

# LINDSAY WINCHERAUK



ON THE SLUSH PILE

MY SISTER IS  
MY MUM

# 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?*

SQUARE PEGS. ROUND HOLES.  
2007 BE BE? BOUND HOLES?



SCREENWRITER MICHAEL  
2CKEEMKLEK TACHYET

**2004 + 2005**

**(WITH TWO FLASH FORWARDS TO 2006)**

**SCREENWRITER MICHAEL**

# SCREENWRITER MICHAEL

VANCOUVER BRITISH COLUMBIA

LOLITA'S RESTAURANT

10 SEPTEMBER 2005

I met Michael at Lolita's Restaurant, on Davie Street, at the edge of Vancouver's vibrant Gay Village, just six blocks from the smashingly beautiful beach at English Bay.

When I met Michael, Lolita's had only been open a few months. It was an instant success, buzzing nightly with a hip, artsy, thirty-something crowd drawn in by modern Mexican food in a trendy atmosphere. On any given night, you might find yourself rubbing shoulders with an actor from Los Angeles in town working in Vancouver's Hollywood North or an up-and-coming musician.

Michael just happened to be a screenwriter. We struck up a conversation that eventually led to my past story. Michael's interest grew with each word as I passionately described the events of my life in 2003. At the story's end, Michael sat speechless, mouth agape for a moment.

374

*"You have an incredible story. It's a testament to you that you've survived. You must share it,"* Michael said.

He told me my story has a movie written all over it, believing it might help others.

He offered to send me writing information about a writer's boot camp out of LA.

He nudged me to press on.

*"You have passion and pain in your eyes; you must tell your story."*

I nodded.

He questioned me on how I envision the story's end, *"Tragically? Happily? A combination?"*

He bubbled with excitement as he encouraged me to start thinking about who would play the part of me in the movie?

I was a smidgen overwhelmed; my mind raced between: *You must tell it. |and| How does it end?*

*How does it end? I wasn't sure where to start!?!*

## BECOMING A WRITER

I'd like to ask you to bear with me as we hop into the WAYBACK MACHINE.

### WAYBACK MACHINE SETTINGS: DECEMBER 2001

—at the beginning stages of my relationship with Trish. Early into visiting the After-Hours Club and my indoctrination into the world of drugs. Profession = bartender.

Every Sunday morning, when I'd tire of the *sketch parties* filled with a collection of ephemeral sketched-out friends at various, often dark places in Vancouver's underbelly, I would desperately search for something to help me ground my focus. Instead, I needed to strip my mind of the dirty thoughts spinning through it, thoughts that led directly into a cauldron of emptiness.

When Trish hosted the parties, with a rainbow of drug-induced colours shifting in my eyes, I would retreat to the computer, and I began to formulate what I believed, to be honest, funny, and controversial theories on the male-female dynamic from a bartender's point of view.

I began to tell people I was writing a book. I asked Greg in Germany to be my co-author. Our pen names became Seed & Euro Seed.

I blasted out sixty pages. I never believed we would finish it. I figured the momentum would eventually die, and then I'd put it aside, allowing it to become another good idea with no finish.

We put it aside.

### WAYBACK MACHINE NEW SETTINGS: NOVEMBER 2003-OCTOBER 2004

When I returned from Europe on November 8, 2003, I needed to escape from dealing with my realities of discovering my birth parents were now a person who once played the role of my oldest sister and a man I didn't know. I poured myself into writing the book I had started writing at the sketch parties two years prior.

By Wednesday of each week, when my mind would return to normal after the chemicals from the weekend finally abated, I would collaborate with Greg about my freshly written sections.

Eventually, Greg and I agreed on a title:

## SEED'S SKETCHY RELATIONSHIP THEORIES

### A GUIDE TO THE PERILS OF DATING (HOW NOT TO BECOME A BAR REGULAR)

SCREENWRITER MICHAEL

The message is simple. Do not rely on other people to make you happy. Expect the best from yourself. Never settle for anything less. Treat those who are important to you like gold. We are lucky if we go through our lives with a handful of good friends. You may meet quality individuals along the way that at any moment provide you with insight and perhaps enhance your life; remember, it is only now. And these moments should never be at the expense of the people in your life who matter.

Excerpt

Escaping my world by writing allowed my passion to flow. I was determined to become a writer. I felt an incredible force within me pushing me to finish. It was the first time I realized I might have a responsibility to make a difference by sharing my experience.

By focusing during my time away from bartending on writing, I could halt my downward spiral.

Maybe instead of writing the relationship book, the first book I needed to write was my story. I simply wasn't in a strong enough mental state to do so. I needed the spiritual and therapeutic experience of getting in touch with my *true identity* to move forward. In a nutshell, the pain was too fresh and intense to write my story; so, Greg and I wrote a relationship book instead.

376 Like said, we had written sixty pages in two years. Upon returning from Europe, we wrote three-hundred-twenty pages in four months. We finished writing in March 2004. The release date arrived six months later.

The book had a modicum of success.

*Wise, Wicked, Hilarious and Genuinely Sensitive Guide!*

- Grady Harp (Amazon Hall of Fame Top 100 Reviewer)

## 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.

---