60 feet into the air, only to plunge down into the dark depths waiting to skewer some unsuspecting boat in a few minutes when it thrusts out of the ocean again.

“It is a genuine terrifying sight, rare, but not so rare that I haven’t seen two in one season. It’s like the spiked dick of Neptune looking for an opportunity to fuck your shit up in a particularly terrifying way.”

2) kitewal917 wrote, “I worked on tug boats for about six years. The back deck is considered a ‘wet deck,’ meaning it isn’t unusual for it to be under water at times. We were making tow with an oil rig at sea with waves that were 14-16-foot high and one hit us just right, taking my coworker George and pulling him out to sea. Now it’s 3am and pitch black. This is nearly always a death sentence. About 20 seconds later (which felt like an eternity) another wave brought George back on deck, plopping him safely on his ass right next to the winch. George laughed and got right back to work without missing a beat.”

3) -LaMinge- wrote, “My dad and I were sailing in the Sea of Cortez, and it was early morning with some patchy surface fog. I was 14 or 15 at the time. We heard what sounded like applause in the distance, but becoming louder. We could soon see a patch of disturbed water getting closer and closer and hundreds of objects flying out of the water and splashing back down. A few of them flew out, hit the deck of the boat and bounced back into the water. Stingrays.

A whole school of them, jumping out of the water for some reason. It was weird and awesome.”⁶²

63. “What Were The Moments Where You Trusted Your Gut And You Ended Up Being Right?”

metallicwafflez wrote:

“A while back when I was like nine or 10 years old, I was browsing the internet on my family computer that we all shared at the time. I remember getting the sudden urge to look up a specific string of text (something in my gut just told me to do it). I remember thinking, ‘Hmm, this is strange but I wonder if this would be a cool song lyric’ (or something like that).

“Well, I found a webpage that had this song / poem with these exact lyrics I had looked up. I then felt the sudden urge to hit ‘Print’ (which was really weird because I didn’t print many things out, especially poems or songs). I printed out the page with the poem and walked it out to my parents who were in the living room.

“Parents tell me, ‘This is a cool poem you found, but actually, this poem is one that you give to someone after they’ve lost someone in their lives.’ I say, ‘Oh, okay,’ and just go back to our computer room and continue browsing the internet normally.

“Parents call me back out to living room about an hour or so later, tears in their eyes. Apparently someone just called them to tell them that my great-grandmother had gotten extremely sick the night before and died in the hospital this morning. Family who called said they that she passed a

⁶² Source: msfattifatti, “What is the scariest thing you’ve witnessed at sea?” Reddit. AskReddit. 26 December 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/y78ccpm2>>.

couple of hours before they called my parents at approximately 7:25am.

“Parents ask to see the paper I had printed out. We look at the timestamp of the print and I had printed it at exactly 7:25am, her time of death. The poem read, ‘Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there.’

“Still gives me chills as I type this.”

2) Back2Bach wrote:

“I took under my wing a nine-year-old boy who displayed great interest in learning piano. It was immediately obvious to me that he had abundant natural talent and aptitude.

“He came from an abusive home and I was told that he’d ‘never amount to anything.’

“Pleased to report that today he now holds a DMA (Doctor of Musical Arts) in piano performance and is an in-demand musician.”

3) After-Woodpecker-595 wrote, “I was in university like everyone else my age. I was working a dead-end retail job, supporting myself and tired of everything. I decided to take it upon myself to do this flight attendant course ... on top of university and work. I paid for it myself. I was exhausted. I’ll never forget my friends from university invited me for a drink once and I went straight from this course, in a flight attendant uniform. EVERYONE at the bar was laughing at me. So I went home. Few months later I was selected to work in one of the best airlines on earth. I moved across the world and at the age of 21 I had travelled the whole world. I came back 10 years later, speaking six languages and having lived

in amazing places and everyone who was laughing at me at that bar is doing the same thing in the same place.”⁶³

64. “With Christmas 364 Days Away, People Who Already Have Their Decorations Up, Why?”

1) yohowithrum wrote, “I grew up in Nova Scotia and we could have pretty long winters. We made a giant snowman out front in December. Fortified it with water so it would freeze. We had him hold a sign that said Happy New Year. And then my dad cut the sign into a heart and it said Happy Valentine’s Day. And then the snowman was still there with a green hat for St. Patrick’s Day. And then the snowman got bunny ears for Easter in April. I think he finally met his maker mid-May. He did his duty.”

2) MaxxDelusional wrote, “I have Phillips Hue light fixtures that allow me to adjust the colors for each holiday. This year I didn’t even have Christmas lights, I just set all of my Hue bulbs to be red and green.”

Faldorable commented, “RGB [Red Green Blue: They can be combined in various ways to make many, many colors] lights. Red White Blue for 4th, Orange and Purple for Halloween, etc.”

3) EXO_JR42 wrote:

“When I was a kid, the tree would never come down before Easter. If I had to guess, it was because you could fit one average-sized human up the ladder to the attic, so wrangling boxes and pieces of a fake tree was something nobody wanted to do.

⁶³ Source: oleades, “What were the moments where you trusted your gut and you ended up being right?” Reddit. AskReddit. 26 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y775xvfn>>.

“Anyway. This meant come Easter morning we’d go to Grandma’s to look for eggs and there’d always be a couple in the tree. It was fun.”

4) Kathulhu1433 wrote, “I got a pre-lit black Christmas tree from Pier 1 on clearance for 90% off. I deck it out for Halloween with Halloween ornaments. It looks AWESOME.”

5) CountMordrek wrote, “In Sweden, we celebrate Christmas for 20 days, which results in us celebrating the end of Christmas on the 13th of January. Up until then, you’re supposed to keep the Christmas decorations up.”

CountMordreck added:

“I know that I can’t speak for everyone, but among my family and friends, it seems like time slows down a day or two before Christmas as people enter into a Christmas mood (without it getting cheesy like the American Christmas movies we’re bombarded with these days). And it’s not so much that you have to do certain things or be in a certain way, but just ... to slow things down and be ... merry.

“To be perfectly fair, it might also have something to do with how we treat relations, combined with Sweden being an old country far up in the cold and dark north. Outsiders tend to say that it’s hard to become friends with Swedes, but once you’ve got to know some of us, it’s something special. We stick together, as we’ve always have had to, or we freeze to death. Which includes the darkest days of the year such as Christmas, as well as how we light it up with *adventsljusstakar* and stars. :)”

Note by David Bruce: *Adventsljusstake* is “a candlestick with room for four candles, lit one by one every Sunday during Advent,” according to Wiktionary.

6) dreamsonashelf wrote, “Armenian here. Our Christmas is on 6th January, but that’s only the religious celebration; we have presents on New Year’s Eve. We don’t live in Armenia but my family don’t celebrate the 24th / 25th. I don’t like the idea of completely treating it as a normal day, though, considering the rest of the country celebrates something, but I also find it sad that for others Christmas is over on the 26th and they’ve already binned the tree when to me it’s just the start of 12 days of on-and-off festivities.”⁶⁴

65. “What Is Your Weirdest / Stupidest Childhood Story?”

1) loufrancky wrote, “I would never finish my yoghurts so that homeless people would have something to eat when going through the bins.”

schmegetarian commented, “I did something similar. My dad would always say, ‘There are starving children around the world,’ and I always figured not finishing my food meant they could eat, too.”

2) feet_of_worm wrote, “When I was 10 I tackled my friend and knocked him unconscious because I was dressed as Iron Man and he was dressed as Hulk.”

3) memesandbees wrote, “I used to think Santa lived on the Moon rather than the North Pole because at the end of cartoons he would always fly toward it.”

4) lookingforfreedom 90 wrote:

“I saw a doll wink at me. I still remember it to this day. We had a piano in one of our rooms. That day there was a baby

⁶⁴ Source: writer_wannrbr46, “With Christmas 364 days away, people who already have their decorations up, why?” Reddit. AskReddit. 26 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/yayr4n7g>>.

doll on the piano, I think my mom put it there. It was one of those dolls that when you lay them down they close their eyes and when you sit them up they open them.

“I was playing piano, I was maybe 10 years old, and then I finished playing. I look up and to this day, more than 20 years after, I still remember that the doll winked with one eye. One eye went down and then up again. I ran out the room as fast I could. I told my family, but none of them believed me. To this day they still laugh at me for that. I have been afraid of dolls since that day. Now that I have kids on my own, I always put away the dolls if I am going to be alone and I see them.”

borisdidnothingwrong commented:

“There was one of these dolls at my grandma’s, not sure if it was my mom’s or my aunt’s originally, but I figured out that if you leaned it *juuuust* right in a dollhouse chair, the left eye would wink when someone walked by. I left it in the living room, and then my cousin walked past and shouted, ‘That freaky doll is winking at me!’ which caused the whole extended family to come check it out.

“I never fessed up to leaving it out for someone to get freaked out.”

5) Anderssorte wrote, “Got new rollerblades for my ninth birthday and decided to impress a girl on my street. She was the same age as me and in my class, and her house was in the bottom of a long slight downward hill from my house. Plan was to roll up and down the hill until she saw me, came out, and was impressed by how awesome I was. Plan failed when on the first run down the hill she and two of her friends came out of her house as soon as I set off. Managed to gain quite a bit of momentum before I reached the three girls, who of course had stopped to watch my awesomeness. Well, since I had never skated before I had no idea how to stop,

and as I rolled past them I only managed to shout, ‘Hi, Jessica!’ before immediately crashing into a hedge, head and fists first. Could not pull myself out for some time because the helmet and wrist guards were stuck in some branches. They laughed hard. And long. And unsympathetically. However, I managed to come out on top when my family moved to another country a year later, and I never talked to Jess again.”

6) Lady_Stardust2 wrote, “My brother loves to tell the story of how when I played the *Grand Theft Auto* games, I was a very good person. To the point that I would obey traffic laws. Granted I didn’t do any missions. I literally would just drive around in the game and pretend like it was really life. So, that’s where he comes in. In the game, I had picked up a Molotov Cocktail and being a young six- or seven-year-old, I didn’t know what it was. My brother told me it was a drink and if you hit the button, you can give the drink to people. Sounds right to my innocent brain. Well, I come across some hobos and decided to give them a drink. Except it set them on fire. I was sobbing about the fact that they were dying and how could my brother lie to me.”

7) borisdidnothingwrong wrote, “I’m an identical twin, and my mom tells a story about coming outside to stop us fighting but having to go immediately back inside because she was going to burst out laughing due to the fact our fight was just the two of us repeatedly calling each other ‘ugly.’”

8) gwynaweird wrote, “My mother told me that garbage men came to the house and stole my baby bottles and sippy cups so I have to use grown-up cups from now on. We then discovered that I had a subconscious fear of trash collectors at age 13 when I screamed and ran away from them when

they changed to a different schedule and caught me unawares outside.”⁶⁵

66. “People Who Actually Grabbed A Baseball Bat / Kitchen Knife / Golf Club And Went To Investigate That Weird Noise At Night — What Happened?”

1) intrebox wrote, “My sister lives alone in a kind of nice, older apartment building. She was asleep just after 2am and she started hearing someone fucking with her front door. She grabbed her iron skillet and went to the door, standing right behind it at the ready. She was like a ninja, crouched in the darkness with the old iron above her shoulder holding the handle with both hands. Scrape scrape, fiddle fiddle, curse as he hits the door with his fist. The old building’s solid core doors didn’t budge. Another minute of aggressive fucking with the lock and suddenly it stopped. Silence. She tensed ready for the intruder to just kick the door in. Then from the other side of the door, she heard, ‘Oh, whoops. Fuck.’ And her neighbor turned from her door and put his key in his door. He’d finally figured out in his drunken stupor why his key wasn’t working. Now she keeps a softball bat by her bed because apparently holding the skillet was really tiring. That MFer is heavy.”

Tartuffe-Uffe commented, “Lol. My housemate did this ... except the front door was unlocked and she walked in. We lived in cookie-cutter townhouses, where they were all set up the same on the inside. She said she walked all the way up to the third floor, noticed the furniture was different ... and then realized she was next door.”

⁶⁵ Source: My_Name_Is_Dom, “(Not Serious) To pretty much all redditors what was the most weird/most stupid childhood story?” Reddit. AskReddit. 26 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y72nlxx3>>.

2) MrsTurtlebones wrote, “Our parents’ bedroom was in the basement and this was long before cellphones, so we had no way to contact them when something starting bumping around loudly all over the living room in the dark. My oldest sister was and is a take-charge person, so with her leading, clutching a baseball bat, we followed closely behind her single file to face the danger. With a roar, she leaped to the light switch, so that our first sight was her brandishing the bat like a mighty sword over Fonzie, our hamster, whom another sister had forgotten was rolling around the house in his plastic ball.”

MrsTurtlebones added, “Little Fonzie lived to a ripe old age with a neat three-story cage my dad built him and lots of carrots and scratches.”

MrsTurtlebones also added, “There were four of us kids, and now I will have to ask the others if they remember this! It happened around 1974 and I imagine that Fonzie up in Hamster Heaven is happy knowing that he’s gone but not forgotten. Cheers, friend!”

3) pickledvixen wrote, “We have a little bell hanging from our back-door handle. We use it to train puppies how to go outside to pee. Teach them to hit the bell with their nose when they want the door opened to pee. Anyway, I wake up to it gently jingling like someone was trying to slowly turn the doorknob without raising alarm. We had no puppies in our care at the time ... went down to investigate and it was our damned cat. As soon as he saw me, he sat down waiting expectantly that I would open the door the same way I do the puppies.”⁶⁶

⁶⁶ Source: urbandk84, “people who actually grabbed a baseball bat/kitchen knife/golf club and went to investigate that weird noise at

67. “What’s The Best ‘Toddler Complaint’ You’ve Ever Gotten?”

1) fork_hands_mcmike wrote, “Overheard at a grocery store. Mom let her little boy pick out some ice cream. Kid chooses some sort of chocolate banana popsicle and his mom says no. Kid starts crying. Mom says, ‘I thought you didn’t like bananas.’ Kid immediately stops crying, says, ‘Oh, yeah,’ and picks something else.”

Njail commented, “Grade A trust. Makes a decision that has consequences he doesn’t understand. Gets told ‘No.’ Gets, rationally, upset because it was a decision he was given to make. Gets told why the ‘No.’ Accepts it, recognizing the wisdom he didn’t yet have. Moves on. Good on him and good on the mom. She’s doing it right and he’s got a bright future as well as a bright mom.”

effingcharming commented, “My daughter isn’t quite there yet at two-and-a-half years old. She still needs to experience things by herself most of the time. We made chocolate and crushed candy cane cookies together; she tasted the candy cane and didn’t like it at all it was too intense a flavor. But then once the cookies are baked, she obviously wants one. I remind her she didn’t like it and offer a different kind of cookie. She throws a tantrum and I give her the mint cookie. She tastes it and throws a tantrum because she doesn’t like it. I eat the cookie while she cries.”

