

***Be Kind and Useful:***

**| *Volume 2***

**David Bruce**



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Note: Yes, these good deeds are impressive, but we may want to ask how society can change so that some of these good deeds are not needed.

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## Chapter 1: Questions 1-20

### 1. What's A Good Deed Someone Did For A Dying Person?

1) Atrista121 wrote, "My brother died in a motorcycle accident and someone who saw it apparently held him until the ambulance arrived. I can't imagine how hard that must have been for her, but I'm forever grateful. I regret not telling her so, but I was a teenager and pretty messed up about it for a long while."

2) square\_succulents wrote, "My dad was in a significant motorcycle accident. He was in a coma for 2.5 months before he passed away. He never woke up. The police report noted at least three witnesses, including a woman who held his hand the whole time. Knowing that someone was with him during that time and trying to comfort him always gave me a moment of peace."

3) esprockerchick wrote:

"I saw my neighbor murdered in cold blood in my own driveway. My neighbor was helping his lady friend escape a very abusive relationship. Lady's ex hunted her down like a dog. I saw my neighbor walking back home with her after they went to get food for his kids. Heard three loud pops. I ran outside to find her screaming and him blown out of his shoes and into my driveway. He had a hole in his chest big enough to put my fist in. There was nothing I could do to save him except sit with him and hold his hand while I prayed for him to pass quickly. I'll never forget that night. Forty-eight hours later I broke the lease on my house and moved in with my boyfriend, who lives in a much safer borough. You were an awesome neighbor and a wonderful father, Kaine. You're certainly missed.

"Edit for those wanting news articles:

“<<https://tinyurl.com/yajl95aq>>.”<sup>1</sup>

## **2. “If You Had A Friend Who Spoke To You In The Same Way That You Sometimes Speak To Yourself, How Long Would You Allow This Person To Be Your Friend?”**

bruahnahingucci wrote, “You make a very valid point, and I don’t know how to feel about it.”

1CEninja commented:

“I call it the reverse golden rule, and I tell this to everyone with depression and self-confidence issues.

“Everyone knows the golden rule — treat others how you would want them to treat you — but people with depression don’t treat themselves well.

“So I tell them to treat themselves the way they would treat their closest friends. Would you say that shit to your friends? Then don’t say it to yourself. It’s awful, stop saying such hurtful things to my friend (you).”<sup>2</sup>

## **3. “Surgeons Of Reddit, What Was The Biggest Mistake You Made While Operating On A Patient?”**

1) surgthrowaway wrote:

“Actual surgeon’s take: Got into the wrong intermuscular plane during the initial approach to an anterior-based hip

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<sup>1</sup> Source: TempestYGO, “(Serious) Redditors who witnessed a murder, what is your story?” Reddit. AskReddit. 2 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y84ehsn6>>.

<sup>2</sup> Source: CMPunkTHEMAN434, “If you had a friend who spoke to you in the same way that you sometimes speak to yourself, how long would you allow this person to be your friend?” Reddit. AskReddit. 3 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yaf67czw>>.

replacement and damaged the patient's femoral nerve. They have permanent paralysis of their quad as a result.

“The reason this thread is mostly full of joke answers and third party retellings is that mistakes like this can be hard to talk about, even behind an anonymous throwaway account. Every time you put on the gown and gloves, there is a small, needling part of the back of your mind, reminding you that there's a real chance you may be about to ruin someone's life. It may not be this time, it may not happen in any of the 12 other surgeries you have scheduled this week, or the 50 this month, or the 50 next month, or the 50 the following month. Major, life-altering mistakes are extremely rare, but with enough time and a big enough sample size, rare things happen all the time.

“That's the reality of being a surgeon. People put their life and well-being in your hands and at some point you are going to betray that trust and hurt someone. It is going to happen. There is no amount of preparation or care that can prevent it — if you chose this life, you have chosen a life where at some point you are going to lie sleepless in bed at night wondering, ‘I wonder how Mr. / Mrs. X would be doing now if they'd never had the misfortune of meeting me?’”

Gabrovi commented:

“This is so true. But I just got a message today from a patient tonight whom I thought would hate me. I am switching to a new practice and I sent a letter out to my patients informing them. He texted me (I give my patients my cell if I think that they will need it), saying that I changed his life and he will be forever grateful. I operated on him 10 years ago and he had a postop complication because the anesthesiologist hadn't removed the NGT from the stomach when I asked him and I stapled across it. This led to a fistula eventually forming. This was just discovered last year and I operated on

him again. It was disastrous and he spent three weeks in the hospital. He eventually healed, and he can now do things that he never thought that he would be able to do and he also now qualifies for a kidney transplant (his whole reason for surgery in the first place). I was floored, and told him so.

“I know that this is kind of vague, but I don’t want to disclose too much.

“Also, lawyers tell us not to say too much.

“But the guilt is tremendous. It doesn’t matter that you do 99% or 99.9% or 99.999% correct. It’s the failures, omissions, and mistakes that haunt you at all times. What I’ve learned is that even if things aren’t going well for a patient, they are very understanding. They just want to know that you’ll be there and not feel abandoned. It’s the least we can do.”

2) anutteranceofshush wrote:

“Not a surgeon, but I am a histotech (we work in the pathology lab where all the specimens are sent).

“A surgeon did a double mastectomy based off a different hospital systems pathology report. Basically the report said she had the kind of breast cancer where both breasts need to be removed.

“But we found zero cancer in either breast.

“He was shitting bricks so we submitted both breasts IN THEIR ENTIRETY ... That’s a ton of blocks and it’s unheard of to submit all the tissue like this but he needed to find cancer.

“I’ve never seen a surgeon stand there and watch the pathologist like this guy did. He was cussing up a storm the whole time and screaming about ‘this is why I never take outside pathology reports!’

“Turns out the other lab had mislabeled her specimen so some other lady got the all-clear who had cancer and our lady lost both breasts when she didn’t have cancer. All-around horrible situation and the surgeon was sick over it all.”

fallingleaf commented, “My god. Never realized people messed up like that in the medical industry, doing something as simple as mislabeling.”

spicycheezits commented, “It happens all the time. I also work in a pathology lab and I spend multiple hours every day contacting nurses to solve mistakes that they made / we caught. So many things come to us mislabeled or not labeled at all and we just have to send them back. It’s ruined any sense of trust I had in doctors to see all the silly mistakes they make constantly.”

jaloca commented, “Same. I definitely don’t spend hours calling people, but if I (regularly) have to call about 4-5 specimens on a day we have 250, that still feels like a high rate of mistakes. (Although to be fair — I’m not going to pretend like I don’t think I’ve ever made a mistake. I definitely have.)”

Ideal\_Needle commented, “Former lab assistant here, errors in patient identification and specimen labeling are the main cause of adverse patient outcomes related to the lab and pathology departments.”

3) Icnaredef wrote:

“Med student here, I was watching a knee operation when the surgeon suddenly stopped, looked towards the staff absolutely shocked and asked, ‘This is the wrong knee, isn’t it?’

“Basically he was told to operate the wrong knee and halfway through he realized it was too good looking to be the knee that needed the operation. Luckily there was no



permanent damage done, the team reknit everything together and rescheduled the surgery.”

Lobsterzilla commented, “I will say generally when a mistake occurs, being open, apologetic, and contrite goes a tremendous way. I’ve never had a major surgical error, only med / care errors. But just being upfront, explaining what happened, why it happened, and how we fix it / what it may have caused really maintains rapport with most people.”

Greedy\_Owl4862 commented:

“I’ve had multiple surgeries and beforehand every nurse and doctor who comes in says multiple times, ‘This specific body part is where we are working,’ and it is drawn all over with permanent marker. That I had to approve

“I think they’ve learned from their mistakes.”

Bo Nanners commented, “I had a tumor removed from my knee back when I was the 8th grade. It was the size of a golf ball, just sticking out right on my knee cap, so there was absolutely no way you could miss it. But the staff STILL went through the process of asking both me and my parents if it was the correct knee, and then writing on it with marker. I get that mistakes happen, but I feel like marking the wrong organ / limb / whatever to be operated on is one of the more idiotic and negligent mistakes.”

4) voltorbz wrote:

“Not a surgeon, but I had a screw put in to hold together a fracture in my wrist. At the last moment before surgery, the anaesthetist told me I could have the surgery with a local rather than general anaesthetic as planned. So I let her make the call for me to be awake.

“During the drilling my surgeon started complaining at length of why he hates the drill he’s using and how it’s

inferior to the other type or brand. It was apparently the only one he could find at the time and he didn't want to reschedule.

“Once the screw is in, the surgeon says to close up. Someone asked if the screw should protrude as much as it was, to which he responded, ‘No, but we can get away with it, and you never want to take a screw out and put another in as you essentially wear the thread of the bone.’ Then silence for about 10 seconds while I feel them shifting wrist around followed by ‘actually we better put a smaller screw in.’

‘When I was in recovery the surgeon was surprised how quickly I woke up and had a slight look of surprise when I told him I was only under local. Next thing he said was ‘Surgery went well.’”

Sp4ceh0rse wrote, “I’m an anesthesiologist and frequently have to remind certain surgeons to watch what they are saying when the patient is awake.”

JAHNOOSKA commented, “This reminds me of my hospital stay. I was out for a while when I first got in and I guess the nurses got in the habit of chilling in my hospital room to hang out at night. First time I woke up they were all sitting around watching TV talking shit about one of the patients. Scared the shit out of them when I opened up with ‘Yeah, she sounds like a bitch.’”<sup>3</sup>

**4. “In Sweden, Especially During Winter, We Will Place Gloves, Scarves, Etc., That We Find Onto Fence Posts, Low Branches, Or Electric Boxes In Order To Keep Them Off The Ground Should The Owner Return. What**

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<sup>3</sup> Source: Neotoniuc, “Surgeons of Reddit, what was the biggest mistake you made while operating on a patient?” reddit. AskReddit. 3 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y95nybqp>>.

## **Is Something Nice That People Do For Strangers Where You Are From?"**

1) Roeche wrote, "We do the same in Scotland with gloves and such. I dunno if anywhere else does it, but we sometimes tape wee envelopes with a bit of cash to our doors for delivery workers, specially over the winter/holiday season. This kept me in decent boots and coffee when I delivered the milk / papers as a kid."

-ah commented, "I've seen (and done) the same in various bits of England in terms of gloves and scarves. Used to leave a bottle of whiskey and mince pies out for the postman when we had a regular one (so knew him pretty well). This year has been a bit strange because of COVID, though, but I tend to supply the Amazon delivery / returns guy with coffee whenever we see him but most of the other delivery drivers knock and run."

2) Varean wrote, "I remember visiting Paris over a decade ago and I remember losing my hat going through Notre Dame, and I got scared I'd never find it again since it was a gift from a relative who'd passed. And when I went back through, I found it up on a post near the exit by the information booth. It was nice."

3) one\_of\_orlandos\_hos wrote:

"UK here.

"We queue correctly. Only monsters fuck with the queue etiquette. In the UK a mentally ill drunk can be screaming in your face on the train, and everyone will just ruffle their newspapers higher so that they don't have be involved, but if someone tries to butt in front of you in a queue multiple strangers will jump to your aid, and the offender will quickly be surrounded and dealt with.

"So many European nations just don't have this."

whysweetpea commented, “I lived in London for 10 years and accidentally jumped the queue a couple of times. Londoners don’t say much, but they WILL tell you where the end of the queue is!”

4) queen-vegemite wrote, “Give them a drink on a hot day or leave water out for birds.”

conor\_2407 commented, “Yep, must be a fellow Aussie from the username.”

5) MrSkittlesPK wrote, “I’m from Pakistan. We usually function on tea so we give out tea for workers and guards.”

6) alternaiiv wrote, “In Estonia in autumn, many people with gardens leave apples by the fence for anyone to take. :)”

7) SmolEmmywem wrote, “I live in the countryside in England and we get a glut of fruit in summer. So we put out bags of apples, pears, and maybe plums for passersby to help themselves to.”

8) Code096 wrote, “Back home we’d go hunting and if we found a big moose or something we’d cook it and send some of it to people around the community so they could have something to eat.”<sup>4</sup>

## **5. “What’s Your Story Where You Said Or Thought, ‘Excuse Me, I’m Speaking’?”**

SleepFlower80 wrote:

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<sup>4</sup> Source: majlo, “In Sweden, especially during winter, we will place gloves, scarves, etc that we find onto fence posts, low branches or electric boxes in order to keep them off the ground should the owner return. What is something nice people do for strangers where you are from?” Reddit. AskReddit. 4 January 2021  
<<https://tinyurl.com/y8elhadh>>.

“I used to work as a forensic accountant. I was very good at my job, hence the level that I was able to work up to. That did not stop the men I worked with, some of whom were far, far more junior than me, trying to talk over me and correct me with their zero expertise.

“I had to testify in court regarding a particularly juicy case and I had to take one of the juniors with me. We were prepping for it a few days beforehand and I thought, ‘Sod it, I’ll get all the juniors in with us because it’s useful information for them and it will benefit them.’ This one little dipshit tried talking over me and correcting my facts with his bullshit, but in the first instance, I turned to him and asked him, ‘Did the middle of my sentence interrupt the beginning of yours?’ He instantly shut the fuck up. He waited until a work night out (and he’d got a few drinks in him) to tell me I was a stuck up b\*tch.”<sup>5</sup>

## **6. “College Grads Who Discovered Too Late That Your Major Is Useless In The Real World, What Do You Do Now?”**

titscorcher wrote, “I write emails for the functionally illiterate.”

rocket\_goblin commented, “My sister-in-law used to do something similar, but she worked for this hotline where people would call in and have her write texts to send to people who are deaf.”

IdgyThreadgoode commented:

“Your sister is a fucking national treasure.

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<sup>5</sup> Source: Nav\_the\_gamer, “What’s your story where you said or thought, ‘Excuse me, I’m speaking?’” AskWomen. 7 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yym3zcg>>.

“Seriously. Hug her for me.

I did some work with a couple nonprofits during college for the deaf — people take for granted how accessible life is for them. Example — think about trying to call 911 when deaf. How does it work? Google it. And then appreciate your ability to hear and carry that extra dose of empathy with you forever.”<sup>6</sup>

## **7. “How Do You Cope With The Fact That You’ve Failed?”**

obamium\_69 wrote, “I didn’t fail. I found a way that won’t work.”

RamsesThePigeon commented:

“A person can be lazy, ignorant, or perfect.

“Since nobody is perfect, everyone must be either lazy or ignorant.

“When you fail at something, ask yourself if laziness or ignorance was to blame.

“If it was laziness, then make a better effort next time. If it was ignorance, then learn from the failure.

“We can’t always know every detail of every situation, which means that mistakes borne of ignorance — genuine ignorance, not the willful kind — are opportunities to learn. Similarly, mistakes borne of laziness are opportunities to improve, allowing you to become either more adept or more efficient.

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<sup>6</sup> Source: Mahimah, “College grads who discovered too late that your major is useless in the real world, what do you do now?” Reddit. AskReddit. 8 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y33nj4s>>.

“Now, some people might claim that the above advice doesn’t apply to every situation. ‘I failed at lifting this 3,000-pound boulder!’ they might say. ‘I wasn’t lazy or ignorant!’ If they were making a good-faith effort to move that giant rock, though — if they weren’t just trying to think of exceptions — then either laziness or ignorance was to blame. Perhaps they didn’t know their own strength, or perhaps they couldn’t be bothered to set up a pulley system. Regardless of the circumstances (and regardless of actual fault), it’s only when we accept or applaud either of those traits that we actually meet failure.

“As such, as long as you’re always earnestly striving for perfection, you haven’t failed.”

Kendrick\_fisher wrote, “I’d argue there is a fourth: unlucky. Sometimes you do everything right, try your hardest, but the world is a cruel place uncaring of good people. Best thing you can do is get up, brush yourself off, and keep going.”

RamsesThePidgeon replied:

“I’d suggest that ‘unlucky’ is usually a subcategory of ‘ignorant.’

“After all, if you had known about those circumstances ahead of time, you could have adapted.

“It obviously isn’t your fault that you didn’t know about them, but it still comes down to lack of knowledge.”

SlickerWicker commented, “Not to mention people use the unlucky part to never have to evolve or change.”

mmm\_bees commented, “Yes I think that’s really why it’s left out. It undermines the whole point.”

obanium\_69 commented, “Wisdom here.”

bleu\_leaf commented:

“What if competition comes into play? If you run a marathon and you’re running the best you ever have, you trained hard, studied, and did all the things. What if it still isn’t enough? What if someone else just runs faster than you? You failed to win, yet it can’t be fixed with more motivation or knowledge.

“I think I saw a saying of it somewhere: ‘It is possible to commit no mistakes and still lose. That is not weakness. That is life.’

“How can you deal with that kind of failure?”

Spirits96 commented:

“You’re quoting Captain Jean-Luc Picard from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

“If we go by [u/RamsesThePigeon](#)’s broad definition of ignorance, then your scenario falls under the category of ignorance: The runner was ignorant of the ability of their peers and set the bar for success too high. In the end, all of this boils down to where you put the bar for success and how you define failure.”

Pants4All commented, “At some point there has to be a realistic understanding of physical limitations. I will never be a faster swimmer than Michael Phelps, he has almost a foot of height on me. Doesn’t mean I didn’t do the very best someone in my position with my tools could have done. You have to love yourself enough to try to be the best that you can be, not the best that is humanly possible.”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Source: lpoj889, “How do you cope with the fact that you’ve failed?” Reddit. AskReddit. 11 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y42qo7od>>.



## 8. “What Is The Nicest Thing A Teacher Did For You?”

1) blipsman wrote:

“Not teacher exactly, but guidance counselor...

“I had an appointment with her to review a stack of college applications I needed to send in and needed her recommendations, etc. This was 25 years ago, when they were still all paper.

“Early decision for my top choice school — a fairly competitive one — was supposed to be going out in a week or so... while I’m in her office, she picks up the phone and calls the dean of admissions at that school. (She was a bigwig on some committee of guidance counselors and university admissions directors, so she was able to actually reach out to head of admissions at an elite school halfway across the country.) Got him on the phone, tells some story about being swamped with recommendation letters to write and wanted to see if one of her students was in or not so she could prioritize. Waits a minute, and then thanks him and hangs up.

“Then she jumps up beaming and hugs me, letting me know I was in early at my top-choice school. Did save her the time to write those five or six recommendations for me, and saved me the \$250 or so in application fees.

“It was so excruciating to not be able to tell anybody other than my parents during that week or 10 days until the letter arrived.”

2) mamasdirtysecret wrote, “My second-grade teacher knew money was tight so she’d send me home with a snack every day and several on Fridays. A lot of times those snacks were the only food I had outside of meals at school in the free program. She saved me.”

3) sociosexualfun wrote, “My third-grade teacher was a wonderful person and knew that I came from a troubled home. She would give me a hug every morning before school started until I was in sixth grade. She was my rock at school and helped me get through each day while I went to that school.”

4) fennecfur wrote, “My English teacher in my junior year loved to talk to me about my favorite TV shows and movies because she enjoyed them, too. I never really had any friends with similar interests and I think she knew that, so she always took the time to ask me what I thought about the latest episode of a show and stuff like that. That was always the highlight of my day.”<sup>8</sup>

### **9. “Someone Is Dying In Your Arms And There’s Nothing You Can Do. What You Say To Them Will Be The Last Thing They Ever Hear. What Do You Say?”**

1) NottyHubby wrote, “I was a paramedic and have actually experienced this ... I simply held their hand and spoke softly telling them it would be ok ... to just let go ....”

2) Lis\_you\_dog wrote, “Shhh. You’re going somewhere better.”<sup>9</sup>

### **10. “Managers Of Reddit, What Is Your Best ‘I Am The Manager’ Story?”**

1) StanMarsh02 wrote:

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<sup>8</sup> Source: ididnotpractice, “What is the nicest thing a teacher did for u?” Reddit. AskReddit. 12 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yyjqp8g5>>.

<sup>9</sup> Source: CatboyWrangler, “Someone is dying in your arms and there’s nothing you can do, what you say to them will be the last thing they ever hear. What do you say?” Reddit. AskReddit. 13 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y3f73tcv>>.

“Had three weeks of a transfer to another office in a different part of the country to help the local new manager in that office to set up and get ready to go.

“First day walk into the office just before 9am, man walks up to me and shouts ‘Boom’ in my face, laughs and walks off to the side. He goes to join a group of scruffy young men in one corner of the small coffee-making area of the office.

“A bit later a gaggle of four or five other men walk in... well... slouch in, none wearing suit and tie or smart clothing; anyhow, I’m waiting by the managers desk, Just before 10 in walks this new manager who had been collared by the block manager as he walked in, hence why he was late.

“He walks over to grab a coffee and gets a ‘boom’ from the same guy as me. He is nervous as hell as he walks over to me. I introduce myself and we go into his office, the previous week of getting all the IT, etc., set up in the office had been a nightmare as the ‘Boom’ guy was one of his new employees and was a real arsehole!

“Anyhow, we begin to sort out getting his password, etc., set up so he can email from the PC rather than his phone.

“A while later we hear shouting and crashing, the group of men who were in the coffee area (including ‘Boom’ guy) were racing around the office on chairs on wheels. The new manager looks at me, looks at them, and shrugs his shoulders.

“‘Do you want me to deal with this?’ I ask him.

He nods. I step out of the office and walk over to them standing in the way of the race.

“‘Do you have your staff ID’s on you?’

“‘Yeah!’

“‘Pass them over to me.’

“Meekly some of them do, excluding ‘boom’ guy!

“Looking at the few who did not pass their ID over, I say, ‘You, sit over on those seats and be VERY quiet until I call you in.’

“When I return to the office, I pass the Staff ID’s I have to the new manager and tell him to get their staff file and someone from HR down here ASAP.

“He begins calling, etc.

“I walk out to the few who are sitting on the seats I had directed them to.

“I say, ‘As you will not show me your ID, I will get security to escort you out of here as I do not believe you are in this office lawfully.’

“All suddenly produce their staff ID cards.

“I take the ID cards and ask the manager to get those files, too.

“A short while later HR send someone down. ‘Boom’ guy and a few others are dismissed for gross negligence on the spot.

“The rest get final warnings, and the rest of the three weeks went rather calmly, apart from power issues with new electric cabling.”

2) elinhkr wrote:

“I work at a large cinema chain as the manager.

“In the afternoon we have just a few people working since it is usually quiet and it is not unusual for me to take an employee’s station when they are on a break. This was a

regular afternoon and I was at the box office so one of the employee could have lunch.

“Note: Employees wear regular T-shirts and management wears a button-down shirt and a jacket over it. This was a particularly warm day, so I was just in my button-down shirt and my jacket was on the rack behind a closed door .

“In my country we have specific age laws for showing films to the public. Meaning that if a film is rated 16 years and over, no one under 16 can see that film, even with the parents’ consent. It is stated clearly in our house rules and in the law.

“So this family comes in — a mom, a dad and two kids — wanting to see a film. I am not sure which one it was, but it was rated 16+. One of the kids looked about 17-ish and could show ID, but the other one was clearly younger, I guess around 13-14 years old.

“I informed them about the house rules and law that unfortunately they could not watch this film, but I was happy to suggest another one, or split them up so the oldest child could watch the 16+ film with one of the parents, and the younger child could watch another film.

“The dad Lost. His. Crap.

“He was going on and on about how HE decides what his kids could see, and not some ‘underpaid dipshit working minimum wage.’ He cursed and nearly got behind my station throwing a tantrum and his wife and kids were visually embarrassed. He told me he was going to get me fired for being such a dumb employee refusing them service and ruining their day, and asked to speak to the manager.

