

DEATH SAUCE

A Love Story

EATING TOWARD TOGETHERNESS



GRANDMA SAYS

Wait one hour after eating before attempting to change history.

BY **LINDSAY** WINCHERAUK

Jarrood fell hard for Bub. He crumbled like a pastry held in Bub's delicate hands. Bub's large dark soulful eyes sent Jarrood into a state of helpless bliss. Bub's voice melted him. He longed to press his lips against Bub's supple lips; Bub's lips often tasted minty. Bub's beauty and tranquillity confounded Jarrood's balance. A gentle touch and Jarrood would feel the ground beneath his feet open wide, swallowing him, capturing him in the here and now. They came from lightyears away – nevertheless, Bub's warm breath on the nape of his neck immobilized him. They'd been together for more than nine years. Still, every time the sun peaked through their bedroom's window, casting a beautiful silhouette over the curvature of Bub's shapely figure – Jarrood fell deeper, risking never being able to return to where he once escaped.

I.1

ARMY LIFE ARCHIVES

A CHRONICLING OF JARROD + BUB'S SEPARATION

Bub's posts are unedited

MARCH 2012

Soldiers in the North Korean army train at an undisclosed location on March 6th.

- Newsfeed

I still remember my parents faces when I said bye to them at the entrance.

I didn't really feel anything. I was not sad or scared, but as soon as I got into the huge entrance after a bunch of crowds, same boys as me, who's going into the army and their parents kept following their sons behind.

75 As soon as I got into a massive stadium with 1778 boys ... I got so scared, and suddenly, I felt totally alone.

That made me really scared. Really, really, really, scared :(

- Army Life - March 16

North Korea tells South to leave islands March 16th, 2013

The Uriminzokkiri website stated: "Even an accidental spark by the belligerents in their war games can grow into a fire."

"And the damage for those living along the border and on the five western islands will be great."

The US to beef up missile defence against North Korea, Iran

The United States will deploy additional ground-based missile interceptors on the West Coast as part of efforts to enhance the nation's ability to defend itself from attack by North Korea, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced Friday.

Still relatively new in his post, the Pentagon chief told reporters that 14 additional interceptors to be installed by 2017 would bring the total to 44. It is part of a package of steps expected to cost \$1 billion, officials said.

- Newsfeed

I'm just an old person who can't get used to the stupid army life. The only person who is just to be considered as "a loser" here.

- **Army Life - March 24**

After three hours, I could see two soldiers standing at the entrance on each side, and 250 of us were getting into the real army site. I was very, very, very, very scared to get off the bus. I was alone.

No parents. No Jarrod. No Ginger.

I wished I could run away from here. I was alone.

There was no one to hold me when I want to cry. I had to cry alone, silently in my blanket, at night. I am not happy here. It's not the same.

It's too different from outside and what I thought. It's freezing here. When we got off the bus, we had to make rows to stand. 30 people sharing the same room. One small closet to stock my army stuff.

People here are very mean and shout all the time. I hate screaming. I get nervous, very nervous.

- **Army Life - March 25**

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When we were having a training session one day – the speech giver was telling a story of two boys, that come out of a washroom that was located far from the main building with their red faces.

I don't know why their faces had to be described as "red?"

After that speech giver said that the rest of the story was up to our imagination.

As soon as he said that everyone at the room started booing, screaming, swearing... and :(

I didn't know what to do there. My mind started sinking.

At the end of the story, the speech giver said something that really hurt me. "You know what they said when we had to relocate their sites?"

They said... "We were in love."

Ewing, screaming and shouting again.

I hope I wasn't blushing...

Since then, people started making jokes with each other.

I'm not happy that I had to deal with myself who couldn't speak up for anything.

- **Army Life - March 26**

When I talk to you, I'm happy! I love you.

I care about everyone and everything. But the only thing that really matters is I want to make sure you are happy!

We are supposed to be. I don't try to figure out why. I just accept that is the way.

I love you :)

I'm mentally going through a lot of emotions; mostly scared. I haven't been feeling happy since I come to the army.

I thought I would do well, at least okay. But as soon as I came here, I couldn't talk.

I couldn't be myself. I'm not me here.

I'm just a whole bunch of numbers.

- **Army Life - March 26**

ARMY LIFE MARCH 26: SHOOTING

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I must talk about my ability to shoot. Great!! :)

I must tell you this first. I am damn good. Hehe.

I found this when I shoot during the daytime.

I shot at night first. Five shots for practice. Ten shots for the test. I got 3/5. And I was picked on my talking. I questioned in a wrong way to the person who was controlling me next. He was furious at me :(Talked dirty to me. But he was glad to hear that I got 3 out of 5. He asked me to get more shots when I take the testing shot. I got 7/10 :) yay===

It was the top score. People were amazed because I was just a quiet old guy who doesn't really exist. But I was talked among people for the rest of the night. 70% of people failed to get more than three shots to pass.

- **Army Life - March 26**

Next week, it will be the worst week of training. From Monday to Friday. All outside. No washing, sleeping in a tiny tent with two other people. Cold out.

Training in mountains. Gas experience :(I'm scared of this.

I can't explain it well.

We get into this room, filled with gas, with a mask on, and – take off the mask :(
Not a happy experience!!

I'm going through so many emotions now. I want to tell you what I'm going through and what I am feeling.

- **Army Life - March 27**

I lost weight. 3 kg. I see my hidden six-pack. far away... hehe

I'm not trying, but I started seeing. :)

Morning and afternoon training. I can do 40 push-ups. 60 sit-ups :) I can run about 20 mins. I'm getting better, and I'll be better in two years.

I heard that I get three major vacations for every 100 days. Total 30 days and if I get 18/20 or better from shooting... I get short-term vacations.

- **Army Life - March 28**

Busy week and piled laundry... socks, underwear... We don't get to use machines... hand-wash only. Coldwater.

Not enough time. Not enough space to hang...

It's not good :(

- **Army Life - March 29**

I'm back to writing again. I will write about whatever comes up in my mind.

I'll be training outside next week. I'm already scared. Sleeping out. No washing. Training going up and down on the mountain. And... finally: marching. Long walk. 30 km. from 7 in the evening to the next morning until 3-4 am. 8-9 hours of walking with the heavy backpack. It will be more substantial than other times with a blanket and tent :(I'm worried I don't want to be the last.

But it will make me stronger, mentally, and physically...

“NK is our enemy,” always be aware of it. Do not be convinced.

Our only enemy.

We're cautious nowadays. There is an election coming up in a few weeks. One of the most significant events and KJE's birthday is on April 15th. We are worried that he may act spontaneously to show off his existence. As a leader. Who can attack?

:(stupid. but highly possible.

- **Army Life - March 30**

APRIL 2012

I just came back from watching a movie. On Sunday, we go to a stadium to watch a video or... whatever. We don't get to watch TV during the week. Today, we watch a TV series.

“Band of Brothers” episode 10.

It was terrible. I've had enough of soldiers – everywhere :(

Two days ago, we had a new group of company. New people. They look scared. When I see their faces. I can imagine myself being looked at by my previous company people. I'm still frightened here.

Every morning, I wake up with my heart beating out of my chest. I don't want to wake up. But I must.

