

# A SHIRT'S TALE



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Imagine if you were to open your closet and find nothing but White Dress Shirts. On the surface, your closet would appear to be living in perfect harmony. Your shirts would likely consume the same fabrics, favour the same stitch patterns, and adorn the same buttons.

Then one day, a shirt ventures out and discovers new fabrics and styles. Upon its return, it would speak of exciting new discoveries.

Some garments in the closet would discount these findings and vow to keep others out; under the guise, they protect their culture and way of life.

Others would become curious and search online for new adventures and ways of life.

NEXT

A new shirt would be introduced to the closet, a shirt of colour, a different cut. Soon more shirts would be introduced, patterned shirts and even a pink shirt.

**The wardrobe comes alive.**

Some of the shirts denounce their new neighbours.

They shout out: *"This new way of life will stain our fabric and must be washed separately."*

They do this out of fear, ignorance, and hatred.

Others embrace differences and inch closer.

The loudest of the DRESS SHIRTS claim they don't hate and try to convince others the new shirts take away opportunities. They claim they are being left in the closet more often. Instead, they become stiff and retreat to their own (gated) closet sections where they control who is allowed in.

Groups begin to form against the new shirts. They do this under the premise of the greater good. The weaker shirts follow suit.

Taunting and violence occasionally erupt.

The new shirts don't understand the hostility. After all, they came to the closet looking for a better life, an easier life. Some escaped torture and oppression.

Now they are met with the same disdain in a new land.

They, too, retreat to their own pockets of the closet.

Some disillusioned shirts of colour strike out at the DRESS SHIRT'S way of life; they, too, lack tolerance.

More rage ensues.

The loudest of the DRESS SHIRTS pledge to retaliate.

They call their attackers terrorists.

They invade their lands to stomp out evil.

Some of the more ignorant shirts' attack those in our closets at home.

123 As hope begins to vanish, radical groups begin forming amongst the new shirts.

The more hostility, the more recruits.

They go online to organize future strikes against the oppressors.

My closet is full of colours, different styles, cuts, and fabrics. I'm glad my closet is in Vancouver.

It may not be perfect.

It may have a way to go.

However, in my estimation, it is the best city in the World.

## WHO IS LINDSAY WINCHERAUK?

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

*Lindsay's life began with a lie.*

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

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

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

Lindsay's life mantra is:

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

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

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

## SOME THINGS LINDSAY IS MOST PROUD OF ARE WHEN:

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

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

Lindsay will always stick up for the underdog. Lindsay understands there are countless older people suffering job loss because COVID gave some companies an opportunity to – Lindsay thinks it is essential to draw attention to this life-threatening issue by being the voice for those too broken to speak up for themselves.

Lindsay is currently pitching four manuscripts to publishers and literary agencies. One of the manuscripts (he can't talk about) will blow the roof off the predatory practices of – Lindsay is writing relentlessly and is also pitching OPEDs and short stories, fiction, + non to literary magazines around the globe.

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

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

Lindsay resides in Vancouver.

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