“So I smiled and told him, ‘Of course, sir’ and left my station. I walked through the door, grabbed my jacket and name-tag and returned to the station. I walked in with the

biggest grin and asked the dad, ‘You wanted to speak to the manager?’

“Of course, the dad wasn’t amused and threw another hissy fit. I politely asked them to leave, or I would call the police because of the rudeness of the dad. He was still shouting and screaming but the wife and kids escorted him out.

“It never felt better to ‘reveal’ that I was the manager to this male Karen.”

3) AlterEdward wrote:

“Not quite the same thing, but the ‘second voice’ effect is a well-known phenomenon in the call centre industry. If someone’s being an ass hat to you, they’ll calm down when speaking to a second person, as long as they think that person has some kind of authority. Even if the second voice says exactly the same thing, the customer will accept it the second time round.

“In one particular job I had, we all had each other’s back and would signal to each other where we wanted to ‘second voice’ a call. It didn’t matter if the second person was a manager or not, as long as you told the customer they were. We did this because most of the time it was a quicker way to bring the customer round than to try and convince them yourself. Worked nearly every time.”<sup>10</sup>

## **11. “What’s A Story You’ve Always Wanted To Tell, But Never Had The Right AskReddit Question For?”**

Mummy-Monkfish wrote, “In high school I had a friend whom I knew from my German-language class. I am a bit of

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<sup>10</sup> Source: frisky\_cupcake, “Managers of Reddit, what is your best ‘I am the manager’ story?” Reddit. AskReddit. 16 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y3dufmc5>>.

an introvert and was being bullied by two girls from the same class. One day my friend somehow got me to sit with her and these two bullies and managed to convince them I was actually an OK girl and just a bit introverted. We all went to a theme park together as friends the next weekend, and I just find that so lovely to remember.”<sup>11</sup>

## 12. “What’s A Wholesome Secret You Keep?”

1) ThisManDoesTheReddit wrote:

“I went to school with a Down Syndrome kid who was super into wrestling. He used to go around imitating his favourite wrestlers’ lines and catch phrases. He used to get teased all the time for it. One day he bought in some action figures and they were stolen from him (I don’t know all the details), but he was devastated. That night I took my allowance, headed to the store and bought a new Kevin Nash action figure. Then I went in super early and popped his locker (they were shitty things literally everyone in school knew how to break into) and left the action figure in his locker with a note telling him to stay strong and some other stuff and signed it off with ‘Remember. Don’t turn your back on the wolf pack. Your Bud, Kevin Nash.’”

“He got a little bit of shit telling people Kevin Nash broke open his locker and left him a note, but he was so happy it was worth it!

“Nobody ever knew it was me.”

Ozwaldo commented, “I fucking love you.”

2) QueenoftheCircus wrote:

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<sup>11</sup> Source: MeYourAverageGuy, “What’s a story you’ve always wanted to tell but never had the right Askreddit question for?” Reddit. AskReddit. 16 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yy6ctu9d>>.

“My husband was so happy that he was able to surprise me with the proposal. We had been together four years, so it’s not like I wasn’t looking out for it. He still tells people about how sneaky he was to hide what he was doing right up to the big moment.

“I felt the ring in his pocket earlier that day. It wasn’t in a box; he kept it loose in a breast pocket so there wouldn’t be a noticeable bulge. I put my hands on his chest (as young lovers do) and felt it, then quickly jumped in to another conversation so he wouldn’t know.

“We’ve been married nine years, and I’ll never tell him.”

3) Back2Bach wrote:

“A husband-wife team doesn’t want any recognition for the amazing volunteer work they do in town, but I know who they are and greatly admire and appreciate them:

“For the last several years, the couple has been busy at work — and at their own expense — restoring an abandoned cemetery. The forlorn place had been completely let go, overrun with weeds, broken tombstones, rusted wrought-iron fence, etc.

“Now, thanks to them, it’s been fully restored — complete with attractive landscaping and refurbished grave markers.

“When I asked why they were anonymously putting so much work and money into the project, they simply said, ‘Everyone buried here was someone’s friend or family member. We just want to honor them, not abandon their final resting place.’”<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Source: Silver\_haired\_Fox, “What’s a wholesome secret you keep?” Reddit. AskReddit. 19 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y377y5xd>>.



### **13. “People Who Are Strongly Atheist, Have You Ever Had A Moment Where You Doubted Your Skepticism?”**

Mr\_DuCe wrote, “My wife was hospitalized for postpartum cardiomyopathy, she was revived at the hospital where she had her C-section and revived at the hospital they transferred her to. She was stabilized and her doctor requested permission to conduct an experimental treatment. She was in a medical-induced coma for 4 months, had an IVAD [Implantable Ventricular Assist Device] and was on the transplant list for a new heart. In every definition of the word ‘miracle.’ she checks off all the necessary boxes. For a moment I began to question my beliefs starting with ‘Is this that sign I have been looking for that says God is real and cares about me?’ I then reflected back on all the nurses, doctors, physical trainers and everyone who worked tirelessly to save my wife’s life simply because ‘this is what I love to do.’ It wasn’t just one person who made things work out; it was many and in the end I remain unchanged in my lack of belief because the miracle I witnessed was made by the hard work of fellow humans ranging from several backgrounds and beliefs. Today, my wife is no longer on the IVAD, she recently received word that her heart function is increasing to a point where she won’t need any devices in her (she has an internal defibrillator), which is a first ever for people with the same problem.”

InsertBluescreenHere wrote, “A friend of mine’s infant essentially had a heart attack due to a rare not normally tested for gene that doesn’t filter the calcium out of the body and clogs the arteries like cholesterol. There were several factors that saved her. The caretaker happened to be holding her when she stopped breathing, and the caretaker called 911 and performed infant CPR. If the caretaker wasn’t there, she would be dead just because the caretaker was using the restroom or stepping outside for the mail or if the baby was napping. Then the ambulance guys were four minutes away

taking a break in a parking lot. (They normally take breaks and post up here until they get a call.) The baby did end up needing a heart transplant as there was too much damage to heal and function correctly. They were able to find [find and fund?] a donor within a week which was also very lucky. While the parents are uber Catholic, I can't say myself if it was some higher being stepping in. More like a series of lucky events. After all, another family had to say goodbye to their infant for there to be a donor heart. The parents (my friends) realized this on the day they got the news they found a donor and were very mixed emotionally: On the one hand, your own daughter gets to live and lead a normal life while on the other hand it was the beginning and end of another baby's life."<sup>13</sup>

#### **14. "What's The Most No-Fucks-Given Thing You've Seen Happen In A Professional Environment?"**

1) DaughterEarth wrote:

"Not really a specific moment, but we hired a support guy and every single ticket he is not at all afraid to just say, 'No, we don't do that.' He's probably made us more money than anyone else at this point. Just because he has no problem saying, 'That is not supported natively, but you can pay us to add it for you.'

"He's the guy who turns all my hours into billable hours. Thank you, new support guy. Literally today I billed an hour on a free product because this guy made it clear to a client that any extra effort on their ticket (regarding a free product) would require billable development time. (Not in a mean

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<sup>13</sup> Source: NICODAMUS, "[SERIOUS] People who are strongly atheist: Have you ever had a creepy moment where you doubted your scepticism?" Reddit. AskReddit. 20 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y5udafxr>>.

way, by the way. They wanted actual development support and approved my time before I got in there.)”

2) You-Deserve-Worse wrote, “I worked at a call center. We processed people’s important financial information constantly. Bank Accounts, Credit Cards, you name it, we were on top of it. We had to go through a decent amount of training, and pretty intensive background checks in order to be allowed to work there. We had to be on top of everything to keep the job as it was desirable. Once saw a girl walk in, wearing pajamas. With a blanket, a pillow, and fuzzy purple earmuffs. Sat down at her desk. And started playing on her phone. Barely did any work that day, and it was the last day I saw her.”

3) votemarvel wrote:

“One restaurant I worked at there was a customer who would make a complaint about the food every time he came in. There was always something wrong with his meal and he demanded money off.

“One day after he complained again the Head Chef had clearly had enough. He stormed out of the kitchen and asked the guy, ‘Why do you come here? My food clearly isn’t good enough for you. If you come in again, I will refuse to cook for you.’

“Turned out the guy had been banned from every other restaurant in town for doing the same thing.

“I’ve often thought the same as my old Head Chef, but I don’t think I’d ever have the nerve to go and say it to a customer’s face.”

4) WorthyLocks wrote, “I sent the song ‘I’ve No More F\*cks to Give’ to a friend when she was having a bad week at work. About three days later, her boss pissed her off and she just stared at him and hit play on this song. Apparently

he laughed hysterically and told her to take the rest of the day off, paid.”

5) wine\_n\_mrbean wrote, “Some dude who worked in the call center department of an old employer. He’d been there for a few months and the guy in the cubicle next to him would CONSTANTLY click his pen for the entire eight hours. The dude requested to be moved because the pen clicking irritated him so much. He asked his cube neighbor to please stop, but he just wouldn’t / couldn’t (?). One day he just couldn’t take it anymore and jumped up, yanked the guy backwards out of his chair, screamed in his face, broke the pen, then threw a bit of a tantrum in his cubicle (broke a bunch of stuff). Screamed ‘I QUIT’ at the top of his lungs, and we never saw him again.”<sup>14</sup>

### **15. “Mr. Rogers Said To ‘Look For The Helpers’ During Hard Times. Who Are The Helpers Who Stood Out To You This Past Year [2020]?”**

1) soveryoriginal wrote:

“This probably isn’t the kind of name you’re looking for but:

I’m 14 weeks pregnant and I started to cry about a week ago thinking to myself this line and that the number-one helper I can think of is my mum.

“She helps me in everything, she always shows up, she has helped me tackle early pregnancy and buying my first home while planning a wedding with resourcefulness and warmth. She’s so judgement free and constantly does stuff to make every choice I make for myself a successful one.

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<sup>14</sup> Source: snakesnake9, “What’s the most no f\*\*\*s given thing you’ve seen happen in a professional environment?” Reddit. AskReddit. 23 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y4qzzexk>>.

“But the thing is it isn’t just me, it’s everyone she meets. She would take the shirt right off her back for a stranger. She gives so much to her friends, family and even just acquaintances. Nothing is too much to ask for her. She’s a nurse of 20 years where she works in ICU [Intensive Care Unit] and spends all day helping other staff, her patients, their families.

“It made me cry because I can’t imagine life without her, and how infrequently people acknowledge how much of a helper she is. She does it because she wants to, not for any rewards.

“Anyway, my answer is my mum.”

2) rebekahster wrote, “An awful lot of nurses and doctors and other medical professionals during COVID. The firies [people who fight fires] and the volunteer firefighters during the [Australian and Californian?] bushfires last year [2020].”

3) SLObro152 wrote, “Officer Eugene Goodman.”

Note by David Bruce: Wikipedia identifies him as “an American [law enforcement officer](#) and U.S. Army veteran serving as the acting Deputy [Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate](#) as of January 20, 2021. He is known for his actions as an officer for the [United States Capitol Police](#) during the [2021 storming of the United States Capitol](#), in which he diverted the insurrectionists from the [United States Senate chamber](#).”

Billie\_fixes\_stuff commented, “Initially, I thought that story was exaggerated — but god damn — he really did take a glance down the hall, and decide to lead those guys up the staircase the other way all by himself. He really pushed them just enough to make them follow him.”

SLObro152 replied, “Yeah, must have been a hell of a workout getting those big balls up the staircase.”

Teamchaoskick6 commented, “I’ve never seen a last name that was so proper and appropriate other than like ‘Baker’ for a baker.”

4) supersecretsecretary wrote, “The garbageman. Every time he would come by this whole summer, he would come inside the house to do my dishes for me because he knew I was having a hard time this year.”

Herr\_Tilke commented, “I’m awestruck. That man is a true hero. People who look to help others when they are at their lowest inspire me. Often people shy away from help or try to make themselves hidden when they are down, so it takes a lot of effort to look after those folks. People like your garbageman always help to motivate me to try harder to spot the people who need my help the most.”

5) dr239 wrote, “The people who went out of their way to ensure that their elderly neighbors, their friends who were medically high-risk, and even strangers had access to food, water, cleaning supplies and PPE [Personal Protective Equipment]. So many neighborhoods did food deliveries with porch drop-offs for families at high risk, people organized sing-alongs outside nursing homes so the elderly would feel less alone, and as a whole people were just kind of looking out for one another.”

6) Amateur\_Hedonist wrote:

“Got a family member who specialized in Respiratory Therapy. Basically she manages the ventilators you hear about in the hospitals helping COVID patients who don’t get enough oxygen on their own to breathe.

“She has many, many horror stories because of it but still pushes on.

“One thing I’ll share that has apparently become more widely known now is for those who have COVID serious

enough to need a ventilator for the next one or two weeks, if they survive, they don't come out the same. The ventilator can provide extra oxygen, but the human body is still hindered and can't absorb 100% of it needed for healthy levels in the brain. Fast-forward two weeks of the brain not receiving enough oxygen even while assisted by a ventilator, and it's damaged to some extent due to even that slightly lower intake of oxygen for an extended period of time.

"The silver lining is those machines do save their lives as they would be dead without the ventilator, but often the recovery isn't 100%."

SatanTheTranquil commented, "I 100% this. Wake the fuck up, people. I've had patients come off of vents, hey breathing well, no symptoms, seem okay, but dumber than a box of rocks. The brain damage done from low oxygen is not reversible. One co-worker of mine came off a vent .... Her hand is pale blue, permanently, and she can't focus on anything, at all, ever."

7) angelique wrote:

"I'll aim a little smaller. My local moms' group has been insanely supportive of everyone in it. Lots of empathy for those having a hard time. Lots of advice and sharing ideas. Lots of tangible help when requested. Lots of birthday cards sent to kids celebrating lock down birthdays. Lots of local knowledge of what stores are open, where to find certain things, how to navigate this new world of online ordering and curbside pickups. Lots of supporting local, sharing where to buy something locally instead of on Amazon, offering local alternatives when your searching online finds only Amazon links. Lots of Secret Santa gifts and Christmas card mailing lists so no one felt alone during the holidays. Lots of silly kid stories and picture.

“It’s just been really great not to feel alone when my usual support network has suddenly gone virtual (and not handled it great) and we’re completely cut off from family since they live hours and provinces away.”

8) Safety\_Dance wrote, “Dr. Anthony Fauci. The man is an expert in immunology who has dedicated his life to helping others and had the bad luck to come into contact with a true monster.”

buttercupvibes wrote, “This man is amazing. I’m so happy to see him smiling and looking hopeful these days [just after Joe Biden became USA President].”

Safety\_Dance replied, “Me, too, dude. I can’t even imagine how hard the last year has been for him.”

Nibblerrama commented, “I’m not a USAmerican, and I still came here to say this. Dr. Fauci, for sure. We are bombarded with American media, and he was always the bright spot.”

9) Who\_Wouldnt\_ wrote, “Election officials. Give it up for your boring neighbors who sign up to man the polling stations, tally the local results and make sure the state totals include their tally and foot in the total. It’s a simple boring process in reality, but that is why it works and the results come out the same every time you run the numbers. Bravo, people, well done.”<sup>15</sup>

## **16. “What’s The Nicest Thing Anyone Has Ever Done For You?”**

1) Ifoundmyglue wrote:

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<sup>15</sup> Source: Actoraphobic, “Mr Rogers said to ‘look for the helpers’ during hard times, what are the helpers who stood out to you this past year?” Reddit. AskReddit. 22 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y6qewctd>>.



“My mom could see her end coming. She knew she was becoming fully paralyzed and that eventually it would take her breathing and she will die.

“So what does the woman do? While she could still get around (with help), she had me take her to the furniture store and she made me pick out things she’s always wanted.

“So now I have a new couch, recliner, dishwasher, and stand-up freezer. Full paralysis kicked in not too long ago for her so she can’t sit on the chair or couch, but we have clean dishes every day and food that isn’t freezer burnt.

“I would have been happy with the stuff we had. It was ratty, torn, broken, and dirty, but it was ours and it reminded me of mom and dad. Now I have new stuff and it’s going to be loved just as much as my mom loves me.

“I love my mom to bits, and it breaks my heart watching her suffer now.”

2) Zuccinimini wrote, “My mom, although broke as fuck, was able to get me new furniture through credit when I got my first apartment. Then on top of that, she got herself a different car with fewer miles on it and gave me her old one, which I still have. It has like 150k miles on it and is still my first car. I’m so thankful. I know she worked overtime and two jobs to be able to do that for me when I moved out for college.”

3) Koraxious wrote, “Saw me trying to pick up two literal armloads of groceries, said, ‘You walking? Let’s go,’ and then he and his daughter proceeded to load me into his vehicle and drive me home. I tried to give him a five for gas, and he absolutely refused.”

4) dramaticuban wrote, “When I was younger, a girl who wasn’t even into me gave me a Valentine’s card of the [ain’t](#)

[nobody got time for that meme](#) that was labeled, ‘I got time for you.’”

Note by David Bruce: [Here](#) and [here](#).

To test whether a site is safe use this:

<https://transparencyreport.google.com/safe-browsing/search?u=>

5) Njabachi wrote:

“I was homeless, and a woman bought me Subway.

“That was six years ago, and it still sticks with me.”

6) stevenrama wrote, “I don’t expect anyone to go out of their way to do anything nice for me. But when I get a compliment, I take that shit to heart. As a dude who rarely gets compliments, it really makes my day when I get one.”

7) Good-Bit4328 wrote:

“When I was hospitalized with Guillain-Barre Syndrome, the first two days I was in the ICU [Intensive Care Unit] on a ventilator. I was HEAVILY drugged, but somehow I was still awake a lot of the time. There were two really kind nurses.

The first one came in and said, ‘Hi, I’m Lil Rachel. They call me that because I’m short. Your grandparents are coming tonight, so let’s get your hair done so you look pretty for them.’ She used rinse-free shampoo to clean my hair (I hadn’t been able to shower for like three days before getting to the hospital due to balance / mobility issues) then brushed it and braided it and put it up in a bun. No one else cared about that — they were focused on keeping me alive — so that was really kind of her.

“The second nurse, I don’t even know what she looked like. I had like a four-to-five-hour head-to-toe MRI while still on

the ventilator. I was crying and scared and didn't know what the fuck was going on (drugged to the gills) so every time I came out of the tube I started panicking. This lady was there to hold my hand, literally, and rub the back of it and tell me that I was okay, I was doing a great job, and we were almost done. Every time I came back out, I immediately reached a hand out and she was right there to grab my hand and comfort me when I was scared and confused.

“Really, every nurse, doctor, physical therapist, and psychologist I saw when I was in the hospital was so incredibly kind to me. I'm crying just thinking back on how amazing every staff member was in the darkest and hardest part of my life.”

8) Sensitive\_Proposal\_8 wrote:

“My stepmom continues to do nice things for me. I grew up with a very neglectful mother, emotionally, physically, and financially. My parents divorced when I was 12, and I was forced into a motherly position to my two younger sisters. My dad and stepmom married three months after the divorce was finalized and because of my mom's anger and dislike of her, I never took the time to get to know her or be nice to her.

“To put it bluntly, I was a fucking shithead to her. I'm sure she thought about leaving my dad a billion times during those years. My father eventually re-stationed and moved away for work and my anger stopped me from keeping a relationship with them.

“After years of not talking, I messaged them out of the blue. I'm fed up with being homeless (Mom threw me out at 18), depressed, lonely, and uneducated. Three years of no communication, but after only three weeks texting back and forth, when I asked her if I could relocate to the west coast

to better my life, she not only purchased my plane ticket, but a plane ticket for my dog as well.

“I’ve been living with them for two years now. I’m 22 and I have my associate’s and am working towards a bachelor’s in biochemistry. My parents, especially my stepmom, have shown me what true unconditional love looks like and how parents are SUPPOSED to take care of their children.

“Kris, you’ll never understand just how much my life changed because you decided to love me despite my shitheadedness. I’m a better person because of your support.”

9) Nichmibwq wrote, “I was hit by a car and a stranger sat with me until the EMTs arrived. I never got his name. He left before the police got there. I looked for his face in crowds, but never saw him again. He kept me calm. I didn’t feel alone.”<sup>16</sup>

### **17. “Ok, Humility Is Over. What Good Deed Have You Kept Quiet About But Now Want Some Fake Internet Points For?”**

1) thewiz wrote, “I secretly shovel snow off the driveways of the older people I know. My goal is to not be caught.”

2) Zestism wrote:

“The mom of a good friend of mine recently passed away. They were so very close and I could tell that hit him so hard; one thing is that every Wednesday his mom would write him a card, and tell him how proud she is. Since she died, I started doing that anonymously, and just encouraging him.

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<sup>16</sup> Source: misalignedsinuses, “What’s the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you?” Reddit. AskReddit. 23 January 2021  
<<https://tinyurl.com/y29opek6>>.

“It honestly warms my heart to hear him call me practically in tears about how much he loves the cards he keeps getting, and he keeps sharing them with me. I always act surprised and celebrate with him to not blow my cover. I just love that dude to pieces and if I can do anything to help him get through this time, I’m shooting for it.”

3) Bradley\_Carbunkle wrote, “I keep trash bags and gloves in the trunk of my car, and sometimes I randomly pull over to pick up trash.”

4) LunLumita wrote, “I was the one who bought popsicles and ice cream for the office when the air conditioning broke.”

5) Ginger\_Chick wrote, “I waived a shit ton of late / lost fees for kids who couldn’t check out any more books back when I was a librarian.”

The-Bear-Said\_I-Can commented, “Thank you. We didn’t have much money when I was growing up. My mom wouldn’t have let me keep taking books out if it started costing her money in late fees.”

Ginger\_Chick replied, “This reason exactly. Every kid should be able to read as much as they want. And libraries are there to help people. I worked at a downtown branch of a decent-sized city and we did everything from reading recommendations to helping people with resumes, to hosting all sorts of programs, to helping people find basic resources. Thankfully, in my family, my job has been the only casualty of COVID we have had. But I still grieve for it.”

6) Zuzublue wrote, “I always buy cake mix, frosting and candles in bulk for the food pantry because every kid needs a birthday cake.”

wisbloodfoolheart commented, “That’s really thoughtful! I remember one time I was working at a Wendy’s and a

customer jokingly asked for a birthday candle in his frosty. Well it just so happened I had a box of birthday candles in my purse because it had been a coworker's birthday the day before, so I was able to deliver. The customer was very surprised and pleased."

7) 99thusername wrote:

"About 20 years ago, an elderly woman slipped on the ice down the road from my house. She clearly broke a hip. I went out to her and cradled her head and shoulders in my lap as I knelt, waiting for emergency services to come. Her own daughter stood about 20 feet away pacing and shouting how she always ruined everything.

"There was a chunk of ice under my foot, which I didn't notice at first. I couldn't move because the woman cried in pain if I even shifted and the ambulance workers admonished me to stay in place until she was strapped onto a gurney thing. My foot hurt very much and I got permanent nerve damage on the top. I still can't feel very much in a big area. But I felt like I needed to do it for her so she at least felt cared for and had a human touch.

"I've never told this story because there's no way to bring it up without seeming like an attention seeker. Lol."

8) ElegantGeorge wrote, "Recently, I paid in full for the groceries of one lady. She was before me and at the checkout, the girl behind the register told her she doesn't have enough for the whole purchase, she was paying with food stamps."

9) justanothergirl13579 wrote:

"I donate money to my local food bank and encourage all of my friends to do the same. My income has been entirely unaffected by the pandemic and I make a comfortable living so I've pretty much donated the equivalent of my US

COVID relief checks to my local food bank since they need it much more than I do. I also encourage my friends who are in similar financial positions to do the same. Between me and my friends, we've probably donated \$10,000 to the local food bank since the pandemic started.