- **Army Life - April 2**

I still have four weeks of training. Four weeks of intensive training.

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I sometimes wish to get hurt bad so that I don't have to do all the training and possibly discharged as a medical issue. I know that there is no chance but sometimes think about it.

I'm silly :(

- **Army Life - April 3**

It's more than a week since I got a chance to write to you. It's been hectic. It's called “harsh week, intense week, overcoming week.”

I've done all the things that I've seen on TV: rolling on the ground, running, crawling, kneeling, marching 30 km with a full pack (30 kg). Very cold, rain, sleeping in a tent, very tiny with two other men.

It was ugly from the beginning. It started raining during the night. Heavy rain. It wasn't very comfortable. Only one blanket. Couldn't keep me warm enough. I had to suffer from shivering the whole night.

I have so much to tell you. I wish I could talk to you on the phone :(

- **Army Life - April 4**

I'll be stupid when I'm back to Vancouver. So, your job is to fix my bad habits from the army.

I'll try not to, but who knows?

Two years is enough to change me a bit in the army way. I wouldn't notice.

My last week was very harsh. I had to celebrate my birthday, "30th birthday" with gas training. I thought I would die. I couldn't breathe at all. I had to stay in a dark room with my company.

Our inspector → Asked us to sit and stand-up 20 times and to sing an army song. I couldn't make any sound. But other people were trying to sing and scream shouting out of pain. I respect them so much for that.

We only had to stay for about 4-5 mins. When I was in the room, I wanted to get out, giving up this course. I didn't have to pass, but I didn't want to be the only person who gave up :(

My nose ran like endless tears, sore throat, itchy eyes, and skin, but I couldn't scratch my face because the gas shape looks like "?"

Inspectors asked us not to touch our face unless we wanted to bleed...

- **Army Life - April 5**

There is no manner here. No respect. No Joy...

Korean army is a very special group of people. Not in a good way "special" very bizarre... strange... weird :(

I'm glad that I got a chance to write you a letter. I wanted to write to you so bad, but I just couldn't. They do not give us any free time.

If we write, they (stupid people :) take them away to discard the letter.

I can't use the internet or phone for another seven weeks :(

- **Army Life - April 6**

... This "gas" that we had to experience what it felt like, is banned from using at wars but North Korea, fucking stupid people, have all kinds of gas weapons, so we must be prepared :(

When our company got out of the "hell room," we were all on the ground, screaming out of pain.

While we experience our pain, people started saying "Happy Birthday" to me. I didn't know what was happening, but after I gathered myself, I thanked everyone.

It was such an experienced and the worst birthday gift.

But I did it. I'm done. It wasn't the end.

- **Army Life - April 6**

I think we're supposed to love, support, encourage, and nurture our families and friends. I think we're supposed to treat every other person on the planet with kindness. I think we are supposed to avoid confrontation. I believe we're supposed to leave the world a little better than we found it. And I think that if we make mistakes, we're not supposed to be too hard on ourselves and learn from them.

Oh! I'm losing my belly. It's been ten years that I never have done a workout, so it's harder to lose my fat. But I can feel my muscle becoming obvious and my fat becoming softer :)

- **Army Life - April 7**

It's April 13th here. I keep my diary. I try to write my emotions and experiences before I forget.

I counted the days from the 1st day til' today. 3/6 - 4/12. It was 38 days, and I remembered that I read your email's title, "37th day."

I couldn't read your emails because I couldn't cry. I'll read them later when I'm ready and strong enough to control myself. Now I'm too weak.

I was pretending to be okay when I was with my parents. I kept telling my parents that I'm good and doing well. My mom cried lots, but my dad seemed to be proud of me.

- **Army Life - April 13**

I just came back from a four-hour-class of "How to use a knife on your gun" :)

I know how to poke a heart, cutthroats, and hit on someone's face.

- **Army Life - April 14**

MAY 2012

59 Regimental 3 Battalion 12 Company!

That's where I'm moving to in a few days (May 4th - Yesterday).

I finished all my basic, intense, and specialized training for two-months.

When we were getting on the bus to get out of the boot-camp, there were about the same number of new boys coming in :(I felt really sorry for them avoiding eye contacts with them.

They looked scared, as did I.

Before I go to the ocean guarding points, people who're the same Regimental are gathered at the head office of 59 Regimental. There are about 20 people here now, having more people on Monday.

It's dreadful here. Amenities are way worse than the boot-camp. We're just staying here for five-days or less. Not enough blanket, dirty, cold, old... But! Other boys think that there is more "free-er" than the bootcamp.

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Because they can chat, smoke and watch TV "But there are limited-time :(

That's not free.

- **Army Life - May 5**

I want to see his mind.

What does he think about me?

Whatever.

I think I made my mind.

I know what's going on.

I love...

That's what it is. LOVE!

I was carrying around a stupid big gun whole day :(My body's sore now. Tired :(I got a bruise on my arms :(I need...

I cleaned my weapon, it's not fun. My hands got dirty. I'm sitting on the floor now. Bums are cold :(I want to go home!

It's harder to listen to these stupid people talking about silly movies, phones, gossip... :(Why do I need to sit on the ground? :(Cold.

Too much rain :(cancelled for the morning. I'm waiting sitting on the ground till the afternoon. Sucks!!!

Rain stopped. Got on the bus again :(Other people are happy that they can breathe in outside air. Not within our army area wall with metal blockers. It's sad. Also, we can hear new music on the bus. We're not allowed to watch TV or listen to music. We're prisoners. Worse!!

I'm back to the bus again after I finished my shooting. It was only five of us who specialize in this weapon. Not many. Stupid gun. But it was fun. It was practice shooting with fake bombs... still scary fun :)

I can shoot... with this thing.

One bad thing. One of my ears, I can't hear well. It hurts.

- **Army Life - May 6**

When I'm done this stupid training. I'll be moving to a new place to wait until I go to the ocean guarding points. I can call you. I'm excited.

I heard that I could call you for free on my internet phone :) Happy.

I'm not doing anything but reading the same thing!! :(Stupid. We've done everything we had to do for the day, but our schedule was planned til 5 pm so I must wait when we can go back to our staying area. No flexibility at all here. Just do one thing as asked.

I guess this is Army :(

I'm the one who's stupid to think about these things. I know that I need to get used to this stupid life. Sucks!

I'll be stupid when I come back to Vancouver.

So, your job is to fix my bad habits from the Army. I'll try not to, but who knows?

Two-years is enough to change me a bit in army way. I wouldn't notice.

One officer is showing off to his people in the corner. How stupid he is. He says... I change my phone six-times in a year.

Sit on it, throw it, lose it... stupid. They are just too young to handle and manage people.

I think I should stop complaining. Bad for me!

- **Army life - May 7**

I'm on the bus now. I'm on my way to a shooting area. I'll be shooting my specialty weapon today. It's not a gun. It's a big bomb shooting thing. Very complicated to handle right.

I'm scared Jarrod

- **Army life - May 7**

I'm sorry that I couldn't give you "Happy B" but "Cry B."

I couldn't talk. When I want to start talking, I suddenly wanted to cry, hearing your happy and excited voice. It made me have "happy tears."