ElineFabianne commented, “Reminds me of a video I saw years ago of a girl being very upset because her mother wouldn’t let her eat the ‘apple’ that she had found in the kitchen. The apple was a raw onion. She absolutely insisted that it was an apple and that she wanted to eat it, so

night - what happened?” Reddit. AskReddit. 27 December 2020
<<https://tinyurl.com/yachlk35>>.

eventually the mom just let her. She quickly discovered that it was, in fact, a raw onion, but she was now too stubborn to admit defeat. Took a few big bites until the mother stopped her.”

littleyellowbike commented:

“When my cousin was little, he told our grandpa that he wanted some of the berries off the bush in front of their house.

“It was a gooseberry bush. Gooseberries are terribly sour. Grandpa said, ‘You won’t like them; they’re too sour.’ Cousin argues with him for a few minutes until Grandpa gives in and picks a handful of berries for Cousin.

“Cousin stood there and ate every single berry, with his face puckered clear into the back of his skull the whole time.”

2) DrunkUranus wrote, “My daughter had a complete existential breakdown one day when she found out that she was going to have to pee *every day of her life*.”

jemmo_ commented, “Wait until she finds out about periods! Although to be fair, I’m 35 and still salty about periods.”

OpossumJesusHasRisen wrote:

“I was going to say this. My daughter was eight when we had the period chat because she waltzed into the bathroom as I peed while on mine. She looked me in the eye and said, ‘You may as well just kill me now,’ when she learned it was once a month forever and likely to be painful if they are anything like mine. She also asked if she could just be stabbed in the abdomen once a month and call it a day instead. When she started at 12, she barged into my room, looking very solemn and said, ‘It has begun. Red [name] has arrived,’ and walked out.

“She’s brought much hilarity to my life over the last 16 years.”

Kill-Jil commented, “That’s fantastic. When my little sister got her period, she came to my mom and me and said, ‘Guys, I’m ... uhhhh ... the opposite of pregnant.’ I laughed for an hour solid, and now I always call it ‘the opposite of pregnant.’”

3) DukeofDouchery wrote, “My daughter asked for strawberry ice cream from the grocery store when she was about four. I bought it for her and when we got home and she had some after dinner, she started crying. I asked why and she said, ‘I wanted strawberry ice cream without bones!’ She didn’t like the hard frozen pieces of strawberry in the ice cream that she picked out. I thought the idea of ‘ice cream bones’ was funny.”

gopherit83 commented, “When I was about five, my parents gave me ice cream with chocolate sauce and I broke down crying. Took them a while to figure I was upset at the psycho sick bastard who’d put gravy on my ice cream. Eventually they convinced me to try some and I enjoyed it.”

Mollyhasquestions commented, “My little brother always said he wanted his ice cream without beans — he meant nuts, but we still say it to this day!”

4) kylo_rens_mom wrote, “My toddler got mad that her poop came out in two pieces instead of one. She accused my husband of cutting it while she wasn’t looking.”

5) Bnktavious wrote:

“My mom’s best friend would always try to teach me as a toddler to say ‘Shit’ whenever she came over.

“She had a daughter a few years later. One day we’re visiting and my mom leaned down to her daughter and said, ‘Say *Shit!*’

“The mother was absolutely mortified.”

6) GiraffeLeopard wrote, “My dad always reminded me of when I was very little, I used to complain that I didn’t like the ‘Pizza Bone’ (crust). I would also refuse to eat ‘corn with the bone’ (corn on the cob).”

booksandgarde commented, “Our dog always got the pizza bones.”

7) natural_imbecility wrote, “When my daughter was three, I told her to stop trying to draw on the dog with crayons. She threw the crayon on the floor, looked me dead in the eye, and yelled, ‘Daddy, you’re ruining my life!’”

8) OpossumJesusHasRisen wrote:

“The amount of insanely funny, absurd things my kid has said to me when being woken up for school is incredible. And I always sympathize because neither of us is a morning person.

“Over the years (from kindergarten to 11th grade) I’ve heard:

- I can’t go to school today. I have butt rabies.
- I have squirrel flu. (Which has become a running joke & is what our family calls allergy problems.)
- My retinas are broken.
- The sandman overdosed me last night. The only cure is extra sleep. (I actually let that one go.)
- Mom, can I just, like, not do today? I’m really not feeling it.

- The sacrificial waterfall of Satan kept me up puking last night. (Definitely allowed that one.)

“She and I also have an agreement that if she goes a full grading period without missing, she gets a free day to miss. She is also allowed mental health days for her anxiety. But only because she doesn’t take advantage.”

9) gaoshan wrote, “My daughter (about five) threw a wadded-up piece of paper at us and ran away. We opened it up and she had written, ‘Can I have a snake?’ Wife yelled, ‘No, you may not,’ and my daughter then came back almost in tears to ask why not. She said, ‘I ate all of my dinner so why can’t I have one?’ Wife asked what that had to do with snakes at which point we realized she had misspelled ‘snack.’ Also, my son put us in a sort of reverse ‘timeout’ once when he got angry. This consisted of him going into his room and refusing to come out ... leaving us in peace and quiet. He essentially played himself.”

10) advcomrade wrote, “We have a growth room in our lab with intense purple lightning where upon leaving everything looks green for 15-30 seconds. Once we were giving a tour to a class of fourth graders and showed them this phenomenon. Once it wore off, one kid exclaimed, ‘Everything’s back to normal, I HATE normal!’ We have that quote saved on the fridge.”

11) qatest wrote, “Asked if she could have one piece of candy, and I said yes. She then asked, ‘Can we compromise?’ and I replied that we didn’t need to compromise because she was already getting exactly what she wanted. Child proceeds to throw a tantrum until I agree that we can compromise. She eats her candy and leaves happily.”

12) Aphid61 commented:

“I’ve shared this one before, but it’s golden.

“Toddler and I are in the truck for a three-hour, mostly freeway trip. Toddler asks if she can have her window down. Begs. Says pretty please. Whines that she NEEDS the window down. Answer is no ... we’re going 70 mph for the next few hours. Thus begins the wailing! She cries, and cries ... and cries. The window’s not going down, I’m tuning her out, no problem, the music is on, I’m just driving and life is good.

“After probably **45 minutes** of this, she slows down, gulps a few times, and in a tremulous voice asks, ‘Mommy, why am I crying?’

“I laughed so hard I nearly ran off the road. If you don’t remember, I’m not telling you, Kid.”⁶⁷

68. “There’s A Saying That ‘People Fear What They Don’t Understand.’ What Did You Fear Before You Understood It?”

zygote_harlot wrote, “Thunderstorms! I was terrified of thunderstorms and tornadoes when I was a kid. It was so bad that I would fear-puke if I saw dark clouds. One day in second grade, it stormed during class and I ran to the front of the room to throw up in the trash can. My teacher sent a couple of books home with me about how thunderstorms and tornadoes work. After reading the books, I became fascinated and excited by storms instead of helplessly terrified.”

zerofyne07 commented, “Your teacher sounds very sweet.”

⁶⁷ Source: turnturnburn, “Whats the best "toddler complaint" you’ve ever gotten?” Reddit. AskReddit. 28 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/yamzgt9g>>.

zygote_harlot replied, “She was the best!”⁶⁸

69. “What Is Your Best Story About Something Falling Out Of Your Purse Or Bag And Embarrassing The Hell Out Of You?”

1) Sociological_Fig wrote:

“This kinda doesn’t count, but in high school I kept my vibrator in a bag in my closet. My mom was helping me clean out and grabbed the bag and I told her not to look in it. She, of course, thought I had drugs or something so made me take out the mystery object and show her.

“I was mortified as I held my purple vibrator up to my mom.”

2) whocaresanyway_ wrote, “Eighth grade, English class. A friend of mine thought she had gotten her period and asked for a pad so I gave her one in class by putting it inside a notebook. Turns out she didn’t get her period after all and when class ended she put her notebook back in her backpack and went home. A week later we get English class again. My friend opens the notebook and the pad flies out on the floor. She practically threw herself on the ground to catch it.”

3) castnostones wrote:

“This isn’t the same thing, but it still makes me giggle. Several years ago I was pulled over for speeding and I didn’t have my insurance card in my car, so I got dinged for that, too, and had to present the card in person at the Clerk of Courts Office for a fix-it ticket when I paid my speeding ticket. So anyway, I go to the courthouse, which conveniently is about five minutes away from where I work

⁶⁸ Source: a_r_i_, “There’s a saying that ‘people fear what they don’t understand.’ What did you ‘fear’ before you understood it?” Reddit. AskReddit. 28 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/ya3uaify>>.

and head through security. I put my purse on the conveyor belt and a Sheriff's Deputy motions me through and waved his wand at me while two other deputies are staring intently at the contents of my purse through the x-ray machine. I launch into an internal panic, while externally trying to maintain calm and rack my brain for the contents. What the hell is in there? Everything seems normal. I carry few things. After a few minutes (so it seems), they literally laugh, hand me my purse and send me on my way.

“I go in the Clerk's Office, pay my fine and get out as quickly as possible. On my way out, I make eye contact with one of the deputies. He smirks at me. What the hell! I walk, as fast as possible to my car and dump the contents of my purse in the seat. What did I find? A collection of metal spoons. Like four or five of them. I take leftovers to work for lunch each day and a bunch of my kitchen cutlery had traveled to work. I was randomly bringing home my spoons to properly wash them and the deputies must have wondered if I was a crackhead [or wondered if I was stealing spoons].”

4) KiwiBeep wrote, “I met a friend and her very out-of-reach (basically famous) friend in a bar one day. I had just bought a faux fur couch throw that I took out of my shopping bag to show them, and a bra I had bought in the same store (so, same bag) had managed to hook itself to the tag of the throw. When I took it out to show them I held it up, but as the tag was on the front (I was holding it up with the back facing me) I didn't notice the bra came out attached to it. Luckily she and her friend found it hilarious.”

5) 123sarahcb wrote, “I went to a bachelorette party and then less than a week later had to travel for business. I reached into my bag to grab my reusable straw and came out with a penis straw that one of the other bachelorette attendees stuck in the front zipper pocket. Fortunately I wasn't traveling with any colleagues, but I'm sure a few people in the airport saw

me in my business attire pulling a penis straw out of my suitcase.”

6) Groot746 wrote, “As a bloke, it’s so depressing reading these comments and knowing that woman feel embarrassed by sanitary products falling out of their purses etc. They’re essential items! What a ridiculous world we live in that this is even a thing.”⁶⁹

70. Are Hypercolor Shorts A Good Idea?

Whatifthisneverends wrote, “A girl in my class in fifth grade farted in her hypercolor shorts while at the board doing a math problem. I think about that like once a week.”

Hazeltonss commented, “My therapist told me that although my brain insists on thinking about all of the embarrassing things I’ve done in my life constantly, no one else will remember them because they’re too busy thinking about their own embarrassing moments. The fact you think about this girl’s embarrassment often is going to be the topic of my next session I swear.”

FerretsAreFun, “I just woke my husband up by laughing so hard. Poor girl!”

Note by David Bruce: According to Wikipedia, “Hypercolor was a line of clothing, mainly T-shirts and shorts, that changed color with heat.”⁷⁰

⁶⁹ Source: BareJordan, “What is your best story about something falling out of your purse or bag and embarrassing the hell out of you?” Reddit. AskReddit. 30 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y8zdjb9a>>.

⁷⁰ Source: Exact_Swordfish, “If covid 19 became a pandemic in 1990 rather than 2020, how would events have played out differently?” Reddit. AskReddit. 30 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y98m9jxy>>.

71. “Parents Of Reddit, What’s Your Best ‘Wait A Sec ... Is That My Child?’ Moment?”

1) AbilityLeft6445 wrote:

“Most parent / teacher conferences. They describe how awesome my kids are and that they love having them in their classes. They then describe some of the exemplary behaviors they exhibit in class.

“I look at my wife and we both wonder why they can do it at school but act like barbarians at home.”

i_am_a_toaster commented, “I think I cried at my first parent-teacher conference because of this very reason.”

wouldhouses commented, “My son is autistic. At that point I had never heard my son speak. At our first teacher conference, she was demonstrating the PECS [Picture Exchange Communication System] system and my son said, ‘I want cookie, please.’ It was everything I could do to not cry in front of three teachers. I fought the good fight, but as soon as we left, I cried.”

Alisaurusrex82 commented, “My seven-year-old daughter is autistic. I’ve cried numerous times in front of teachers and support staff, as I was getting reports on how my daughter is doing in school. She has done so many awesome, amazing, ‘average kid’ things that just a few years ago I could not picture her being able to do.”

gammyalways commented:

“Story time — I was making the rounds of seeing each kids’ teacher / classroom during Open House and started with the youngest who was in kindergarten. His older sister quietly listened to her brother’s kindergarten teacher go on and on about what a sweet kid he was, how kind and thoughtful, how good he was at sharing, etc.

“After hearing all of this, my daughter had a very puzzled look on her face considering the behavior of aforementioned brother at home, and she whispered very loudly to me, ‘Mom! I think his teacher is lying! That’s not him at all!’

“This will always be one of my most favorite memories.”

2) gotsthepockets wrote:

“I was at a children’s museum with my two toddlers (about two years and four years). The younger one, my daughter, was playing in a communal area with some other small toddlers. I was sitting off to the side watching, but she was in her own world so no one could have known I belonged to her at that point.

“Another little girl walked up and started playing with the toys my daughter was using. My daughter slowly turned her head and the look I saw in her eyes was, well, calculated. She stared at the little girl for a moment, reached out, placed her hand on the girl’s shoulder, then pushed hard and yelled ‘NO, MINE!’ right in the girl’s face, then turned back to the toys and began playing innocently.

“There was another mom sitting next to me who witnessed the entire event and I could see the judgement festering inside her. So I quietly said, ‘Oh, man, whose kid is that? They should teach their kids some manners.’ The other mom definitely agreed, and we sat there judging for a few more minutes until I got up, took my daughter’s hand and walked away.

“No, I’m not a good parent sometimes.”

3) siriusdoggy wrote, “Put my youngest in the bassinet in the kitchen and put the other kids down for naps. When I came back in the kitchen, I started to cook dinner. Walked by the bassinet, and screamed because there was a baby there

looking at me. Took a good 10 seconds to remember I gave birth to a third baby four weeks earlier. I needed more sleep.”

4) Goes2eleven wrote:

“So many embarrassed-parent moments, but the story comes to my mind is a different flavor than those. My daughter (now a strong woman at 22 years old) started life as a headstrong child but after some bullying in grades one through three, she retreated into a sad and withdrawn girl. We changed schools and started her in Tai Kwon Do. Best decision we ever made.

“Years later, she is testing for her brown belt and needs to break a board. She chose an elbow thrust (not sure of official name but that’s what it looked like). She had done it successfully in practice several times, but this board was stubborn. Ten times she hit that board. Left a blood spot even. It didn’t break. Applied ice on her bruised elbow that night along with hugs for bruised ego.

“Next class she got up and elbow thrust the board to splinters. I am not a crier, but I teared up in that moment. I felt in my heart her physical and emotional pain facing that seemingly indestructible board. She faced it with the fear of further pain and failure.

“She got more than her brown belt that day. She found her resilience. She found her strength. She found her courage. She found her future. I sat in the viewing area and thought with wonder and excitement, ‘That’s my child.’”

5) CalmCalmBelong wrote:

“Our son’s in choir, graduated high school earlier this year. He’s an actor, noodles on the guitar ... a performer in general. Back in his junior year, one of his friends was graduating, and the seniors — if they want — get a solo at

the final performance. So it's his friend's turn, and she has a piece to sing with our son on accompaniment.