“Not really something I feel comfortable bragging about, but I'm proud of the impact I've been able to have just by suggesting the idea to my friend group.”

knittybitty123 wrote, “Thank you for donating and encouraging others to donate money specifically. People think food banks take only food, but your dollar goes so much further than a can of tuna ever would. You're awesome.”

pantryLady wrote, “I'm going to add my thanks. I was director of a pantry for nine years, and the need is definitely great.”

10) ChanklasMom wrote:

“This very sweet woman came into my shelter to adopt a cat. She was recovering from a stroke, on a fixed income, and was clearly frustrated with herself for not being able to communicate clearly. (The stroke was fairly recent.) I spent a long time with her, listening to what she wanted, and I managed to find her a cat she really clicked with. She was so excited to have a furry friend to help her through her difficult time.

“And then she realized she couldn't afford the \$25 adoption fee.

“So I left the room, quietly paid the adoption fee and came back to go over the cat's medical record with her.

“When she found out I paid the fee, she burst into tears, gave me a hug and said that no one has been nice to her since she

had the stroke. Everyone just got impatient and huffy with her because she couldn't talk.

“I was pleasantly surprised when she stopped back a few months later just to say hi, give me another hug, and let me know the cat was doing great.”

tweakingforjesus commented, “I'm glad you helped her find happiness, but I have to ask how is a person on that tight of an income going to be able to pay for pet food and vet visits? I'm kinda torn here.”

ChanklasMom replied, “I steered her toward a young, healthy cat. Part of the reason she couldn't afford the adoption fee was because she'd spent it on an emergency prescription for herself.”

11) an\_ineffable\_plan wrote, “Through a butterfly-effect sequence of events, I gave a hot meal to a couple who were asking for spare change outside a mini-mart. I was very nervous doing it — by the time I came back with the food, a cop had pulled up and was talking to them. I hope they weren't in too much trouble. The man's face lit up when he saw what I had, and they were so thankful. I hope they're doing better now.”

12) Washjockey wrote, “I was 21 working for \$7/hour at a convenience store, living with my mother. One of my regulars was a young woman who lost her husband in a work accident, leaving her two kids to raise. She came in Thanksgiving morning for \$2.37 in gas. I gave her a \$100 gift card to the grocery store. She broke down in tears telling me I had no idea how much that meant to her.”



13) electricdwarf wrote, “I give FAT tips.”<sup>17</sup>

### **18. “What Is The Purpose Of Setting Goals In Our Life If We All Die Anyway?”**

1) DarkPasta wrote, “Well, there’s the part in between being born and dying. You could always focus on that part, you know.”

2) dominiquec wrote, “It’s the journey, not the destination.”

3) KevinsOnTilt wrote, “Life can be amazing if you make it so. Life is in your hands, so use goals to chase what’s meaningful to you.”

4) FormarShadow1 wrote, “I think it would be terrible to be on your deathbed and realizing you haven’t achieved anything, haven’t made any kind of difference, and haven’t done what you truly wanted. This is the ONE life we will ever have and I think that the regret of wasting it would be beyond anything we can imagine.”

5) Moarten wrote:

“This is exactly why some people don’t care about their careers and how successful they are, but just want to have a nice family and are happy with what they have. It’s about having a good time between your birth and your death. If you have a bucket list, you should do those things asap, because the experiences and memories last only while you are alive.

“If I go bungee jumping the day before I die and I’d like it, it will make me sad that I didn’t do it sooner because tomorrow it doesn’t matter anymore.

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<sup>17</sup> Source: marrewerre, “Ok, humility is over. What good deed have you kept quiet about but now want some fake internet points for?” Reddit. AskReddit. 23 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y35uxhfu>>.

“Live now.”

6) timetobeatthekids wrote, “The interim between birth and death can actually be pretty great, and putting work in to make it better is kind of the only thing to do.”<sup>18</sup>

### **19. “What Random Act Of Kindness Made You Proud Of Yourself?”**

1) TaiDavis wrote, “Paid for an elderly woman’s groceries in line in front of me because she didn’t have enough. So I told the cashier to put her groceries on my bill.”

2) damoxx wrote, “Driving to work one cold winter morning, I saw a lady on the side of the road trying to change a flat. I circled back and stopped to change the tire. I was in khakis and a light sweater, but I was nice and toasty from a full heart.”

3) tjfraz wrote:

“I found a wallet on the sidewalk with cash, CC cards [Credit Cards], etc. Without a second thought, I mailed it to the address on the license with a message to text me when received. About a week later, I got the text from the wallet’s owner thanking me.

“A week after that, he sent me a card that said, ‘You’re a good human,’ and a gift card. I still have the card saying ‘You’re a good human’ on my fridge.”

4) libyanprimeminister wrote, “I gifted my cousin a PS4 I won in a competition. I don’t see myself as a good person so

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<sup>18</sup> Source: Bardan\_3265, “What is the purpose of setting goals in our life if we all die anyway?” Reddit. AskReddit. 28 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yyc5h4fe>>.

to do something like that made me feel just a little better about myself.”<sup>19</sup>

## **20. “Lawyers Of Reddit: What Was Your Hardest Client To Defend In Court?”**

Aelaer wrote:

“Client was a nurse who had administered a fatal injection. Killed a baby. It was a long story.

“TLDR: I got her off any charges of negligence.

“Many years ago but this case will stay with me forever.

“After hours, small rural hospital, understaffed and under equipped. Paediatric ward, baby very ill with gastro enteritis and hadn’t responded to weeks of treatment, was losing weight despite everything.

“There was no doctor on the paediatric ward that night (or, in fact, in the entire hospital), when the lab phoned the baby’s bloodwork results in to the nurse on duty and said the baby was going to die soon if he didn’t receive urgent treatment.

“Nurse phoned the doctor on telephonic call (who wasn’t supposed to go in, having already worked long hours that day, just be available for phone calls) and the doc gave instructions for a sister to give an ampoule of potassium chloride. She wrote down the instruction. The doc didn’t specify that it be given orally, which was what was meant. But because the doc specified that a sister must give it, she

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<sup>19</sup> Source: takemymethlab, “What random act of kindness made you proud of yourself?” Reddit. AskReddit. 28 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y2gol3u4>>.

assumed it should be an injection as she herself wasn't qualified to give injections (but a nursing sister is).

“The nurse called the sister from the maternity ward to carry out the instruction, explained the urgency. The sister was very busy in the maternity ward but came to the paediatric ward and gave the injection. Baby passed away from immediate cardiac arrest.

“The partners in the firm didn't want to touch the case as they thought it was impossible.

“But in our law, negligence has a specific definition. I won the case for the nursing sister by arguing that my client was trying her best, with only the instructions and resources at hand, under circumstances where she had been told the patient would die very soon if the treatment wasn't given.

“She was an amazingly dedicated person and what happened had completely devastated her, and she wanted to quit nursing. I hope she changed her mind after that.

“Afterword: The one good thing that came out of this tragic event was that I mentioned to a local Rotary Club member that the hospital in question desperately needed some telemedicine equipment (knowing that the club had such a project) and shortly after that they were able to make a donation of equipment to the hospital. (I even coincidentally saw that doctor in passing years afterwards. and the doctor was so grateful for that equipment.)”

Pumpkin commented, “This is why you standardize communication. If this kind of instruction was a form or similar, you would realize administration method was missing and avoid the incorrect assumption.”

Aelaer replied:

“Yep. There was nothing like that. No online system for the doctor to log instructions.

“The staff didn’t even have access to a computer or fax machine after hours, the only equipment was locked away in the administration office. That’s why I suggested that hospital as a needy recipient of the telemedicine equipment.

“The nurse had to write down the lab results that were read to her over the phone, then read them to the doctor. Way too many opportunities for error.”

TinyLuckDragon wrote, “There are rules for taking phone orders for medications. Two people need to hear the order, and all parts of the order should be dictated, including route. There are mechanisms in place to minimise the risk of this happening.”

makingspringrolls commented, “There are NOW rules for taking phone orders .... This was many years ago, and often something like this has to happen for rules to be implemented.”<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Source: gallimimus, “Lawyers of Reddit: What was your hardest client to defend in court?” Reddit. AskReddit. 29 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yyth5lrx>>.

## Chapter 2: Questions 21-40

### 21. “How Do You Gracefully End An Informal Phone Call That’s Taking Too Long?”

1) 6w82 wrote, “Hey, my phone is about to die. I’ll call you later maybe?”

2) HieloLuz wrote:

“‘Let me let you go.’

“‘Well, I’ve taken up enough of your time.’

“‘I’ll let you get back to it then.’

“All A+.

3) Lydia\_Carsicana wrote:

“I always initiate phone calls by giving the other person the expectation that I may be interrupted at any time, just in case of a situation like this.

“Then I can tell them, ‘Hey, so and so is ready. I need to go talk to them about this thing.’

“Quick and polite.”

4) DungeonDragonRaRa wrote, “Anyways, I gotta go. Talk to you soon. Bye.”<sup>21</sup>

### 22. “Redditors Who Grew Up Poor: Besides Practical Money-Saving Measures, What Were The Unwritten Social Expectations Of Your World Growing Up?”

1) throwaway9111q wrote:

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<sup>21</sup> Source: RoutineProcedure, “How do you gracefully end an informal phone call that’s taking too long?” Reddit. AskReddit. 29 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yy7ubj7p>>.

“Don’t do anything bad or illegal.

“But if you do, don’t get caught.

“Bail is expensive. Lawyers and court fees are expensive.”

CummunityLover234 commented:

“And synonymously never call 911, [never call?] the police and go to the doctor only when it’s needed.

“Edit: The definition of ‘needed’ is widely different for poor people.”

obi-whine-kenobi commented, “My dad made us brush our teeth for 5-10 minutes every night. And we never got sweets. Because we couldn’t afford to go to the dentist. I think I went two, maybe three times until I got a job with benefits in my early 20s. My teeth are crooked as fuck, but I escaped with very few cavities.”

2) wildsea\_ wrote:

“People actually order take-out food like every night. I still think that’s mad.

“Literally once or twice a year for us while we were growing up.”

icyangel2666 commented, “We grew up poor, but now that we’re basically middle-class, my parents get take out / fast food multiple times a week. I’m trying to get into thrifty habits and even if I’m not the one paying for it I try to resist the temptation of fast food / take out. In my parents’ mind they’re thinking, ‘We can afford this now, so it’s no problem.’ But everything adds up. Yeah, I’ve love to get a shake somewhere, but they cost like \$3 and you can get like half a gallon of ice cream at the grocery store for that price.”

katsin08 commented, “I’m sorry but a dollar cheese burger from McDonald’s is WAY cheaper than buying and grilling one yourself.”

lazyMarthStewart wrote, “We were blue-collar lower middle class. We went out to eat once or twice a month. You look to your parents to check before ordering anything. Just get water, never get appetizers or desserts or the expensive things in the menu. And you eat every bite of the meat, you never waste that.”

LadyXaviaraH commented:

“Getting a happy meal from McDonald’s every six months was incredible.

“We literally just had takeout from the fancy place in our town twice in a row. That’s an entire month’s worth of groceries when I was a kid.”

3) Barneyjoe wrote, “Nothing wasted! Mum had a dish called mixed-up stew which was basically a little mince beef, mashed potatoes and any leftovers from the fridge. Good menu planning — she never called it that, but one meal led to the next with last night’s leftovers included. Failing that, she always had a soup on the go using bones from chicken, dried barley, and yet again, leftovers. Thing is they were all delicious, but that could be me just remembering her fondly.”

4) Abbreviations-Odd wrote:

“Keep your hair brushed, your clothes clean, and be articulate and polite in all circumstances. We were not going to be ‘trash’ just because we were poor.

“Also, no wearing ripped jeans, even if it’s the style. We’re not spending money on new pants that look like old worn-out pants.”



sweetcheesybeef commented, “This! My mom and dad got so good at this that people who didn’t know us very well thought we were solid middle class. I can’t remember how many times I got dropped off by a friend’s parents only for them to ask why do you live here! Umm ... it’s because this is where our house is. All our clothes were clearance, thrift stores, and hand-me-downs. We were expected to be well groomed, well mannered, learned, and carry ourselves like we had money. My mom always called it middle-class values. Lol. Thing is, it worked. My parents never got out of poverty, but my sisters and I are all solidly middle class because we worked for it.”

fs\_75 commented, “Yes! Being poor was ok. Looking poor was the real crime. Personal appearance is important.”

5) CoolMomInAMinivan wrote, “You never brought the field trip permission slips home because you knew better than to make your mom feel guilty she couldn’t pay the \$5-20 fee to let you go.”

mrs\_dalloway commented, “I did this, too. Staying behind in the library while everyone else went honestly was perfectly fine with me.”

Werewolfhugger commented, “That’s one thing my dad wouldn’t let us miss out on. Even during the recession, he got upset I hadn’t told him about a field trip. He was willing to shell out money for my senior trip to Disney World, but I refused. I knew about our situation by then.”

6) theguy4785 wrote, “Never tell your friends that you couldn’t afford food or give them any clue about what it’s like at home. My mother used to ask me if I told anyone how we live and that’s when I started questioning our situation.”

yavanna commented, “I once told some friends we had mushrooms growing in our house. I thought it was cool. My mom was angry and told me to never tell anyone again. I

realized as I got older why she was angry. The floor of our house was rotting ... thus the mushrooms. But she couldn't afford to get it fixed. She was worried Children Protective Services would take me away for unsafe living conditions."

mafuckinjin commented, "When I was like eight, my parents' bathroom was carpet (so was the other bathroom — no idea why) and their shower was leaking, thus mushrooms grew in the corner and I thought it was the coolest thing ever and wanted it to happen again. It took me another five years to realize how bad that actually was."

7) Standzoom wrote, "I used to always have other kids at my house at meal times when my kids were still in school — middle school and up. Feeding all those kids everyday kinda got hard to do. I told my kids I couldn't afford to keep feeding all their friends, and told them to go eat at their friends' houses. They told me, 'Mom. The reason they all eat over here is you are the only mom we know who knows how to cook.' Then I told them I'd be glad to give cooking lessons, and the kids said, 'Mom, they don't have the money to buy the groceries.' I kept cooking. And having my kids' friends over for supper."

wholelappudding commented, "When my son was little, about three, we had a family who lived across the street. I honestly don't know everything that went on there, but food was scarce, and the parents were on and off drugs. The little boy was in kindergarten. He came over to my house every day after-school to 'play' with my three-year-old. Actually, he came over, I fed him a snack, he watched cartoons and then would fall asleep until my husband would come home from work. Then I sent him home. This happened every day for a year. His mom finally sent him to live with his bio-dad

in another state. It was a weird situation. I still think about him, though.”<sup>22</sup>

### 23. “What’s The Poorest You’ve Ever Been?”

1) drunkenknitter wrote, “In my 20s when I barely had enough money for rent and maybe \$10 left for food for the month, and I got by on rice and splurged for teriyaki sauce to go with it. At one point I weighed 85 pounds (I’m 5’2”). I refer to it as my ‘dating for food’ period because I went on a lot of first dates just so I could have a real meal.”

drunkenknitter added, “That was 20+ years ago. Life has gotten much, much better. Twenty-something me was a mess.”

2) CanIGetALiterOfCola wrote, “After having my first baby, the most tragic chain of events occurred like lightning striking over and over in the same spot. First I lost my job, my now-husband but then-boyfriend lost his job, both of us searched for jobs everyday with nothing coming out of it, we lost our apartment, we had to give up our dog, thankfully we owned our car. We ended up living out of our car, turned to stealing diapers, baby food, formula, bread and peanut butter. This is what we lived off of for almost a year. Worse year of my life, I’m thankful my now nine-year-old was too young to remember it.”

Jazzvani commented, “I bow down to you. I’m so sorry you had to go through all of that — and despite it all you came out the other end as a strong family. Super-duper props!”

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<sup>22</sup> Source: jicta, “Redditors who grew up poor: Besides practical money-saving measures, what were the unwritten social expectations of your world growing up?” Reddit. AskReddit. 31 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/yy4u7vm5>>.

spiteful-vengeance asked, “What were the events that brought you out of it? I assume a job application came through? I need to hear the happier part of this story.”

CanIGetALiterOfCola replied, “No job ever came through. We ended up swallowing our pride after a while. The car broke down, we were broke and broken, we were just done and had nothing left. I called my dad with the intention of asking him to take my son because he deserved better, but as soon as he answered the phone, I just cried and cried. I felt like a failure. He sent us \$\$\$ for bus tickets to stay with him, he gave us a roof again, he loaned us his car to job search when he could and slowly life started to get back on track, my husband found a job, then I found one that allowed me to bring my son with me, my dad encouraged us to save for our own place rather than pay him to live there. My dad is a saint; he was honestly upset we had waited so long before asking for help, but in our heads we didn’t want to be a burden — it was extremely humbling. It’s no joke when they say most people are one paycheck away from homelessness.”

faultydatadisc commented:

“Much respect to the both of you for staying by each other’s side through the hard times. Sorry about the dog, though. I don’t know what I’d do without mine.

“I used to work at a Walmart and no employee at the store I worked at would even attempt to stop someone from stealing baby essentials and a little bit of food. When I worked there I had seen this type of thing more than once. I worked in the tire shop but the beginning of the pandemic they closed it and I was doing online grocery orders. This one girl, young, nervous and with a brand-new baby, was acting like she was gonna steal. I asked her if she was OK, handed her a 20 and said use the self-checkout and ring up only a couple things that this will cover. I reassured her that even employees do

it and Walmart's insurance can cover their billion-dollar asses. She gave me a neck hug and got what she needed that day. I think about her from time to time and wish I could check on her to see how she and the little one are doing."

Note by David Bruce: CanIGetALiterOfCola wrote that the dog was adopted out of a no-kill shelter a few later after she and her husband gave it up. Also, I have herd that Walmart have the authority to give away essential items to the needy. Ask to talk to a manager and see if you can help. And food pantries can help, too.

3) knotjust wrote:

"During my childhood, my alcoholic mother consistently spent all of our welfare money on booze, weed, and cigarettes. We were homeless living house to house depending on which guy she was fucking that week. All our food came from the food bank. I ate mostly CheezWiz. When she ran out of guys to fuck, she found a broken trailer to live in, in some random guy's backyard.

"One year we were sponsored by a class for one of those 'help the needy' Christmas campaigns. They bought me underwear and socks and I cried because they were nice quality, the socks all had pairs, and the underwear didn't have holes in them."

4) Dorlane wrote, "I was homeless at 18 and lived out of my car. At one point I was so hungry I had gone behind a pizza place and ate old pizza, the crusts, etc. The manager came out and saw me. I dropped the box and basically walked away. It was definitely the poorest I had ever been. I remember asking a man and his wife if I could borrow five dollars so I could get at least something to eat."

5) slythergin23 wrote, "Right now (starting a new job soon, though). I ordered a 30 pack of instant ramen off Amazon

for €20 to get me through the month. Trying to stretch it with cheap veggies that are on clearance.”

6) CentaurosaurusRex wrote, “After a terrible breakup from an abusive relationship, I went through the worst poorness of my life. My car was repossessed, I could barely pay my other bills. One day I was getting coffee at a drive-thru on my way to work and my card was declined on a \$2 purchase. I never felt so low. The woman at the window told me, ‘Don’t worry about it,’ and handed me my coffee. I was so thankful and so ashamed at the same time. Financial stress is the worst!”

7) misspelled wrote, “I lived in a tent that was just outside the paid campground that no ranger actually patrolled. I did my laundry either in the river nearby or when I managed to scrape together the money, I’d go to the RV park in town that had cheaper washer / dryers than the laundromat. I did have a job, but it was minimum wage and not 40 hours a week. It was the only one I could find and I lived in a town where the cheapest apartment or even room share was easily \$500-600 a month when that was about all I made. I ended up having to marry a friend who was a veteran so we could get an apartment together with income restrictions / subsidies.”<sup>23</sup>

## **24. “Medical Workers Of Reddit, Does It Bother You When Someone Thanks A Deity After You Help A Patient Get Better?”**

1) TheUniqueDrone wrote, “I don’t mind this as long as the patient wants to listen to / cooperate with their doctor while also hoping for divine help. Medicine is complex and even with the best treatment protocols there is an element of luck

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<sup>23</sup> Source: PressureAwkward, “What’s the poorest you’ve ever been?” Reddit. AskWomen. 31 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y55zmb52>>.

involved. It's when patients seek divine help INSTEAD of listening to medical science that it gets frustrating and dangerous."

2) Gunnarson wrote:

"Public hospitals' began in Christian churches in the Byzantine empire. Look at the names of a lot of hospitals in the Massachusetts area

"St. Jude's, St. Joseph's, St. Vincent's, St. Francis, Lowell General (Saints Campus), etc. ... a lot of hospitals that are over a century old in the area were run by churches. A lot also even still have those original religious buildings on the premises a lot of times, too.

"Do you know how many times I've been 'motherfucked' by non-religious people?

"For me, your job in a hospital isn't to judge people and work only for the gratitude and praise for helping people. You're in it to help and save people who have nowhere else to turn. "Unless they're being a dick about it and intentionally trying to put you down, there is no reason to judge them for praising God. It goes against every fundamental discrimination-based issue you're lectured on routinely (and annually in required training). We aren't supposed to discriminate, so why would be discriminate against religious people and treat them differently?

"I don't judge an atheistic person for denying treatment or going against medical advice, so why would I judge someone who takes the medical advice and thanks a god instead?

"Unfortunately, there are medical workers who are in it for the wrong reasons, and they usually have the worst bedside manner to begin with anyways.

“I’m not theistic at all and if a patient asked me to pray with them I would happily oblige if it meant they were in a better place. I’ve been on both sides, facing possible death before brain surgery this past summer during COVID to remove a possibly malignant tumor (I’m cancer free and okay now) and working in a hospital in a face-to-face capacity for years as well in psych units. Whatever brings solace to people is great. Better emotional health is important in recovery, and being in a hospital is traumatic.

“Whatever gives you hope should be okay and no one should be judging you for that. If medical staff are judging you for that, I would try to transfer your care to someone who legitimately gives a shit about your emotional well-being while you’re there and isn’t worried about their own feelings and opinions on the matter unless it’s going to harm you physically.

“It’s part of the reason we have chapels in literally any hospital in America, with chaplains as well. Those chaplains aren’t there to preach to you (if they’re good at their jobs, and I haven’t met a bad one yet after working in three facilities), they’re there to help you emotionally however you see fit no matter the faith (or lack thereof) or demographic.

“Whatever helps you is what the hospital and workers should be focusing on.”

3) PantsDownDontShoot wrote, “No, because a lot of the time we can’t explain how they recovered. You do you, boo.”



4) FaithlessnessDry2946 wrote, “A lot of medical workers actually believe in God.”<sup>24</sup>

## 25. “People Who Knew Famous People, What Were They Like?”

1) aecaro1 wrote:

“In the early 90’s, when I was in the Air Force, I helped host Steve Wozniak when he came to Alaska for an F-15 ride. He invited me and three of my friends to hang out with him in the house the Air Force put him up in. He was very generous with his time. We stayed up late into the night as he told us all sorts of stories about the founding of Apple, his time at Hewlett Packard, etc. A month later a big box of electronic gadgets (CD players, hard-drives, laser pointers) arrived from him with instructions for me to divide it amongst my co-workers.

“Air Force lawyers got involved and took everything. A few months later we got it all back because they decided that since I did not make ‘purchasing decisions’ and was a ‘personal friend’ with Mr. Wozniak, we could keep the stuff. That greatly oversold my relationship with him, but we got to keep the goodies.

“I’ve met him a handful of times since I came to the Bay Area 25 years ago. He would not recognize me on the street, but if prompted for ‘That Air Force guy from Alaska who came to work at Apple,’ he would remember me.”