I feel like I'm back to my first week of boot-camp after spending a night at home. While I was staying at home, I felt like I was not in the Army and could talk to you tmr. And after too. But I know that I'll get over this strange, empty, and scary feeling, so I'll keep trying to stay strong.

Stay strong. Be Good to people. You shine when you help and listen to people. When you're with people you get the best, warming and loving smile on you that spreads to other people's faces. You're special. Very special.

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- **Army life - May 9**

I'm sitting on the ground for my K4 rifle? (bomb) Lesson. K4 is a Korean version of US MK19. It's big.

Sad that I must bear another week of hard training :(

Inspectors are different now meaner :(One stupid inspector hates me. He only picks on me. I guess I'm too old. He is ridiculous!! :(

- **Army life - May 10**

Should Canada Fear North Korea?

US and allied military planners believe that the North would be overwhelmed in a conventional war with the South, but they worry how Pyongyang would use its arsenal of chemical and biological weapons.

- **Newsfeed**

LITTLE DID THE WORLD KNOW; RODMAN'S GOT OUR BACK!

South Korea's 1st female president faces a nuclear crisis

The overall policy direction on North Korea among the US, Japan and South Korea will be hers to decide.'-Victor Cha, former senior Asia adviser to former US president George W. Bush.

- **Newsfeed**

Last thing to tell you. We do the most stupid things in the kitchen, supposed to be our cafeteria. We sign our name when we get food to check, assure? People to eat.

Boys eat snacks instead of proper meals. So, our company commander came up with this silly idea. I forgot to sign. Me and my other friend. So, we had to be blamed. We even had to eat late because no one told us to eat. We were supposed to eat as a group, usually people from the same room. But our room ate without telling us.

Fuck! and all they said was “why didn’t you guys eat? Why are you eating now? What did you do? :(Fucking jerk #1 was smirking behind. I want to kick his ass real hard. With all my strength. Or kick his balls!!

- **Army life - May 9**

2ND STORY!!

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One other jerk came up to me to say and gave me a bitchy attitude! He told me to stay up tight and intense that are mandatory behaviour for privates. He told me not to expect any exception because I’m too old. Who says that?

He is just a jerk. He kept lying to people that I didn’t wake up last night – even though he woke me up! :(

Whatever – stupid, immature young boy

- **Army life - May 9**

I just had a shower. It’s been three days since I took my last shower. We don’t have enough water here :(I miss showering at home.

After I took a shower, my right-above-master sergeant advised me to be louder when I talk. He told me that other people from different platoon; people from other rooms told him my habits are not suited to the Army.

I’m trying to change, but I’m not sure that I want to :(I don’t want to. I want to talk to you now, but I need to go to sleep now. I sleep twice a day. One is three hours, and the

other one is to sleep for five hours. Can't really sleep well. People are loud :(

I sleep about five hours a day. One-two hours at night and three-four hours during the day. It's 8:08 am now, already past my bedtime. I'll look too old after this stupid Army. Not enough sleep would make my skin tired and old :(

OH! Forgot to tell you this. My friend found a "grey hair" on my hair :(I realized that I'm not 20(s) anymore. Still, be my friend?

- **Army life - May 12**

STORY. BAD STORY :(MY 1ST EXPERIENCE OF "ARMY LIFE"

There is this stupid, young, and very immature! The boy that had two more months of army experience, meaning he is right above me as a master sergeant. This stupid "boy" decided that he wants to give me a hard time. He was supposed to wake me up at 11 pm. I'm not supposed to use my watch to set the alarm. So, I totally depended on his wake-up call, but I woke up at 11:30 pm by another master sergeant who was ready to leave for that night's duty. He woke up, and I was rushing to change into my army suit.

I need to wake up at 11 pm. In about two hours to go to my guarding point :(I must stay up, standing, doing nothing but looking out to the ocean, till 6 am the next day.

I'm waking up now. I fell asleep, writing to you. Very tired. Want to go back to sleep.

- **Army life - May 14**

When I went out, everyone was waiting outside :(getting mad at one friend (He left to another location today) and me.

I had to apologize many times, but it was useless, meaningless. People had to complain to me, "What you did was wrong!" "What you did was very unprofessional." "What you did was not fair to others :("

That stupid guy never woke us up, but he kept telling people that he did. He even told people that one of us answered when he said: "Time to wake up."

"BULLSHIT" :(such a jerk. bad person.

He's been here longer so what can I do? (Now, even though he was supposed to wake me up. He hasn't come to wake me up yet. I set the alarm at 10:50 pm. Good that I did break the rule this time. Can't allow me to be blamed twice for the same stupid mistake. I hate him.

- **Army life - May 14**

Can North Korea deliver on its threat to target the US with nuclear weapons?

- **Newsfeed**

Nurse Arrested for Having Sex with Dead Corpse

- **Newsfeed**

Utah Grade School Drug Ring Busted

- **Newsfeed**

Back to Army Life in May. My good friend is currently standing on the border with a bazooka... ready for action... not really. "Ready," is part of his prison sentence.

In the meantime, "In the News" (above) *An Orthodox priest blesses rifles – come back to the Church springs to mind. Come back and kill!*

I feel bad for humanity. I want to cry.

- **Jarrold's words**

Before I go to sleep, I read your mail. I had to cry quietly. I don't want anyone to see me crying like a baby girl :(

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I felt loved. I read your letter when I feel lonely and left out. Since I've come to this place to guard the ocean. I don't feel like doing anything. I don't want to talk to anyone. There are these stupid rules that new privates are only allowed to speak in five ways to say proper "Yes" and "No" not allowed to confirm by asking the same question. There are so many stupid things that I just can't understand.

But I've read your mail and feel better :) I don't feel so alone.

I think about the days in Vancouver. I thought about carrying a bag full of KFC - Chicken and coke and gravy sauce. Taking them home and eating like fatty :)

I try to give you the meat without bone so you wouldn't have to get your fingers dirty. I kept trying to think of ways to show my friendship – no condition needed. You taught me how to be a friend. Thank you.

I hate this army time away from my life.

I appreciate it when we can talk. You are my connection to the real world. Your voice makes me secure and happy.

I must go to sleep now. 8:45 pm now. I need to wake up at 11 pm. In about two hours to go to my guarding point :(

- **Army life - May 15**

J is now standing on the border with a bazooka.

I have a goal to achieve. When I go to my guarding sector, I want to find and capture a N. Korean invader. They come to us with a submarine. I want to see it.

If I do, 700,000 dollars, more than 1/2 million dollars as a prize. We can travel the world with good friends and visit Greg and Kilian :)

One female officer told us that there is a North Korean army man who's invaded.

We bring our own spoon and eating tray :(We wash them and keep it in our stupid old closet. Not hygienic.

There are so many weird things. Imagine this! Awkward young army-suit-wearing boys, walking in rows. Their hands and legs movements are moving all at the same time.

We can do better-closed order movements? Then the North Korean :)

- **Army life - May 16**

I'm sorry that I wasn't with you when you received meaningless gifts from your family last Christmas. (I'm your family). I'm not sure what made me think about this now?

I'm emotional now... I don't know. I still remember when we unwrapped last year's gifts together...