“Cool, cool, his mom and I say to each other, ‘Must be an acoustic guitar up there on stage, and he’ll play that while he sings.’ But, no. He sits at the piano. And then PROCEEDS TO PLAY the piano while she sings her piece. His mom and I just look at each other gobsmacked ... ‘Did you know?’ ‘Nope, no idea’ ... neither of us had any idea he knew how to play.

“Not exactly sure how he snuck that past us; we searched his bedroom, found no hidden piano.”

6) buttrock wrote:

“In third grade my kid was in after school daycare that gave free guitar lessons. They held an end-of-term concert where kids got to show off what they learned.

“First kid gets up. ‘Johnny will now play Yankee Doodle.’ Pluck pluck strum. Then we all clapped.

“Next kid gets up. ‘Jimmy will play Twinkle Twinkle.’ Strum strum pluck. Then we all clapped.

“The concert went along like this. Kid songs. Kid strumming. Obligatory claps.

“My kid was last. ‘Buttrock Jr. will play Crazy Train by Ozzy Osbourne.’

“The whole audience kinda chuckled in a WTF manner, me included.

“Kid got up there in his button-up shirt and khakis, totally nonchalant. He was so little that his feet barely touched the floor.

“He started with the song’s beginning dun-duns, and then fucking slayed it.”

TinyLuckDragon commented, “This reminds me of the time I was asked what song was my then two-year-old’s favourite and I had to reply ‘Raining Blood’ by Slayer!”

C130_jumper commented:

“My youngest pulled something similar about 10 years ago. He started guitar in 10th grade. At the year-end recital, he played a pretty good version of ‘Mull of Kintyre’ that I’d heard him play at home about a million times. All he had at home was a Fender Dreadnought I bought for him because he said his fingers were bleeding on the school’s guitars. He would play some acoustic classics at home, but nothing really earth shattering. I always accused him of playing like someone might accidentally hear him. He continued taking classes in 11th grade.

“That year’s recital was coming up and he was being real quiet about it, so I had no idea what to expect. As his turn came up, I hear the hum of electric guitars getting plugged in and a drum kit getting shuffled around. The curtains open and he’s there with an electric guitar, a guy on bass and a drummer. He starts playing something very, very quietly at first. Barely audible above the murmur of the crowd. Then it starts to get louder and I suddenly realize he’s playing the opening to ‘LaVilla Strangiato’! I think the floor of the auditorium still has an imprint of my jaw hitting it to this day! My acoustic kid is up there giving Alex Lifeson a run for his money! I asked him why he never played like that at home, and he said he didn’t want to piss off the neighbors. That weekend we went shopping, and I got him a Jackson RR3 Randy Rhoads, a fender amp, and some over-ear headphones. When he graduated, my two brothers and I chipped in together and got him a proper Gibson Les Paul and some more pedals.”

7) ichi__wrote, “My four-year-old walked in her mess of a room and said, ‘What a shit show.’ No question she’s mine.”

8) curlthelip wrote:

“After two trips to Russia to meet my child and multiple visits to the orphanage, I had come to the conclusion that not only were the kids being neglected, but that the orphanage director had a particular dislike for my soon-to-be daughter. She kept telling me that she was a willful (she wasn’t), difficult (nope, not that either) child who needed discipline (not from what I could see). All I saw was a very quiet, and almost too complacent, sweet little girl who needed gentle encouraging just to interact with us — and we had done everything we could to patiently win her trust.

“During one visit, my little girl (a toddler at the time) became interested in my engagement ring. She kept looking at it, but never asked about it, and never touched it. At one point she was staring at it so keenly that I slipped it off my finger so she could try it on. I told her that one day she could have it, but when what I said was translated, the director audibly scoffed. During one of the last visits, the director told me that they worked hard to train the orphans in the baby home to sweep, mop, clean, and work for their parents, and that we Americans just wanted to spoil them. As she spoke, I just looked incredulously at this tiny creature — malnourished, with matted hair, smelling like urine, barely as high as my hip, and thought, ‘Lady, you have no idea.’

“On the day the adoption was final, we rushed to the orphanage to pick up our daughter. It just so happened that there was also some sort of audit or visitation from some officials going on. I was over-the-moon happy, changed her into a new outfit, and we hastily said our farewells because we were also picking up her brother whom we had also adopted. As we headed toward the exit, with my husband carrying my daughter who was understandably wide-eyed and quiet. But suddenly, she looked straight at the director and said something that caused the woman to look nervously

side-eyed at the others. Since I could understand only a little of what she was saying, I asked the translator to translate. ‘That lady is very, VERY mean.’ I thought my husband was going to trip because he was sputtering and snickering so hard. We got out of there in a hurry, but I remember thinking very proudly, ‘That’s my girl!’”

9) shugerbooger wrote, “When my daughter’s preschool teacher related to me that one day during class when her cell phone rang, all the kids wanted to know who it was. It was her husband, Peter, so the teacher said ‘It’s Peter.’ The kids started having fun with that and ribbing her. They said ‘Is it Peter Rabbit?’ and ‘Is it Peter Pan?’ and ‘Is it, Peter Cottontail?’ The laughter subsided and then my quiet little kid chimes in with ‘Is it Peter Frampton?’”

10) MargotFenring wrote, “Not me but my dad with his first family. He was driving home from work one evening, and as he exits the highway, he sees a toddler wearing nothing but a diaper walking down the side of the road. He thinks, ‘Jesus Christ, what kind of parent would let their kid do something like that?’ So he pulls over and gets the kid. It was his kid. She had snuck out of the house when her mom’s back was turned. Mom was hysterical and the police were already there when he got home.”⁷¹

72. “Extroverts Who Ask Others, ‘Why Are You So Quiet?’, What Kind Of Response Are You Looking For?”

1) Zhoenish wrote:

⁷¹ Source: FuckingCraigslist, “Parents of Reddit, what’s your best ‘Wait a sec... Is that my child?’ moment?” Reddit. AskReddit. 30 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/y7kbeqtp>>.

“One of my favorite surgeons is very quiet. Story told about him by another surgeon when he was a resident.

“Resident kept trying to ask about his kids, his holidays, making chit-chat.

“Surgeon says, ‘I’m comfortable with uncomfortable silences.’

“End of conversation.”

2) Man_Bear_Beaver wrote:

“I literally have to set reminders to interact with my wife, otherwise I’ll forget. I started doing this after realizing I barely spoke to her for four or five days, and she asked what was wrong / if we’re having problems. It was after a big family event in her family that lasted a couple days bunking with other people, and I was just recharging for a few days. Analyzed the situation and reminders are the best I can come up with. She does most of the talking, so meh.

“I don’t need actual reminders much anymore as it’s become habit, but I still set one every Monday to remind me not to break the habit.”

3) doomdoggie wrote:

“I just came to say...

“Please stop asking people why they’re quiet: They’re shy or nervous or worried or something.

“Ask them a question they can answer!”

Checkie11337 commented, “I like this answer a lot. I hope it’s okay to add that if you pull that individual off to the side and have a slightly more private, one-on-one conversation and ask them those questions, maybe that could work, too. I’m incredibly introverted, and don’t like being asked, ‘Why are you so quiet?’ in a large group setting. It’s easier for me

to have more one-on-one conversations on an individual basis. I really do like to listen to what other people have to say, and get to know them that way.”⁷²

73. “Who’s The Stranger You’ve Once Met Whom You Can’t Forget?”

1) feedtheflames wrote:

“Two strangers.

“First: The man who saw me get yelled at as a tweenager in a farmer’s market. I was forced to buy some ridiculous thing because the man who ran the stall thought I unwrapped it. This stranger didn’t intervene, just shoved a bill in my hand as I was leaving so I didn’t have to spend my precious allowance. I was more thankful to know I had someone on my side and to realize the not-so-gentleman probably embarrassed himself more than he embarrassed me.

“Second: The girl at prom who came with the daughter of her mom’s friend and didn’t know anyone. The girl who brought her abandoned her to hang out with her own friends. I invited this stranger to dance and hang out with me and my friends (really strange for me as I was highly introverted). She asked for a picture with me at the end of the night.

“Kindness is contagious, people.”

2) marinabaff wrote:

“I was 16 working in retail, in a weird, trashy store where everything’s super cheap and smells like it’s going to give you cancer.

⁷² Source: No-Ad-3513 wrote, “Extroverts who ask others ‘why are you so quiet’, what kind of response are you looking for?” Reddit. AskReddit. 31 December 2020 <<https://tinyurl.com/yadrxbm>>.

“One day while I was cleaning stuff up, this elderly lady came in the store. I greeted her. She looked around for a little bit and then came up to me and said: ‘I’m sorry if I sound rude, but I cannot believe you work here. I don’t think you belong here. You look too kind and beautiful to be working in a store like this.’

“I was in shock but then explained that I’m still in school and saving money for a flight to be an au pair in Australia. She smiled and said: ‘I hope all your dreams will come true.’

“It’s been 10 years. I went on to be an au pair and later got my bachelor’s and master’s degrees. I still think of that lady sometimes.”

3) daRRko_ wrote, “A random homeless guy who looked me in the eyes and said, ‘You can do whatever you want — you just have to unblock yourself.’ At that time I was depressed and couldn’t explain how I feel, not even to myself, but the only word I could link to how I feel was ‘blocked’ and he just knew what to say! No one ever knew how I feel, I was hiding it, but this guy saw it in me. I will never forget him.”

4) whatsername235 wrote, “I was in hospital after an ectopic pregnancy, I had bled out so badly my bathroom looked like a crime scene, I was distraught and I hadn’t told anyone I was there. The nurses were amazing, but I was barely holding it together. Elderly woman in the same room as me hadn’t even acknowledged me before then, but as soon as one of the nurses had a very awkward ‘there, there’ chat with me, she stood up and walked over. In a voice filled with kindness and determination, she said to me, ‘They might not be able to give you a hug, but I can.’ She held me while I finally broke down. Then she sat beside me, held my hand, and told me I was going to be OK. I would get through it. It took a long time and more heartbreak than I care to remember, but finally, ten years later I got my daughter and

honestly I don't know if I could have had the strength without that lady.”

5) rleash wrote:

“Years ago, I was in a very serious car accident. I had a bad concussion, so while I was conscious after it happened, I don't remember anything after the impact.

“Two weeks later, I was back at the hospital being prepped for surgery to put my ankle back together. Purely by coincidence, the nurse assigned to get me ready was the very person who witnessed the entire thing and had called 911! She was so happy to see how much better I looked. She filled me in on all of the details of what happened, and even told me about another man who was there — a marine — who did his best to break my car window to get me out, even injuring his hand. (It took the jaws of life to get me out of there.) I could faintly remember a police officer asking me an important question, but he didn't seem happy with my answer and my loopy brain didn't know why. She told me that he asked if I knew where I was, and I told him that I was in bed.

“I never saw her again, but I was so appreciative of her filling in so many blanks on a significant event in my life.”

6) Courin wrote:

“I was working for an airline, and we had a flight that left at 2:10pm (in about 15 minutes).

“Everyone was checked in and our next flight wasn't until after 6pm so I was taking the time to do some pod training. (I was a shift lead at that point.)

“I was facing the doors and a man walked into the airport with a palpable sense of urgency. He scanned the counters and made a beeline for us.

“I hopped around the counter and called him over.

“He announced he had a ticket to go home in two days, but he’d just gotten a call his wife went into very premature labor and he needed to get to her in City V across the country.

“I knew that he could take the 2:10 flight and connect in City W to City V, so I had another agent call the gate and tell them we were rushing a guest through.

“I got his ticket changed and his boarding pass printed, and we were at the front of security in less than five minutes. As we walked, he gave me the cell phone number for his mother-in-law as I had told him I would call her and let her know his travel plans (as he didn’t have time to reach her).

“Five minutes after that, we were at the gate, and just as he was about to get on the plane, I asked him if there was anything else I could do. He looked at me said, ‘I could use a hug,’ so I just gave him this huge hug for what seemed like forever but was probably only a few seconds and told him I’d pray for him and his family. Once he got in his seat, I briefed the Captain (who happened to be a friend of mine) on the situation. That crew was also doing the connection flight and the Captain gave me permission to arrange that the guest’s mother-in-law could call our Operations Center and they would relay a message to the Captain over the ACARS system so he could feel he wasn’t out of touch through the flights.

“Once the plane was in the air, I called our team at City V and explained the situation. They made arrangements for him to be given a VIP escort off the aircraft and through the terminal so he could get to the hospital as quickly as possible.

“Then I called his mother-in-law, gave her all his travel info, and let her know the number she could call if required to reach him via messages.

“About two months later, I received a card (mailed to my work) from him.

“It included a picture of him holding his ultra-premie son. He told me that thanks to all we had done, he arrived just in time (literally minutes) to see his son born and hold him before he passed away less than 10 minutes after birth.

“Any time I begin to feel like I don’t have a purpose or question if what I do makes a difference, I remember him and know that ... yes ... I can have a huge impact on others.”

7) deepthots20 wrote:

“Twenty years ago I was at a playground with a couple kids I was babysitting for. I was sitting on a swing when this random little girl who was probably about age four sat on the swing next to me and greeted me by name. I thought it was a little weird but figured she’d probably heard one of the other kids say my name so whatever.

“I said, ‘Hi, what’s your name?’ and she goes, ‘It’s me, Marissa.’ She didn’t look familiar to me so I asked, “Do I know you?’ She says, ‘Yes, silly! I knew you before I was born.’ I’m thinking how kids say the craziest things while she’s chatting away about random little-kid stuff. She asks me how my mother is doing and I’m thinking this kid is a riot. Then she says, ‘Does your dad still have his motorcycle?’

“At that point my father had left my family and I hadn’t spoken to him in several years. There was no way this four-year-old girl could have known that my father rode a motorcycle. I asked her, ‘How do you know about that?’ She laughs and says, ‘I remember. It was yellow. Does he still ride it?’ I’m now completely freaked out and she’s still happily chattering away. A couple minutes later, her parents called her and she said she had to go but it was nice to see

me and she ran off. I checked out the parents, but I'd never seen them before either.

“I am an atheist and I don't believe in past lives or anything else, but I've never been able to explain Marissa and I've never forgotten her.”⁷³

74. “What Is The Best Conversation You've Ever Had With A Stranger?”

1) dream_bean_94 wrote:

“It wasn't exactly a conversation, but ...

“An older man, at a train station in England, looked me deep in the eyes and said ‘You're so young. What you have (your youth) is more valuable than gold.’

“That was about 15 years ago. I'm 26 now and I think about him all the time.”

2) BohoPhoenix wrote:

“Super hungover on a flight that left at 7am — I couldn't find my headphones and was dreading anyone talking to me because I wanted to sleep the entire way. Immediately struck up a conversation with the guy sitting next to me on the plane and talked the entire three-hour flight. We were around the same age and both loved travel and food, so there was no shortage of things for us to chat about.

“He was a firefighter in Denver but used to live in New Mexico, and you could tell how much he loved his family. It was a pleasant way to spend time I'd been super worried about.”

