



Lindsay WINCHERAUK

GUEST SHOT: 13 SEPTEMBER 2005

LOVE EACH OTHER, AND ENJOY THE RIDE

The world can be a terrifying place.
Everything seems to change daily.
Uncertainty in every aspect of life surrounds us.

We are all faced with one tragedy after another. You can read about plane crashes, terrorism, crystal meth, or whatever on any day.

You may be wondering; how does this affect love?

The current divorce rate is nearing 50 percent.

Can you imagine the impact on the children?

On the one hand, no wonder relationships are struggling, and the divorce rate is so high.

We live in a world of “me” time; consumption is king.

We all need to take a deep breath and slow down. Life is moving too fast.

We need to get back to a day where we say “Hi” to our neighbours instead of fearing them.

On the other hand, it’s not all bad: I’m happy; in fact, I’m individually optimistic yet, globally pessimistic.

Can we change the course of things to come?

I don’t know.

We’ve messed it up bad.

Just think about it for a moment. The family unit is in a state of crisis; the marriage institution may fail; c’mon, two drinking buddies getting married in Ontario.

I suggest in the future, for those of you walking down the aisle, could you please uncross your fingers and take your tongue out of your cheek.

You’re only screwing up your kids and, in turn, our world.

If everyone meant, "*till death do us part*," the divorce rate may only be 20-25 percent resulting in:

1. At least a 50 percent reduction in unwanted children, in turn resulting in:
2. A smaller global population, in turn resulting in –
3. Less consumption---in turn, resulting in –
4. HOPE!

Wait for a second if that was the equation. I might not exist.

We have certainly left one messed up world for the next generation to try to fix. It's too bad that most of them come from broken homes. So how are they going to fix the world when they can't even fix themselves?

MY RADICAL SUGGESTIONS

Be aware of what is going on in "our" world.

- Look at yourself first and the people in your life who matter and try to encourage, nurture and love.
- Turn off the news (except for 24 hours).
- Laugh, smile and cry from time to time.
- Have a blast.
- Treat others with kindness.
- Make your "moments" memorable.
- Don't have kids just for the sake of it - kids aren't puppies.
- Avoid confrontations: life is too short.
- And most important, remember to hug each other.

We may not be able to fix the mess; however, we can have a blast during the ride.

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.