Hope those gifts don't affect you in any negative way. I don't want you to be swayed. Emotionally.

If it's got no letters or anything... then it's just meaningless... obligation as you say. That's it! Let's not put any more meanings on those gifts.

This is when I get really upset that I'm here... at this stupid place :(

I'm sorry. BUT I'm YOUR FAMILY. REAL FAMILY.

- **Army life - May 17**

Last night I couldn't sleep :(

It was pouring yesterday, so it was frigid. Evident that it would be a cold night, but they couldn't be supplied with enough blankets and mattresses. The sheets had holes everywhere. I was wearing four layers but still cold :(

They had two tiny heaters, but only could turn them on if the temperature goes lower than 18 degrees c. But last night, it was 11 degrees c but no heaters :(sucks to be cold. I needed a warm hug. It would have made my body warm.

We'll be watching TV all day after two hours of mental training. It will be about N. Korea again :(It's not gonna be fun – I just need to be there.

- **Army life - May 18**

I'm private Bubs so I won't be able to do anything.

I must ask for approval all the time.

Can I go to the washroom?

Can I drink some water?

Can I wash?

Can I use phone calls?

Can I use a computer?

If yes, I can.

But if they say "NO" I can't :(

- **Army life - May 19**

One specialist told us about army life.

"Real army life."

It was hard to listen to him.

Terrible stories.

Sad, scary, worried. :(

He told us to be a loyal dog, basically.

Do whatever you're asked to do by your master sergeants.

- **Army life - May 20**

I'm just telling you everything that comes to my mind. Sorry for my chaotic stories :)

1. I just had lunch. Before lunch, we had a lesson on North Korean's military supplies, their army forces.
2. What are they trained for...? part of the training that N. Korean boys have is to roll over broken glasses :(to prepare for war.
3. It's sad.
4. Their Army is for 10 years. We're "only 21 months" compared to them. Their awful private life lasts for 3 years.

5. Other than that, we learned about people who secretly worship and try to brainwash South Koreans to believe in North Korean's (—) opposite of Democratic

6. I'm Forgetting English. Sad.

So many stories about being against the US army in Korea. Korea being colonized by the US.

- **Army life - May 21**

&!! I must tell you about this JERK. FUCKER. An ASSHOLE!!

I'm old here in the Army. I'm the oldest now. Older than half of the master sergeants. But it's okay for me. I knew that I would be the oldest, and it will be an issue. But there is this stupid guy that treats me rude on purpose.

In Korea, we speak in a polite way to older people. But in the Army, we're all the same, private trainees. So, we talk casually.

One guy, this "fucker" talks to me very rude because he knows that I would get pissed!! I am pissed because I know that he is doing this on purpose.

90 But worse thing, we're the same regimental, battalion, and company!! Sucks :(I don't want to see him anymore.

He sits next to me :(Sleeps next to me! Hate this guy. Such an asshole. Stupid fucking jerk! :(

I'm furious.

I'm sorry. I need you to listen to me. Angry Bubs.

We bought a whole bunch of snacks from PX. Post Exchange!

It's a market in a regimental. We were like dogs diving for foods. I didn't want to but didn't want to be a black sheep? Bully?

So, I had to.

I had some chocolate. Yucky. Cheap chocolate.

I miss our chocolate. Tears in my eyes.

- **Army life - May 22**

I forgot to tell you this.

When I learned about the NK army, the officer told us about what KJE, the chubby leader, did to threaten his people.

There are a lot of old people, old leaders who supported KJI.

They don't like the fact they have a young boy as a leader. KJE wanted to threaten people, so he picked about seven old leaders, who were opposed to him.

He killed them in the middle of everyone.

Not shooting.

Not throwing stones or knives.

But with bombs.

- **Army life - May 23**

Now we're watching UFC :(I hate that show. Too violent. Makes me sad to watch them who hurt and get hurt to live.

I'm scared.

Boys here are very close to the TV Trying not to miss anything, wowing, oohing & I see this a lot, one master sergeant hugging a man :) G - G - G -!

- **Army life - May 24**

I must go to church.

Sunday here I'm not allowed to stay in as an individual. We all must go. No exception. No freedom on Sunday :(

91 I'll try to phone you if I get a chance today. Wish you pick up the phone :) It will make me happy. It would only be about ten mins max but still listening to you would make me HAPPY! :)

The only thing that makes me smile.

- **Army life - May 27**

The National Council of Churches in Korea has urged...

I played soccer today. Can you believe that? :)

I was a goalkeeper. It was mini soccer. There wasn't enough playground. Big ones were occupied by Master Sergeants, play soccer. They played more than four-hours. I guess people are crazy about soccer here.

It's the Korean way to train and get ready for wars :)

- **Army life - May 27**

I'm scared. I'm not happy here. I'm not Bubs. I can't be the real me. You make me strong.

I'm trying to get through this, but it's not easy. Harder than I thought.

I'm an old man who can't fit in. I feel left out. I'm alone. I don't smile. I cry. I want to come home.

- **Army life - May 28**

I was just asked to be an assistant cook. Haha!! I said, "YES." I don't want to go out to stare at the ocean. Too cold :(I'm a cook from this lunchtime.

It's been a week since I came here, I haven't got my bed yet; I'm sleeping in an extra room with one other friend. We're not happy :(I prefer to be alone.

I need to go to sleep now. Need to be waking up in three hours. I'm too tired. I'm rapidly getting old. I don't need another grey hair. Sucks!! :)

I want to stay young and fresh.

May 18th, 10:33 am. I'm already awake, I could not sleep well; I was already too tired to sleep. Also, I didn't want to make the same stupid mistake three times :(I think I have a fever. My face never is this warm except when I...

I miss my days at the boot-camp training center and terribly miss my friends from there. My company, supportive people, helping, caring, loving and smiley. I don't like this intense and somewhat fake atmosphere and behaviours. Young boys come to this locked place and learn how to fake their minds and overreact for everything.

One guy that is being favoured spends his day to LOL for not-at-all-LOL-jokes-of-master-sergeants. I feel sad when I observe that. Not the right way to live life.

92 People think that faking is a big part of Army social life to survive. I don't agree :(

- **Army life - May 29**

I'll come back to tell you about my first day of cooking! :) The guy at the kitchen, he is hardcore. Obvious G!! A!! Y!!

I'm sure, but he tells people that he's got a boyfriend. He showed me his photos before he came to the Army. He used to put makeup on his eyes! Isn't it obvious?

My first experience of feeding about 50 people, lunch, and dinner. I'll be back to tell you. I've been working non-stop from 11:30 am til now. It's 9 pm :(haven't finished cleaning yet. I need to wake up at 4:30 am tmr. Sucks :(I'm not sure if I could hear the alarm.

I didn't have time to write yesterday. I had to work until 10 pm, and now I'm awake at 4:30 am. I've had more sleep than the last seven days, so I'm not that tired but had a tough time to wake up two alarms!! :). Office guy told me that I can sleep until 5 am now.

I think I like to be a cook. More interesting than standing and staring overnight, thinking if I could, really, possibly, respond to an NK invasion in any action. I don't think that anybody here could warn or hurt anyone correctly. They are too young and think that NK would never come :).

