

MY **LIFE** ON THE SLUSH PILE

MY SISTER IS MY MUM

A META-MEMOIR



BY **LINDSAY** WINCHERAUK

MY LIFE ON THE SLUSH PILE



A story about finding yourself after accidentally discovering your life started with a lie.

Not every day do you meet someone who watched both of his parents die from The Big C and laid them to rest, only to discover sixteen years later that they weren't his parents after all!

It's like being reborn as a whole different person.

ABOUT A BOY



*A boy is born in a secret place. A dark place. A sad place.
His Mother is his Sister. Making her his Sister + his Mother.
His Father is his Grandfather.*

His Grandmother is just his Grandmother.

His Brothers used to be just Brothers. But then it is discovered they might be Uncles as well.

That turned them into Brunkles.

His Sisters used to be just Sisters. But then it is discovered they might be Aunts as well.

That turned them into Sisaunts.

The boy is never meant to know the truth because his birth brings with it, shame.

How could any of them be, okay?

Especially, the boy and his Grandmother?

WHO AM I GOING TO BECOME?
WHO AM I GOING TO BECOME?



VANCOUVER BRITISH COLUMBIA
VANCOUVER BRITISH COLUMBIA

MAY 1996-SEPTEMBER 1997
MAY 1996-SEPTEMBER 1997

There is a saying IF *IT IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE* –
As soon as GRAND had arrived, it began to be ripped apart.

1. **THIEVING (MAY 1996).** Spike was given the moniker ‘Thieving.’ He stole my bank card and began helping himself to my cash. This was during his battle with The Big C. Who’d lie about The Big C? Our friendship was stamped: **CANCELLED.**

My friends had my back, though. After our friendship ended, Spike wandered into the Planet Restaurant. Wes was managing. He grabbed Spike by the back of his jacket, dragged him outside, and slammed his head into the glass windows.

A few days later, Greg ran into him in a nightclub. Greg walked up to him, kissed him on the forehead and then stated, *“You won’t know when it’s coming, but I guarantee when it comes, it will be loaded with pain.”* And then Greg strolled away.

151

2. **SHOULDER PAIN (JUNE 1996).** I visited Doctor Regan because of a pain in my shoulder. He rotated it. I screamed. Three weeks later, he reconstructed my right shoulder.
3. A week after my shoulder surgery, Wes had the urge to find a new home; he left Vancouver and headed to the South Pacific to the island nation of Vanuatu.

HEY, WHERE IS EVERYBODY GOING?
HEY, WHERE IS EVERYBODY GOING?

1. **PHOENIX RISING (AUGUST 1996).** Like Wes, Slick’s tribal roots in ~~Vanuatu, Saskatchewan~~, Phoenix were calling. Slick told me he has a long line of crazy uncles. He introduced me to one of them. Leo. A salvage baron and hoarder. Leo once suggested we should hook up for beers one day. He handed me his business card and said, *“Lindsay, give me a call.”* I flipped the card, examining it. The only thing emblazoned on it was a single word in boldface. **LEO.** Nothing more. Another uncle of Slick’s wanted Slick to move to Phoenix to open a restaurant. Slick left our flat and headed to the land of the rising sun.

2. **DEEP COVER (AUGUST 1996).** Pat accepted an assignment where he'd be deep undercover; he was forced to sever all ties.
3. **LA BELLE PROVINCE (SEPTEMBER 1996).** *What the hell is going on? Am I swimming in cold water? Why is everything shrivelling up?* Greg was accepted to McGill University in Montreal to finish his master's degree.

AND NOW FOR AN UNCOMFORTABLE MOMENT @ WORK

VANCOUVER

SEPTEMBER 1996

I was well into my third year at MEC, securing a prominent client list. The success carrot dangled within my reach. I was a top performer, and then, Norm Friend, the Sales Manager, called me into his office.

I entered.

He sat gawking out the window.

"Hello, Norm.

He swivelled in his chair.

"Lindsay, Tundi (his wife), is out having fun; she's racing Dragon Boats. She is doing this while I'm all hobbled with feet problems. I can barely walk. But Tundi, she doesn't care. She's out having fun."

I felt queasy.

"My heart is breaking. Oh yeah, by the way, we have to let you go."

When Wayne heard the news, he stormed into Norm's office and quit.

Two days later, one of the company principals offered me a position running a district.

I declined.

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.

431

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.

432

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.