2) Ott0mad wrote, “My English teacher is a huge rocker and a bassist in a band called The Bambi Molesters and if you don’t know who they are, they were pre-group [an opening

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<sup>24</sup> Source: APumpkinMage, “Medical workers of Reddit, does it bother you when someone thanks a deity after you help a patient get better?” Reddit. AskReddit. 31 January 2021 <<https://tinyurl.com/y2ykesob>>.

act] in one of R.E.M.'s concerts. (They are a bit more famous. Smiley face.) She is awesome and the reason I love English lessons!"

Note by David Bruce: According to Wikipedia, "The Bambi Molesters were a [surf rock](#) band from [Sisak, Croatia](#). Since their formation in 1995, they have taken part in the revival of the 1960s surf genre and continue to contribute to its survival and further development with their music. They have managed to build their reputation as a contemporary surf rock band."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Bambi\\_Molesters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bambi_Molesters)

Check out their videos on YouTube.

3) Happy8Day wrote, "I've met Edger Wright, Nick Frost, and Simon Pegg only a few times, but in the few hours total that we've hung out (mostly coming through town for pressers and ending up having beers), I can firmly attest that they are incredibly down-to-earth people and will hang out with you like you've been friends since you were teenagers."<sup>25</sup>

## **26. "How Do The Female Teachers Feel When They're Accidentally Called 'Mom' By Their Students?"**

ghostintheabacus wrote:

"My mum was a primary school teacher. This happened to her a lot.

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<sup>25</sup> Source: canadianreject565, "People who knew famous people, what were they like?" Reddit. AskReddit. 31 January 2021  
<<https://tinyurl.com/yxum4gws>>.

“Usually, she’d respond with ‘Yes, ghostintheabacus?’ The kid would look embarrassed and she would look surprised and say, ‘Oh, sorry. I thought you were my kid for a second.’

“Basically she’d put the embarrassment back on herself, but deep down she loved it.”<sup>26</sup>

## **27. “When Did You Realize That Hard Work Does Not Always Pay Off?”**

Vanilla\_Neko wrote:

“I worked four years at a Walmart almost constantly being praised as one of the best employees on my shift / team.

“Now what kind of reward did I get for this?

“A raise? A promotion?

“Nope.

“I got a small pin I was ‘allowed’ to wear that just said something like, ‘Management appreciates me.’”<sup>27</sup>

## **28. “Students, What’s The Funniest Thing That Happened In Remote Learning?”**

1) Thankunext4 wrote, “Our teacher’s toddler wandered in and said, ‘Daddy wants to know where you hid his underwear.’ We could not stop laughing. I think it turned out she hadn’t hidden it and it was just in the wash.”

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<sup>26</sup> Source: King\_Kai96, “How do the female teachers feel when they’re accidentally called ‘mom’ by their students?” Reddit. AskReddit. 1 February 2021 <<https://cutt.ly/lkpPXi6>>.

<sup>27</sup> Source: nannygal3, “When did you realize that hard work does not always pay off?” Reddit. AskReddit. 2 February 2021 <<https://cutt.ly/VkdYbqz>>.

BatXDude commented, “All one pairs?”

I-love-savage-orcas commented, “To be honest, it really seems like my husband has only one pair of chones [underwear]. He’s always looking for a clean pair.”

poopsickle\_88 wrote, “Good thing Daddy didn’t wander in to ask.”

2) coopertron5000 wrote, “At the end of the class, the lecturer said thank you and good bye to everyone, but forgot to turn the screen and mic off, and then did a massive fart and a huge audible sigh of relief. Paarrpp. Ahhhh.”

3) 1LittleMissSunshine1 wrote:

“I was in class and on speaker when suddenly my five younger siblings dressed in cardboard boxes bounced in and started dancing around in my room. It was fucking hilarious and my teacher had to put herself on mute because she was laughing so hard.

“We had received some things in the mail and they decided to cut holes in it and put them over their clothes and surprise my class.”

4) sizeinfinity wrote, “I teach college students. Boyfriend of one of my students walked by naked in the background during lecture. I think he had just gotten out of the shower.”

AhFFSImTooOldForThis wrote:

“Early in 2020, before lockdown, I had a guy over. I was on a work meeting, thank god it was internal. He brought me a cup of tea, which is super sweet ... except he only had his boxers on.

“The whole meeting came to a screeching halt. Thank God my team is all friends, so it was just, ‘Omg, was that a MAN

in her house? A man! It was a man! Oooohhhh, are you not single anymore?’ Mortifying.”

5) zachtheperson wrote:

“My professor was an old Italian man. Great teacher, and speaking English was rarely an issue as he spoke it almost perfectly, just with a heavy accent.

“That is until one day on a Zoom he launches into a story about ‘being fisted by [his] brother.’ He was like, ‘For example, like when I was a child, there was this one time when my brother was fisting me really hard,’ and suddenly the whole class was just staring eyes glued to the screen.

“He then continued (must read in heavy old man Italian accent), ‘He was fisting me really hard and it was hurting’ — he thrust his fist back and forth through the air to the bemusement of the class) — ‘but he was my older brother so there was nothing I could do to stop his vigorous fisting. Until one day ... one day I grow up big and strong enough to fist him back’ — proceeds to thrust his other fist through the air in the opposite direction, miming ‘fisting’ his brother back) — ‘and I fist him so hard that he become scared of my fisting! He never wanted to be fisted by my again, and so I never again had to be scared of his fisting.’

“Everyone was silent and trying not to laugh until someone posted [a link to the urban dictionary page for fisting](#) in the chat. My prof started laughing so hard we thought he was going to die (he was pretty old) before playing a hilarious game of charades for a bit and we finally figured out that he didn’t know the English word for ‘punching.’”

6) ScottishSea wrote, “Not a student but teacher. I completely embarrassed myself by forgetting to end the recording after a Google Meet lesson ... so the last five minutes of the session is me talking to my cat. Our school doesn’t have the premium software to edit the recordings so

it had to go up on Google Classroom, cat chat and all. Kids were asking how ‘fluffy butt’ (my cat) is doing. Hilarious but mortifying!”

7) Theunperfectfamily wrote, “A couple weeks ago I’d lost track of time and didn’t realize that Zoom had started. My lovely daughter turned the camera toward me and unmuted herself ... as the whole class watched me dance with and sing to my dogs. I didn’t know until she pulled off her headphones and I heard a dozen kids laughing.”<sup>28</sup>

## **29. “Women Who Feel Like They’ve Found Their Reason For Being, What Helped You In Making That Discovery?”**

1) BraddahChee wrote:

“I think my parents, who were very loving and giving, and so it made sense to go the route of trying to help others. My dad was an art teacher and would bring in food early for his low-income students so they’d have breakfast as many hadn’t eaten since the school lunch the day before. He would often patch his boots with paper on the bottom so we didn’t go without and tried to protect us. He was very much someone who loved the working Joe kind of thing and I think some of the bawdiness of my humor I get from him, he’d often make jokes all the time, and when he’d go to banks he had this ping pong ball he had cut in half to make these bulging googly eyes, he’d turn his head pretending to sneeze than put on the eyeballs and shock them. He really loved a good joke and always had one for everyone trying to keep things bright and funny. My mom took care of anyone sick she knew, tried to take care of all of our elderly family

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<sup>28</sup> Source: Riverascus, “Students, what’s the funniest thing that happened in Remote Learning?” Reddit. AskReddit. 2 February 2021 <<https://cutt.ly/TkdUErc>>.

members and always remembered everyone's birthdays. She was radiant, lovely, and had time for everyone she met.

“One memory I have is her picking me up from the public school I went to, which had this program to keep watching your kids if you worked until like 5-6pm. These two Indian girls were in my program and one day their mom who worked long hours driving a taxi showed up and was upset, I don't remember if she was crying or not but maybe. My mom stayed with her for two hours and talked with her about her problems and then resolved to help her. The woman had just left her physically abusive husband and her very traditional family had disowned her for it as they sort of blamed her for the abuse, leaving her pretty much totally alone with two young girls to raise.

“For the next year, my mom helped as much as she could, and the woman was finally able to get into public housing, which really helped them. Her two daughters graduated from university with degrees in international finance and education so now they are able to help her.

“I grew up around people who were very much compassionate, they liked connecting and making others feel good / better, they highly valued love and relationships as they were very warm people, so I think it seemed quite natural to go the route of helping others.”

2) The\_Special\_Teacher wrote, “Volunteering. This helped me realize that I can put a smile on someone's face just for helping. I found my spark when I started volunteering for different places. The homes for people with severe disabilities stuck with me the most. So I became a life skills Special Ed teacher.”

3) 7adrienne wrote, “I decided to remove things from my life that made me unhappy.”

4) VagrantDrummer wrote, “My parents bought me a drum kit when I was pretty young. Never had much talent or passion for anything but music (not that I don’t have other interests or try to develop myself in other aspects of life).”

5) MrsAlejandro12312 wrote, “Understanding that my life is not dictated by anyone or anything. If I want to express myself differently and view the world differently, that is my choice. I am the master of my own life. And even if someone has a problem with it, there’s virtually nothing they can do about it.”<sup>29</sup>

### **30. “Former Bullies Of Reddit, When Did You Realize That You Went Too Far?”**

1) LittleDipper42 wrote, “Not me, but in my old middle school when I was a seventh grader, I had P.E. class. which was all mixed up with boys from different grades. So while we were in the locker room. an 8th grader took a shit inside this 6th grader’s backpack while he took a shower. I’m talking both clothes and school materials were in the backpack. Apparently the 6th grader had bullied the 8th grader’s sister who was in 6th as well, so he did it for revenge. Many guys, including myself saw as he took the backpack to the bathroom to shit on it. I thought the guy was just joking but minutes later some kid comes out telling the coach that there is a backpack with shit in the bathroom. Poor chap had to stand around in the towel for his mom to bring him new clothes and school materials. The lesson here for bullies is that there is always a Bigger Fish.”

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<sup>29</sup> Source: JazzChicken13, “Women who feel like they’ve found their reason for being, what helped you in making that discovery?” Reddit. AskWomen. 2 February 2021 <<https://cutt.ly/zkgUzBX>>.



2) Vandal-463 wrote, “When I bragged about it to my mother, and she hit me.”

3) UnleashedFX wrote, “Back in Secondary School, a group of us would bully this one kid. Anyways, one day we decided we would catfish him via MSN [Microsoft Network]. After a while he and ‘this girl’ decided to meet up. It gets to that day and obviously we are waiting for him at the local cinema and as we are going down the escalator to the meeting point, I spot him with some flowers and chocolate just waiting, I have never felt so awful about anything in my life, so I went and came clean to him about everything and apologized and spent the rest of the day talking to him and now about 20 years later he is one of my oldest and closest friends and I’ve not seen or heard from the other group since we left school.”

4) RobiFreund00 wrote, “In eighth grade, one of the dudes I sometimes picked on wanted to give me a piece of candy, like in a really innocent and nice way. I gave him a straight fist and he cried. I stopped being a bully.”

5) PurgatoireRiver wrote, “When I realized I was becoming my father, whom I loathe.”

6) TomSilvaTheMan wrote, “We thought we were joking, but the kid ended up transferring schools.”

7) fluffypuffyz wrote, “I was the bullied one during high school. I finished high school in 2012. In 2016 I attempted suicide and took a picture the day after with all the hospital cables and other hospital gear and shared it on social outlets. Each bully following me sent me a PM that day or that week making apologies. I think this was their wake-up call.”

8) MeToolMoment wrote:

“My grade school principal’s son was a year behind me. He was a small, quiet kid, nothing wrong with him. So one day the boys and I are playing basketball at the park. We are all

12 or so. The principal's son shows up to the game and obviously wants to play. Nobody asks him. I run over to him and mockingly say, 'May I play?' in a little baby voice. We didn't bully the kid; we just completely ignored him, except for my Oscar-winning moment.

"Fast forward 10 years and I read about the kid's death in the paper. He was away at college, all alone, and committed suicide. I'm not saying I caused it, but I couldn't help thinking I was one more factor in a long list of contributing elements. It still haunts me. I could have been nice that day, and instead I tried to be cool in front of my friends. Boy, I sure was cool.

"Russ, I am so sorry. Please forgive me. And of course, you can play."

9) TylerTopaz542 wrote, "I was the bullied in this case. In seventh grade, my bully was verbally harassing me from across the classroom, to the point where I snapped and threw a metal chair across the room and knocked him out. I, of course, got into huge trouble and was given a month of in-school suspension and the bully was given a week of out-of-school suspension. Once he got back to school, he came up and apologized to me, and we actually became pretty close friends."<sup>30</sup>

### **31. "What Are Your Worst Nightmare Neighbour-Conflict Stories?"**

shittymondaymorning wrote, "This is more of a funny story than a neighbor from hell. But in our apartment, we kept hearing massive bass (think like a rhythm game) starting at

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<sup>30</sup> Source: Ronnybeans, "Former bullies of Reddit, when did you realize that you went too far?" Reddit. AskReddit. 3 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lbofcy/former\\_bullies\\_of\\_reddit\\_when\\_did\\_you\\_realize/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lbofcy/former_bullies_of_reddit_when_did_you_realize/) >.

like 6 pm to sometimes going till 11 pm, and it sounded like it was localized right above our bedroom. Finally, one night I go up and bang on the door, but they don't answer. About an hour later, I hear moving around in the apartment above me, so I walk out, hoping to catch them either on the stairs or so I can knock on the door again. I go out, and he's walking down the stairs. When he sees me, he asks if I can turn down the bass so he can sleep. It was like the Spider-Man meme where they are pointing at each other. I told him I thought it was him this entire time. So after we realized it was neither of us, we walked together and found the noise coming from a building two buildings down and it turned out the dude had a drumset in his closet and was rocking out every night. Since we talked to him, we can hear it, but he always stops around 8 pm now. So it could have been way worse if the guy was a dick."

Metamorphis joked, "Between the three of them. They formed a band and play at local clubs and weddings sometimes now."

Otono\_Wolff joked, "For tonight's entertainment, we introduce Two Buildings Down!"

throwawaymassager1 joked, "And their #1 single, 'We're in the closet.'"<sup>31</sup>

### **32. "[Serious] What Is The Saddest Thing You've Heard Someone Say?"**

1) theglazedonut wrote:

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<sup>31</sup> Source: mm6m, "What are your worst nightmare neighbour conflict stories?" Reddit. AskReddit. 3 February 2021  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lbyl4s/what\\_are\\_your\\_worst\\_nightmare\\_neighbour\\_conflict/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lbyl4s/what_are_your_worst_nightmare_neighbour_conflict/).

“I forget exactly where it was or what I was doing, but I had just given my wife a hug in a public place, then she left to go do something. I settled down on my phone, but I guess I was smiling a lot and this kid asked me why I was smiling so much about a hug. I told him it was because it just made me feel all warm and fuzzy inside.

“He asked what I meant by that and so after I thought for a second I told him it was like the feeling he got when his mom and dad told him they loved him. He sat there for a moment before responding, ‘I don’t really know what that’s like, they never say that.’

“He didn’t look sad either, just said it like you might say anything you observe at a given point in time.

“Broke my heart.”

pinkittenfur commented, “I’m a high school teacher, and a while back, I emailed the families of every one of my students, individually, to tell them how great their kids are. The day after I did it, one girl told me, ‘That email you sent made my dad happy. It made him like me. He doesn’t really like me.’ That broke my heart. She’s a kind, hard-working kid, and no one deserves that. (Before anyone asks, I checked — privately — if she was safe at home and if I could do anything to help.)”

2) Ole\_Chuckwagon wrote, “I was at my grandfather’s funeral with my family. I had never seen my dad cry, but he turns to me in tears and says, ‘I had the greatest man in the world as a father, and you guys got screwed.’”

notthebard commented:

“That’s how I feel a lot. I spend a lot of time wondering how much better of a father my daughter and son could have had, how much more I could do for them, what better

opportunities I could give them if I was just a better, more ambitious, stronger person.

“I had a good dad who tried to push me to try harder and be better, and he did the best he could.

“Maybe I’m just afraid that I’m not doing the best I can.

“And I look at all the things about myself I hate, and every time I see a whiff of similarity between my kids and myself, it terrifies me. I worry they’ll end up procrastinators, if they’ll have a shitty work ethic, if they won’t be able to follow through, if they won’t be able to do their homework on time and work as hard as the people depending on them need them to.

“It shakes me to my core.

“So I can absolutely sympathize with your father, with thinking so highly of your own father, and being in the emotionally raw state of having lost this person that you thought so highly of, that you look inward, with your own insecurities, and feel like you need to apologize to your children for not measuring up to that.

“Men in general aren’t taught to talk about those insecurities and pressures in a healthy way, so when the circumstances make it impossible for us to keep it bottled up, sometimes a trickle becomes a deluge.

“I never heard something like this from my father when his died, mostly because his dad was kind of an absent and emotionally distant jerk. I saw my grandpa all the time and I barely knew him. Only time he cared to talk to me was to tell us stories from WW2.”

3) Jealous-Network-8852 wrote, “My grandpa had a stroke about 10 years ago and was bedbound for two-three years afterward at home. My grandma was just starting to suffer

from dementia. We got a call one Sunday morning that Grandpa died. The whole family started to head over to their house. The funeral director came to take his body and asked us to all go into another room while they took him out. During this, Grandma seemed to only partially understand what was happening. The funeral director let us know they would be wheeling him out shortly, and would have to pass the room we were in on their way outside. Everyone was quiet as they wheeled the stretcher to the door, when Grandma said, 'Bye, Frank.' That just fucking killed me."

Libriomancer commented:

"My wife's grandmother was in a nursing home for over a decade, slowly deteriorating as she didn't try any of her physical therapy and slowly lost her memory. Almost every single day her husband visited to watch TV and have lunch with her.

"When she finally passed away, there was an entire room of bawling eyes and him sitting quietly in the corner with dry eyes. One of my wife's aunts tried telling him it was okay to cry. He just looked her in the eye and said, 'I cried my eyes out when she moved in here as that's the last day I saw my wife truly living.' He was dry eyed through the wake, the funeral, and months later when she was buried as he'd made his peace with it a decade before but day in and day out made the time to go see her."

4) sadpanda247 wrote, "My dad, now in his 70s, said to me a few years ago, 'When you're younger, people see you when they're walking past you, you might briefly make eye contact, they'll notice your presence. But when you're older, nobody sees you anymore.' It really broke my heart to hear him say that. Obviously, he's one of the most important people in the world to me, and to think that he feels unseen just makes me feel so sad."

5) GreenDragonHugo wrote, “When my grandpa said that old people are good for nothing and aren’t needed anymore.”

uoyroemton commented, “I work for a medical transportation company and we take a lot of older folks, most of which have medical issues and are on their way out. Their wisdom, resilience, and little personal quirks never cease to make my day. I appreciate the life of the elderly immensely. They have been through SO much and life doesn’t get any easier. I always try my best to stay kind and mindful, even when they are rude, knowing that they are dealing with something I will never understand (at least not for another 50 years). Old people are great and have the best stories. Tell Gramps to tell you one! Remind him that he is loved and cherished. Most of the time, I find that they are just lonely. Which, I think would make anyone feel worthless.”<sup>32</sup>

### **33. “What’s The Worst ‘Human Resources Is Not Your Friend’ Story You’ve Witnessed / Experienced?”**

SagaciousElan wrote:

“Human Resources hired consultants to run morale-building employee input sessions. Basically saying, ‘We’re not from the company. You can tell us all the things you don’t like about working here and would like to see changed and we’ll put it all into a report for management. Don’t worry, everything is anonymous, we just need material for our report and you guys get to have your say in improving things around here.’

“Turns out Human Resources and the consultants recorded all the sessions and played the highlights for management.

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<sup>32</sup> Source: LunaTheUndaunted, “[Serious] What is the saddest thing you’ve heard someone say?” Reddit. AskReddit. 3 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lbsgdd/serious\\_what\\_is\\_the\\_saddest\\_thing\\_youve\\_heard/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lbsgdd/serious_what_is_the_saddest_thing_youve_heard/) >.

People were disciplined for criticising the company or their immediate superiors and any shred of faith or trust in management that the employees may have had was instantly incinerated.

“Managers now complain that they don’t know what’s going on in their teams because nobody tells them anything. I wonder why.”

hornydildosucker commented, “My company just rolled out company-funded therapy and counseling. No one trusts it.”

palerat commented:

“Reminds me of my last company. Human Resources sent out ‘anonymous’ survey in .doc file by email and we should have replied back with filled blanks. We figured out it’s not really anonymous as who sent it would literally be written in ‘From.’ So we filled the forms on the same machine, and sent all of them in a single email. And Human Resources was like, ‘Wait, you can’t do that. By ‘anonymous’ I meant I will not tell boss and just aggregate data for them.’

“Can’t say it inspired lots of trust.”

DeathBySuplix wrote:

“I got one once.

“I just wrote on it, ‘I don’t believe this is anonymous so I’m gonna fill out the rest of this with song lyrics.’

“Hope Human Resources liked reading a Rick Roll.”<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Source: ceowin, “What’s the worst ‘HR is not your friend’ story you’ve witnessed/experienced?” Reddit. AskReddit. 5 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/ldneal/whats\\_the\\_worst\\_hr\\_is\\_not\\_your\\_friend\\_story\\_youve/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/ldneal/whats_the_worst_hr_is_not_your_friend_story_youve/) >.



### **34. “What’s Something You Want People To Know About Yourself, But You Can’t Tell Anyone In Real Life?”**

insertcaffeine wrote:

“I have stage 4 breast cancer and if the numbers are right, *I am going to die in the next few years.*

“I’m sick of hearing about how with enough hope, your aunt’s college roommate’s cousin beat that and is still alive today. I know that science is marching on, I work for a university that does cancer research, but I don’t know if or how that will affect me.

“So. Can we please talk about my will, my funeral, hospice care, my last few months? Can we just assume that I won’t be around in 2030? Obviously I don’t want to die, but I also don’t want to catch everyone unaware when it happens.”

MuhWalfus commented, “No matter what happens, please make sure you do take care of all of those plans if you have time. My mom passed away from cancer last month and her planning ahead with her will and everything helped my brother and I so much, I don’t know how we would’ve been able to handle it without her. Hope you still get better, but you are a good person for wanting to prepare for the future.”

angrymonkey commented:

“I think that’s partly so hurtful because it denies your suffering. Maybe those people intend to soothe you (or themselves) by saying it’ll be okay, but it has the effect of dismissing or shooing away your distress.

“And maybe people who are lucky enough to have never suffered real trauma don’t yet understand that not everything works out in the end like the movies. Especially if someone hasn’t personally dealt with grief, it takes heaps of empathy

and courage to be there with someone who is. Most people aren't very good at mustering that.

“If you have people in your extended friend circle who have dealt with grief, they might be good people to reach out to.”<sup>34</sup>

### **35. “What Was The Most Supportive Thing Friends Did For (Or Gave) You When You Were Grieving The Loss Of A Loved One?”**

1) geeltulpen wrote:

“I lost my husband to cancer. (I was 31.) Needless to say my friends my age had no clue what to do for me, because none of us are supposed to go through things like that at that age.

“My entire roller derby team got together at one girl's house and spent the whole day cooking their favorite dishes and putting them in Tupperware. Then they came over in a van, piled into my house, filled my fridge and freezer with delicious food I didn't have to make, hugged me and disappeared.

“I survived on that food for two weeks; it's the only reason I ate. Just the loveliest thing done for me during a hard time that I'll never forget.”