I want you to invade S. Korea so that you rule the country. I don't have to do this stupid

thing :) hehe.

Will you? Please?

- **Army life - May 30**

MAY 30TH COMMENTARY

I wish all the conscripted-children-of-war could summons the courage to say "NO." If they/we only realized it doesn't have to be like this.

War, immigration, the whole package; isn't about protecting 'Way of Life' or ideology. It is about power. It is about the rulers getting fat while the rest of us suffer. It is about divisiveness. It is about pulling the wool over our collective eyes.

Most important: It's about the fucking money.

- **Jarrod's words - May 30**

I want your stories to be published so that your stories make people happy and warm. I'm sure one day someone will find your talent and realize how special your heart is.

I want your books to make billions so you can help people to make them happy. I'm sure that you got a great talent that is not, hasn't been discovered yet. Not yet.

But it will be discovered soon enough!

- **Army life - May 31**

It's become my favourite time to lie on my belly with a small flashlight! I'm not supposed to turn on the room light until the wake-up time :) next to this letter writing to you about my days.

I used to write my days' diary in Korean, but I've shortened the time spent on my Korean one, instead; I've decided to write to you :) More!!

You may be tired of reading my mail, but I'll keep writing to you!! :) You MUST READ :)

I had two pieces of bread. I can't really eat properly. Hard to eat during the preparation and harder after when I must clean up. But I like it! No need to be cold outside.

Oh! My friend, who was late with me last time, woke up late today, again!! I heard his alarm, but I didn't think about his schedule this morning. I had to wake him up. People were very, very, very, very angry at him. I feel terrible for him :(

He will be in trouble this time, not just some blame from a few but... not sure yet but I'll think of ways to make him feel better. I will cheer him up :) I want a friend like me to cheer ME! Up. I need that. That's how I am!! Right??? :)

I miss Vancouver. I need to go... hugs.

- **Army life - May 31**

JUNE 2012

EXCELLENT NEWS

Bubs became a cook!

It was the hardest day since I became a cook 😊 The other guy started his vacation yesterday. So, I had a new guy from a company. He's been cooking for 500 people every day. He put too much soy!!! He poured!

Everyone Blamed me 😞 suck!!!

- **Army life - June 2**

It's almost been a month since I came to this place. I still remember how much I was scared for the first few days... calling you crying 😞 I'm very weak 😊

You are amazing. When I was having a difficult time: getting used to this reality. Reality that I can't avoid but deal with this horrible situation, you were very strong and tried to make sure that I knew people care. Thank you very much!

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Now, I'm a lot better than the first week of me. I'm Bubs when I talk to you on the phone!!! 😊 Right?

Not totally but close? Hehe.

And I was looking at these two new boys who got located at our picket. I was looking at their face. The face that is lost, looking nervous. Confused... I saw myself in them. I thought that would have been how I looked to others... but I'm not the same anymore. I'm more relaxed, I think

It's all because of your support and encouragement. Thank you!

- **Army life - June 6**

A fireman will never run into a burning building

I'm off today. I got to sleep from 8 PM til' 3:50 is the next day.

I'm glad that I don't have to be standing overnight. Not easy 😞

Last night I almost fell down, falling asleep while I was staring at the ocean.

Recently, I read the synopsis over and over again. I feel that it may be the best story, very

special and loving, tragic, warm, funny... story that can never be written by anyone but you, baby Jarrod.

I want your story to be published so people can share what you have gone through and learn something special and very strong.

- **Army life - June 16**

Love means never having to say you're sorry.

- **Erich Segal**

It's not easy to be here 😞 I thought I would get used to stay here but I will never get used to this dumb-dumb-place.

Once I think I may be okay by now, something happens to swipe all the good things away.

One nice guy came up to me now while I was trying to translate "love is..." I was trying to be good. However, apparently; I have been talked behind because I ask questions, because I talk back!!! 😞

I guess I'll just be quiet. Say nothing. See nothing. Hear nothing... like I'm deaf. Blind. Sucks!!! 😞

I hate people here. Stupid. Stupid. Stupid. Stupid!!! 😞

- **Army life - June 19**

Stupid young boys are hard to deal with. Annoying actually.

Intense today. It was the day when 6.25 war started in Korea. Invaded by North Korea, almost 60 years ago. We were armed to be ready for a war situation this morning. Bad people 😞

But the practice situation dismissed? One hour later so it was short 😞

It's our training season so we practice lots. Situations of North Korean invasion. Not fun!!! At all.

I want you to win a Lottery + your book published big time!!! So, that you can come visit for a few days. At least be close.

I know your book will be published because your story's amazing. You are talented. But people are too slow and indecisive to pick up your amazing story!!! Stupid people.

Come visit me.

- **Army life - June 25**

Worried about our Kilian Boy ☹️

That poor little baby. I think I have to pray for the baby tonight. I haven't prayed for awhile but need to go back to my before-sleep-praying-time tonight.

I'm sorry for Greg and Constanze. They must be very worried.

Also, there is another concern for me: Jarrod.

I'm worried about him getting stressed at work!!!

I'm worried about his health, but I'm sure he will keep his promise to stay strong and healthy 😊

What are you having for dinner?

I'm having soy chocolate milk, carrots, and a chicken breast.

- **Army life - June 25**

I am incredibly fortunate to have a great friend who always thinks of others first; regardless of his own circumstance!

- **Army life - June 29**

A BABY KILIAN FLASHBACK + FLASHFORWARD

4 APRIL 2012

Hey Brother,

Thank you for your e-mail and thinking of Kilian on his birthday :-). We sent Bubs our birthday greetings by e-mail and hope that he is doing well in spite of the circumstances and being held against his will for such an absolutely perverse and senseless purpose.

Kilian had a good birthday today and is doing great. He is happy and for the most part healthy. We had our appointment today with the pediatric cardiologist and a surgeon at the hospital. They did further tests and an ultrasound examination.

Apparently, the hole in the wall of his heart is 1.5 cm long and, in the words of the doctor, is like "a torn curtain". There is no chance that it will heal on its own and it has to be operated on.

Unfortunately, due to the size of the hole, its position and Kilian's age, it will not be possible to operate by way of a catheter (they would make an incision in the vena cava inferior and use a catheter with a balloon and wire mesh to patch the hole and would not have to cut him open). Again, unfortunately, they will have to open up his chest and operate directly on the heart which, honestly, worries me.

The doctors are very experienced, and the operation is done often, but I am still worried about Kilian.

On the other hand, there is no alternative and Kilian will risk having serious heart problems later if this surgery is not done. His right heart ventricle is considerably enlarged as a result, and this is not good. As well, we now know why he has other symptoms which our doctor could not explain (extreme sweating, laboured breathing, light weight - although he is very tall for his age).

The timeline is that they are planning to operate in October/November in order to give Kilian some time to get stronger and older so that he can withstand the anaesthesia. We have an appointment in July, and we will see how he is developing. If his weight does not increase, then they will operate earlier.

That's it for now. Perhaps we can talk on the weekend.

Take care and Happy Easter, my Brother.

Much love from Munich (also from Constanze and Kilian),

Greg

November 2012

Kilian's surgery was a success!