⁷³ Source: Vv4nd, “Who's the stranger you've once met that you can't forget?” Reddit. AskReddit. 1 January 2021
<<https://tinyurl.com/yb2fl2rm>>.

3) teflondonna wrote:

“I was on a work lunch walk to the river about four years ago now and I kept pace for a bit with a psychology professor and we talked a little about WWII, war as a type of insanity, and the definition of evil.

“Random encounter with someone I’ve never encountered before and may not again. My home city has this ability to surprise me with something positive right around the time I’ve decided the place should be fire bombed for the sake of humanity.

“And another one that ranks up there is from a road trip where my husband and I barely made it into the Lowndes Interpretive Center, the NPS [National Park Service] museum set up at the midway point of the Selma to Montgomery march before it closed for the day. We wound up talking with the two rangers there after closing for almost an hour about racism and confederate monuments and how to listen.”

4) OGBasil78 wrote, “There’s this local dive bar near my job. Lots of us used to go there (pre-COVID) after work to wind down/hang out. One night on a Sunday I got off work about an hour before everyone else, but it wasn’t enough to go home or stop anywhere. So I just went over to the bar and hung out on the patio. When I got there, it was about 10pm, and it was slammed, which isn’t the usual. I didn’t think too much of it. I had a guy approach me and asked me, ‘What’s your special unicorn?’ And I just stared at him for a minute then said, ‘I do not understand what that means.’ Then then explained to me about how all the people on the patio that night were there for the monthly ‘Special Unicorn night’ — which is a fetish night. I was intrigued, so he started pointing out each person and telling me their fetish and it was a grand ole time of a conversation with his guy. He was super nice,

not creepy, and just gave me the 411 on everyone. It was fun.”⁷⁴

75. “Flight Attendants Of Reddit, If Both Pilots Went Unconscious, Would You Actually Ask The Passengers If Someone Knows How To Fly A Plane?”

Can_Not_Double_Dutch wrote:

“Airline pilot here. There are procedures if a pilot goes unconscious, but I don’t think we have one for when both pilots go unconscious. That would be extremely rare. Normal procedure is to discreetly look for any other company pilots onboard, if none then any other airline pilots onboard, if none then any military pilots onboard, if none then any other pilots onboard. Really just need somebody with experience operating an airplane and talking on the radios, not necessarily company-specific procedures. Airline crews should be traveling in uniform or have their crewmember ID readily accessible and other airline pilots onboard normally check in with flight deck before taking their seat.”

Can_Not_Double_Dutch added, “I was a military single-seat fighter / attack pilot before going airlines and it indeed is a different style of flying. Airlines have to maintain a smooth, safe environment for the passengers. So no honking on a 6G minimum radius turn. Every airline has its mix of all civilian-time, military-civilian-time, or mostly all military-time pilots.”

Dabo57 commented, “When I was a little kid in 1968, my family was flying to Puerto Rico to go on vacation. I asked

⁷⁴ Source: trigonometrystar, “What is the best conversation you’ve ever had with a stranger?” Reddit. AskWomen. 2 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y7a77etq>>.

my dad, who had been a pilot of PBY Catalinas in WWII, if he could fly the plane if the pilot and copilot suddenly died. My father, who was pretty cool when I asked such silly questions, asked me if the radio still worked so he could talk to the tower in this scenario. I said, 'No, all communication were down, too.' He said, 'Well, I could land it but it would be a real bumpy landing.' Hahahaha. And yet that made me feel very safe and secure that he told me that. No matter what, my dad would save us."⁷⁵

76. "What Is The Adult Version Of Sitting With The Lonely Kid At The Lunch Table?"

1) StayWithMeArienne wrote:

"I was once in an airport buying water at one of the stores before a flight. There was a woman in front of me clearly in a rough mood, kind of loudly complaining and yelling at the store in general, and eventually the cashier in particular, about how everything was a big fucking pain and now she was going to miss her fucking flight. All the while the cashier was kind of shrinking from her and ringing up her purchase as quickly as possible. The woman's voice got so loud and she was cursing enough that the store fell quiet as people looked around to see what was going on.

"As soon as she left and it was my turn, I stepped up to the register and the cowed cashier quietly mumbled, 'Hello, how are you?' as she started swiping my items. Without really thinking I said in a loud voice, but a hugely cheerful tone, 'I'm fucking GREAT! How's your fucking day?' with a big smile on my face. People all turned to look again and the

⁷⁵ Source: allen9501, "Flight attendants of Reddit, if both pilots went unconscious, would you actually ask the passengers if someone knows how to fly a plane?" Reddit. AskReddit. 2 January 2021
<<https://tinyurl.com/yabpofye>>.

cashier started to laugh, and I'm still proud of that, probably the only time I was sure I had made someone else's moment better. Guess I really wanted to share that story because thinking of how she started grinning still makes me smile! It definitely made me resolve to do it more often from now on. Before that, I may not have thought of it, but that woman was so awful!"

2) Waffleboned wrote, "Cashier at 7-11 had a Micro Center shirt on. I mentioned I was trying to build a computer. This was at like 1am. She helped me part [plan which parts to buy] the thing together right on the spot, and [I?] went and bought all the parts later that week. Stacy didn't steer me wrong."

3) QuietusNoctis wrote:

"Decades ago, worked for a factory that employed 90% women. All the maintenance staff were men. When the ladies machines broke down, they had to write a work order and then maintenance would go repair their machines. Sexual harassment was a big deal there. Most women just played along with the talk and never thought too much about it. Rarely did someone complain because the ladies there were paid production. If their machines were down, they didn't make the numbers.

"I was training there, in my early twenties. This young lady wrote a work order and placed it in the bin where all the other work orders were. As we came to hers, my trainer skipped over hers and went to the next one. I brought this up and he told me we didn't work on her machine. I asked why and he said she had turned another maintenance guy in for sexual harassment. I asked if the guy sexually harassed her. My trainer shrugged and said it was all just fun, that it didn't mean anything. After all the work orders were completed, except hers, everyone went back to the shop. I looked across the floor and could see her mounting frustration. I grabbed

her work order and went to her machine alone. She thanked me for coming. I didn't know what I was doing at the time; I was very new to these machines. Together she and I figured it out and we got her machine running. Truth is, she knew more about it than I did. I just had the tools and I listened to her advice and it worked out. After that I felt proud for repairing a machine without my trainer and went back to the shop. My trainer grabbed my arm and said, 'I told you we don't work on her machine.' I shrugged it off. I told him she had the right to come to work and not be harassed. While on her machine, she told me her side of the story. What it boiled down to was she was newly married, loved her husband, and just wanted to do her job and go home. She didn't want to talk trash with everyone else. She didn't want to disappoint her husband. I get it. I felt the same way with my wife.

"Come lunch time I went to the cafeteria and sat down with the maintenance staff. They all stood up and went to another table, leaving me alone. One other maintenance member noticed this and sat with me. We talked about what had happened and why the others did this. I appreciated he was understanding. The next day the manager came to me and told me I needed to consider something else. He said I didn't fit in with the culture there. I asked him to give me a couple weeks to transfer. He acted as if he didn't want to. I could tell he wanted me gone. When he hesitated to grant my request, I told him we could do it this way or I could get corporate involved and we could all have a talk about the culture of sexual harassment there, given that I was being ostracized for not following that very culture. He stuck me working with the one guy who sat with me at lunch for a week until I transferred out to another facility. I always think

back to that one time another person took that chance and sat with me. It meant a lot.”⁷⁶

77. “Have You Ever Witnessed Someone Say, ‘If You Don’t Like It, Leave,’ And Everyone Left? What Was The Story?”

reverendmalerik wrote:

“Yes, or pretty close to it at least!

“I was a founding member (and treasurer) of a skydiving society at my university in Aberystwyth. I myself am teetotal, but I still went out on the weekly social nights which, in Aberystwyth, were just spent in the local bars and pubs as there is nothing else to do there at night. I am pleased to say that my owning a car (so giving people lifts to the drop zone), plus my being teetotal (designated driver / nanny on nights out), plus my house being close to the nearest dropzone (FOUR HOURS away, just south of Birmingham) and letting the club sleep there on occasion, had made me rather well liked.

“We went to one of our usual favourite haunts, Lord Beechings, only this time the owner was there behind the bar (with one other staff member who looked rather glum) serving and was in a foul mood. All 25 or so of us went in and ordered drinks. He served 23 of us, then ID’d my friend, even though he was clearly over 18, a student, with 24 other students, a regular, the other staff member vouched for him, etc. Made him walk back to halls to get his passport before he would serve him. This was already eliciting grumbles from the club, but everyone accepted pubs had to be careful

⁷⁶ Source: [_DaRock_](https://tinyurl.com/y7conoog), “What is the adult version of sitting with the lonely kid at the lunch table?” Reddit. AskReddit. 3 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y7conoog>>.

about restrictions and carried on. Then I asked for a glass of water (which he was legally required to provide, I might add).

“He replied, ‘I’m not muddying my glasses for some prick who isn’t paying.’ I simply raised my eyebrows, as I had never encountered such a response to a request for a glass of water before. After a moment for it to set in that this guy wasn’t making a weird joke, he really wasn’t going to give me a glass of water, I turned around to the room of 24 other people I swirled my finger in the air and shouted, ‘Skydiving club, drink up! This asshole won’t serve me, so we’re leaving!’

“Everybody drank up immediately, and we all left. The skydiving club never went there again while I was a member, and everyone else I told the story to avoided it as well.”⁷⁷

78. “All Right, Parents, Fess Up. What Is Your Least Favorite Thing About Your Child?”

1) misschanandalarbong wrote:

“My kid will sometimes just go through a period where everything is, ‘Hey, dad, pretend that I am’

“And it’s great because he is using his imagination and being creative and all that, but when it is all day, and it’s the exact same scenario (or slightly different) ... my god, it can be a punishment to feign enthusiasm to match his.”

MouseSnackz wrote, “My mum told me she was playing with me once and I said, ‘Just pretend you’re the mum and I’m the kid.’”

⁷⁷ Source: Yeah_nah90, “Have you ever witness someone say ‘If You Don’t Like It, Leave’ and everyone left? What was the story?” Reddit. AskReddit. 4 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/ybvxmvw5>>.

2) GingerMau wrote:

“Both of my children, actually:

“They both think being in a lockdown / virtual school situation means they *never* need to bathe or use deodorant again.”

3) onexyonexx wrote, “Sock balls. He is constantly making balls out of socks and throws them around endlessly. He never has any socks to wear because they are nowhere to be found due to constant sock balling. Drives me insane. It’s a good thing he’s cute and a really good kid. It could be so much worse at 15.”

seeseecinnamon commented:

“I used to leave my socks everywhere as a kid. It would drive my mom insane and I always thought she was overreacting.

“Fast forward to me griping about my kid’s socks being everywhere except for the hamper. It’s that shameful ‘I sound exactly like my mother!’ moment.”

4) downsly46 wrote, “How much he’s like me. I can correct a stubborn kid, but when it’s more like looking in a mirror ... that makes it 10 times more irritating and I have no idea why.”

5) Erikalicious wrote:

“To be honest ... the smell of his farts. They are so bad it actually makes me angry, and the little shit thinks it’s the most hilarious thing.

“Edit: Thank you all for your concerns and suggestions about IBS [Irritable Bowel Syndrome]. This is something we have spoken to his pediatrician about, and she isn’t worried. Sometimes farts just smell bad.”

6) RealDanStaines wrote:

“He is eight months old and every time even just one of his hands gets within three inches of my face he

“RIPS

“my glasses off. Every. Single. Fucking. Time.”

fairygodmotherfckr wrote:

“Does he do it as a joke? Around five or six months old, my baby realised that he could cram his dummy / pacifier into my mouth, and DUMMYS don’t go in MUMMY MOUTHS!

“*Cue uproarious baby laughter.*”

“I had no idea babies developed a sense of humour that early, but he thought that dummy thing was hysterical.”

7) irakcarl wrote, “My daughter likes to wait until we’re cozy and comfortable before dropping a load in her diaper.”

8) TheRealOcsiban wrote, “That he puts random crap from the floor in his mouth, but he won’t eat vegetables (actual food).”

CypripeddiumGuttatum wrote, “My sister-in-law started putting food on her freshly washed floor when her baby did this. Floor pears are better than high-chair pears!”

9) avalinka wrote, “Currently it is *the scream*. Basically she’s just started the most godawful high-pitched *scream* whenever things are going badly for her, especially when she’s frustrated or raging. It’s been only the last couple of weeks and we’re cracking down on it hard now, because if you banshee-scream over minor things, how do we know if something is really truly wrong when you do it? (Aka boy who cried wolf.) It’s definitely slowed down in the last day or so since we got stern with her, so hopefully it’s ending, but it was not a fun phase.”

scusername wrote:

“My best friend has two kids. He lives away from them sometimes and when I’m at his place and he’s on the phone to his wife, all I can hear in the background is that same high-pitched scream. You could shatter glass with that frequency.

“Every time I get lonely because I’m single in an empty house, I remember those screams, and suddenly I’m relieved.”

sugarshit wrote:

“I got mine out of that scream by literally running to them as if it was an emergency every time:

“ARE YOU OKAY? WHO’S HURT? IS SOMEONE STEALING YOU? ARE YOU ON FIRE?”

“At first they giggled and it was such good fun. But then I kept it up.

“Within the year I overheard them explaining to another kid on the playground why they shouldn’t fake-scream.”⁷⁸

79. “Tattoo Artists, What Was Your Worst Mistake And How Did The Client React?”

1) xfactotumx wrote:

“I worked as a piercer in a shop a decade ago. A guy came in and wanted ‘Murphys law.’ The artist freehanded a design on him, he green lit it after watching in the mirror and they did a beautiful piece with a banner saying ‘Murpys law.’

⁷⁸ Source: RoseyTreatsBakery, “Alright parents, fess up. What is your least favorite thing about your child?” Reddit. AskReddit. 3 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yygrbxrz>>.

Seemed fitting. The guy loved the fact that his one messed-up tattoo was the ‘Murphys law’ one.

“EDIT: Some people have pointed out the lack of apostrophe in the spelling. This took place in a small Swedish town and 100% there was no apostrophe. Swedes are generally decent at English, but apostrophe to indicate ownership is probably the part we suck most at.”

2) JoshSidekick wrote, “I was working at a place when a guy came in for a full back piece of three different cars. It took like four visits to finish and each visit he’d look at it and say it looks awesome and then he would take off. On the last visit, they call me in to look at it to show me how awesome it turned out. Well, all the steering wheels were on the wrong side and the reason no one caught it was because the dude was looking in a mirror to check his progress so they looked correct. I’m pretty sure the guy was super chill about it when they offered a bunch of free work and they fixed it in another session.”

3) eccoothedolphin wrote, “I was a receptionist at a tattoo shop. One of the artists misspelled ‘neighborhood’ on this guy’s neck. He spelled it ‘neighborhood,’ leaving out the first ‘h.’ Neighborhood was the guy’s nickname. It was a pretty large, elaborate tattoo so there was no fixing it. I don’t think I have ever cringed so hard in my life. The guy was surprisingly really cool about it. He did see the drawing and approved it before it was tattooed on. He ended up making the artist tattoo a ‘h’ on his palm so if anyone gave him shit about the misspelling he could smack that person with the missing ‘h.’”

