

# 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?



**LETTERS TO ED**

+

+

**SPARE PARTS**

**GOD'S NEW RECRUIT**  
**VANCOUVER BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**7 MAY 2006**

**A**fter dropping off Johnny, I arrived at Chintz & Company at 9:30 AM. I shared the stories of my two drives with co-workers. They didn't care. "You seem down. Is something wrong?"

I was assigned to work with Shaun, who had recently turned to the Lord for salvation.

He offered me God's perspective on my morning's upset. I never asked him for it.

He persisted in focusing on my first drive with Ken. He strongly suggested I could have helped him more, that Ken was a child of God?

He said I did the wrong thing by kicking him out of my car.

*"I would offer Ken love and support. I would try to get to the root of his hatred. Your problem –*

*"Would you also offer Saddam and Hitler love?"* I asked sternly, cutting off his babble.

*"Yes, God is in charge of judgement."*

After slightly puking in my mouth, I strongly suggested, *"God needs to learn how to judge faster. Allowing six-million people to die in the Holocaust was a disgusting lesson about (?) – the gavel could have slammed down sooner."*

An ex-Chintz salesman named Derrick entered the store, and Shaun threw his arms around him.

Hours later, Shaun pressed me for my opinions on life.

*"You do know Derrick is gay, don't you? Your greeting reeked of insincerity. I bet you don't know his partner's name?"*

Skirting the question, he asked my views on life. I took a deep breath and shared:

*"I think we're supposed to love, support, encourage and nurture our families and friends. Treat every other person on the planet with kindness. Avoid confrontation whenever possible. We're supposed to try to leave the world better than we found it. And I believe that if we make mistakes, we're not too hard on ourselves. We're simply supposed to do our best to learn from them."*

He smirked

Shaun has never asked about my religious beliefs.

His smirk prompted me to end our conversation.

*"What happens if I don't believe in your God in the same manner as you?"* I asked.

*"You'll burn in Hell,"* he said.

I suggested, *"Fuck off* and no longer speak to me.

Sorry, I forgot to avoid it.

At times, my anger with God spills out. I don't understand why there needs to be so much agony and despair in the world. It seems like we're pawns. If we get with the program and worship, we go to Heaven; if not, burn baby.

I don't understand Shaun's God.

## **"GOODBYE," SHAUN**

### **TWO WEEKS LATER**

Two weeks later, Shaun left Chintz & Co and planned his own going-away party.

Nobody went.

During his last day, he approached a salesman named Duane. Duane is gay. Shaun expressed how he believed Duane's next life would be stupendous.

*"Things will be better for you,* he said.

*"You know I suck cock, right,"* Duane replied.

Another gay sales associate named Calvin approached.

He glared into Shaun's eyes and asked, *"Do you receive a free toaster for each conversion you make?"*

*I do not miss Shaun.*

## 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.

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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.

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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.