JULY 2012

It's okay to threaten that fucker but other higher position guy heard it... overheard I guess...

- Army life - July 11

I had quite a big day today :(not very good... It's been okay days until today...

One guy asked me if I had a book that he could borrow from me...

So, I asked him if he wouldn't mind reading a sad story about an author's mother.

He didn't respond right away... paused a bit, staring at me, and said that... "I don't have a mom. I lost her last year ahh- sad! Fuck! What are you going to do about my feeling. Fuck! Miss my mom now!"

I had nothing to say. I didn't know how to react :(I actually cried, hidden in the back.

I felt terrible... when I was down after the incident. Feeling sorry and down... trying to finish what I needed to finish.

One stupid fucking higher position guy wrapped my neck with his arm, hanging on to me. Asking a question, smirking in my ear... "How old is Bubs? How old are you, private Bubs? hahahahaha."

Very disgusted and furious at him :(I said sth that I wasn't supposed to say... I actually threatened him, saying that I would write a letter to the company commander, letting him know that he abuses me verbally.

It's okay to threaten that fucker but other higher position guy heard it... overheard I guess... got really mad at me for threatening the other guy :(He told me to "Behave". Fuck!!!

Fucking stupid people. Now I think of what happened. The guy who threw sth tragic at me was very thoughtless and selfish thing to do to me :(I'm sorry for his loss and all that him missing his mom. But he is just someone that happened to share the army time and the same building!!

Nothing more personal btw us. But saying things like that, making me feel guilty for sth that's not my will or fault or anything whatsoever!!

Angry now!! Stupid guy! Hate him!! Not talking to him anymore.

I wanted to phone you but too early there :(I don't want to wake you up :(I need your support. You are a good friend.

I've been somewhat sad and down. I've been counting your birthday to come even if I

knew that there wouldn't be anything much to offer you from here :(

All I could do for your birthday from here is to say, "Happy Birthday" and phone you. I wanted to be there for you as your family. Not to give you a material gift but to give you caring!

I am your family. You turned seven today!

- **Army life - July 16**

AUGUST 2012

It's today that I have to go back to the cage... sad and scared to go back and deal with stupid people again :(

It's not gonna be easy after this vacation.

- Army life - August 28



RADIO SILENCE

OCTOBER 2012

ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

SEOUL, South Korea -- A North Korean soldier killed two of his officers Saturday and defected to South Korea across the countries' heavily armed border in a rare crossing that prompted South Korean troops to immediately beef up their border patrol, officials said.

North Korean soldier defects to South after killing 2 of his officers 07.10.2012

- **October 7**

South Korea extending long-range missile capability under U.S. pact

- **October 8**

Very intense now:(

We are on emergency situation now...

I don't think that it's that good... but seems very serious... I don't know what's gonna happen but...hope that nothing would happen...

N. Koreans are stupid!!!!

- **Army life - October 8**

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ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

North Korea threatens US after it helps South Korea

North Korea boasted Tuesday that the US was "within the scope" of its long-range missiles after South Korea vowed to deploy new missiles capable of reaching anywhere inside the North.

- **October 10**

If we only talked to each other; we'd realize there really is no reason to hate.

ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

The "High Alert" has been lifted.

At dinner, Junwoo asked me, "Lindsay, why did you get along with me so well?"

Pause, pause, pause, pause and answer, "Because I don't want anything from you. I just want you to be happy, nothing more."

- **October 12**

ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

North Korea Threatens Violent Response to Propaganda Campaign

- **October 20**

Army Life Breaking News

North Korea new leader still a mystery after a year: Pentagon Related News Analysis & Opinion Related Topics By Phil Stewart

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Whether North Korea's new leader will follow the dangerous path of his father is unclear, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said on Wednesday, despite worrying behavior by the reclusive state during his first year in power.

North Korean minister 'obliterated'

- **October 24**

ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

Date October 25, 2012

TOKYO: A North Korean army minister was reportedly executed with a mortar round for drinking and carousing during the official mourning period after the death of Kim Jong-Il.

- **October 25**

ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

S. Korea starts North-focused military exercise

South Korean soldiers stage a military drill to test defences against North Korea in Seoul in August 2012. South Korea on Thursday kicked off an annual, large-scale military exercise aimed at countering threats from North Korea at a time of heightened cross-border tensions. AFP - South Korea on Thursday kicked off an annual, large-scale military exercise aimed at countering threats from North Korea at a time of heightened cross-border tensions.

- **October 25**

I was really → really → really worried that i couldn't talk to you and check my email:(I'm happier than ever!!!!!!! I'm really → really excited to see you soon. I will let you know when i make sure.

Thank you for saying YES:)

Stupid place is limiting our access to the Internet:(I'm not sure when i can use the internet next time. but I'll try to phone you later.

- **Army life - October 26**

I requested my first vacation from December 8th to 20th.

Will you be able to visit?

I've been trying to phone you, but you were not home :(It was my last min. decision. I didn't have enough time to phone you before.

I'll try to phone you later. Please → Please say YES :)

- **Army life - October 27**

If you find yourself asking yourself (and your friends).

"Am I Really a writer? Am I Really an artist?"

Chances are → you are.

The counterfeit innovator is wildly self-confident.

The Real One
THE REAL ONE

IS. SCARED.

I have a really bad news (Very upsetting actually... My vacation is too long so it conflicts with others and i was kinds of forced to cut it in half: (BUT I didn't wanna cut it in half for others... so I had to cancel the whole plan:(

I'm really sorry. and sad for the result. Hate people here more than ever!!!

I wanted to tell you on the phone but i'm not sure when i could phone you. so decided to send you this email. I'm sorry. I will phone you soon.

My jaw hurts really bad... not joking... it's become serious... pain from the jaw causes me to have headache. really bad :(

I don't think it's just pain i had before i enlisted. I will keep telling them that it hurts really → really → really bad!!!

hopefully... it gets out of me here?

hehe just a thought of your silly Bubs:)

We are "YES"

- **Army life - October 29**

NOVEMBER 2012

12 NOVEMBER 2012

Today marks the first anniversary of Bub being forced to leave Canada and report for mandatory military duty in South Korea.

The two Koreas have been at war since June 25, 1950, with an armistice agreement (July 27, 1953).

Casualties in the war were heavy. U.S. losses were placed at over 54,000 dead and 103,000 wounded, while Chinese and Korean casualties were at least ten times as high. Korean forces executed many alleged civilian enemy sympathizers on both sides, especially in the early months of the war.

Bubs and Jarrod met in early 2010. Despite being from different cultures and having slightly different periods, they formed a strong bond instantly. Jarrod feels fortunate to know him. Jarrod couldn't envision why their friendship wouldn't grow from the moment we met. Bubs is one of the best people Jarrod knows, he knows it! Jarrod often is heard singing "Bubs. Bubs. Bubs." A song about Bubs.

As we age, friendships become harder to find. They are even harder to hold on to as life is hectic, rendering most we meet as acquaintances. Friends that were once competitors on the athletic playing fields drop with the onset of each year; eventually, and usually, replacing the tennis racket with a stool at a bar → girthing up being a result.