4) ALasagnaForOne wrote, “I had a client email me asking for a four-letter acronym. I don’t do freehand script so I put the letters into a font generator and sent him back some options. He picked the one he liked best and we set an appointment date. On the day of his session, I showed him

the acronym again and we chose a size. I placed the stencil and he approved it and I got started. Midway through the tattoo I asked him what the letters stood for and he told me. My heart stopped. The letters were in the wrong order. The middle two were swapped. I ran to the shop computer to check my email and sure enough, in his original email he'd sent me, they'd been correct. I had typed them into the font generator wrong. But to be fair, he had seen them several times since then and didn't notice my mistake. I spent the rest of the session covering them up with another design he'd had as a backup tattoo idea and I didn't charge him. But it was a good learning experience for me to always ask what initials / acronyms stand for ahead of time to make sure I get them in the right order."

5) willieyobslayer wrote:

"I once had a client call the shop who was crying hysterically because, according to her, I had done her tattoo backwards. It took a few minutes to get her to calm down to the point where we realized she was looking at it in the mirror. She apologized and hung up.

willieyobslayer added, "The tattoo was on her back. When I placed the stencil, and finished the tattoo, the client was using two mirrors. A handheld one, and the wall mounted one. Using two mirrors, it looked correct (which it was). When she looked in just one mirror at home, it appeared backwards, the way a mirror works."⁷⁹

⁷⁹ Source: Sorceress683, "[Serious] Tattoo artists, what was your worst mistake and how did the client react?" Reddit. AskReddit. 3 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y46cyzz9>>.

80. “Teachers Of Reddit, What Is The Worst Thing That A Student Has Done In Your Class?”

1) notanevilmastermind wrote, “An eight-year-old kid dropped trou [trousers, pants] to show off his new dinosaur undies. Kid was just super excited about dinosaurs and wanted to show off. The week prior he’d brought in some dino books and everyone had been ooooohing and aaaahing so he just thought that showing off his undies would elicit the same reaction.”

NotAnOctopys commented, “You gotta show off the dino underwear.”

Catshit-Dogfart commented, “I got Mario underwear in kindergarten, didn’t show them, but told *everybody* about them.”

2) BlankNameSlot wrote:

“I’m the student here. Well, in third grade I had the farts and I knew I wouldn’t make it to the bathroom in time so I knew I was hopeless.

“UNTIL, I thought of a *genius* plan! I would clamp my butt down to the seat sooo hard with my hands that it would muffle out the sound.

“Genius.

“*Genius.*

“Next thing I heard was this HUGE sound you could only hear if you went on a trip to hell. It was almost as if you were in a stall next to Satan himself taking a shit. It echoed throughout the whole classroom. Everyone (including the teacher — she was only giggling) started laughing. I just thought it was an accomplishment at the time, but now every time I think about it, I feel embarrassed.”

3) TimelessBean wrote, “Not a teacher but when I was in high school I had a friend bring in a portable speaker and hid it in my math teacher’s classroom. Once class started, he began to play the most vile porn audio. After a couple seconds, the teacher heard it and began to search he classroom for where the sound was coming from. My friend would pause the video on his phone for the noises to stop, and she would give up and go back to teaching. This happened continuously for the whole 80-minute class until the last 10 minutes when she caught my friend. He was subsequently sent to the head master’s office where he had an in-school suspension for two weeks.”⁸⁰

⁸⁰ Source: jz2016cubs wrote, “Teachers of Reddit, what is the worst thing that a student has done in your class?” Reddit. AskReddit. 4 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y3un5efa>>.

Chapter 5: Questions 81-100

81. “What Childhood Memory Do You Keep Going Back To?”

1) WHISKEYxxBITCH wrote, “My family had a cottonwood tree in the yard, and my brother and I would play in the cotton when it started shedding in the summertime. We called it summer snow.”

2) WingSong03 wrote, “I can’t remember how old I was, but I remember it was Christmas break and I had gotten *Harry Potter 1* and *2* for the PlayStation. My mum bought these sugar cookies that came in a plastic Santa boot and we’re shaped like stars with red and green sugar crystals. One of my happiest memories of just sitting on the floor playing my new Harry Potter games and eating these damn good cookies while it peacefully snowed outside.”

3) Ericsg33 wrote, “When the whole neighborhood would come together and all hang out and have the thrill of running around playing tag.”

4) ryanmiguel wrote, “When I was seven years old, it started pouring down when I was riding my bike outside and I embraced it and went full speed in our complex, launching into the air over speed bumps and feeling like I was flying with the wind and the rain.”

5) ncsuandrew12 wrote:

“I grew up on a rural campground where my dad was the caretaker. One of the buildings was U-shaped as seen from above. The interior of the U was a porch.

“On my 12th birthday, I had about a dozen or so friends over, and it had snowed a fair amount. The porch made a natural fort with a single open side.

“I doubt I will ever again be a part of such an epic snowball fight. And I know it’s not just me. I moved to another state later that year. I’ve met up with one or two of those friends 10+ years later and they’ve brought up that snowball fight in the first 15 minutes of conversation.”

6) arycka927 wrote, “My family all lived together at one point. There was literally 15 people in a five-bedroom house, but goddamn it, man, I miss that so much. There was always someone to bullshit with. Someone to smoke with. Someone to drink with. We BBQed every weekend, and the only time it sucked was when I wanted to take a shit in peace and someone always needed to get ready for work. But I loved it. I’d do it all over again if I could.”

7) Bilbapawpaw wrote, “I remember my parents teaching me to ride a bike. We were on the basketball court out front of the apartment we lived in, and each was on opposite sides of the court and they were launching me back and forth between them.”

8) nosleepxreader wrote, “My mom and I would have these nights every so often where we wouldn’t use any of the lights in the house, we would light every single candle we owned instead (which was quite a lot, plus a bunch of tealights), and we would carry them with us if we went to the kitchen or the bathroom. We would also usually make a blanket fort in the living room and watch a movie or two ... a very pleasant memory, even just thinking about it now leaves a smile on my face.”

9) finfp wrote, “My childhood best friend would knock on my door, no communication prior, and we would play in the alley for hours. I miss not worrying about time.”

10) NordicDemon wrote, “That one time I ate my report card because I got a C+.”⁸¹

82. “If You Could Choose One Person To Fall In Love With You, Who Would It Be?”

victoria273 wrote, “My crush.”

VictoriasCrush commented, “Hey, there. ;)”

victoria273 replied, “Laughing my ass off.”⁸²

83. “Stock Photography Models: What Is The Strangest / Most Unexpected Place You’ve Seen Your Photos Used?”

1) djaw1 wrote, “One of my friends did a photoshoot for a university showing him sitting with an advisor looking confused / concerned. It was to be used for the financial/debt advice brochure and it was used there ... but it was also used in the sexual health brochure! It’s a good one to roll out on special occasions!”

2) Pandrome wrote, “I ended up finding myself on one of those ‘Now Hiring’ posts on Facebook ... for a company I was trying to get hired at.”

3) stubbssamarium wrote:

“Not me but my best friend: He did a photoshoot in some construction-worker garb and a hard hat. We live in North Carolina USA. I’m on a business trip in Chicago, and I stop

⁸¹ Source: Nav_the_gamer, “What childhood memory do you keep going back to?” Reddit. AskReddit. 6 January 2021
<<https://tinyurl.com/y39xozfv>>.

⁸² Source: FightingHamster1, “If you could choose 1 person to fall in love with you, who would it be?” Reddit. AskReddit. 6 January 2021
<<https://tinyurl.com/yysp5hj5>>.

by a Walmart for some supplies. I'm in the men's work clothes aisle and there's my buddy prominently on the wrapping of 50ish packages of work shirts. It was a weird 'wait, where am I?' moment. I knew he did some modeling, but not specifics.

"I sent him a pic; he had no idea it had been used. The guy is in every Walmart in the country and had no idea."

4) notjustsomeonesmum wrote, "Not a picture that I had taken, but I was reading a textbook about sheep, and there was a picture of my mum herding sheep. Also I read an article about cats and dogs being friends, and laughed at how much it looked like my old dog and cat. Then I recognized the handmade sign in the background, that I had made a few years earlier. It WAS my cat and my dog!"

bombaderogato commented:

"I've got a Master's degree, and not one time in all of my years of education was I ever given a textbook about sheep. I want a refund!

"And this was a cool story, Original Poster!"

TannedCroissant commented, "You don't get them everywhere, just at specialised ewe-niversities."

5) CharlieTuna_ wrote, "I had a girlfriend who modelled part-time. Most of her work was for specific things and I saw it only because she showed me. But she did have a few model-release generic headshots, so when I was travelling in Asia, I saw a few makeup ads with her face on it. It was just a picture of her with smokey eyes and I had seen it before so I had a pretty big what-the-fuck moment seeing an at least six-year-old photo of my girlfriend on makeup ads on the other side of the world."

6) everton1an wrote, “My dad was a professional photographer back in the 80’s & 90’s and would do a small amount of commercial work. He would sometimes get me and my sister to ‘model’ in some of these pics. He did a job for a new small video game store called GAME that just opened in SE England back in the early 90’s. He used me and my sister in a bunch of pics for their original advertising which at the time was just for this small shop. Obviously the company hit it big time and opened up all over the country. A few years later while at University, me and my mates are in shopping in our local store. Low and behold there was a picture of a younger me playing *Sonic the Hedgehog* on the in store display. I’d completely forgot about the pics and was slightly in shock, while my friends thought it was the greatest photo ever.”⁸³

84. “What’s The Most Unusual Compliment You’ve Ever Heard?”

1) ipakookapi wrote:

“My high-school best friend gave me the best compliment I have ever gotten, and I’ve never heard that phrasing anywhere else: ‘When I first met you, I thought you were like a shiny red apple, and I expected to be disappointed by a beige inside. But you are bright and colourful all the way through.’

“Sixteen years later, I still remember that. (We are still friends.)”

2) -eDgAR- wrote:

⁸³ Source: RealLifeMe, “Stock Photography Models: What is the Strangest/Most Unexpected Place You’ve Seen Your Photos Used?” Reddit. AskReddit. 6 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y6dvbvpf>>.

“*Damn, you go hard for a guy wearing a cardigan.*”

“To give a little background, I absolutely love punk rock and especially love being in the pit at shows. However, I don’t really look the type to be there most of the time.

“In late 2019 I went to see The Distillers in concert in Minneapolis. I had been wanting to see them ever since I was 16 years old, but I never got a chance before they broke up because I was too young for most of their shows. So, with that said I was super excited for this show since I had been waiting about 15 years for it.

“I decided to wear a grey button-up shirt and a beige cardigan with dark blue jeans. I looked pretty normal, but definitely stood out at the show full of a bunch of punks wearing all black and studs. The show gets going, and I’m having a blast in the pit. I was in it for nearly every song, stopping briefly to catch my breath for a bit before being pushed back in. During one of these breaks, this biker-looking dude with a shaved head, tattoos, and a long grey beard puts his hand on my shoulder and says, ‘Damn, you go hard for a guy wearing a cardigan.’ I thought it was a hilarious and very unexpected, so I just gave him a nod and made my way back in.

“Definitely paid for it the next day as I was pretty banged up, but it was such a great show and that super-random compliment really helped make that night special.”

3) yukijules wrote:

“I have two ...

“Your mom is a MILF. You look like your mom.

“You aren’t pretty. You look unique, but not in a bad way.”

Commenting on the second compliment, Davadam27 wrote:

“This is how I think of someone like Tilda Swinton. You don’t see many who look like her, but she’s certainly not some withered hag.

“Amy Winehouse would fall under this category, too, for me.”

yukijules replied, “This guy was telling me how all the girls where he lives are blonde and short, and I am tall with dark hair. A lot of people are also intrigued by my ethnicity for some reason and say I look exotic. At the time I was a little upset because I thought he was calling me ugly, but now I’ve embraced it.”

4) Pleasant-Unit-5852 wrote, “In the year 2020, a kid who kept talking about how smart I was said, ‘I bet reading the dictionary forwards and backwards is your sense of fun.’”

5) girls-pmmeyournudes wrote, “This attractive girl who was a friend of mine said, ‘You’re really funny, and you look good today!’ I was like a deer in the headlights, and I’m still riding off that high.”

6) Robust_Cake_110 wrote:

“In elementary school, I heard, ‘Awe, I like your dimples. They’re so precious. Did you know their supposed to show where the angels kissed you before you were born?’ Nearly 20 years later and I still think about it.

“I once told a college friend about it and his only response was, ‘Well, then they must have really loved kissing my ass.’”

7) xclwei wrote, “‘You’re good at kicking people’ — from a fourth-grade class when our teacher made us to write down a compliment for each kid in our class.”⁸⁴

85. “What Is The Best Encounter You’ve Ever Had With A Complete Stranger?”

1) AnastasiaTanguay wrote, “I was on the train home late one night, minding my own business, when this woman comes out of nowhere and sits her ass next to me. ‘You’ll do,’ she said and then plonked down a bottle of wine (open), and two plastic cups. We spent the journey talking about her breakup, our lives and drinking her wine. Parted ways at the end of the line and have never seen her again. She was brilliant.”

2) 3Throw_away13 wrote, “I met a guy on the bus one day. He and I looked very much like brother and sister. VERY MUCH. We talked for the whole bus trip, each of us opting to miss our respective stops. We ditched our plans and spent the whole day together at the beach, just talking and walking. Our connection was immediate. It was an amazing day. We never saw each other again, but I never forgot.”

3) InsanityManiac wrote, “So I met this guy, and he didn’t talk to me. it was great. I wish everyone could be like him.”

4) psychologicalfuntime wrote:

“I was living in Mexico. There are a lot of homeless people there, including homeless kids. I was playing tourist in a nearby city to the one I lived in. That city was known for having tons of homeless / really poor street vendors including children. A kid (probably aged seven to nine) came

⁸⁴ Source: syberburns, “What’s the most unusual compliment you’ve ever heard?” Reddit. AskReddit. 6 January 2021
<<https://tinyurl.com/y29b7d7j>>.

up to me asking if I wanted to buy some little wood carvings he was selling. I would love to buy from all of them, but truthfully there are hundreds of kids like this in this town. I politely said I wasn't interested. He replied with 'Please, I just need 10 more pesos so I can eat.' Shit. That absolutely broke me.

"I told him I would buy him lunch from anywhere he wanted to eat in the area. He tried to bring me to a convenience store for some cheap pizza (kind of like the hot dogs you can buy already hot at gas stations in the US). I told him he could choose something better than that. Then I asked if he wanted burgers or tacos. He said burgers. I took him to this place I knew just a street down that had burgers as big as a person's face. Like burgers on steroids that you could share with two to four people. I bought him one of those. [...] I bought him some snacks from the convenience store afterward. That was about five years ago now. I wonder how he's doing sometimes."

5) Back2Bach wrote, "I was walking along a sidewalk in midtown when there was a sudden heavy downpour. A kind man nearby shared his large umbrella with me all the way to my destination nine blocks away. It was a simple act of sharing and kindness that I'll never forget."

6) Just_a_toad123 wrote:

"I was at a club with some friends and the night was going poorly because my friend's birthday dinner reservations got cancelled and the club was insanely busy so we couldn't even get drinks. I started dancing to lighten the mood, and no one was really joining in much so it was literally just me.