2) rickabecca68 wrote, “My husband committed suicide four years ago. For two months after he did it, my friends had a schedule so I would not be alone all night long. In the evenings one friend would come to my home and spend time helping me with chores, cleaning, shopping, and my four

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<sup>34</sup> Source: Professor\_squirrelz, “What's something you want people to know about yourself, but you can't tell anyone in real life?” Reddit. AskReddit. 9 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lfpx21/whats\\_somethin\\_g\\_you\\_want\\_people\\_to\\_know\\_about/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lfpx21/whats_somethin_g_you_want_people_to_know_about/)>.

teenage children. The support and friendship they provided was amazing.”

3) Sassphibus wrote:

“My brother committed suicide last year. Apparently he had made previous attempts, but this was the first I knew of it due to family cover-ups at his request. It was a massive shock to me and I couldn’t really function well for months afterwards, and I’m still not doing great now. Lots of friends and family sent me messages and emails and texts sending their love and asking if there was anything they could do to help and asking to talk about it, but it was too overwhelming for me and I couldn’t respond to most of them.

“One friend, however, sent me playlists. A few nice playlists he’d put together of nice, chilled out songs and funny songs and just songs he thought I might like. I honestly don’t remember much about the month or so after it happened, but I got through it with those playlists.”

4) Anythingmatcha wrote, “I’m part Chinese. So when my dad died, we had a few Buddhist ceremonies that we needed to do like burning gold paper and etc. My friends, aka my angels, instead of just consoling me, consoled my mother as well. And when they saw my brother folding the golden papers which we would have to burn later, they immediately went straight to him and spent the whole day folding golden papers. It was a sight I will never, ever forget. :)”

5) Adventurous\_Brush\_27 wrote, “My friend wrote me a letter when my grandpa died and she got me a necklace with an angel wing pendant saying, ‘Your wings were ready, but my heart was not.’ It was lovely and it made me cry.”

6) LittleWinchester wrote:

“My best friend drove two hours just to sleep over with me the night my dad died.

“Mostly, my best friend didn’t ask questions about his death (which was traumatic) — my best friend just waited until I wanted to give any details. Mostly, they just kept doing all the things we loved doing together, or just had some quiet time with me.”

7) innerlemons\_ wrote:

“I lost my mom in college. Since I’m an only child and my dad has never been involved much, I was on my own at 20.

“I’m grateful for friends who invited me out just to keep me distracted for a while. Doing normal things like shopping or going out to eat was a welcome break from the grief.”

8) ConnieC60 wrote, “Gave me space and peace. I’m very private in real life so when my dad died last month, they sent messages of condolence and also said that I didn’t need to respond. That helped because it took some pressure off me. It’s hard to know what to say to people and getting questions, even asking how I was, is hard to deal with for me.”

9) tpote1018 wrote, “When my father-in-law passed away very suddenly, a group of nurses had pineapple pins made in his memory. A little back story so that you will understand the meaning of this. My father-in-law was amazing doctor and everyone in our community loved and respected him. When he was working, he always had on his Tommy Bahama Hawaiian shirts. He has been gone for two years and we still miss him every day, but those little pineapple pins are a great reminder of him.”

10) nicokini wrote:

“Company. Constant company prevented me from crawling into a hole. Also, my appetite evaporated for months, so if friends hadn’t prepared meals for me, I just wouldn’t have eaten.

“Whatever you do, don’t ask questions out of morbid curiosity. This was a suicide and it pissed me off to no end when acquaintances reached out to rubberneck.”<sup>35</sup>

### 36. “What Is Your Black-Out Drunk Story?”

1) GRZMNKY wrote:

“I went to a party back in the day, and discovered how much I love spiced rum. At some point during the night, we ran out of alcohol, went outside and performed field sobriety tests to see who was the most sober to go make a run to the store. Those not taking the test, sat down on the lawn, waiting...

“Everyone who didn’t go on a booze run went back inside. I got up, passed out and landed on the shoulder of the road. I came to staring at the underside of a car bumper. A lady was coming home and turned the corner and hit the brakes right before squashing my head. She helped me up, and I ran back inside the house.

“I decided to run upstairs and lie down for a bit, and climbed in bed. Not sure how much later, but I get shaken awake and there is a strange man standing there, asking who the fuck I am.

“I’m like, ‘Dude, it’s me, GRZMNKY ... from the party.’ I then see a lady lying in bed next to me, and I don’t recognize her at all. She says, ‘The party is next door.’

“I freak out, thinking I’m dead, and sober up a little. They both laugh, and walk me to the next house over. Once inside, I grab another bottle of rum and start drinking, and lie down

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<sup>35</sup> Source: hypocrondriacmaybee, “What was the most supportive thing friends did for (or gave) you when you were grieving the loss of a loved one?” Reddit. AskWomen. 9 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/lgjgly/what\\_was\\_the\\_most\\_supportive\\_thing\\_friends\\_did/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/lgjgly/what_was_the_most_supportive_thing_friends_did/) >.

on the couch. The party is going on outside, and they call me for some shots. I jumped up and into their sliding glass door, knocking it off the frame, and breaking it.

“I stand up, with cuts on my arms and face, and run to the bushes and puke for a good 20 minutes. Then, for some reason, I decide to go sleep in the garage.

“The next morning, I was woken up by my friend’s angry parents ... not for breaking the door, or pissing off the neighbors, or anything else ... but accused of puking in the kitchen sink and clogging it. I knew that wasn’t me, because all of my stomach content and organs were in the bushes.

“All of this was relayed to me by my friends, their parents, the lady who nearly ran me over, and the neighbors a few days later when I was stone sober.”

2) dargatr0n wrote:

“Apparently my friend and I did a trade for the night; my shoes for her jewelry. Then I proceeded to clean up the house while taking care of my equally drunk friends. According to my semi-sober friends, I was guiding people to the bathroom while picking up empty cans along the way to clean and put in the recycling later. I also managed to actually tuck two people in bed / couch and set their alarms for work the next day because black-out me recognized that they were going to fall asleep.

“So I guess black-out me turns me into my mom and makes accessory deals. I got my shoes back thankfully.”

3) Chief\_Dumvass wrote, “I was staying at a cabin with some friends one night, when after drinking my body weight in Miller High Life, I went to a bed and passed out. In the middle of the night, I got up and went to the outhouse. Apparently I got turned around and pissed in my duffel bag

and went right back to bed. When I went to get dressed in the morning, I had an unfortunate surprise.”

4) status\_two wrote:

“My 25th birthday. I wanted to throw one last party like I was 21. Invited everyone on Facebook. Party was Friday for 10pm. Got loads of booze and liquor. 9:30pm-10pm rolls around. Only a few friends show up. Said ‘fuck it,’ smoked a fat blunt and downed some Grey Goose. Started taking shots with everyone.

“Turns out a shit load of people came. Co-workers, cousins, ex showed up, Japanese teacher showed up, foreign exchange students show up. I blacked out. Party was fire. My brother chewed out my ex. Allegedly I broke a bottle on the patio (1st floor apartment). Made my cousins take me to my bed. Made everyone draw a penis on me with well wishes.

“Woke up, half naked, only boxers on. Called a friend, asked him what the fuck happened, why is there a giant trashcan full of bottles in the living room, why is there glass in the patio, why are there dicks on me all over. Friend yelled, ‘You happened, motherfucker!’

“I know only because there were pictures. On Facebook. Not my finest hour. Oh and don’t cross buzz, kids.”

5) purpletwisto wrote:

“When I get drunk, I almost always end up completely naked. And when I say completely naked, I mean that I take off everything, I can’t even keep a necklace or ring on. I’m not shy as it is, and the alcohol only makes it worse — depending on your point of view.

“This was just shortly after college, and it was the last big party at a house we’d already been asked to move out of. Everyone was going their separate ways, and we decided to

have one last party. Our house was known as the party house, and we'd always just tell people to invite over anyone they wanted, and to have them park at the store about a block away. This meant we'd often have tons of random people showing up. Sometimes it was just a few people, sometimes we'd have more than 100.

“The last thing I remember about the night was stripping completely naked on the roof with probably around 150 people at the house. I don't know how many were in the back yard, but there had to have been at least 50 or 60. I decided I was going to jump off the roof into the above-ground pool we got at Wal-Mart. I stripped down, threw my hands in the air and jumped, but ended up a little short.

“I landed on the side of the pool, which luckily wasn't very sturdy, and it broke the pool sending hundreds of gallons of water all over the yard. I wasn't feeling very good, though, and ran inside and curled in a ball on the pool table that was in the living room of the house. I guess a few people handed me some shots to ease the pain, and that's the last thing I remember.

“The pool table was the first thing you saw when you opened the front door, so everyone who came in after I passed out saw a completely naked guy, face up, passed out spread eagle on a pool table in the middle of the living room as they entered. My friends knew there was no point in covering me up, I'd just end up naked again and back in the same spot.

“Apparently I was on that table for a good five or so hours, passed out, completely naked. At one point I got a boner and a group of people played 'ring toss' with my dick as the post. They turned it into a drinking game. I don't know what the rules were because I was passed out.

“When I finally woke up to piss, I stumbled to the bathroom, but it was locked. So, I went into the back yard, and on my



way I happened to walk past a mirror. I looked like I had a full body tattoo. Everyone took turns drawing on me with markers, and I was just about completely covered from head to toe. Even the bottom of my feet were covered. My ass was covered, the insides of my ears were colored, and even my sack was colored.

“I tried to go to my bed, but a few people were sleeping in it already. Most of the people had gone home, but there were still 20 or so people who crashed on the couches, or the floor so I just decided I’d get in the bath and try to wash off the markers.

“When I started the water, a girl walked in and said I still had a spot on my back that wasn’t colored in. She asked if she could finish up the rest, so I turned off the bath and laid down on the floor of my room. I didn’t really care at that point, so a few guys and girls ended up drawing on me until I passed out again, this time just back asleep. I didn’t know any of them.

“I know this happened only because a few people took pictures. When the ring toss game happened, I hadn’t been drawn all over yet. Just a picture of a group of 20 or 30 people around a pool table with me on it, cheering with rings in the air. Then there were 30 or 40 pictures of random people drawing on me. I think I recognized about only five or six out of the 100 or more people in the other pictures.

“This was in the late 90’s, so very few people had camera phones. These were mostly potato-quality digital cameras, and one of those disposable cameras that you turned the wheel to move to the next picture.

“The only other proof I had was having to climb up on the roof the next day to get my clothes, my watch, and my necklace off the roof. They were all still sitting right where I’d left them.

“EDIT: This was over 20 years ago, but since I live in the same area where the house was, and it’s near a very large college, I’d occasionally catch a someone giving me a weird look like they know me from somewhere. When that happened, I’ll ask them if they went to college here, and if they say yes, I’d ask them if they remembered a house with a pool table in the living room. A few dads and moms instantly knew who I was the minute I said that. I’ve probably been the sports coach or field trip chaperone for at least 50 kids whose parents were at one of my parties back in the day, but as my kids get older, it doesn’t come up as often as it did 10-15 years ago.

“TLDR: My dick became the post for a drinking game of ring toss.

“P.S. My roommates knew I was (and still am) kind of an exhibitionist. They knew I’d think it was funny, and I did.”

6) princessaurus\_rex wrote:

“Had only been with my boyfriend for like five months. We were not living together, but I needed a ride home from an outpatient procedure where they pump your GI [gastro-intestinal tract] full of air. I do not remember that day still (don’t do anesthesia well) and have no idea how I got home. Woke up in my bed several hours later.

“My now-husband likes to joke about how they wouldn’t send me home until I passed the gasses. I had not passed gas in front of him at all at that point so I was crying ... too embarrassed ... groggy ... holding it in.”<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Source:BrustWarze\_, “What is your ‘black out’ drunk story that you don’t remember?” Reddit. AskReddit. 12 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lirywv/what\\_is\\_your\\_black\\_out\\_drunk\\_story\\_that\\_you\\_dont/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lirywv/what_is_your_black_out_drunk_story_that_you_dont/) >.

### 37. “First Responders Of Reddit, What Is The Stupidest Reason Someone Called Emergency Services And What Happened?”

1) WatchTheBoom wrote:

“A kid called 911 because he wanted us to come arrest his brother for not sharing the Legos from the Lego bin.

“You see, they were supposed to share, but his brother wasn’t sharing. The caller’s mom *even told* his brother to share, but alas, the brother declined. The bin had enough Legos for both of them, but the caller’s brother said that he was playing with *all* of them. Per our caller, this wasn’t reasonable. There are too many Legos for one person to play with them all at the same time. Therefore, our caller’s brother was a liar, a turd, and he definitely wasn’t sharing and the rules say you have to share.

“While hilarious, we wanted to do a quick check to make sure there wasn’t something else going on. We had a high degree of confidence that this wasn’t a coded request for help, so we asked to speak to an adult. After confirming that there was no actual emergency, we ended the call and recommended no action.

“Share your Legos, kids.”

BoredomHeights commented:

“That’s cool that you did a check still. While a very different scenario, you hear horror stories like the four-year-old in Detroit calling saying his mom was passed out (she was dead) and being scolded. Still one of the saddest things I’ve ever heard.

“For those who don’t know the story, he called again a few hours later, they sent someone out that time to scold him again in person basically, and found the dead mother. I just

imagine how terrifying those few hours must have been for a little kid who did what he was told he was supposed to do in these situations and then was all out of options. Finally working up the courage to try again a few hours later. It's one of the worst things I can imagine."

Wurm42 commented, "People call 911 but pretend to be talking to a friend about something innocuous."

WatchTheBoom responded:

"I've never had one, but anyone who's done that kind of work is hyper aware of the stories — people ordering pizza, kids who pretend they're talking to a friend, or whatever — in that line of work, you're trained to not be the one who ends the call, so you're always kind of on the lookout.

"This kind of stuff happens on occasion (kids calling the cops on each other), but there's always that awful gut feeling of 'Fuck, am I going to be on the news for not picking up that something bad is happening?' Sometimes you play those conversations over in your head. I think I was pretty lucky. Everything that came across my desk, even the super weird stuff, was always pretty straightforward.

"PSA: If your kid ever calls 911 accidentally (or on purpose), 'finish' the call by confirming that there's no distress. It's okay — we **want** kids to call 911 if they think there's an emergency. Please do not punish them or otherwise make them think that calling 911 is something that will get them into trouble."

2) whitcock wrote, "I once sprayed myself in the eyes with Bear Spray as a kid and wound up calling the fire department. My initial perception that you put Bear Spray on yourself, not the bear, was an incredibly rude awakening. The fire department got a good laugh about it while I vigorously poured water into my eyes as I continued to cry. Makes for a good story now, though."

3) klippDagga wrote, “Elderly lady calls and reports that out of her 200 ducks, three were just stolen. Arrived to see an enormous mass of ever moving ducks and elderly lady says, ‘See there’s three missing, just count them.’ Needless to say, you could count to about 10 ducks at most before you lost track of the ducks that were either counted or uncounted.”

Militant\_Dilletante commented, “That lady needed to get her ducks in a row.”

NotYetASerialKiller commented, “She knew something was definitely aowl.”

4) NerdsAbout wrote:

“So there’s a rather legendary paramedic where I lived, who you always hoped would show up on these stupid calls. An absolutely phenomenal medic, who was tired of stupid crap.

“Got a call for a man down, guy claimed he felt like he was gonna pass out, but hadn’t had anything to eat except for eggs two days ago and now he had a headache. Kept insisting he needed something strong for the headache. Medic offered him Tylenol or a rubber mallet.

“Also, a fire captain was called for a cat in a tree on Super Bowl Sunday. When his team was playing. Three times. First time he told the lady, ‘Miss, it’s no cause for concern. He’ll come down when he’s hungry.’ Second time he goes, opens a can of tuna at the base of the tree and tells the lady, ‘Miss, notice you don’t see any cat skeletons in trees very often? He’ll come down when he’s hungry.’ Third time he used the forward reel line [small hose?] and blasted the cat out of the tree. Cat was fine (but wet) and he said, ‘There’s your cat, Miss,’ and caught the second half of the game as I remember.”

5) GrandAdmiralD wrote:

“Obligatory not a first responder ... but the dumb caller. Climbed up into the hayloft of my barn, and while I was moving bales around, I accidentally jammed the door to the ladder closed. I didn’t have any tools with me to wedge it open, and I couldn’t pry it up with my fingers. But I had my cell phone with me, I always bring my cell to the barn. None of my neighbors answered their phones, so ... yeah.

“‘911, I’m stuck in my barn. Can you send someone to climb up the ladder and open the door?’

“The worst part? I work in the hospital. I KNEW every single person (and they sent two cop cars and a fire engine for some bizarre reason) who showed up at my house. To this day, I’ve yet to live it down.”<sup>37</sup>

### **38. “Women Who Used To Be Or Were Labeled As ‘Mean Girls,’ What Was The Turning Point / Event That Made You Realize You Were Being Mean Or Being Perceived As A Mean Person And Want To Change That?”**

1) eksyneet wrote:

“I really was mean, I knew I was mean, and it didn’t bother me, I actually quite liked it. I stopped being needlessly mean when I outgrew most of my insecurities, my mood shot up and I became too busy enjoying myself to be cruel to random people, and then fortunately I developed empathy. I also learned that if you’re indiscriminately mean because you just can’t control yourself, there’s a good chance you’ll burn bridges before you even get a chance to build them, and that

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<sup>37</sup> Source: FormerLongTimeLurker, “First responders of Reddit, what is the stupidest reason someone called emergency services and what happened?” Reddit. AskReddit. 15 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lkfzey/first\\_responders\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_is\\_the\\_stupidest/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lkfzey/first_responders_of_reddit_what_is_the_stupidest/) >.

kills two very cool birds with one stupid stone — you lose your chances to make friends with great people, *and* you lose your chances to make a good impression on people who might genuinely suck, but be useful to you in the future.

“To answer your question more directly, there wasn’t a turning point or a dramatic event, just good old personal growth.”

xshir;1027 asked, “Did you ever regret your actions and try to make amends by going back to the people you hurt and apologizing?”

eksyneet answered, “Nah, that would only serve to gratify me and make me feel like a good person. I was bullied, too (as is usually the case with angry people), and I couldn’t give less of a fuck about how people who’ve hurt me feel about it now. In fact, I sincerely hope they have better things to do than dwell on the past.”

2) aubor wrote:

“I was mean and I liked it. Heck, I practiced my RBF [Resting Bitch Face] on the mirror when I became a teenager and before I knew it was a thing, I just wanted to make people shut up without saying a word.

“Around 30 years ago, in my first real job, two things happened. One, I became assistant to a powerful woman, second in command in a large corporation. She was everything I aspired to be: successful, independent, single, childfree. This is no easy task in a Central American country.

“Two, I worked alone in a beautiful office where people were afraid to enter (because of my boss) and I became friendly with their janitor who was there first thing in the morning. We would talk and talk, and I would help him clean so that he had more time to spend with me.

“The company had a gourmet cafeteria for the higher-ups (no, not me). A worker would bring a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice every morning for my boss. One day, she began to bring one for me, too. I said I couldn’t afford it. She laughed and said it’s a gift. Soon, they began to ask me if I was staying for lunch and would send me a plate of free heavenly food. I really thought it was a perk of the job, but was nervous about it. One day, my boss sent me to the cafeteria with a gallon of ice cream for the workers. I finally got a chance to meet the cook and turns out she was the mother of the janitor. She was sending food and drinks to me just because I was nice to her son. That was a real learning experience about being nice to people.

“Well, let’s go back to my boss. She was really mean to people but made a point to be nice to people who could be helpful. She wasn’t sincere with the ice cream. Every gift from her came with consequences. She was so freaking lonely. I realized that couldn’t be my life.

“It’s been an uphill battle to be nice to everyone I meet, but it’s been worthy. My kids don’t understand how I never lose my cool when I’m left unsatisfied with a product or service. I tell them that we don’t know who screwed up and anyways, I get my problem solved without being mean.”

3) hauteburrito wrote:

“I went to university and met a girl who had attended my high school prior to me transferring in in Grade 11. When I asked her if she knew my friend group, her face fell and she told me part of the reason she’d left my high school was because my friend group had bullied her so hard.

“Prior to that, I and my friends had sometimes *jokingly* referred to ourselves as the mean girls, but I hadn’t really taken it super seriously until talking to that other girl. I think by the time I had transferred in, a lot of the sharper stuff had



already been smoothed out. I was aware my friend group could be a little superficial and gossip-y, but justified those attitudes by telling myself we were just talking ‘amongst ourselves’ — and so anyone who had a problem with it was clearly an ~eavesdropper~.

“In general, I (and the rest of my friend group) grew up a *lot* after high school. We were mean because we were generally pretty and privileged, yet insecure in ourselves. No real tragic backstory — just drunk on our own youth and power.”<sup>38</sup>

### **39. “What Is An Example From Your Life Of Women Sticking Up For Women?”**

1) peppermind wrote, “Drunk women in bar washrooms are the purest form of female solidarity I’ve ever seen. Walk in one with a problem, emerge with four new best friends, and whatever the problem was, it’s solved. Everything from giving someone a spare tampon, or helping them out when an asshole spilled a drink on their shirt to holding the puking girl’s hair back, and / or helping them avoid the dude who they’re hiding from.”

2) theworldisnotquiet wrote, “We were on a night out once and my awesome friend saw this creep hitting on two really young women and told them to come stand with us. We gave them our taxi because this man would not leave them alone for some reason. When our taxi came, the driver actually

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<sup>38</sup> Source: cannowerms, “Women who used to be or were labeled as ‘mean girls’, what was the turning point/event that made you realize you were being mean or being perceived as a mean person and want to change that?” Reddit. AskWomen. 15 February 2021 <[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/lkplco/women\\_who\\_ued\\_to\\_be\\_or\\_were\\_labeled\\_as\\_mean/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/lkplco/women_who_used_to_be_or_were_labeled_as_mean/)>.

recognised him as someone who would hang around on that street where the queue for taxis was and harass women.”

3) MiniMarshamellow wrote, “Had to serve a guy in my work who clearly hated woman. Kept complaining I was taking too long to do his refund even though he was the one holding up the process, he just complained constantly the whole time he was standing there and then went off in a crazy sexist tirade and saying he was going to complain about me to head office and the customer behind, a woman, went off at him and told him I was actually being nice to him, far too nice because I had to be but she didn’t and if he complained about me she’d complain about him. She then gave me her name and number in case he did complain so she could stick up for me which was really nice of her.”

4) SquilliamFancyson44 wrote, “My sister and I were walking in a neighborhood with a lot of bars, and saw an incredibly drunk woman sitting up against a wall by herself. She was probably 21 or 22. My sister refused to leave until this woman was reunited with her friends, even though it took an incredibly long time. We must have been there about half an hour or so.”

5) becausemeg wrote:

“I don’t know if this counts, but I used to run daily on a bike path by my old apartment. When I say run, I mean that loosely, as I would most likely listen to podcasts and walk. However, not important to the story! One day I went for a run, and I saw a ‘neighbor’ from my apartment. He claimed to be a neighbor, but I saw him before. He would stop me regularly to talk. It was annoying as annoying could be. One day, I must have looked REALLY stressed or annoyed because this bike-riding girl stopped and asked if everything was okay. Luckily, I used that moment to excuse myself.

“I want to give that girl major props for looking out! I wish I could personally thank her for being so vigilant and looking out for fellow women on the path.”

6) amotivatedgal wrote:

“So not trying to big myself up at all, but here is an example I was involved in. I saw a woman getting man-handled by a guy I assumed was her boyfriend at about 4am in Trafalgar Square one time, as I was waiting for my bus home. He was screaming at her, pushing her, and threatening her. I went up to talk to her to try to diffuse the situation because it really looked like he was going to beat the crap out of her. Another nice guy calmly intervened to talk to the angry / violent guy at the same time to stop him hitting the woman. Angry guy punched nice guy repeatedly unfortunately. Someone was already calling the cops and an ambulance, and the cops turned up insanely fast (must have been just round the corner). Angry man stopped hitting nice man.