Bubs transcended acquaintance by simply caring. He confirmed something Jarrod had concluded years prior – true friendship wants everyone it touches to be happy, nothing more.

For those of you who know Bubs – and for those catching a glimpse from reading this chronicling of his journey → I hope you see his strength of character. I also hope you come to the determination that what divides us really shines a bright light on how similar we are.

Bubs and Jarrod, their time apart has been painful.

For Jarrod, Bubs filled a void.

Bubs became Jarrod's family.

Bubs became Jarrod's closest friend.

With other friendships retreating into their lives and families, Bubs was there to fill empty times for Jarrod with companionship.

Then one year ago, Bubs freedom was stripped from him.

Bubs identity was taken away.

They forced Bubs into the military.

They gave him a number for his new identity.

All contact with those who love him was removed, and Bubs was to be indoctrinated on why he must hate the North Koreans.

The Reality... 19-23-year-old South Korean boys → and a similar mixture of North Korean boys → are taught to hate each other (their innocence being permanently scarred).

In 2012, how fucked-up is that?

At those ages, most, if not all, haven't discovered who they are. So how can they possibly make logical decisions about people they've never met?

In the meantime, back in Vancouver, an acquaintance, while occupying a stool next to Jarrod at a local watering hole, expounded her hatred for all Asian girls, *"I hate the way they all dress like sluts,"* stated with a hint of anger in her inflection.

When Jarrod challenged her about her broad-brush strokes, suggesting dressing like a slut (her opinion only) is not a product of culture. Well, maybe it is; it's a product of the Facebook generation where digital media has turned most into attention-seeking... regardless of skin colour or heritage.

With the challenge came a need to prove her point. This quickly ended when Jarrod started, *"You know Bubs is Asian."*

"He's different. He's just like us now."

They did not subtract the acquaintance at that moment → continued conversations about anything important was. Jarrod wished moments like this were isolated. They weren't.

BACK TO BUBS

Bubs learned how to kill.

Some of his young comrades have bullied him because he is six-ten years older than they are.

Bubs has felt like an outsider because he has experienced another side of the world.

Bubs has felt horrifically alone.

Yet, Jarrod and Bubs correspondence, Bubs often thinks of others first, a true testament of who Bubs is.

As Jarrod was just about to send you back to the story. Jarrod felt a need to take a break and shed some insight on why he's embarked on sharing Bubs story.

Jarrod finds it fascinating. It is the easiest way to update Bubs many friends. Jarrod believes it is a captivating way for those reading Bubs trials & tribulations as visitors of this book understand what military service at today's age is like. And, for those who have faced it, to conjure up feelings, never losing sight of how ridiculous it can be.

Bubs left one-year ago, today → the, the week before Bubs left. He presented most of those he shared contact with personal cards, wishing them well. Bubs did this out of the kindness of his heart. Many of these same people, not considering their heritage, Bubs had invited into his home, feeding them, helping to break down barriers → that don't need to exist.

War is stupid.

We need to grow.

Most people want love-health-happiness-and a sense of belonging.

Most people don't hate.

Bubs has been told he has a gun → use it if necessary.

But in all reality, Bubs would rather offer food instead of bullets.

There is only a little over one-year left in Bubs prison sentence.

BUBS CRIME

He wasn't born in Canada.

I'm honoured to have been asked to narrate some of Bubs travails for you.

Much Love

Travis

I have a good news for you! :) hehe

The army office just approved me to have another year of extension! :) yay!

So, I just need to get a new passport next Monday and meet friends for the rest of my trip here:)

See ya!

- **Army life - November 12**

Yes! as i told you ;)

I have one more year to get my landed immigrant! :)

As soon as i go back there... need to start :")

How are you?

- **Army life - November 12**

Emergency!

Stupid North Koreans! they are trying to make a war! :(

So scared now...

They've done these teasing sometimes... but now... It's getting really serious! :(

What if they keep me here:(I'm worried! not kidding.... they would totally do that!

OMG!! What's going on?

North Korea won't "miss the opportunity" if "warmongers perpetrate another provocation," an unidentified North Korean military spokesman said in a statement published yesterday by the Korea Central News Agency.

South Korea's Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin said the communist state may carry out provocations ahead of the Dec. 19 election, Yonhap News reported yesterday.

He inherited an economy one-fortieth the size of South Korea's, and a government that has poured most of its resources into a 1.2- million-strong military.

ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

It's very disconcerting when they have forced a loved one to take part in a war, he wants no part of. As much as nothing is likely to happen, I don't know if you have noticed. We are still pretty messed up in this world. In some countries, they forced people to be prepared to die; for what?

Reading articles about nuclear missiles with a picture of brain-washed militia prepared to fight when, in reality, don't missiles trump teenagers and young adults with guns every time?

The aggressive rhetoric sent by both sides in this never-ending conflict is, frankly, scary. The North is, as we are told, the most reclusive secretive country in the world. Their population is starving, yet most of its resources are spent on the military. And if they were to score a victory taking over Seoul, wouldn't they immediately turn on their maniacal leader as they would realize what they could never have?

If they didn't turn, what country would they have to attack next to suppress the American way of life → 1.2 million strong would quickly become an annoying little tick to be squashed by the rest of the world?

Strangely, this gives Jarrod a sense of calm.

Let's hope sanity prevails, and Bub's forced tour of duty ends a little over a year from now, peacefully!

- **November 24**

North Korea says it will meet 'farce' of Yeonpyeong commemorations with force (source AFP)

The only regret on the North's side, he said, was that the military had not seized the opportunity two years ago "to send the whole of Yeonpyeong Island to the bottom of the sea."

May sanity prevail!

- **November 29**

DECEMBER 2012

ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

North Korea's Caste System Faces Power of Wealth

Most North Koreans have never met a foreigner, seen the Internet, or earned more than a couple hundred dollars a month – but those in a growing economic elite now fly to Beijing and Singapore to shop. It's a country where human rights groups say well over 100,000 political prisoners are held in a series of isolated prison camps, but where an exclusive European firm, Kempinski, hopes to be running a hotel soon.

- **December 1**

ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

North Korea plans new rocket launch as leader asserts power

U.S. spokeswoman Victoria Nuland condemned the launch. "A North Korean 'satellite' launch would be a highly provocative act that threatens peace and security in the region."

- **December 2**

ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

Russia, China urges North Korea to drop rocket launch plan

Russia and China urged North Korea on Monday not to go ahead with a plan for its second rocket launch of 2012, with Moscow saying any such move would violate restrictions imposed by the U.N. Security Council.

"We condemn what we consider to be a highly provocative action that would threaten peace and stability in the region," US State Department spokesman Mark Toner said.

- **December 3**

ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS (ARMY LIFE COMMENTARY BY BUBS + JARROD)

Good & Evil Re-defined

"Pyongyang has few tools to pressure the outside world to take it seriously due to its diplomatic isolation and its puny economy."

MILITARY SERVICE

Here in South Korea, military service is VERY IMPORTANT TO EVERY MAN! Every man needs to go to military service for 2 YEARS! You can choose the day when you will go into the military service. When the man has 20 or 25 UNTIL 30 years. The person who can't go to the service military is only the people who have any disability.