"Then a random girl came up to me and told me I looked 'so fucking hot' and to keep doing me. Honestly the best compliment I've ever gotten."

7) TeacherPatti wrote:

“I’ve told this before but love to share it so ...

“I hate flying. I’m terrified of it. Back in 1995, I was flying home from grad school, short flight. We are landing so I’m thinking, *YAY, I’m still alive*, when suddenly shit starts bouncing around. I know we didn’t fall super far, but it felt like we were falling pretty significantly. My seatmate’s drink spilled, an overhead compartment opened and stuff fell out, people were gasping and there were some yells. Outside the window is sort of greenish grey. At some point, I calmly took my seatmate’s hand — total stranger, older white guy. I said how scared I was and he immediately started telling me that he flies every week, and he tried to explain about turbulence.

“We went back up in the air and got rerouted to another city about three hours away from where we were supposed to be. Dude is super nice, trying to distract me by showing me pictures of his kids, talking about his job and family, asking me things. We land after being told we have the option of taking another flight back home. No way in hell am I getting on another plane. Dude says he is going to rent a car and can drop me off since he lives near where I was living with my mom.

“Forty-eight-year-old me would be telling myself OMG! THIS GUY COULD BE CRAZY, KIDNAP YOU, KILL YOU! but 23-year-old me was like, ‘Sure!’ Dude drives us back and shows me his CAR PHONE, and I was like, ‘Holy cow! What sorcery is this?’ He calls his wife, I meet her over the phone, everything was awesome. I tried to pay him for gas, but he wouldn’t hear of it.

“It’s kind of sad to say how thrilled I am that nothing untoward or pervy or anything weird happened other than that a very nice man gave me a ride home. I had his business

card and sent him a thank you note to his office. I will never, ever forget that extreme act of kindness.”⁸⁵

86. “Wedding Registrars / Officiants, Has Anyone Ever Spoken Up When Told ‘Speak Now Or Forever Hold Your Peace’? What Happened?”

1) Mister_APlus wrote, “We were doing the practice run the day before the wedding, and my best man took me aside and told me in private that if I got cold feet he would object and ‘start some shit’ to distract everyone for me to make my exit. He even checked the back church doors to make sure. During the ceremony he was the first person I looked at when they asked. Besides the Peter Griffin laugh when he handed me the ring, it all went smoothly.”

McBlyatDimitri commented, “Literal chad in the purest sense; you better have bought him a round or two, haha.”

fredzout wrote, “Not the officiant, but a guest at a wedding years ago at the bride’s parents’ home. Everything was perfect. They thought that they had thought of everything, but when the question was asked, right on cue, the cuckoo clock sounded off. It was ten minutes before they could continue, and even then the officiant, bride, and groom were choking back giggles. The bride and groom were still together 25 years and two kids later.”

Dylsnick commented, “Clock-blocked.”

3) Bbaby_13 wrote, “Okay, so I was not the officiant but at my sister’s wedding last summer, when the officiant was at

⁸⁵ Source: AndrogynousSunflower, “What is the best encounter you’ve ever had with a complete stranger?” Reddit. AskReddit. 7 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yxk7scej>>.

that part, my dad yelled, ‘C’mon, let’s all admit we don’t like Matt (the soon-to-be husband) so we can get out of here.’

“My dad is also an alcoholic, so it makes more sense and he was kicked out, so yay. Makes it even funnier because no one in my family 100% likes my sister’s husband.”

huahuasareme commented, “I was aching for this to happen at my sister’s wedding, but alas, we must wait for the divorce to air our honest grievances.”

4) TurtleScientific wrote:

“The father of the bride said, ‘Last chance, Em!’

“To be fair to the groom, she isn’t exactly a winner either. Everyone giggled like it was a joke. It was not. They married in April last year (4-20 hurr durr durr) with a pot-themed wedding.”

Note by David Bruce: Many people celebrate marijuana on 4-20 — it’s an unofficial holiday for them.

kasakka punned, “No need to be so blunt about it.”

Rolloverbeethoven93 commented, “I completely forgot all of April was 4/20 last year [2020]. It just didn’t seem that important when I was smoking literally every day during lockdown.”

5) Samsons_girl wrote, “At my wedding we were asked that; as the room went silent all of a sudden we heard my friend’s four-year-old pipe up with ‘I’m a jellyfish!’ Broke the tension!”⁸⁶

⁸⁶ Source: CC2385, “Wedding registrars/ officiants: Has anyone ever spoken up when asking “speak now or forever hold your peace”? What happened?” Reddit. AskReddit. 7 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y5wja9g9>>.

87. “What Random Stranger Has Had The Biggest Impact On Your Life And How?”

1) TheSweetestSinW wrote, “The kind ones ... I mean how can you be sooo kind to a complete stranger? There was one guy who worked in a supermarket, and when I first saw him he made me feel like I was his best friend already. I have no idea how he did it, but damnnnn he was kind (not creepy), had jokes and he didn’t make me feel uncomfortable at all! Since then we were like friends whenever I came there, but now I haven’t seen him for a few months and I wonder where he is.”

2) Shallow-ishPuddle wrote:

“This one customer at the coffee shop I work at walked in without a mask and when we asked her if she had one, she gasped like she had forgotten to pick up her kid at school. She was so cute and so apologetic and BOOKED it across the street back to her car to get her mask.

“It was so sweet seeing how seriously she took the mask mandate. It made my day.”

3) celestialism wrote, “I got an email ~two years ago, totally out of the blue, from a commissioning editor at a publishing house, asking me if I’d like to write a book. I did, and it’s coming out later this year!”

4) why_sug wrote, “I was halfway through a 30-mile bike ride when I got a flat. I walked my bike across a super-busy highway to a gas station that didn’t have any duct tape. I sat in the parking lot pouting until a nice construction worker came and offered to patch my tire for me with some rubber cement and masking tape he had in his truck. He was so kind and he saved my ride and restored some of my faith in humanity.”

5) itsmyhanger wrote, “When I was running my first half-marathon, I was tiring out by mile 9. This nice woman comes running next to me, introduces herself, and starts talking to me about random stuff to get me through the rest of the race. We parted ways after crossing the line and never saw each other again, but she inspired me to always keep going even in the toughest moments.”

6) Chuck2025 wrote:

“An Uber driver we had in Washington DC told my husband, ‘Son, if your wife ever has a baby, I’m telling you now, things will change and you will not be the center of her universe anymore. Accept that and always be the man she needs you to be.’

“It made both of our eyes open and more prepared if we ever have a little one because honestly, my husband is extremely spoiled!”⁸⁷

88. “What’s Your Biggest ‘I Don’t Give A Fuck About The Consequences — I Am Doing It’ Moment?”

1) IBOstro wrote, “When I pissed in the principal’s son’s shoes after gym because he wouldn’t stop picking on me. All the guys stood there and watched me do it then he walked in and was like WTF. Was pretty awkward because I went to his dad’s office and was like ‘He was picking on me, so I peed in his shoes. Seems fair to me. I told him to stop.’ I think I just got detention. He never bothered me again.”

2) floralordie wrote, “I had been working at a company for only a couple months. My coworkers were awful people. They’d worked together for years and truly hated each other.

⁸⁷ Source: bethhhhhc, “What random stranger has had the biggest impact on your life and how?” Reddit. AskWomen. 8 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y6nuzlgz>>.

There was a lot of arguing. I got sick of everyone's shit one day during a team meeting and told everyone to go fuck themselves. I grabbed my stuff and never went back."

3) No-Daisy wrote, "Woke up one morning when I was a kid and decided to go in the kitchen, squirt dish soap all over the floor, and use the sink sprayer to make a homemade slip and slide. I flooded it out into the dining room and was sliding around for like an hour before I got caught."

4) October23rd2077 wrote:

"I worked 11-7 shift. We're woefully understaffed, but I needed to leave at a certain time as my kids needed to get to school. I ask to leave on-time as the next shift won't take the floor until their numbers are full. I get told that, 'Haha, guess your kids will have to be late.'

"I walk out. Next day, I do it again. When I go back, I'll fuckin' do it again."⁸⁸

89. "Women With Great Parents, What Did Your Parents Do That You Didn't Like As A Child, But Appreciate Now As An Adult?"

1) KnittinAndBitchin wrote:

"As a kid I'd get really annoyed when dad would scold me for saying 'I can't.' I would have to retract the statement to say, 'I don't know how to do X' instead of 'I can't do X' because 'can't' implies that you don't even want to learn. And then he'd make me stand there while he showed me how to do X and oh my goooood I don't caaaaaare I just want to go back to reading or video games or whatever.

⁸⁸ Source: owlpod1920, "What's your biggest 'I don't give a fuck about the consequences I am doing it' moment?" Reddit. AskReddit. 9 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y48gij8c>>.

“Now of course I appreciate that attitude. Even though it annoyed me as a kid, it really did spark a need to say ‘how do I do this?’ when I come across something I don’t know. Sometimes it’s something I can do myself, sometimes I go, ‘Well, fuck that I’m hiring someone,’ but I at least looked it up and did some research instead of brushing it aside.

“Edit: He still does it, too. Just last year he overheard me say that I can’t change the windshield wipers on my car and he glared at me until I amended it to say I don’t know how but also didn’t care if I learned it because car stuff is dumb. He then drove my ass to the auto supply store, showed me how to find out what size wipers I needed, and stood there while I changed them out on my car. Grown-ass woman getting dragged to buy windshield wipers because not on his watch was I not gonna learn how to do something that was admittedly pretty simple.”

2) MirandaDeNovo wrote, “They made us write thank-you notes. I didn’t like writing them, but it definitely taught me to be expressively thankful when someone goes out of their way to do something for / give something to me.”

3) bananababy101 commented, “In addition to not being allowed to curse, my siblings and I weren’t allowed to say the word ‘hate’ to each other.”

4) tacosandsunscreen wrote, “Financial stuff. I got savings bonds as Christmas / birthday presents from my parents and grandparents. Of course I got toys and stuff, too, but it’s decidedly uncool to get a savings bond when you’re in middle school. And I had to pay for a lot of my own stuff, or at least it felt like it at the time. Like I had a budget for school clothes, and if I wanted anything more than that, I had to pay it myself. That sounds perfectly reasonable now, but at the time, it sucked, because my friends didn’t have that restriction. I had to start doing my own laundry when I was 10. I got my first job at 14 (summer only) and worked the

whole way through school. My parents made me do my own taxes (Mom helped). That also sucked at the time, but is amazing now. I had to fully buy my first car with my own money, which a lot of my friends had help from their parents with that. And I had to pay my own insurance and be on a separate policy from my parents. (It's cheaper in my state if you're on your parents policy, but my parents wouldn't allow it.) I appreciate it all now, and wish they made me do more."

5) ggfromtheblock wrote:

"My mom constantly (and still to this day) immediately comments on my posture if she sees me slouching or hunching. Sometimes she physically straightens my back and puts my shoulders back. Something I always thought was so nitpicky and rude, I now am so grateful for that correction as I see my friends in their 20s with horrible posture.

"At least once or more a week, a stranger compliments me on my posture. Thanks, Mom! Because of this, I naturally sit up straight and am aware of slouching or tech neck."⁸⁹

90. "What Is The Best Comeback To An Insult You've Ever Heard?"

1) RaulReis wrote:

"Here's my favorite self-burn by someone other than me.

⁸⁹ Source: Novel_Sure, "Women with great parents, what did your parents do that you didn't like as a child, but appreciate now as an adult?" Reddit. AskWomen. 10 January 2021 < <https://tinyurl.com/y3lkpa8d> >.

“In high school math class are a nice, nerdy guy named Richard and a jerk whose name I forget — let’s call him Jerk. Jerk keeps calling Richard ‘Dick.’

“Like, ‘Hey, Dick, did you get the answer to #4?’

“Richard keeps calmly saying, ‘It’s Richard.’

“Finally the teacher says, ‘Richard, what do you prefer to be called?’

“Richard says, ‘I prefer Richard.’

“Jerk says, ‘Well, I prefer Dick.’

“After a few seconds of uproarious laughter from the rest of the class, Jerk realizes what he said and sank as far down in his seat as possible and never bugged Richard again.

“We were teenagers in the 1980s, so this was the height of hilarity.”

2) ucax wrote:

“The story of how my grandparents went on their first date has the greatest comeback ever.

“My grandpa was working a sub shop at the register.

“My grandma was in line (they’d kind of met a few times in passing before) and she gets up to the register and my grandfather (attempting to hit on her) says, ‘How’d you get through life looking so ugly?’

“And my grandma replies, ‘I don’t know but you’ve been doing it longer than I have.’

“And they’ve been happily married ever since.”

jj4211 commented, “Some unconventional vows, but ok.”

ParkityParkPark commented, “Will you take this man ... and this \$1.02 change”

3) GenesisEdenfield commented:

“I work at a bar and these two older ladies were talking to each other.

“Lady 1: ‘Nobody really likes you.’

“Lady 2: ‘Go suck another \$5 dick before you end up homeless again.’

“I don’t even bother to pretend that I’m not listening to the conversations around me. This one got a big laugh out of me.”

4) Glasstewart wrote:

“My best friend got into a shouting match with his mother.

“After a while, she unloaded on him with, ‘<Insert friend’s name here>, you little son of a bitch!’

“His reply was, ‘That’s what I’ve been saying for the last half-hour!’”

5) jj4211 wrote:

“Way back in high school.

“One guy was teasing another guy in a way that could be construed as ‘flirty’ (both were straight), and the teased guy being very uncomfortable with the whole thing.

“Teasing guy: ‘What’s the matter, aren’t you secure in your sexuality?’

“Teased guy: ‘I am, but I’m not secure in yours.’”

6) BrotherGuyMusic wrote:

“Fight between my old boss and a coworker.

“Coworker was complaining about cleaning the grill saying that it was cleaned the shift before and didn’t need to be cleaned again.

“Boss: ‘You know you sound a lot better with your mouth closed.’

“Left him with his mouth open and I couldn’t help but laugh.”

7) snagler wrote:

“My cousin was in town for Thanksgiving. He goes up to my 10-year-old skinny nephew and jokes, ‘Hey, it looks like you are gaining weight.’

“My 10-year-old cousin without skipping a beat tells him ‘Hey, it looks like you have diabetes.’

“My cousin is 300-plus pounds. He hasn’t been back to visit since.”

Luckyboy28 commented:

“In high school, I was fairly thin and one of my mutual friends was fairly fat.

“Jump forward 20 years, we bumped into each other. He’s now thin, and I’ve turned into a happy version of Fat Thor.

“Me, legitimately happy for a friend: ‘Dude, you’re skinny!’

“Old friend: ‘Dude, you’re fat!’

“Me, body-positive as hell: ‘Yep!’

“Ahhh, friends.”

8) nolibew wrote:

“My buddy is called Richard, but goes by Dick. He was once asked by someone who was clearly confused by the

shortening of *Richard* to *Dick*,’ ‘How the fuck do you get *Dick* from *Richard*?’

“Without missing a beat, my buddy replied, ‘You ask him nicely.’”⁹⁰

91. “What’s Your Favorite Creepy Campfire Story?”