“Angry guy turns round to look for the woman, but I’ve already flagged her a taxi and got in after her. She asked me to come with her because she was scared. I figured she lives in the same direction as me as she was at the same bus stop. I was right. I paid for her taxi ride, during which she tells me angry guy is her colleague and was threatening her because she refused to sleep with him. She was scared he would tell her boyfriend some made-up story or beat her up another time or get her fired. I gave her a life pep talk and my number in case she needed any more help.

“It’s a bit of a blur because it was nearly four years ago and I was drunk, but that’s the rough story.

“I am a big fan of women trying to help protect other women from men when I see something bad going on (when it is safe to do so). It does help that I’m tall and ‘big’ for a woman, so I feel less threatened by average-sized men. I was

once assaulted with loads of people standing around, and no one helped or intervened at all. Afterwards I asked several girls who had been standing around if they would give a witness statement to cops for me, and they all said no. It was really horrible and I don't want to be that person when I can do something to help someone.”<sup>39</sup>

#### **40. “What’s The Worst Thing You’ve Ever Witnessed A Teacher Say Or Do To A Student?”**

1) SufficientRubs wrote, “I’ve seen a teacher staple fast food applications to failed math exams.”

m4d40 commented, “I feel so bad for laughing at this.”

2) FinancialDirtBag wrote:

“My seventh grade teacher sent flyers home to the parents of the students I hung out — it read that I was a trouble maker and a bad influence and for parents to be wary of letting their kids be my friend.

“A lot of parents wouldn’t allow me over their kids’ houses for parties or any socializing after that. Thankfully my best friend’s dad was a degenerate and just laughed and threw it away.”

3) Craftycritters wrote, “We were taking a test in like sixth grade and our teacher was loudly whispering to another teacher about how a kid in our class was so bad at spelling, it was impossible to grade her work. The kid, who was dyslexic, then lifted her head and asked, ‘Why can’t someone come up with more creative insults?’ The whole

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<sup>39</sup> Source: WYMZR, “What is an example from your life of women sticking up for women ?” Reddit. AskWomen. 15 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/lknily/what\\_is\\_an\\_example\\_from\\_your\\_life\\_of\\_women/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/lknily/what_is_an_example_from_your_life_of_women/) >.

class started laughing, and the teacher was fired because the principal came in and asked what all the noise was about and we told him. Man, the teacher was horrible, but that kid always knew what to say.”

4) Dakunaito\_1 wrote, “One time when I was in eighth grade, the class clown got in trouble and told the teacher, ‘You’re only a bitch because you can’t get laid,’ and without a wink the teacher turned around and said, ‘No, it’s because your father can’t last long enough.’ We all died laughing.”<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Source: GW2RNDR, “What’s the worst thing you’ve ever witnessed a teacher say or do to a student?” Reddit. AskReddit. 16 February 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/llbk5s/whats\\_the\\_worst\\_thing\\_youve\\_ever\\_witnessed\\_a/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/llbk5s/whats_the_worst_thing_youve_ever_witnessed_a/)>.

### Chapter 3: Questions 41-60

#### 41. “What Is The Worst Customer You Have EVER Dealt With? What Happened?”

1) LasRua wrote:

“He was an internal customer.

“I worked as a facilities coordinator on a very large site of 4,000 employees for a household name global company. The staff were very spoiled and had a LOT of perks.

“One of the perks was a subsidised cafeteria and the food was of exceptional quality. You could eat like a king for \$5 — there were multiple options, really lovely, high quality food and an excellent salad bar.

“I had a scathing complaint escalated to me by one of the facilities helpdesk staff who was speechless about the email that had just come in and pushed it up to me to review and address.

“What followed was five, HUGE paragraphs of utter venom and bile because **there was no red onion available in the salad bar that day.**

“This person, on company time, ranted on and on about how his lunch and therefore entire day and level of productivity were completely ruined by the lack of red onion that day (green and yellow onion were both available). He was ‘astonished’ when he went to ‘assemble his salad’ that there was no red onion. He had complained to the chef who had informed him that the delivery hadn’t come in its entirety that morning, and he wasn’t accepting that as an excuse.

“It was his reckoning that people in prison are better treated, that we are all completely incompetent (we have won numerous national catering awards), that it was an utter disgrace to expect staff to be able to carry out their duties

properly when there isn't even a complete salad bar available for them (this had never happened before) and that he wanted his complaint escalated to the highest manager possible. He also wanted to know what section of the building we were located in. Yikes.

“So I escalated his complaint to the highest manager — his! I looked up his name in the company organizational charts and saw who he reported to, and then I spent time constructing an email in response, with the two highest ranking executives in his chain of command in CC of my response, with his unhinged email left in the thread.

“I explained why there had been no red onion, even apologised for it. I told him that I was CCing his two senior managers because ‘I wanted to ensure he didn't get into any trouble for not being at full productivity that day.’ It was my finest hour!

“Of course, almost immediately I had a call from one of the managers and she was ‘what the fuck?’ and I was ‘yeah, it's real.’ He was given a written warning and instructed to send an email of apology to the Facilities Helpdesk, which he did and which was in a very different tone to his scathing complaint.

“Everyone is entitled to complain if you think something can be improved — but your chances of making your complaint successful go up by a factor of 100 if you watch your tone and the language you use.”

2) Quantum\_Donut wrote:

“A bit of a long story but, here goes:

I worked as a self-checkout host for Walmart a couple years back. At the time I had eight machines I was responsible for, which included stocking their bags and cash, cleaning the area, stocking the ‘impulse’ items, and making sure people

were scanning all their items and not just stealing them. I was not permitted to leave my station for almost any reason, and I had ways to contact managers if I needed to.

“One day, a middle-aged white woman comes stomping up to me, and informs me that an elderly man was riding one of the handicap scooters, and it had died on him, leaving him stranded in an aisle. I told her that I would contact my CSM (Customer Service Manager) right away to get him a new, and if none were available, they’d get him a new one as soon as it became available. I thought that would’ve been the end of the conversation, and I even began to turn around to do exactly that, but I heard her say, ‘No.’

“I turned back to her and stared at her for a moment before repeating, ‘No?’ She then said how I needed to personally get him a new scooter at this very instant. I tried to inform her that that was something I could not do for this man, but I can get him the assistance he needs. This pissed her off. She started going on about how I was useless and that I needed to go help the man right now and that I was a bad employee for ignoring ‘an elderly man in need.’ This woman would not listen to a single word I said.

“(For context, I thought I was going to be fired, and Walmart was kind of shafting me, so I kind of went off on this woman a bit, thinking to myself, ‘If they’re going to fire me anyway, I’m not gonna take this.’)

“She followed me around the self-checkout area for like five minutes constantly berating me. I had already put the request in to get this man the help he needed, AND I put in a request to have a manager come cover my break because at this point I was 30 minutes late for it. I turned to this woman after a while and said and I quote:

“‘If you’re quite fucking done, I would absolutely love to go back to the part of my day where you didn’t exist.’”



“She went BALLISTIC after that, getting even more irate than she already was, to the point that other customers were apologizing to me. I was arguing with this woman because I absolutely was not about to just take this shit.

“Then, this Karen said, ‘This is what’s wrong with your generation.’ And I shit you not, another customer, a woman about my age (20ish) turned around from her groceries and said, ‘What do you mean OUR generation?’ Suddenly these two customers started going at it. Arguing back and forth, but the young girl was NOT as kind as I was to the older woman.

“In the end I went on break and told the Karen that I hoped she wasn’t there when I got back. She wasn’t.

“And the Kicker? THE OLD MAN JUST TURNED IT OFF. THE FUCKING CART WASN’T EVEN DEAD.”

100beep commented, “This feels like a setup, actually. The old man was an accomplice, and was there to lure you away from your station.”

3) Helpy-Mchelperton wrote:

“In my early 20s, I was a manager at a pizza place.

“I had a guy call and start swearing at me because it had been 48 minutes for delivery when he was told ‘about 45 minutes.’

“It was our last delivery of the night and a few minutes after close. It was only me and the one driver and I’m the one who took his original call. I told him I clearly stated ‘about 45’ and my driver had left the store a few minutes ago so he should literally be pulling up any second.

“(The owners previously told me if a customer is swearing like that just hang up on them and I won’t get in trouble.)

“He continued to swear at me and then threatened to come down to the store and kick my ass.

“In the calmest voice I could I simply told him, ‘Well, sir, technically we are currently closed as it’s a few minutes after 10pm but I’ve taken karate lessons, if you want to come down here I’ll gladly unlock the door for you.’ Then hung up the phone on him.

“Didn’t hear back from him after that.”<sup>41</sup>

## **42. “Waiters / Waitresses Of Reddit, What’s The Most Awkward First Date You Had To Witness First Hand?”**

IDMimjusttheintern wrote:

“I worked at a higher-end restaurant as a busser for a while, and eventually was given a chance to serve in the bar area while a jazz band played. Most of the tables were just drinks and appetizers. My first shift a woman in her 40s or 50s came in with a tall, dark, and handsome guy no older than 30. Nothing wrong with that in my eyes, but all of my interaction with them was the woman talking down to me on some sort of power trip (maybe to prove to her guy that she’s an alpha female or something, dunno) and her ordering everything for her date. They had cocktails, ordered a bottle of wine, and had a couple entrées.

“She ordered ahi tuna, RARE. She was very insistent on the rare, so much so that I put blue rare into the computer so everything would be fine. She sent back four separate plates (all too well done) to the absolute horror of her date. I

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<sup>41</sup> Source: Professional-Ad5913, “What is the worst customer you have EVER dealt with? What happened?” Reddit. AskReddit. 17 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/llvrr6/what\\_is\\_the\\_worst\\_customer\\_you\\_have\\_ever\\_dealt/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/llvrr6/what_is_the_worst_customer_you_have_ever_dealt/) >.

informed her after the second that they wouldn't be taken off her bill, and she scoffed and made some comment about how she's loaded and it doesn't matter.

“After the four plates, she sent the last one back and asked for a shrimp cocktail instead. I left them to enjoy the music, brought the check, and when I came back to pick it up, her date was gone, and I don't mean, went to the bathroom or went for a smoke, all of his things were gone and he was nowhere to be seen for 30 minutes.

“She apologized to me and asked if I could take the ahi tuna (~\$45 each) off of her bill. Told her to pound dirt. Not really, but my manager did.

“Next day she wrote a 500-word review about me, using my first name, on the restaurant's Facebook page. My boss printed it out, framed it, and I still have it today.”<sup>42</sup>

#### **43. “Teachers Of Reddit, What Is A Ridiculous Request Made To You By A Parent About Their Kid?”**

1) green\_t\_lief wrote, “I had a parent this year email me asking to let her kid turn in some assignments late because he had been sick with COVID (this kid is a remote learner) and of course I agreed. The next day the kid emailed me asking for an extension because he had been busy at a baseball tournament out of state. I would have given him an extension for that, too, since he is actually talented enough to get scholarships, but the lie from the parent just really stuck with me.”

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<sup>42</sup> Source: Flavor\_Town, “Waiters/waitresses of Reddit, what's the most awkward first date you had to witness first hand?” Reddit. AskReddit. 17 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lly4i/waiterswaitresses\\_of\\_reddit\\_whats\\_the\\_most/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lly4i/waiterswaitresses_of_reddit_whats_the_most/) >.

2) VxRadiant wrote:

“I have had a situation vice versa:

“I am a teacher at a private business school, and our ‘students’ are all already grown-up and in their late 20s to their 30.

“I have had a daughter of a student come up to me, who told me I should stop giving her mother so much homework.

“It turned out, the mother (my student) has never done her homework and her daughter (16-18-ish) had done it for her. Which is quite remarkable, since she had to learn that stuff in addition to her normal learning workload.”

3) bluekudu wrote:

“Wanted me to email them every day immediately after his class period and give a report on:

1. Work he didn’t turn in.
2. Whether he was active throughout the class.
3. Whether he distracted others or was distracted by others.
4. If he was distracted or distracting, they wanted me to detail my immediate and personal intervention with him at the moment, and tell them about it.
5. Wanted me to personally write in an assignment notebook they gave him what his assignment was for the day at the beginning of class, and what his homework was, along with his grade that day.

“I gave them the polite equivalent of ‘Ma’am, this is a high school.’

“Edit to add: He did not have an IEP [Individualized Education Program] or behavior plan. He was a very good student.”<sup>43</sup>

#### **44. “People LOVE Rapidly Unloading Their Problems While Loading Up Their Groceries. So, Cashiers Of Reddit, What’s Your Memorable Checkout Lane Therapist Story?”**

1) Kehndy12 wrote:

“I’m not sure I agree with the title, to be honest. Anyway, my most memorable interaction was from a woman and her daughter. I asked how she is. She hesitated and said, ‘I’m okay.’ I normally don’t get anywhere near personal with customers, but I sensed she was a friendly person who was having a problem.

“I responded, addressing what I felt as an elephant in the room. ‘Oh no. I’m not sure things are really okay.’

“She hesitated again. ‘My [family member] just died. I feel like I have a knot in my stomach that won’t go away.’

“I felt like I gave her a moment to unload something she desperately needed to unload or she would break.”

2) insertcaffeine wrote:

“I was the customer. I had just finished a 911 shift as a dispatcher where I’d heard someone die, live on air.

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<sup>43</sup> Source: Da\_potato\_queen9976, “Teachers of reddit, what is a ridiculous request made to you by a parent about their kid?” Reddit. AskReddit. 18 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lmirih/teachers\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_is\\_a\\_ridiculous\\_request/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lmirih/teachers_of_reddit_what_is_a_ridiculous_request/) >.

“I went to the store, got my stuff, and loaded it on the belt. The cashier asked how I was doing.

“My lower lip started trembling.

“She asked if I was okay.

“‘Nope. I’m a 911 dispatcher. I took an upsetting call and I’m upset about it. I just want to go home.’

“‘Okay, ma’am, thanks for doing what you do.’

“I have never seen another cashier turn on the turbo like she did. Without another word, she yeeted those groceries across the scanner so fast! Also called for bagging help, which was awesome.

“King Soopers cashier from that bad day in August 2014, you did a wonderful thing for me.”

3) doodles58 wrote:

“It was actually the opposite experience for me. I was a customer and I went through the checkout and I asked the cashier how she was doing. She said, ‘I’m okay.’

“I could tell by her voice that she wasn’t okay. So I asked what was wrong. She unloaded on my that her nephew died while on vacation suddenly and because of some unexpected things they weren’t able to bring the body back into the country for about two weeks, which postponed the funeral.

“That was an amazing moment I had with that lady and I could see she physically felt better having said something.

“I had a ‘Healing Hearts Ministries’ sweater on and she asked me to pray for her and everything going on.”<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Source: SaltMineForeman wrote, “People LOVE rapidly unloading their problems while loading up their groceries. So, cashiers of Reddit,

#### 45. “What Circlejerk Did You Get Caught In?”

whyyougottabedumb wrote:

“Honestly, men hatred. Like, it started as a joke, but then every female group you’re a part of starts making those jokes and it starts just being a part of your being, and every dude you come across with and interact with in real life gets seen with those ‘jokes but now not really’ filters on.

“I’ve worked with a white dude for the past three years, and honestly he’s the most hardworking and talented person on our team. When he recently got promoted to a role he’d actually been forced to work for free for the past year due to a hiring freeze, beating out other talented but inexperienced candidates in my female and non-binary friends’ group chat, it immediately went to an ‘Ugh, not another white dude. He doesn’t deserve it.’

“And like, I get it. We have an issue with incompetent leadership and we deal a lot with incompetent man egos legitimately fucking up our projects and wasting our time. But this isn’t our guy — he’s kind, he’s helpful, he’s a fucking beast at our job, he saves us time all the time by advocating against badly designed projects and deserves the recognition.

“Being the dissenting voice and having to be like, no no no, he actually does deserve this role, we should be happy that he’s gotten the promotion, has made me realize just how pervasive the ‘dumb white dude getting things he doesn’t deserve’ has completely invaded our rhetoric, even when we factually know that they actually earned it. We shouldn’t be

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what’s your memorable checkout lane therapist story?” Reddit.

AskReddit. 19 February 2021 <

[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lnhr7z/people\\_love\\_rapidly\\_unloading\\_their\\_problems/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lnhr7z/people_love_rapidly_unloading_their_problems/) >.

taking out our anger at the lack of diversity on individual people who are working hard and actively helping out our team. We should instead be holding our upper managers accountable for hiring actually incompetent people seemingly because they bond well with the manager and not because they can produce a single piece of quality work, as well as creating better pipelines through our company so anyone can get the experience they need to get the jobs they want internally as long as they're willing to put forth that time and effort to do so.”

Chanhell commented:

“I’ve also fallen into this trap as well. It hit me the same as that one viral TikTok of a woman a while ago. She started by joking, saying, ‘I hate men,’ and then she was dumbfounded at how it turned into her saying, ‘Guys, like seriously I actually hate men.’ She wasn’t saying it vulgarly, but she was incredibly dazed how her joking about it for however long she did turned her to mentally actually hate men. And she admitted she knew it was a problem.

“I’m a construction engineer, and every day in the summer I appreciate men. It’s hard not to when I work with hundreds of different men on a dozen-plus projects who risk their lives every day in shit conditions and get zero appreciation or recognition. In 100+ summer heat, on 350 degree hot mix all day, dealing with thousands of different vehicles zooming by a day for 14h+ a day, shoveling that heavy as shit hot mix the entire time.

“Thinking I could do it, I grabbed a shovel. I couldn’t even make it past cleaning the paver, let alone staying on point for near 100 trucks a day. Not to mention, due to the industry being so dangerous, having one or two men I know die a year isn’t uncommon by any means. I still cry about it every time it happens. Sorry for the rant, but this job especially has



made me very appreciative of the dangerous stuff men do for society that's an expected norm of them."<sup>45</sup>

#### 46. "What Was The Time You Regretted Being Nice?"

1) Mistaferleigh wrote:

"I was working as a shift manager at Papa John's and about once a week a homeless guy would come in at 945 to see if we had any pizzas nobody picked up that we were gonna throw away. I would give him whatever we had left and on a few occasions I would make him something fresh or something different like chicken strips. He told me about the book he was writing and told me when he published it and made some money he would come back to one day and buy a pizza with the money he had. Well, my boss found out and I got in trouble for feeding him so I started giving him money and paying for his food. Occasionally he would send me an email from the library computer of what he had written for his book.

"He came in one day and was trying to sell some wooden crosses he made from sticks and things he found so I bought one. I gave him 20 bucks and some lunch, but he never returned after that day. About two months later I was moving out of my apartment and the maintenance guy walks into my apartment and sees the cross on my wall. He asks me if I bought it from a homeless guy matching the description of the guy I had been helping. I said yes, told him the story, and how I hadn't seen him in a while. The maintenance guy then says to me, 'That guy isn't homeless! He lives in the apartment that's directly in front of your apartment on the

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<sup>45</sup> Source: CozyMyShitUpFam, "What circlejerk did you get caught in?" Reddit. AskReddit. 19 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/Infm0c/what\\_circlejerk\\_did\\_you\\_get\\_caught\\_in/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/Infm0c/what_circlejerk_did_you_get_caught_in/)>.

other side of the courtyard.’ Sure enough, this guy was faking being homeless. He had a job and he lived right across from me. When I finished packing everything up, I took the cross and put it on his doorstep with a note attached that said, ‘LIAR.’

“I was making 8 bucks an hour and barely scraping by and I felt so stupid for helping someone who was lying to me. I regret how naïve I was and how I didn’t see what was happening. I definitely know my heart was in the right place, though.”

SweetHikari commented, “I’m sorry you had to deal with someone as low as him. No one should take advantage of human kindness like that. It’s people like him who ruin it for those who are really in need. No one should have to think ‘is this person homeless or not?’ because of guys like him.”

BigNoisyCat wrote, “You don’t have to beat yourself up for helping. Kindness doesn’t make you stupid, kindness makes you a good person. I would like to be your friend, not the friend of that deceiver.”

2) beesareinthewhatnow wrote:

“I came out of the grocery store and saw a woman on the phone with a flat tire. I asked if I could help, she said yes and then went back to yelling at the person on the other end. She didn’t even have a jack or lug wrench, so I had to go get mine. I finished up and put her flat tire in her trunk. She never even said thank you or acknowledged me after she accepted my help.

“It was so bizarre, but whatever. Her day was clearly going shittier than mine, so hopefully it helped.”

Shannon94606 commented, “Argh, reading this made me mad! I’m going to believe that later that day when she calmed down, she was mortified to realize she’d never

thanked you, and now every time she goes to that grocery store, she searches for you among the sea of people, hoping to recognize your face so she can apologize for her rudeness and thank you for being so kind when she needed it.”

3) thiridentity wrote, “I can honestly say I’ve never regretted being nice. There are countless times I have regretted being a dick, though.”

4) keepyourfork wrote:

“When I was a teenager, I used to frequent a message board about N64 games. It was a small, tight-knit community and we all generally knew (or, at least, were aware of) one another. One day, I saw an alarming post from one of the regulars claiming he had nothing to live for because his girlfriend had left him. She was his light, his life, his world, yadda yadda ... as I said, we were all teens and therefore pretty dramatic still.

“Anyway, he said that this was his goodbye post and that he planned to kill himself once his parents left for work. I was pretty upset by this, and reached out to him, begging him to please calm down and not do anything drastic. We chatted for a while, and I eventually gave this guy my phone number so we could talk voice-to-voice. We talked for a few hours, and afterward he thanked me for calming him down and said it had helped a lot. I went to bed feeling like I’d accomplished something, not knowing I had opened Pandora’s box.

“After that, he and I started talking daily, usually at his initiation. I didn’t immediately pick up on anything weird as I figured he was just kind of clingy, but as the weeks wore on he started to get more and more blatant about his intentions to turn our friendship into something more. I still thought that, surely, I must be misunderstanding until he just

came out and told me one night during a chat that he'd been having sex dreams about me a lot lately.

“I kind of laughed it off, because I wasn't sure how to react or if he was kidding, and he got offended. He told me he was serious, I was all he thought about, and he was in love with me. I kind of stammered out that I was sorry, but I wasn't into guys, and I hadn't meant to give him the wrong idea. He immediately phoned me and started whining — I mean, full-on three-year-old ‘I don't WANNA take a bath’ whining — at me for rejecting him. He told me that he had a heart condition he had to take meds for and the meds made him extremely horny all the time. He told me that being teased was bad for his condition and that if I didn't at least have phone sex with him to alleviate it, he might die.

“At that point, I was freaking out and told him, again, that I was sorry he felt that way, but I wasn't going to get him off, and I hung up. He kept calling the rest of the night until I unplugged the phone so it wouldn't wake up my parents. When my mom noticed the next day and plugged it back in, the calls resumed in short order. Whenever someone would pick up, he'd demand to talk to me and I had to explain to my mom and dad how it was that this insane internet guy now had our number. At one point, he told my dad that I'd promised we'd have sex if he drove to our house, which led to an awkward father / son conversation following.

“Eventually we changed our number and the calls stopped. I had not been back to the message board since things got bad, but had been contacted by one of the admins who asked me to please talk to my friend because he'd been posting more suicide threats. He was claiming I had led him on and used him, and he was demanding to be put in contact with me immediately. I never went back, not wanting to give this creep any more access to me.

“I wish the story ended there, but to this day, the guy still manages to find me online sometimes. Over the years, he’s tried to friend me on Facebook, NDTwitter, resorted to MySpace, and found an ancient defunct LiveJournal of mine and messaged me there once. He keeps insisting he’s changed now and that things were really crazy for him as a teen and he just wants to talk. Given he’s still casually cyberstalking me almost 20 years later, I’m not very optimistic that he’s gotten any better.