The man doesn't have any disability and doesn't want to go → the man will go to JAIL!

THE MILITARY SERVICE IS VERY IMPORTANT!

I have 18 years now...

I will have 19 years next month.

Many people told me to go to the service military now... but I don't want to. Because I'm studying, my brother, family, my girlfriend needs me. I can't think about it right now. And because I don't want to go to the service military now. Maybe later!

“Perhaps the cruellest aspect of the war was the treatment of the returning soldiers. Unlike the hero status given to the returning soldiers from World War II, the soldiers that served in Vietnam were portrayed as baby killers, psychos, drug addicts and warmongers. It was not uncommon for returning soldiers to be confronted at airports by protesters carrying signs with anti-war slogans. Instead, the protesters used the signs of attack on the soldiers and even threw urine at the veterans. Sometimes, soldiers were refused service in restaurants.”

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Hasn't the whole concept of war changed in the last 50+ years?

It used to be black and white, evil versus good; freedom versus oppression. With the shrinking globe, thanks to technology, the parameters have changed. Almost every country has McDonald's, Holiday Inn, Samsung, Apple... bringing pause as we realize most people are just like us.

In this day of instant information, it is becoming nearly impossible to identify the “enemy.”

Maybe the enemy has been living on our television screens, radios, and billboards for years, with us all being too daft to realize it?

Meanwhile, on the borders of Korea, children were standing ready as it erased their innocence from their lexicons. **Boot-camp and push-ups** seem ludicrous when missiles are about to be launched.

Just imagine, say the attention-seeking leader(s) of North Korea launched an attack on the mainland USA; what's next?

I don't understand; can you help me?

LET'S EXAMINE THE FACTS

Apparently, US Army Life earns enlistees celeb status. That is until they kill, return home, and are too traumatized to function in everyday life or shunned. Thankfully, they are protecting the free world!

Nineteen-year-olds on both sides of the Korean peninsula are holding guns, prepared to shoot if instructed.

Why?

They are just like kids in the rest of the world. All they really care about is their girlfriend, family, smartphones (not in North Korea), and life. Their "way of" has yet to be determined. Nor has the marketing of stuff (propaganda in North Korea) fully taken control of their impressionable minds.

IN THE NEWS

North Korea is about to launch a missile under the guise of wanting "Doppler" weather, at least something of the sort. The International community condemns the North's desire for better weather forecasting by laughing at them and calling their economy "puny."

BACK TO THE NINETEEN-YEAR-OLDS

Ask yourself: What did you know at 19... 25... 30... 40... 45 and for bleep's sake, even now?

Have you fully developed a sense of right and wrong?

Could you, without hesitation, be sure of good or evil?

Were the Vietnam veterans treated like celebs when they returned home?

Every year I realize more and more; I know little.

Like you, I've figured out killing is terrible. I also know missiles beat guns every time.

Are the North Koreans going to charter flights on Koryo Airlines to transport their 1.2 million-strong military to complete their mission against consumerism?

Before they board, back in the USA, a football player shoots his wife nine-times, murdering her, kisses her forehead in front of their three-month-old child and one of the child's grandmothers. Then he rushed to the team's training facility, where he thanked his coach and the team's General Manager for the opportunity to play in the NFL. Next, he blows his brains out in front of them.

His actions quickly prompt two talking points: Sorrow for the fallen murderous athlete; an uproar about the "right to bear arms."

Lost in the events; murder.

Thankfully, whenever the Koryo planes land in America, 300,000 strong Americans will wait to protect American soil!

A reliable source named "Huggy Bear" has told me North Korea's Master Plan is to take over the free world and insert a starving, oppressed populace everywhere in the wake of conflict.

No Twitter for any of us.

Fortunately, they are apt to be thwarted by the collection of well-adjusted gun-toters who have finally determined "yes we can" means: Band together and... do what?

Can someone please tell me who "we" are?

Are "we" supposed to believe a homeless Celeb War Veteran and Bill Gates are on the same team?

As the world turns, in Amsterdam, the mayor plans to move me and you; if they define us as "disorderly" → into police-guarded container homes for a minimum of six-month stints to teach us how to behave. So, turn down the music and...

Who gets to decide disorderly?

FINALLY: GOOD NEWS

We have deemed hoarding a "Mental Disorder."

At least, I think I heard that.

But, anyway, if the voices are correct, it will eliminate poverty, as the Uber rich will no longer hoard wealth.

Aren't they the biggest hoarders in the world?

The mentally challenged poor person is labelled for trying to grasp the "dream" of owning stuff as they try to stay in the game, whereas wealth keeps begetting more... with the gap between "have" and "have not" becoming the root of war.

Is that our reality?

My great friend Bubs is totting a gun on the border between South and North Korea. He's not 19. His comrades are. They have one thing in common; they care about their families, friends, significant others, smartphones, and living.

They are prepared to kill because they've been told they must; the enemy is lurking on both sides of the border.

I'm just not sure where the actual borders lie in today's world?

Isn't it time for humanity to grow?

Even though Pyongyang is a city, I take it seriously; my dear friend has one-year left totting a gun in defence of...

Can somebody please tell me what the new definition of war is, who is good, and the real evils today?

I'm afraid I don't understand.

- **December 5**

ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

WASHINGTON -- The United States is shifting four warships into position to track and possibly defend against a planned North Korean rocket launch, while urging Pyongyang to cancel its second such attempt this year, officials told NBC News.

The Aegis guided-missile cruiser Shiloh and three guided-missile destroyers John S. McCain, Benfold and Fitzgerald will be put in place as a "prudent precaution," officials told NBC News.

- **December 7**

Homeless Statistics According to NATIONAL COALITION for HOMELESS VETERANS

45% suffer from mental illness

50% have substance abuse problems

67% served three or more years

33% were stationed in a war zone

25% have used VA Homeless Services

89% received an honorable discharge

Seven out of 10 Americans are one paycheck away from being homeless.

Ask yourself:

What price is too high to pay?

ARMY LIFE COMMENTARY UPDATE (JARROD)

Good & Evil Re-defined

When you slip down to the article below; think about the propaganda machine claiming if you join the Army you will obtain "Celeb Status."

Do you remember: *Are "we" supposed to believe a homeless Celeb War Veteran and Bill Gates are on the same team?*

I pitched the article to the editor of the paper I used to write for... it wasn't picked up.

I still don't understand war...

Fewer homeless vets this year, but advocacy group sees 'alarming' rise in younger ex-service members

'They are coming back messed up'

"We house more Iraq and Afghanistan and younger veterans than older veterans. It used to be where a homeless vet was typically about 60 years old. Now, they're 22 years old," Leal said. "And a lot of them are female veterans who have witnessed combat. They are coming back messed up. They are coming back homeless."

- **December 11**

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ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

North Korean missile launch defies international warnings

The White House called it a "highly provocative act that threatens regional security."

- **December 12**

ARMY LIFE BREAKING NEWS

Mass rally in North Korea to glorify leader after rocket launch

If there is a common threat that should galvanize regional cooperation "it most certainly should be the prospect of a thirty-year-old leader of a terrorized population with his finger on a nuclear trigger."

- **December 12**

TO BE CONTINUED →

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.