SoonToBeStardust wrote:

“A guy at camp told this story to the kids:

“There was a body of a fairly large person, once found in the woods. They were quickly killed, and there was nothing extremely off about the scene, except he had half of his pointer, ring, and pinky finger all missing from his left hand. No one could find the missing fingers, and they never found any clues. A few weeks later, another body was found, another man who was a bit smaller than the previous guy. Same situation, quickly killed, and three fingers missing all from the left hand, and still no clues.

“A few more weeks went by, and this time it was a woman who was found, smaller than the second guy found, same fingers missing from the same hand. This went on for a while, with the victims getting smaller and smaller, until it was kids’ bodies being found. One teenager’s body, though, only had the ring finger and pinky finger removed. The police found a fingerprint at this crime scene, and they found it matched the prints from a theft record from the previous victim.

“The guy telling the story then told the kids that the killer was searching to replace his fingers, and so far, he had yet to

⁹⁰ Source: Jules094, “What is the best comeback to an insult you’ve ever heard?” Reddit. AskReddit. 11 January 2021
<<https://tinyurl.com/yxm838z9>>.

see if the fingers of children their age would fit. He then took off his glove, showing he had a scarred pointer finger and was missing half his ring and pinky finger, and then lunged at the kids while screaming.

“He later told the kids he lost part of the two fingers in a work accident, and doctors were able to save his very mangled pointer finger. He told this story every year at camp.”

SoonToBeStardust added, “He was well known to his friends as the guy to joke around about it. (His favorite joke would be about how he can’t wave to people with that hand, cause they always think he’s flipping them off.) He always would prank and freak out new employees, while then also preaching about work safety and to be careful so they didn’t also have something similar happen to them.”⁹¹

92. “What Was The Highest Waste Of Money That You Don’t Regret?”

1) rivertam2985 wrote:

“I spent \$300 on a mule. An actual living, four-hooved, long-eared mule. We raise cattle, so a protection mule was a good excuse. But, really, I just fell in love with him. He’s huge and sassy. He’ll steal your hat and run away. He’s got a Ninja mode where he can sneak up on you, just to breathe down your neck or startle you. He does keep the coyotes away. However, he has proved himself priceless because he eats thistle. When we got the lease on the land for our cattle, the pastures had been neglected and were in bad shape. Thistle is a spiky plant that spreads across the pasture, choking out grasses. Cows won’t eat it. It’s really hard to get rid of. To

⁹¹ Source: ChrissiTea, “What’s your favorite creepy campfire story?” Reddit. AskReddit. 11 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yy84tg46>>.

our surprise, the mule cleared out nearly all the thistle in a matter of months. He would eat the flowers out of the center. He saved us an enormous amount of money and labor. We were able to avoid using chemical weed killers, which we really didn't want to do. Probably the best investment in our whole cattle-raising experience.

“Edit: Loki the mule says thanks for all the sweet comments and Reddit awards! He'll definitely be getting some extra carrots tomorrow.”

2) MrAbomination wrote, “I spent too much money on a big treadmill for a very small apartment. But I've ran 15-25 km on it every week for the past several years, and it's been incredibly helpful, both physically and mentally.”

Apart-Professional commented, “Your downstairs neighbor's mental health is swiftly deteriorating.”

bubblezoid commented, “He should buy a treadmill. I've heard they're great.”

uwu_owo_what's_this wrote, “It's treadmills all the way down.”⁹²

93. “What Is The Biggest Cheapskate Move You've Ever Witnessed Anybody Do?”

1) pakidara wrote, “When I worked on computers in town, I went to numerous calls of people complaining about their internet not working. The internet stopped working because their neighbor finally decided to secure their own WiFi.”

RulerOfNyaNyaLand wrote:

⁹² Source: LittleGodess777, “What was the highest waste of money that you don't regret?” Reddit. AskReddit. 11 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yyds5vk2>>.

“I lived in an apartment in Brooklyn and left my WiFi open. I didn’t mind if people borrowed it. Why not? (I didn’t have any private hackable credit card info on my computer back then.) Until some jerk renamed it and locked me out. So I called up my provider, took it back, renamed it, and locked it.

“Some people just abuse a free privilege until it goes away.”

2) VoteForLubo wrote, “My grandmother grew up in the Depression. We’d often find dinner rolls and chicken wings in her purse after eating at a restaurant. Buffets were the worst.”

dirtymoney commented:

“When I was a teen, a friend and I would go to Godfather’s Pizza, pay for the all-you-can-eat buffet, get an out-of-the-way booth, put three pizza slices on our plates, put two slices in Ziplock bags in our backpacks, slowly eat the one slice, then go back for more until our backpacks were full. Then leave with our booty!

“Good times.”

3) PointyWombat wrote, “I worked with this guy in a place that had free coffee, cookies, sodas, etc. He would take coffee creamers home all the time for his cereal in the morning. He was so cheap he would take handfuls of creamers home for his god-damn cereal because he was too cheap to buy milk. Not to mention all the other stuff he would take home. Cookies, soda, sugar, salt, pepper, etc. He wouldn’t spend a cent of his own money on anything if he could help it. He was a single guy in his mid-30’s in a very well-paying job (~\$80K/year ~15 years ago). I also remember this time we were on a vendor-sponsored golf tourney and the vendor says you can have whatever you want from the course clubhouse snack shack. The guy grabs about \$100 worth of beef jerky. Everyone just looked at him and

couldn't believe what's happening. He was never invited again to things like that. On the flip side, he's now probably a retired millionaire living in squalor because he's too afraid to spend his money.”

Dark_Vengeance commented, “I would take all the beef jerky. That stuff is expensive and delicious.”

4) LasVegasLoner147 wrote, “When I was a kid, I was eating at a restaurant with my parents. The table next to us, an old couple were just finishing. The husband left a few dollar bills, as a tip I guess. As they were leaving, the wife picked up the dollars when the husband wasn't looking, and they walked out.”

Red_Redddington commented, “This reminded me of something I forgot about. I was an asshole and a thief as a kid. Our family was out to dinner for some special day, maybe Mother's Day. My family left a big tip to the waitress, and me, being greedy, made sure I was the last one to leave and took the money. Fortunately, my sister saw me from outside.”

Nakedwitch58 asked, “Did your sister tell your mom?”

Red_Redddington answered, “Oh, yes. My youngest sibling is older than me by 10 years, so when this happened, she was old enough to know I was being a dick.”⁹³

94. “What's Your Best ‘This Is A Bad Idea – Let's Do It Anyway’ Moment?”

1) ZurEnArrhBatman wrote:

⁹³ Source: mmiles1974, “What is the biggest cheapskate move you've ever witnessed anybody do?” Reddit. AskReddit. 11 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y3jsbzz3>>.

“When I was in high school and had my own job to buy things with, I decided I would buy a four-liter pail of ice cream, a two-liter bottle of A&W root beer and make a giant root beer float. I then proceeded to eat / drink the entire thing over the course of a hockey game.

“I did not throw up, but I definitely did not feel like eating supper that night.”

DeFactoLyfe commented, “There are only a few times in my life I see an idea that I think is impossible. Then I realize I am an adult and can do whatever the fuck I want. I think this might go on the list.”

SlickerWicker commented, “Bro. Your ship has sailed. Only the young can achieve this.”

dbryan62 commented, “This sounds Canadian.”

ZurEnArrhBatman replied, “Indeed it is.”

2) likemong wrote, “Driving a car on a beach when I’d never done it before. Immediately got stuck right at the bottom of the ramp going to the beach. Luckily there was a nice guy with a jeep who went and bought a tow rope and pulled me out. Right after he pulled me out, another person did the same thing and got stuck in the same spot, so he pulled them out, too.”

Sabre2230 commented, “Sounds like a business idea in the making”

likemong replied, “Totally, I asked him what he paid for the rope since he went and bought it just to pull me out. So I gave him that amount plus an extra 20 on top for the trouble. He could easily hang out there for an hour and make some easy cash from the unprepared.”

3) Angelic_Demoness wrote, “Wasn’t me but my second older brother (he was seven, I think, at the time) was trying

to light a bush in our backyard on fire while my oldest brother (10 years old) stood next to him and watched while saying, 'I wouldn't do that if I were you.' The best part was when my dad caught them and asked what my brother was doing. He looked at my dad and said with a straight face, 'I'm trying to talk to God through the burning bush.' My dad laughed so hard that he didn't get into trouble."

BTRunner commented, "Lighting a bush on fire sounds like a good way to summon your username"

4) datacollect_ct wrote:

"When I was in middle school, I was staying the night at my buddy's house.

"We were bored and decided that we would fold his tube of toothpaste in half and wedge it in his bathroom door and then slam the door.

"When we opened it up, there was toothpaste EVERYWHERE, like on the ceiling and shit.

"We did a half-assed cleanup job and carried on.

"The next day, the housecleaner who came in a few days a week, who we liked because she was funny and we knew her pretty well, was crying and talking to his mom: 'Do they not like me? Have I done something wrong?'

"She thought we deliberately shot toothpaste on the ceiling to make her job harder for her.

"Needless to say, we felt pretty bad."

datacollect_ct added:

"His mom made us go say sorry and tell her that we didn't even consider the fact that she would be cleaning his bathroom up after that.

“Maritza, you were really dope.”⁹⁴

95. “What Is The Nicest Thing A Stranger Has Ever Done For You?”

1) Bilbo_Swahhings__ wrote, “At the start of lockdown, these two ladies who run the shop knocked on my door and handed me two huge bags of shopping like food, nappies for the wee one, essential kinda stuff when they heard me bitching to someone else that I had nothing. I cried, made some friends that day, and now keep in touch with the community around me more.”

2) ButtLylerJr wrote:

“I was mugged in downtown Chicago in the early 2010. Afterward I had no way of getting home or calling a friend to come get me. (The muggers took my wallet and phone.) A random black lady (the kind that calls you honey child (she was the fucking best) who heard the commotion came out of her apartment after she saw it was safe to give me food and \$20 to get home. I told her that it was too much money, a ticket for the Redline was like 90 cents or something if I remember correctly. But she said she would feel better if I took a cab and didn’t have to worry about dealing with strangers on the El.

“I think about her all the time. I tried to pay her back a week or so later, but she refused and acted like she never gave me any money in the first place.”

3) lauren_thats_all wrote, “A stranger gave my mom a 100 dollar bill and ran away when she couldn’t afford her

⁹⁴ Source: GRANITE_19, “What’s your best ‘this is a bad idea – let’s do it anyway’ moment?” Reddit. AskReddit. 11 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y6q5bq9h>>.

groceries one time — yes, they slipped it on the counter next to her and ran.”

4) taurean_jackal wrote, “A stranger in my apartment complex put anti-theft lug nuts suitable for my make and model on my windshield. Perfect timing, too — someone’s wheels got stolen a few weeks ago. I still have no idea who it is.”

5) keenwalnut wrote, “I got into a car accident (someone hit me and my dad) a few months ago and a bystander came over and calmed me down. I was in so much pain and he told me to stay awake, fanned my face, and asked me questions while we waited for an ambulance. I never even saw his face, and have no clue who he is.”⁹⁵

96. “What’s Something You’re Really Good At But Don’t Actually Enjoy?”

1) SnooMarzipans9028 wrote, “Not me but — my friend has taken piano lessons since he was six years old and is fucking amazing at it. But it was much more of a ‘parents with high expectations forcing him to take lessons’ sort of deal. He hates playing the piano, which is really sad ... and his parents kind of suck.”

Yeahnomaybenot commented, “A friend of mine discovered a new love of piano playing when the local burlesque night needed a player. Everyone’s watching the show so you don’t have to be a great player, which takes the pressure off and makes it fun, the performers love you, and the whole crew is silly and creative and generally a fun group to get to know.

⁹⁵ Source: nogoodnamesework, “What is the nicest thing a stranger has ever done for you?” Reddit. AskReddit. 12 January 2021
<<https://tinyurl.com/y3xzkbd3>>.

Also, it's little on the trashy side, so it'll bother his parents, which is a plus."

bstrauburn commented, "I always hated taking piano lessons as a kid, but my parents made me do it anyway. My piano teacher had me playing mostly classical stuff. When I went off to college, I figured out I could get sheet music to play all sorts of fun poppy stuff like Taylor Swift and Coldplay. It totally gave me a brand-new appreciation for piano, and now I really enjoy playing."

2) avadakabitch wrote, "Cleaning. I fucking hate it, so when I do it, I make sure not even the smallest stain is left so I can postpone the next session as long as possible."

BranWafr commented:

"I have a weird quirk where, when I get sick, I have a compulsion to clean. It's like my brain says, 'You are already miserable, so you may as well do stuff that you hate so you don't have to be made miserable later, when you are feeling better.'

"My wife has gotten to the point where she almost looks forward to me getting sick because she knows the house will be spotless by the end of the day."

Garden_gnome1609 asked, "Could you please be sick at my house?"

avadakabitch replied, "Okay, I have something similar. I tend to clean during the very late night. Why? Because I feel like it's not an obligation, and as the day is over, it's just me doing a favor to my tomorrow self. Cleaning during the day, though? My worst fucking nightmare."

midnightlightbrought commented, "I clean when I'm mad. The house becomes spotless in my rage, but I always hate it outside that time."

3) BranWafr wrote:

“I have discovered that I am very good at bleaching and coloring hair. Both of my teenage daughters change their hair color three or four times a year and have for years. The first time I did it because we couldn’t afford to get it done professionally and my oldest just wanted a single, bright color. So I bleached and colored her hair. It turned out so well that, unfortunately, I have been doing it ever since. And it went from single color jobs to multiple colors, stripes, hombre, etc.

“They have gotten to the point where they are staggering the colorings, so I end up doing it for one of them about every other month. And I have even had to do it for a couple of their friends who couldn’t afford to get it done at a shop. I don’t HATE it, but it’s not easy and it can be a pain in the butt. I would not be sad if I never had to do it again. But, I will. And I will do it, because that’s what being a parent means.”

purpleky23 wrote, “You’re such a sweet parent. Your kids are very lucky to have you.”

FrankieTuesday commented, “Hombre! That’s a good one, brother.”

Pollywog asked, “As someone who’s colorblind, is ‘hombre’ a style or a color?”

JustChard answered, “Neither. *Hombre* means ‘man’ in Spanish. The word Original Poster is looking for is ‘ombre,’ which is the soft transition of one colour into another.”⁹⁶

⁹⁶ Source: itch-bay, “What’s something you’re really good at but don’t actually enjoy?” Reddit. AskWomen. 13 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yy6hna83>>.

97. “What’s A Stupid Thing You Did In Your Childhood That You Regret To This Day?”

slythergin23 wrote, “I keyed the hood of my sister’s car. I was about five and my last name was written on literally everything I owned, so if I lost it at school, my parents could always tell it’s mine. Literally everything from clothes to books and even toys. so I assumed that’s how it’s supposed to always be and noticed there was no name on my sister’s car. I was super worried she could lose it or that someone might just take it from her and she then can’t prove it’s hers, so”

2) whatrpeople wrote, “Washed my dad’s car for Father’s Day. I was 11 and climbed on the hood to make sure I got everything clean. Cracked the windshield.”⁹⁷

98. “What Screams ‘I’m Way Richer Than I Look?’”