“To this day, I am leery of anyone who threatens to hurt themselves online and will not engage with them unless it’s to call emergency services to do a wellness check.”<sup>46</sup>

#### **47. “People Who Clean Up After Festivals And Similar Events, What’s The Best And Worst Things You Have Found Left Behind?”**

1) meehha wrote:

“Bottle of rum, lots and lots of drugs, watches, phones, perfectly good clothes, welly boots, wallets / cash, etc.

“Worst is shit tents. As in, abandoning your tent but doing a massive shit in it before you go so it can’t be reused.”

meehaja added, “The idea was to recycle tents and send them to refugee camps, but most were cheap garbage that were designed to last one trip only. A real shame.”

BogD1970 commented, “Personally if I knew somebody had taken a shit in a tent, there’s no way I’m ever sleeping in

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<sup>46</sup> Source: Deathbysnusnuboo, “What was the time you regretted being nice?” Reddit. AskReddit. 20 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/loa4x/what\\_was\\_the\\_time\\_you\\_regretted\\_being\\_nice/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/loa4x/what_was_the_time_you_regretted_being_nice/) >.

there. Use all the bleach you want, I ain't sharing space with the ghost of a poo."

2) DoomandBroom wrote:

"I was working at a festival (although not doing clean up) and stayed till the day after. The number of tents people leave behind — brand-new tents!

"Basically, people just buy new stuff for that festival and then can't be bothered to bring it home / dispose of it properly. I ended up with a brand-new 10-person tent, thanks to some other people's laziness."

NextLineIsMine commented:

"I helped out some hippie friends of mine running this little hippie festival called Chronophonium, about 500 people camping for three days. Lots of themes around sustainability, recycling, and what not.

"Almost everyone left brand-new tents in disheveled states all over the place.

"You can buy a cheap tent for next to nothing at The Warehouse (New Zealand's Walmart). I reckon people are packing up to go on the last day hungover as fuck and they just wanna mentally write-off everything and get home asap. These same people would have launched into monologues about wastefulness from big box stores and sustainable re-use at any other time.

"When you're hungover and coming-down from a three-day bender, principles go out the window."

norwegianjazzbass commented, "At Roskilde Festival there were containers for donating tents and sleeping bags. So you had to pack them, but not drag them with you to another country by train."

ivyandroses112233 commented, “This is actually great. I’m not a wasteful person, so I’d probably never do this. But I always marvel at people, and their capacity to waste money for the sake of laziness. But think of all the homeless / struggling people you could help by donating some sleeping bags and a barely used tent!”

worrymom wrote, “When I went to Roskilde Festival, an American who lived in Denmark brought a giant teepee for anyone who showed up without a tent. I still mentally thank him 22 years later.”

LookOutForThatMoose wrote, “Canadian checking in. I’ve travelled to Germany twice for the Wacken Open Air festival. I was travelling alone and I did not want to fuck around with buying / transporting a whole bunch of camping gear to and from the festival. Wacken has a tent rental service that is great. They even place their section of tents very close to the entrance to the stages, so you would likely get a better camping spot by renting a tent rather than bringing one and hoping that you’re there early enough to get something good.”

3) dorkynoodleman wrote:

“I cleaned up for an event once and it was an event where you weren’t allowed to bring your own alcohol in (so they can get you to buy it from the event itself and whatnot) so cops were taking people’s alcohol. Cool, that’s fine.

“I was cleaning up and two cops walked over and asked if I was 18. I showed them my license to prove I was, and they gave me almost \$1000 of untouched alcohol that they’d confiscated from people trying to sneak it in. Bottles of vodka and tequila, a lot of beer and rum and a bunch of ciders all given to me because I was a volunteer and not getting paid otherwise. It was fucking great.”

4) fhfuudjdfhh wrote, “Not quite what was asked, but I have an uncle who runs a two-day festival. It is held on tribal land. At the end people from the tribe were ready to clean up after the weekend festivities; that was part of the contract. After last act he gets up on stage and asks the festival goers to help clean up after themselves. The crowd left it clean. No clean-up needed after. So I guess clean grounds after a weekend festival may count.”

Vlad-V-Vladimir commented, “I feel like it might’ve been partly because they were on tribal land so they felt obligated to help them, instead of causing further harm to their land. Probably also because they were directly called to help at the end, instead of the beginning (which I don’t even get why you’re asking at the beginning, most people probably won’t remember you said it by the end).”

5) Wheresma10mmsocket wrote, “I did a clean-up at a three-day music festival once. Literally the first night I had to clean one of the portable shower cubicles, because someone had shit in the corner and stuck a cocktail umbrella in it.”<sup>47</sup>

#### **48. “What Was A Time When You Saved A Life?”**

1) OctoLlama88 wrote:

“In high school, I was buying cigarettes at a gas station and a young mother ran up to me and asked, ‘DO YOU KNOW HOW TO BREAK INTO CARS?’ I was goth in high school, and a delinquent, so yes, I knew how to break into cars. She had locked her baby in the car, in August, and was freaking out. First I got her permission to bust out her window (just

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<sup>47</sup> Source: Damo-reece666, “People who clean up after festivals and similar events, what’s the best and worst things you have found left behind?” Reddit. AskReddit. 25 February 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/ls0vln/people\\_who\\_clean\\_up\\_after\\_festivals\\_and\\_similar/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/ls0vln/people_who_clean_up_after_festivals_and_similar/)>.



in case), and then I popped the door open with a piece of metal I had in my own car.

“So ... delinquency saved a baby.”

2) Boscan91 wrote, “I found a baby at the side of the road in college, in February, in Canada. Zipped him into my coat and called the police.”

marrbl wrote, “Oh, my gosh. Was the baby just lying on the ground or what?”

Boscan91 replied, “He was half dressed just sitting in a snowbank. Not a newborn, closer to a year but definitely still a baby just hanging out in the snow. In the entire time I was with the police no one had reported a kid missing. I didn’t get any more information after police took my statement, other than the responding officer called me the next day to thank me and tell me he was safe.”

3) MadtownMaven wrote, “I gave blood on Tuesday. My O negative goodness is one that tends to save lives.”<sup>48</sup>

#### **49. “Lovely Women Of Reddit, What’s That One Thing You’ve Heard That Changed Your Life?”**

1) 79BigRed wrote, “That you can’t control what happens to you in life, but you can control how you react. I’ve taken this to heart and repeat it so many times. I also drilled it into my kids heads to help them navigate life’s situations.”

TheRecklessOne commented:

“Mine is the same.

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<sup>48</sup> Source: Rajun\_Cajun1, “What was a time where you saved a life?” Reddit. AskWomen. 25 February 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/lsgj5f/what\\_was\\_a\\_time\\_where\\_you\\_saved\\_a\\_life/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/lsgj5f/what_was_a_time_where_you_saved_a_life/) >.

“I’d just gone back to work after being off with depression and was talking to this cool hippy dude I knew in the smoking area. I’d told him that I was just struggling and felt like everything was getting on top of me and he said this:

“If you get stuck in traffic on the way to work, you can either sit and fret about how late you’re going to be and how much trouble you’re going to get in, or you can turn the radio up louder and appreciate the extra time for singing in the car. The result when will be the same either way, but at least you had a bit of fun with your morning.’

“Really stuck with me and for a while I’d consciously think of him saying that whenever I felt myself spiraling about something. Years later, I don’t even have to think about it — I’m just generally much calmer.”

2) wrennlyr wrote:

“How empty of me to be so full of you.’

“The above was said to me as a reminder to fill your own cup first. You can’t fulfill the needs of those you love without first tending to your own.

“Also:

“People will never remember exactly what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel.’

“The above was said to me by a teacher as a reminder to be kind, empathetic and respectful, especially because you never know what someone else is going through.”

3) silam39 wrote:

“That everyone spends more time worrying about how others think of them than they spend thinking about you.

“It made me start doing my makeup and dress how I wanted because, surprise, everyone was more worried what others

thought of their clothes than they were worried about my clothes. Then that slowly translated in me being more confident doing what I wanted and speaking how I wanted and being who I am.

“Fast forward a year or two, and I’d lost nearly all of the immense self-consciousness I’d had all my life.”

4) nervousporcupine wrote:

“You have a 100% track record of surviving bad days.’

“During my teenage years, my mom would say this to me when I was having a horrible day. I didn’t appreciate it as much as I do now. Now when I’m having a bad day, I remember all the other bad days and I realize that it didn’t last. It puts the problems in perspective and makes them a little easier to deal with.”<sup>49</sup>

## **50. “Electricians, Plumbers, And Tradespeople Of Reddit: Have You Ever Noped Out Of A Job? What Was It?”**

1) bvswcaveman wrote, “Landscape here. Honestly, it’s about 50% of the meetings I go to. Learning how to say no is essential in this business. You can go out of business by doing not-good jobs quicker than you can by not working”

in-a-microbus commented:

“I’ll always remember the best business advice I got was ‘Don’t tell them *no* — make *yes* unappealing.’

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<sup>49</sup> Source: happy\_cheekie, “Lovely women of reddit, what’s that one thing you’ve heard that changed your life?” Reddit. AskWomen. 1 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/lvax60/lovely\\_women\\_of\\_reddit\\_whats\\_that\\_one\\_thing\\_youve/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/lvax60/lovely_women_of_reddit_whats_that_one_thing_youve/)>.

“I remember once I quoted a dollar amount guaranteed to make the customer back down ... instead, it paid for my vacation to Cozumel. I was satisfied with that outcome.”

series\_hybrid commented:

“I had a neighbor once who was a very successful businessman. His time was valuable, and he paid well for good service. He firmly believed that if you grind down service providers to save a buck, the quality of the work goes down, and reliability, too.

“I think for him, paying premium prices for premium service was a status symbol. It was like ‘treat yo’self!’”

Veritas3333 commented, “Yeah, I have a client or two who get doubled or even tripled quotes. If they really can’t find someone else to do the job, they’re paying me enough to cover the headache of dealing with them.”

legendariel commented:

“We used to have a little note section in our work invoices for special circumstances like ‘be careful of the rose bushes’ or ‘downstairs window is cracked, avoid’ and our office managers would have the code ‘Becky’ tagged on the end if it was a very particular sort of client. Less obvious than ‘Karen.’

“We were an advertised female-owned and operated company inasmuch as we could keep female employees, and if anyone questioned the inclusion of the Becky note, we would just say that Becky was one of our best employees and we wanted to leave a note to make sure she got assigned to the job.”

Drakmania commented, “Lol. Reminds me of the system they used where my mom worked. They had old style customer record cards and would tag difficult customers’

cards in the top right corner with HM for High Maintenance as a little warning to whoever got stuck with them when they came in. Unfortunately, most of their regulars had the HM tag.”

VivaciousPie commented:

“We had a client who was a real piece of work. Wanted a scraggly yew taken out of his ornamental garden. He absolutely refused to move any of his thousands of exotic pot plants out of the way. He had three yappy little untrained dogs that kept nipping at our bootlaces and he wouldn’t shut them in the house. I’m an animal lover, but I was very sorely tempted to push my chainsaw through one of those terriers. The only way to get the green waste out of the garden was through his house, and he made it very clear that if we made a mess we would be billed for cleaning and any damages.

“Why did we do that job? Because when he scoped out the site, my boss took the usual rate and timesed it by five — the ‘fuck off price,’ as he calls it. The client said yes. That job took two days because the client was such a prick, but I made almost half my month’s wages in two days because of that ordeal.

“Edit: I forgot, the client worked in cyber security. I was about to start a degree in cyber security at the time so I tried to spark a conversation. He told me not to bother with university because being a tree surgeon I obviously didn’t have what it takes to work in cyber security.”

backtothefuture8313 commented, “One of the trades I deal with calls this the PITA [Pain In The Ass] fee. I’ve had to explain to lots of friends that just because they are paying customers it doesn’t mean the trade will bend over

backwards to price a job sharply. There is enough good work out there to make difficult clients overpay.”<sup>50</sup>

### **51. “Forget All The Great Concerts You’ve Been To, What Is The WORST Concert You’ve Seen?”**

DeedTheInky wrote:

“I forgot the name of the band, but they were the opening act for someone I saw in the 90’s.

“They played one song; it was terrible and nobody reacted when they were done. The singer said something about the crowd being awful. They did another song and afterwards everyone booted.

“The guy decided to double down and said something about it being a ‘fucking shit audience’ or something like that, and started another song.

“It started at the front of the crowd — a big group of people just started sitting down on the ground, facing away from the stage. It kept spreading outwards and eventually the entire fucking place was just sitting cross-legged on the floor, facing away from them, just chatting and generally acting as if they weren’t there. And it was not a small venue.

“The band were being assholes, to be fair, but I almost felt sorry for them for that one. Lol.”<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Source: imakesawdust, “Electricians, plumbers and tradespeople of Reddit: Have you ever noped out of a job? What was it?” Reddit. AskReddit. 1 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lvr4im/electricians\\_plumbers\\_and\\_tradespeople\\_of\\_reddit/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lvr4im/electricians_plumbers_and_tradespeople_of_reddit/) >.

<sup>51</sup> Source: Butt\_Roidholds, “Forget all the great concerts you’ve been to, what is the WORST concert you’ve seen?” Reddit. AskReddit. 2 March 2021 <

## 52. “Have You Ever Met A Really Intelligent Person Who Didn’t Really Know How Smart They Were? What Was Your Experience With Them?”

1) VisiblePiano0 wrote, “My dad. He’s dyslexic and growing up in the education system in the 70s didn’t provide any support so he’s all but illiterate. He left school at 15 with no qualifications. He always says he’s stupid and it upsets me so much — he won’t believe it when we tell him he’s not. My mum, my sister, and I all have education beyond degree level and he’s smarter than any of us. He’s eloquent, but sometimes mispronounces new words that he’s heard in a different accent — our accent is heavy on the R sound so I’ve noticed him adding it to words that don’t have R’s, but of course he’s never seen it written down to know. He watches historical documentaries and tells us about how that links with the one he watched a couple of years prior. He once drove me to university three hours away using the route he’d driven in reverse once without checking a map. I wish he could see himself as intelligent.”

2) Rannasha wrote:

“I’m volunteer staff at a math summer camp targeted at children who like doing math.

“Most of the kids whom we get are the standard ‘doing well in school with good grades to prove it’ type. But it frequently happens that some kid is signed up and the parents tell us that their child doesn’t really do well in school in general, or math in particular, but they just like doing math-related puzzles. That’s cool, because that’s all we ask for.

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[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lw6qml/forget\\_all\\_the\\_great\\_concerts\\_youve\\_been\\_to\\_what/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lw6qml/forget_all_the_great_concerts_youve_been_to_what/)>.

“And often enough these kids come with very interesting insights and solutions because they happen to approach the problems from a different angle than the majority. They may be quite intelligent, but not in a way that expresses itself well within the standard framework of education.

“The same thing happens on the EQ [emotional quotient or emotional intelligence] / social level. A few years back we got a sign up where the parents warned us that their son had great difficulties making friends or socializing in general. On the first day of camp, the kid took a chess board and went to sit down to play against himself. Perfectly fine. But not much later another boy walks up to him and asks if he can join the game. They start playing and talking and they end up being practically inseparable the rest of the week. The kid who had ‘difficulties making friends’ just made a new best friend faster than anyone else there. Just need to give people the right environment.”

3) RooBeeDooBeeDoo wrote:

“I was pretty good at maths, and cooking with a friend who struggled with maths. We were doubling a recipe that called for  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of flour, and I had a mental blank. Stood there trying to remember  $2 \times .75$ , and my un-mathsy friend said, ‘I’d just put  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cup in twice.’

“Blew my mind. I was too academic to think of that solution. SURELY you had to double the amount in your head first.”

sonaked commented, “Intelligence is knowing  $2 \times .75$  will double your portion; wisdom is knowing to use  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths twice. Or something like that. Haha.”

KarmicFedex commented:

“You don’t have to take 75% of 2.



“Just multiply 75 by 2. Answer: 150. All right we need 1.5 cups.”

PompousRooster commented:

“Being a bit removed from math classes, sometimes I forget stupid things and like multiplying things in my head with decimals will throw me off.

“Removing the decimal and then putting it back in later really simplifies it for some reason. As long as you have your factor right.”

4) quelsolaar wrote:

“There was a math test where I got below average because I was dyslexic, but the teacher still asked me to go up to the black board and show my solutions to the last two hardest problems since no one else in class managed to solve either of them. I was a C-D level student. As an adult I’m successful as an algorithm designer.

“If I could talk to myself at that age, I would tell myself, to ignore the grades and the tests, and focus on learning the things I wanted to learn the way I wanted to learn them.”

5) feverishdodo wrote, “I work in manufacturing so we get a lot of uneducated people. A lot of people out there are smart but for various reasons weren’t properly served by the public schools. They might be barely literate, or can hardly string two words together coherently, but they solve problems beautifully, or always have workable ideas, or they talk about ideas rather than people or events. It’s hard to quantify, but you know it when you see it.”

jfcmfcr commented, “On the flip side, I work in a professional white-collar job making good money and I know WAY too many colleagues who are educated but dumb as fuck. It’s messed up. You know it when you see it.”

6) laughingmeeses wrote:

“My stepfather is a genius. He grew up in agriculture and knows agriculture. He legitimately thinks he’s not smart because he doesn’t read a lot, but he can tell you how to change the feed ratios on your fowls just by looking at their feathers.

“He still doesn’t believe me when I tell him he’s impressive.”

dalaigh93 commented:

“My dad was kinda the same. Didn’t do well in school, always struggled with spelling, and never understood how to use a computer.

“But he built his own motorcycle at 16 from scratch, and was always a technical genius. He repaired everything at home, all our cars, washing machines, dishwasher, electrical installations, plumbing, etc.”

laughingmeeses replied, “Some people just see the world for what it is and are impressive.”

WannabeGroundhog commented, “If we can get rid of this pervasive lie that intelligence is knowing random history or whatever some school board decided is important, we would have so many people with actual skill able to express themselves. It’s a win-win.”

DaBaTaKa commented, “In the five or so plants I’ve worked in, the smartest person was either a maintenance technician or a plant operator, and the best operations engineers relied on them to keep the plant running and churn out good ideas for improvements.”

A\_Garbage\_Account commented:

“I started out in R&D [Research and Development] engineering, but I was responsible for several product lines on top of some new product lines. There was one product line that was manufactured on a fairly complicated machine that only a few people knew how to troubleshoot and repair (myself being one of them). I was at home one night and got a call that the system went down, so I drove to work, walked in, and ... it was running. The operator was sitting in the corner just doodling in his notebook.

“I said, ‘Hey, I got a call that this wasn’t running.’

“‘Yeah.’

“‘So, it’s running now ... what changed?’

“‘I don’t know.’

“‘Did you fix it?’

“‘Maybe.’

“Over time I realized that this guy was *way* more capable than he was letting on. He eventually told me that he plays dumb so they don’t overload him with responsibility since he knows he won’t get a pay raise or promotion out of it. I was a bit naïve at the time, and couldn’t understand why someone would have that perspective. (Oh, I understand now.) Any time I had an R&D run, I started trying to get him on my team. Eventually I got him transferred to the department I managed and trained him up on technician duties, pushing him for a promotion.”<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Source: thejamesmariooo, “Have you ever met a really intelligent person who didn’t really know how smart they were? What was your experience with them?” Reddit. AskReddit. 3 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lxcfo7/have\\_you\\_ever\\_met\\_a\\_really\\_intelligent\\_person\\_who/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lxcfo7/have_you_ever_met_a_really_intelligent_person_who/) >.

### 53. “What’s The Most Bullshit Excuse You Ever Heard Someone Say?”

1) TheRuneCoon wrote:

“At my warehouse we have a ‘sweeping schedule.’ Everyone is required to pick a day and a time (A.M. or P.M.) to sweep the floors, and nobody is excluded. The 64-year-old boss man himself goes out there and sweeps every Monday and has for 20 years.

“New employee shows up for training. Tell him about the sweep schedule. He says, ‘Oh, I’m not doing that shit. That’s emasculating and I ain’t no bitch. Don’t we have some women or some foreigners for that?’

“Boss man overhears. ‘Listen, son, if you can’t push a broom, you can’t do jack shit.’

“Then he points at a sign above the exit. The sign reads: ‘If you can’t do jack shit, get the fuck out.’”

orion\_sunrider, “Sweeping is one of the easiest and relaxing tasks I’ve ever done. I don’t know what his deal is.”

timesuck897 commented, “It’s been awhile since I’ve heard ‘That’s woman’s work.’”

TubaTacoma wrote:

“My husband had a co-worker tell him last week that his wife was mad at him because he told her that they should eat out less and that SHE should cook more. They both work full-time jobs, but cooking dinner is the ‘woman’s job,’ he said.

“Dude, if my husband said something like that to me, I would purposefully cook dinners for one just out of spite.”

sketchyshetchist commented, “The rule for married couples should be an alternating schedule of who’s supposed to cook with one day where you get take-out. If you insist on not

cooking on your day to cook, you treat to dinner somewhere else on your dime.”

2) Cinemaphreak wrote:

“I had a friend once whose guiding principle in life was ‘Never ask for permission, just ask for forgiveness if someone gets upset.’ He wasn’t that bad of a guy, but every friend he had had a ‘Rob Story.’

“My favorite was the time he went with another friend to visit someone Rob didn’t know. They were in another room for a while and when they returned to the living room, Rob had removed the guy’s python from its cage and had it on the floor. Later, during that same visit, Rob goes into the kitchen and returns with a beer, meaning he had helped himself to it without asking.

“That being said, *sometimes* it is better to not ask permission and just apologize if there’s an issue later if that something hasn’t been explicitly forbidden. I do this at work often knowing when certain people are known to mostly say no to requests.

“Of course, the trick is being able to judge how bad the backlash might be, which Rob and his lack of boundaries didn’t.”

3) lankymjc wrote:

“A fellow student came late to a lecture. He said that his flight back from holiday had arrived late that morning, so he lost time coming in.

“This was about 11 years ago just after a volcano had erupted and grounded all flights in / out of Britain.”<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Source: Pixasol, “What’s the most bullshit excuse you ever heard someone say?” Reddit. AskReddit. 4 March 2021 <

#### **54. “What Is Something That You Didn’t Think You’d Get Through, But Did?”**

1) Nofreeupvotes wrote, “When I was in college, I got kicked out for financial probation. At the time I thought my life was ruined. I had to pack up my entire life and move back in with my mom. I was working part-time at a grocery store and couldn’t make any more than the minimal monthly payments. I thought I would be living with my mom for the entire 10 years I was paying off my loan. But it turns out I adjusted pretty quickly to the reality of the situation and decided to use this time to work on myself. In that time I ended up meeting my wife, getting into shape, finding a very great job in marketing, and I’m now in a place where everything is better than I could have ever imagined.”

2) Michonne\_impossible wrote:

“I was homeless for a bit about 10-11 years ago. At the time I felt sorry for myself, even though it was my own damn fault. (Don’t do drugs, kids!)

“Spent almost two weeks in a psych ward, and when I got out I had nowhere to go. I called up a friend and stayed with him for two weeks, and then I called up another friend and stayed there for two months. I couch surfed for almost a year. Never wanted to stay at someone’s house long enough to be a burden. Wherever I stayed, I always cleaned their house. Did dishes, swept and vacuumed, and they seemed to appreciate it when I had not much else to offer.