1) FadedQueer wrote:

“I had a friend at university about 25 years ago who I’d assumed was from. a similar background to my other friends and mine (middle class). The only thing that gave him away eventually was when I saw a letter he had written to his parents (how long ago was this?), in addressing the envelope he had needed to put only the name of his house and the county it was in. No other details required.

“Turned out his parents basically owned most of that county and he was a viscount.”

SaltyParoxysm commented:

⁹⁷ Source: Agniflame, “What’s a stupid thing you did in your childhood that you regret to this day?” Reddit. AskWomen. 15 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y5aejgv5>>.

“I once wrote a letter with the return address as ‘Rank & Name, The Castle, Edinburgh, EH1’ when I was briefly stationed there for ceremonial duties. (EH1 is the postcode, normally it would have another three characters, but Edinburgh’s postcodes start from the castle.

“Felt really cool. :)”

2) NatGushchina wrote, “Being dressed like a bum but being allowed into VIP lounges of exclusive clubs.”

TehBigD097 commented, “I was once told that if you see a man wearing a Hawaiian shirt then odds are he’s either the richest man in the room or the poorest.”

SaltyParoxysm commented:

“Easy way to tell the difference is whether the pattern aligns on seams and between the left and right side of the buttons. If it does, the shirt is a lot more expensive. Same applies for dresses.

“I used to go out with a seamstress, and she pointed that out as a tell for expensive clothing. There’s way more wastage / offcuts on matched clothes, as it’s more difficult to pattern match than just cut wherever on the bolt of cloth.”

02K30C1 commented, “I’ve heard that’s true for purses too. An easy way to spot knockoffs is look for pattern matching at the seams.”

LadyLightTravel commented, “More buttons, too. Cheap shirts space the buttons farther apart. This creates gaping when someone moves or stretches.”

3) Black Caaaat wrote, “The richest people I know don’t stand out at all. They don’t have flashy designer clothes or super luxury cars because they don’t want the attention. The only way to know exactly how rich they are is if they tell you directly.”

erroneousbosh commented:

“I know a guy from one of the old Citroën mailing lists who is very much ‘old money,’ and that’s older than you think here in the UK.

“He resented having to pay something like £150 to take a personalised registration plate off his car. I can’t remember the plate, but it’s something like ‘J1’ — single letter single digit — and worth at the time about the same as a four-bedroom house. £150 for a bit of paper, though? No, never!

“So off he went to the local car auctions to buy something with a bit of tax and MOT (legal requirements in the UK) so he could transfer the reg onto that for basically nothing, and have a new toy for a week or two. And, home he came with a 1996 Citroën Xantia 2.1TD, forest green, grey leather, for £100. The six-figure-price number plate came off the Bentley and onto the Xantia, and since it had ‘his’ plate and it was road legal, he drove it.

“Then he decided he quite liked it. So, he had the suspension and engine serviced, and he liked it even more.

“You know who didn’t like it? All the people at the golf club he went to, when he parked it up front and centre alongside all the big flashy German luxobarges, this shitty green Citroën right there between two Porsches worth about as much as his number plate.

“People would say, ‘But you can afford to drive any car you like! Why are you driving that thing?’

“‘Because I like *that* car.’”⁹⁸

⁹⁸ Source: rjroa21, “What screams ‘Im way richer than I look?’”
Reddit. AskReddit. 14 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yyuy5pv7>>.

99. “Women Of Reddit, What Is Your ‘Liking A Stranger But Never Seeing Them Again’ Story?”

happynee023 wrote:

“I was young. Maybe 16. I was late for work and driving on ice the first time ever. I lost control of my car, crossed into and then past oncoming traffic, and went through a barbwire fence.

“I got out of the car stunned and looked at the fence trying to figure out how to get on the other side again. My car’s hood looked like a giant cat scratched it. I was not dressed for snow. I was in my Chuck Taylors with no coat feeling really overwhelmed. I’m dating myself, but this was before cellphones, so I felt really stuck and unsure.

“A truck pulled over with Wyoming plates. A guy maybe a year or two older than me came out and very calmly explained that it was okay, that he was going to help me and I could drive through the fence again if he held the strands apart. He grabbed his work gloves and did just that. He had this country drawl that just oozed reassurance.

“He treated me with such kindness and wasn’t judgemental in the least. (He could have been. I was driving too fast, and I wasn’t prepared at all for snow.) I thanked him profusely and we went our separate ways, but I honestly think about him often (every time I drive on ice actually), and I hope his life has gone well.”⁹⁹

⁹⁹ Source: ardnaxela, “Women of Reddit, what is your ‘liking a Stranger’ but never seeing them again story?” Reddit. AskReddit. 15 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y27839ng>>.

100. “What’s A Wholesome Fun Fact?”

1) TarshaCarlisle wrote, “The Netherlands sends Canada 20,000 tulip bulbs every year to thank them for their help during WWII.”

covid-----19 commented, “Can confirm. Source: I’m Dutch.”

2) Substantial-Brick177 said, “A flock of flamingos is called a flamboyance. I think that’s awesome.”

3) DrPCox85 wrote, “A friend of mine who is living in London once had a flat tire. She basically knew how to change it but had trouble doing it because of her small build. A car stopped to help and I shit you not, David Tennant got out of the car and changed the tire for her, while his wife had a nice chat with my friend. He never made a big deal out of it and was simply ‘glad he could help’ and off they went. Basically, the Doctor [Who] In Real Life.”

4) autistic-spazzatron wrote, “At Christmas Clark Kent’s parents would wrap up his presents with lead so he couldn’t see them.”

ChocolateMinkChipmunk commented, “You mean Santa would wrap his presents in lead.”

5) melapples72 wrote:

“Canada and Norway have been at ‘war’ since 1984 [according to Wikipedia, since the 1930s] over an island [Hans Island] in the Nares Strait. There have been no casualties. It is called the Whiskey War. Each year one of the countries goes to the island, takes the other country’s flag down and replaces it with their own.

“According to Peter Takso Jensen, the Danish Ambassador to the US, ‘When Danish military go there, they leave a bottle of schnapps. And when [Canadian] military forces

come there, they leave a bottle of Canadian Club and a sign saying, *Welcome to Canada.*”

Note by David Bruce: For more information, see the Wikipedia article “Whiskey War”:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whisky_War

6) OhShizHere_IGo_Again wrote, “Even after wars, and a lot of centuries, Iraqi people still hold special affection for books. You can see that if you have go in Al-Mutanbi street (Baghdad), where books are sold and stored outside on the street. Even after the shop is closed, the books are still stored outside because ‘Thieves don’t read, and readers don’t steal.’ Also, a lot of people selling there are volunteers from different ages.”

7) two_fish wrote, “Somewhere out there is someone who would die to save your life.”¹⁰⁰

¹⁰⁰ Source: Nurseclown, “What’s a wholesome fun fact?” Reddit. AskReddit. 16 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yxasmorl>>.

APPENDIX A: FAIR USE

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<<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.html>>

I assume these things:

Everyone wants Good Samaritans to get credit for their good deeds, and this book about Good Samaritans is a good way to do that.

People who post on Imgur and Reddit or write letters to the editors want to share their information with the world.

Credit must be given where credit is due. I definitely try to do this.

I must not make money from this book.

Light editing is OK for such things as Imgur posts, Reddit posts, and letters to the editor. I see nothing wrong with correcting an obvious misspelling.

APPENDIX B: ABOUT THE AUTHOR

It was a dark and stormy night. Suddenly a cry rang out, and on a hot summer night in 1954, Josephine, wife of Carl Bruce, gave birth to a boy — me. Unfortunately, this young married couple allowed Reuben Saturday, Josephine’s brother, to name their first-born. Reuben, aka “The Joker,” decided that Bruce was a nice name, so he decided to name me Bruce Bruce. I have gone by my middle name — David — ever since.

Being named Bruce David Bruce hasn’t been all bad. Bank tellers remember me very quickly, so I don’t often have to show an ID. It can be fun in charades, also. When I was a counselor as a teenager at Camp Echoing Hills in Warsaw, Ohio, a fellow counselor gave the signs for “sounds like” and “two words,” then she pointed to a bruise on her leg twice. Bruise Bruise? Oh yeah, Bruce Bruce is the answer!

Uncle Reuben, by the way, gave me a haircut when I was in kindergarten. He cut my hair short and shaved a small bald spot on the back of my head. My mother wouldn’t let me go to school until the bald spot grew out again.

Of all my brothers and sisters (six in all), I am the only transplant to Athens, Ohio. I was born in Newark, Ohio, and have lived all around Southeastern Ohio. However, I moved to Athens to go to Ohio University and have never left.

At Ohio U, I never could make up my mind whether to major in English or Philosophy, so I got a bachelor’s degree with a double major in both areas, then I added a Master of Arts degree in English and a Master of Arts degree in Philosophy. Yes, I have my MAMA degree.

Currently, and for a long time to come (I eat fruits and veggies), I am spending my retirement writing books such as *Nadia Comaneci: Perfect 10*, *The Funniest People in Comedy*, *Homer’s Iliad: A Retelling in Prose*, and *William Shakespeare’s Hamlet: A Retelling in Prose*.

APPENDIX C: SOME BOOKS BY DAVID BRUCE

Retellings of a Classic Work of Literature

Ben Jonson's The Alchemist: A Retelling

Ben Jonson's Bartholomew Fair: A Retelling

Ben Jonson's The Devil is an Ass: A Retelling

Ben Jonson's Volpone, or the Fox: A Retelling

Christopher Marlowe's Complete Plays: Retellings

Christopher Marlowe's Dido, Queen of Carthage: A Retelling

Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus: Retellings of the 1604 A-Text and of the 1616 B-Text

Christopher Marlowe's Edward II: A Retelling

Christopher Marlowe's The Massacre at Paris: A Retelling

Christopher Marlowe's The Rich Jew of Malta: A Retelling

Christopher Marlowe's Tamburlaine, Parts 1 and 2: Retellings

Dante's Divine Comedy: A Retelling in Prose

Dante's Inferno: A Retelling in Prose

Dante's Purgatory: A Retelling in Prose

Dante's Paradise: A Retelling in Prose

The Famous Victories of Henry V: A Retelling

From the Iliad to the Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose of Quintus of Smyrna's Posthomerica

George Peele: Five Plays Retold in Modern English

George Peele's The Arraignment of Paris: A Retelling

George Peele's The Battle of Alcazar: A Retelling

George's Peele's David and Bathsheba, and the Tragedy of Absalom: A Retelling

George Peele's The Old Wives' Tale: A Retelling

The History of King Leir: A Retelling

Homer's Iliad: A Retelling in Prose

Homer's Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose

Jason and the Argonauts: A Retelling in Prose of Apollonius of Rhodes' Argonautica

The Jests of George Peele: A Retelling

John Ford: Eight Plays Translated into Modern English

John Ford's The Broken Heart: A Retelling

John Ford's The Fancies, Chaste and Noble: A Retelling

John Ford's The Lady's Trial: A Retelling

John Ford's The Lover's Melancholy: A Retelling

John Ford's Love's Sacrifice: A Retelling

John Ford's Perkin Warbeck: A Retelling

John Ford's The Queen: A Retelling

John Ford's 'Tis Pity She's a Whore: A Retelling

John Webster's The White Devil: A Retelling

King Edward III: A Retelling

The Merry Devil of Edmonton: A Retelling

Robert Greene's Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay: A Retelling

The Taming of a Shrew: A Retelling

Tarlton's Jests: A Retelling

The Trojan War and Its Aftermath: Four Ancient Epic Poems

Virgil's Aeneid: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's 5 Late Romances: Retellings in Prose

William Shakespeare's 10 Histories: Retellings in Prose

William Shakespeare's 11 Tragedies: Retellings in Prose

William Shakespeare's 12 Comedies: Retellings in Prose

William Shakespeare's 38 Plays: Retellings in Prose

William Shakespeare's 1 Henry IV, aka Henry IV, Part 1: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's 2 Henry IV, aka Henry IV, Part 2: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's 1 Henry VI, aka Henry VI, Part 1: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's 2 Henry VI, aka Henry VI, Part 2: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's 3 Henry VI, aka Henry VI, Part 3: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's All's Well that Ends Well: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's As You Like It: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Coriolanus: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Cymbeline: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Hamlet: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Henry V: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Henry VIII: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's King John: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's King Lear: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Love's Labor's Lost: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Macbeth: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Measure for Measure: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Merry Wives of Windsor: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Othello: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Pericles, Prince of Tyre: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Richard II: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Richard III: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Tempest: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Timon of Athens: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Two Gentlemen of Verona: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Two Noble Kinsmen: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale: A Retelling in Prose

Other Fiction

Candide's Two Girlfriends (Adult)

Honey Badger Goes to Hell — and Heaven

I Want to Die — Or Fight Back

The Erotic Adventures of Candide (Adult)

Children's Biography

Nadia Comaneci: Perfect Ten

Personal Finance

How to Manage Your Money: A Guide for the Non-Rich

Anecdote Collections

250 Anecdotes About Opera

250 Anecdotes About Religion

250 Anecdotes About Religion: Volume 2

250 Music Anecdotes

Be a Work of Art: 250 Anecdotes and Stories

The Coolest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes

The Coolest People in the Arts: 250 Anecdotes

The Coolest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes

The Coolest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes

Create, Then Take a Break: 250 Anecdotes

Don't Fear the Reaper: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Books, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Books, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Dance: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 4: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 5: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 6: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Music: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Music, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Music, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Neighborhoods: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Relationships: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Sports, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Television and Radio: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Theater: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People Who Live Life, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds, Volume 1: 250 Anecdotes

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

Maximum Cool: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Politics and History: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Politics and History, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Politics and History, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Religion: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People Who Live Life, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

Reality is Fabulous: 250 Anecdotes and Stories

Resist Psychic Death: 250 Anecdotes

Seize the Day: 250 Anecdotes and Stories

Discussion Guide Series

Dante's Inferno: A Discussion Guide

Dante's Paradise: A Discussion Guide

Dante's Purgatory: A Discussion Guide

Forrest Carter's The Education of Little Tree: A Discussion Guide

Homer's Iliad: A Discussion Guide

Homer's Odyssey: A Discussion Guide

Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice: A Discussion Guide

Jerry Spinelli's Maniac Magee: A Discussion Guide

Jerry Spinelli's Stargirl: A Discussion Guide

Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal": A Discussion Guide

Lloyd Alexander's The Black Cauldron: A Discussion Guide

Lloyd Alexander's The Book of Three: A Discussion Guide

Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: A Discussion Guide

Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer: A Discussion Guide

Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court: A Discussion Guide

Mark Twain's The Prince and the Pauper: A Discussion Guide

Nancy Garden's Annie on My Mind: A Discussion Guide

Nicholas Sparks' A Walk to Remember: A Discussion Guide

Virgil's Aeneid: A Discussion Guide

Virgil's "The Fall of Troy": A Discussion Guide

Voltaire's Candide: A Discussion Guide

William Shakespeare's 1 Henry IV: A Discussion Guide

William Shakespeare's Macbeth: A Discussion Guide

William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Discussion Guide

William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet: A Discussion Guide

William Sleator's Oddballs: A Discussion Guide