“Eventually I found a job at a pizza place. It wasn’t much, but it was a job. I didn’t have a car, so usually I could get a friend to give me a ride. Even if it was two hours early

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[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lxp8kj/whats\\_the\\_most\\_bullshit\\_excuse\\_you\\_ever\\_heard/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lxp8kj/whats_the_most_bullshit_excuse_you_ever_heard/) >.

because they'd be in the area at that time, I would get a ride and just sit somewhere and read a book for a few hours until my shift started.

“There were a few times when I couldn't get a ride, and even though my job was six or seven miles away, I would walk. At one point I passed a garage sale while I was walking. They had a bike for sale for \$25. I bought the bike and started riding my bike to work.

“It took a bit, but eventually I was able to save up for my own apartment. Then a car. Now I'm married, have a small house on a few acres of land and a great kid.

“When that all happened, I was at my lowest and really didn't want to live anymore. Now I look back on it, and I was happy I kept going and got my life back on track. Don't give up, people!”

3) The Polish Director wrote:

“Foreign language exam. As a non-native speaker, I've never had trouble with English, but at university I had to learn a different language.

“Initially, I thought I'd get smart and picked Swahili, as it was required to know only the basics to pass the exam. How wrong I was! I studied it for a year only to discover that it had never been on the list of approved languages.

“With little time left, I chose French, a language I'd always struggled with but the only one I knew anything about. It then turned out that language classes offered by the university were abysmal.

“Out of desperation I bought several course books and filled them all out. Luckily for me, it was enough to get me past the exam. I was so proud of myself ... until I went to Paris,

that is, and realised that my knowledge was completely insufficient to understand what was being said!”<sup>54</sup>

### **55. “What’s A Random Act Of Kindness That Stuck With You?”**

1) nowhereivly wrote, “On a very hot summer day, I passed out on the sidewalk from dehydration / heat exhaustion. Two older women picked me up off the ground, carried / dragged me into a nearby Chipotle, and sat with me while I drank water. They were really nice about it.”

kpandak commented, “That’s awesome! When I was at Coachella over a decade ago, I was thankful for a new friend there. We were dancing to The Yeah Yeah Yeahs, rocking it, and then I started to pass out from heat stroke. He caught me before I fell and hit my head. Security saw, and got me water and a safe space to sit in the shade. My friend I came with saw all of this and told me my new friend saved me, and I was so grateful.”

2) princesspeach241 wrote, “I was 16 and lost control of my car on an icy road. A young twenty-something guy saw and stopped and waited with me for my dad and the police to arrive. He didn’t know me at all. Just some teen girl sobbing on the road. He even talked to my dad on the phone when I couldn’t stop crying long enough to speak.”

Zoey\_f commented, “In times of shock, that’s all you need, for someone to just be there so you know you are not alone.”

3) Borderedge wrote, “An Albanian man who picked me up while hitchhiking. At the end he gave me €50 [Euros] saying

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<sup>54</sup> Source: Lustrelustre, “What is something that you didn’t think you’d get through, but did?” Reddit. AskReddit. 4 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lxnsww/what\\_is\\_something\\_that\\_you\\_didnt\\_think\\_you\\_d\\_get/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lxnsww/what_is_something_that_you_didnt_think_you_d_get/) >.



that they're good people and not like how they're described in Italy (my country). This happened in southern Albania.”

milkysalami commented, “I'm Albanian and this is so the case with Albanian people. They are so welcoming to everyone and helpful even when they don't have much themselves. They are portrayed horribly in other European countries and my family often had to lie about their nationality so they wouldn't get treated poorly.”

LilTreddy asked, “Does Albania have a rough past?”

milkysalami answered:

“To put it shortly, yeah. Communism destroyed the country. They were the last country in Europe to establish democracy.

“To give you an example, my dad grew up there during communism. They starved most of their lives. Their leader cared more about them looking strong than his own people. Every day they had to salute communism and their leader and sang a song that translated to ‘every day we are ready for a fight.’ They were forced to join the military and fight against their own causes. You weren't allowed to talk bad about communism or you would get jailed or killed. My dad decided to escape the country so he climbed the mountain near the border but the guards found him, released their dogs on him and they captured him and almost killed him in the process. He was sentenced to 15 years in jail since it's illegal to attempt to escape. In jail, they force you to work all day in the coal mines in awful conditions. They barely feed you. If you disobey, they beat you mercilessly with metal sticks until you are almost dead. The working conditions were so bad that some prisoners started cutting off their fingers and hands so they would have a ‘work pardon’ and didn't have to work in the mines. The mines were extremely hot and hard to breathe in. Many people died. My dad refused to work after a while and they locked him in the metal cage for three

months with no clothes in the cold, Albanian winter. They also would come and wake him up every 15 minutes so he could never get a proper night's sleep. He would also have to work out mostly through the night to get his body temperature up so he wouldn't die of hypothermia. Luckily, communism collapsed and he was released two years later instead of the 15 he was given. This is just one story, but any person in Albania who lived through communism could tell you some awful story about it.

“Albania still is a very poor country as it never fully recovered from communism. But to put into perspective the kind of people Albanians are, during WWII, Albanians would take in Jews who escaped the Nazis and re-home them and give them Albanian identity so they wouldn't be taken to concentration camps. They are just overall kind people who've been through a lot. :) Any American I've known that has traveled there had said that they've felt welcomed by them.”

Ewokitude asked, “As an American who really wants to visit Albania after the pandemic, is there any place you can recommend? I've been watching Eurovision since 2016 and every year Albania ends up being one of my favorites. (Jonida Maliqi is one of my all-time favorites.) You have such a beautiful language that it makes me want to see more of your country!”

milkysalami answered:

“You really should visit! It's known as ‘Europe's hidden gem.’ There are so many beautiful beaches and mountains. Out of all the beaches I went to my favorite were the beaches in Durrës, Albania. It's the most popular beach city for a reason. Amazing food and the beaches are incredibly beautiful. It also has a nice little carnival / festival and a very fun boardwalk with tons of stuff to do and buy nearby. There's also a ton of private beaches with practically no one

there if you prefer privacy! I'm sure they'd appreciate the business since tourism has obviously gone down since the pandemic. It's incredibly cheap as well. You can get a good meal for like \$3-\$5. When I went we fed a table of 15 with \$100!

“If you also get a group together, you can find (or ask someone who knows the area) for a hidden swimming hole in the mountains and spend the day there drinking and grilling food. It's such a nice experience with the right people. The water tends to be freezing, though, since it's in the mountains but it's so fun to jump from above and freeze your asses off and ride the currents. A bit dangerous, though.”

4) psychpologicalfuntime wrote, “I worked at Subway for a while. Once a lady got like five subs only to realize she forgot her wallet. She said she didn't live far and could go get it and come back. However, the guy behind her paid for her meal. She thanked him about 100 times and he just told her to pay it forward. She nodded and said she would.”

5) LocatedEagle232 wrote:

“In middle school I was kinda depressed and sitting by myself on this school trip to a water park and this girl like two years younger than me walked over by herself and made sure I was ok.

“It was in a picnic area when everybody else was swimming. I thought she was brave and sweet. I don't remember her, but it really meant a lot to know somebody cared.”

6) garbagegoat wrote, “We used to visit this Chinese restaurant regularly, and I'll never forget how it became a regular once we had kids. The waitresses loved babies and without fail the moment our food came they'd scoop up the baby and walk around, sing songs, show them off to other customers, and even fed them when they were older. All so

a very frazzled mom and dad could enjoy a meal for once. I'm tearing up just thinking about it. It was about the only time I got to enjoy my food when my kids were little. (They're teens now so I just have to hear about how lousy my cooking is!)”

a-calamity commented:

“I encountered a mom once in a grocery store who was having, what I presumed from experience, a ‘moment.’

“Her baby was screaming so hysterically that you could hear them clear across the (large) store and it was so intense other customers were silent and looking about anxiously. I'd never experienced most of the people in a store go awkward like that before. It just would not stop.

“I finally found this woman by trailing the sound and she looked like she needed about seventeen additional hands in the moment. I asked her if she could use one. (I am a younger woman, and had a little one with me.)

“She LOST it. Oh. If looks could kill. She told me to get f—ked and mind my own business and she knew what she was doing and I was the one with a problem.

“I felt so badly for her. I didn't mean to insult her — I just had my own vivid (and recent) memories of struggling with an inconsolable baby having a blow out and with a cart full of groceries and I would have been moved to tears if anyone had offered me some help. I've been hesitant to offer a hand in situations like that ever since; she clearly read my intentions as judgmental and I still feel bad for it.”

Spiritual\_Koala\_ commented, “Don't. I'm sure you asked nicely. It was probably her own insecurities that she projected on to you and which made her snap. Honestly, you did what you could. We need more people like you. :)”

Dispatcher12 commented, “She might be out there feeling bad for how she reacted. When I’m exhausted and overwhelmed, I can be very irrational and I always feel terrible later.”

6) HoosierMama6998 wrote:

“Twenty years ago, an old man saw me struggling to find a quarter in the bottom of my purse near the gumball machines. I had a baby on my hip and a two-year-old melting down. In one swoop, he took the baby and held out a handful of change. Little man got his gumball, Grandpa got baby kisses, I took a breath.

“I never carry cash, but I always have change now, in case I’m ever the old woman in this scenario.”

7) milksalami wrote, “I work at a restaurant in Texas. We were one of the only ones working during the winter storm. Our card machine was broke and this guy didn’t have cash to pay for his meal. This woman just came up and covered the \$40 bill. It was super nice, considering everyone was going through it in Texas during this time. Also, people were extremely grateful to us for being open. We were getting like \$20 tips ‘just because.’”

8) DogeBisquits wrote:

“When I was in the first grade, I lived about 3/4 block from the corner store. I’d learned to ride my bike and previously had been sent on foot to buy milk or similar simple purchases.

“Sent with a buck to buy 1/2 gallon of milk, I rode my bike. Purchase made, with the milk and change in a paper sack, I attempted to ride my bike and promptly ate shit, the milk bottle rupturing in the paper sack and going everywhere.

“Picking up myself, bike, soaked sack, and coins, I started to cry.

“A stranger asked me if I was ok. I was. He bought me another 1/2 gallon of milk. I walked home with the milk returning later to fetch my bike.

“This is the first time I’ve ever told anyone.”

funlovingforerabbit commented, “Love this story. Thank you so much for sharing.”

9) complacentviolinist wrote:

“When I was 20, I worked at a fabric / craft store. A lady came to the register to checkout with probably \$100+ worth of stuff. It was all like ... just random cuts of fabric, paint, assorted craft supplies. A LOT of stuff.

“Her card got declined, and she looked really upset. Started putting it all back in the cart, trying to determine what she could pay for. The lady behind her in line just stepped forward and said, ‘Put it all back. I’ll pay for it.’ Put her card in the reader and the first lady started crying, quietly thanking her.

“The cynical side of me thinks it was a scam by the lady to get free shit, as I’d definitely seen that shit before. (Another woman a few weeks before literally said, ‘Can anyone pay for me?’) But the good part of me believes that lady just needed a little bit of happiness in her craft supplies during a hard time. The lady who paid for it just did so with no hesitation.”

10) serafel wrote:

“I was a floater for my previous job, so I was in a pool of people who were scheduled to cover vacations and staff shortages. I was in a town about three hours from home, and the hotel they put me in was across the road from work. So I

parked my car when I got there on Monday, and walked to work every day.

“I check out on Friday and find my car has a flat tire. 100% flat, on the ground.

“I have work in like 15 minutes, so I put my bags in and leave it. On my lunch break, I got the small emergency air compressor out of my emergency kit to see if I could do anything with it. Reason being, I didn’t know if it was a slow leak over several days, or if all the air leaked quickly. Shouldn’t drive on a spare for several hundred kilometers, and can’t drive at highway speed on the spare. I just wanted to air it up, and reassess after work if I could get home and deal with the problem, or if I’d have to waste a day off in a town I didn’t want to be in. I was miserable and didn’t like my job, and the thought of spending an extra day away from home was crushing my soul.

“This middle-aged guy walks up to me and says, ‘Hey, do you need some help? Do you have a spare?’

“I explain the above, and he’s like, ‘Oh, okay. Well, I have a heavy-duty air compressor in the back of my truck. I’ll go get it.’

“He comes back in less than five minutes, airs my tire back up for me. I offered to buy him a coffee or something as thanks, and he said that he’s allowed only one a day and his wife would get mad.

“I thanked him profusely, and after work my tires still had air to go home. I just had to stop at a couple gas stations along the way to double-check the pressure.

“Literally turned my whole day around and made me so happy. Thank you, air compressor man. I haven’t forgotten you.”

Fragrant-Arm8601 wrote:

“I had a similar experience. I was working a seven-hour drive away, helping to open a new location of our business, and I got a flat hours from home.

“I pulled into the shoulder and started limping my car to a nearby petrol station. I usually had chocks and a full tyre change kit but I had lent them to a friend only a few days earlier. It was about 11pm. It was raining. I had just worked a twelve-hour shift and was desperate to just get home. It was Christmas Eve.

“I struggled to try and get my tyre off with the limited tools I had. I tried re-inflating the tyre but that didn’t work either.

“I asked in the shop of the petrol station if they sold tyre-change kits and they didn’t. I rang my roadside assistance company, and there was a three-hour wait for a truck.

“I went back to my car and cried. I was tired and drenched and just wanted to get home for Christmas.

“Suddenly there was a knock on my window and a man waving at me. He held up a jack and a tyre iron.

“He said he heard me asking for help in the shop. He helped me change my tyre in the pouring rain and had bought me a coffee. He gave me his number and insisted I text him when I was safely home.

“When I asked if I could give him money for his time, he just said, ‘My girl is about your age. I would hope someone would do the same for her if she were in your position.’

“All I could do was hug him in thanks. He wanted to get home for Christmas, too, but stopped and helped me.

“I did text him when I got home. A picture of my family with a sign saying, ‘thank you.’ They were extremely grateful.



“I learned a valuable lesson that day about lending out essential tools but also about kindness and the impact it can have.

“Random man at the servo who helped a twenty-odd-year-old girl sobbing in the rain get home for Christmas, your kindness has stuck with me for nearly twenty years and I think of you every time I go to walk by someone in need and choose to help instead.”

11) notafilmmajor425 wrote:

“When I was in college, I was walking back to my apartment and it starting pouring rain. I was getting drenched and of course got stuck at a crosswalk.

“Out of nowhere the rain stopped pouring, and I looked up and saw an umbrella a girl behind me had put over me.

“She went past my apartment and then walked away. No one ever had done something that nice in my life, and I was just shocked.”

12) Specifilly wrote, “When the Xbox Series X came out I was first in line to get one in store. Talked with two other people for an hour and a half until the store opened and they told us only two were available. Let it go to the lady waiting in line who wanted to get it for her son for Christmas because I’m expecting my daughter in May and I just thought about what if that was me for my daughter one day? She managed to find our registry at Target and bought a few things off of it as well as members of her family, and her husband is a photographer who offered to do a couples shoot for us for free.”

13) SigKapEA752 wrote, “When I was first married, I was dealing with lots of mental health issues due to undiagnosed ADD and anxiety and I fought with my husband a lot. Sometimes I would go out driving afterwards to cool down,

and one time I went through a drive-through, and the girl in the window could tell I had been crying. She asked me if I was safe and gave me a free milkshake.”

14) AlbinoGiraffes wrote, “I did my makeup nice one day and I felt proud of it, mostly because I hid my acne / scars pretty well without looking cakey. A friend came up to me and told me I looked very pretty today and motioned a hand over her face to signal, what I assumed, meant my makeup. So I thanked her and told her what foundation I was using. She made a point to interrupt me and said no your skin looks very good today. That was the only time in my life my skin has been complimented and it made me realize my skin care is making a difference, I’m just too critical of myself. I was so in shock to her saying that I just got speechless and teared up a bit. Probably not as extreme as other comments on here, but hopefully it resonates with someone.”

15) minied wrote, “I was backpacking in Central America and ended up on the island Flores in Guatemala. My travel buddy and I wanted to see ruins nearby. We took a bus out there, got lost a little, but eventually found the trail to the town (ruins). So we’re walking for about three hours and realize once the we get to the gate of the ruins we may just have to turn right back around to catch the last bus back. We decide to move forward and try to hitch hike our way back since we really wanted to see these ruins. Right when we finally reach the gate ,a truck pulls up and offers us a ride in, we decline saying we’ve already made it so we were good. The guy informs us it’s about another hour or so walk past the gate to even get to the town so we take him up on the offer. We get in, find out he works for the government and he gave us an hours-long in-depth tour of this historical site. This was especially awesome because it wasn’t a popular spot so there wasn’t a ton of informational placards around. Then at the end he asked us where we were staying and he told us he was also staying on Flores for a few days so he

offered us a ride back. On the way back, he and his wife bought us dinner and then dropped us off and gave us their contact in case we got lost somewhere or needed suggestions on places to visit. It really made me feel like there is always help out there for you, sometimes you have to search and sometimes it falls into your lap. It was an awesome day I'll remember forever."<sup>55</sup>

## 56. "What's Way More Sadistic Than It Seems?"

1) loneOstrich wrote, "Not letting kids leave class when they need the bathroom."

Sir\_Daniel\_Fortesque commented, "A friend of mine ended up peeing in a bottle (and inevitably spilled it and peed on the floor) and got sent to the principal. The principal gave him some candy and let him go. Like what did you expect?"

SmoreOfBabylon made a comment about "in foreign language class where you have to ask permission in that language, and are chastised in front of the class if you don't ask correctly."

TheNorseBastard responded, "Ich haven to taken einem massive shit."

SMS\_Scharnhorst commented, "German here, laughing so hard about this."

Peter\_See commented, "I tend to take a long time in the washroom due to ... bowel needs. On the return the teacher demanded what I was doing, I said washroom. She insisted, 'I said, what were you doing that was taking so long?'"

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<sup>55</sup> Source: Daqueef, "What's a random act of kindness that stuck with you?" Reddit. AskReddit. 5 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lyrv2j/whats\\_a\\_random\\_act\\_of\\_kindness\\_that\\_stuck\\_with\\_you/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lyrv2j/whats_a_random_act_of_kindness_that_stuck_with_you/) >.

Getting annoyed, I said I was taking a dump. ‘That’s inappropriate!’ she yelled. ‘You asked,’ I said smugly and returned to my work.”

SmoreOfBabylon commented, “Mr. Hall, I was surfing the crimson wave! I had to haul ass to the ladies’ restroom.”

MSJDCAK commented:

“My parents told me when I was a kid that if I had to go to the bathroom and a teacher wouldn’t let me, to just ignore them and go.

“I did it only a couple times and nothing bad happened.”

2) an\_ineffable\_plan wrote, “Class pets, especially rodents. They’re almost never given appropriate care, they’re put in unsuitable cages (think of all the class hamsters that get stuck and die in those colorful plastic tunnels), and they rarely live anything resembling their full lifespan. If class pets are meant to teach kids about responsibility, teach them the proper requirements instead of subjecting the poor animals to awful conditions and the stress of little kids trying to grab and pet them.”

masterfulmaster6 commented, “I totally agree. My kindergarten had an alternative approach that I think was actually fairly beneficial. We had a stuffed panda (our mascot) and each week, a new student would bring him home and document what they did with him, write a little diary entry, and take pictures for the class photo album. This gave the kids that lesson in responsibility (obviously, not the same as a real animal, but we all took it very seriously) but without putting an innocent animal into a harmful situation. I wish more schools would do away with the class pets and opt for something similar to what we had.”

3) SucksToYourAssmar3 wrote, “Requiring you to get an auto inspection at a place that also does auto repairs. The

inspector has literally every incentive to not pass your vehicle on the first go. Mandatory state inspections ought to be done by state inspectors who don't really have a financial stake in whether you pass or fail."

Driver\_67 wrote:

"This is how it works in Northern Ireland and is the only part of the UK where that is the case.

"It goes back to the days of the Troubles when garage owners might be doing bad things to vehicles, or are 'encouraged' to pass vehicles that really should fail, etc.

"Putting all the test centres in government hands declawed much of that."

WhoAreWeEven commented:

"It was done by government agencies in Finland years back, and it was a shit show. They failed people who they didn't like around town, kept people waiting for hell of it, they broke cars, you name it.

"Now it's done privately. They can do repairs and inspections, but you can end it at any moment, re-inspect anywhere, etc. They have to fail some number yearly, so they might as well fail the borderline dangerous ones."

Deracination commented, "See, I have this crazy idea that anything the government requires you to do ought to be free. If you have to pay to not break the law, then we've made being poor illegal."<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> Source: AParable, "What's way more sadistic than it seems?" Reddit. AskReddit. 6 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lz3kia/whats\\_way\\_more\\_sadistic\\_than\\_it\\_seems/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lz3kia/whats_way_more_sadistic_than_it_seems/) >.

## 57. “911 Dispatchers, What Has Been Your Most Creepy / Unnerving Call?”

1) iunoyou wrote:

“I had a friend who worked as a 911 dispatcher and he always said the worst call he ever had was a ~20 year old kid who committed suicide by mixing a bunch of chemicals together in his car to produce hydrogen sulfide gas. He said that the most unnerving part was hearing him calmly listing off the chemicals, the type of gas produced, and the effects of hydrogen sulfide on the body (namely the almost instant death it causes at high concentrations). He ended the call by providing the address of the parking lot he was in and saying that nobody should approach the vehicle without HazMat equipment. Apparently after that there was a whooshing sound as he dumped the last chemical into the mix, and then the line went dead silent aside for a quiet fizzing noise.

“I know that call screwed him up because he almost never talks about stuff that happens to him on the job. He quit a few months later to go into construction management, and frankly I can’t blame him.”

Verneff commented, “Jesus. That’s so much worse than just killing themselves because they basically left the guy knowing what was coming and having no ability to affect the outcome. I guess there is some kindness in letting him know to have the responders have proper equipment for it, but still.”

iunoyou responded, “I assume that it was to let the first responders know. I did some googling and apparently a lot of first responders have been badly hurt in similar cases after running up to the car and breaking open a window. One good whiff of H<sub>2</sub>S is all it takes to paralyze your lungs and make you pass out almost instantly. It’s horrible stuff.”

Thursday\_the\_20<sup>th</sup> commented, “This reminds me of a post on this sub from a cop who arrested a guy who calmly told them he’d taken a powerful poison and to please be careful because if any of his body fluids came into contact with any of the officers they too would die. At first they assumed he was just a tin-hat nut job, but he died shortly after the MD discovered he had indeed consumed sodium azide and if the cops had even got any amount of it on their skin they’d have died, too.”

Drakmanka commented, “There’s something extra heartbreaking that the kid basically called 911 to make sure whoever collected his body would be safe.”

2) iGoBuMpInThEdArKbOoO wrote:

“When I was nine, my mom died. My brother (10.5) and I were home alone with her. Our dad had died three years earlier. She had a massive heart attack. My brother called 911 and they walked us through getting her off the bed and onto the floor so that my brother could attempt CPR. When he was ready, he gave me the phone (on speaker), and told me to turn around and face the wall so I didn’t have to watch. I vividly remember sobbing to the dispatcher: PLEASE! YOU DON’T UNDERSTAND! THIS IS MY LAST PARENT! YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!

“The dispatcher attended my mother’s funeral and left the field right after.

“My brother is a trauma surgeon.

“I’m in nursing school.

“Very cataclysmic situation for all involved.”

epicenter69 commented, “As a parent, may I say that I’m extremely proud of both of you? As traumatic as those events

were, you both chose to join medical fields, I assume, to try to prevent that from happening to others.”

3) SmokeEater509 wrote, “Suicide or homicide calls always get my hair standing on end. I’ve taken a few of both. It’s always eerie how callers start off relatively calm and then you notice them get more and more emotional and hysterical as the weight of what they’ve just witnessed sets in. I have taken calls from parents screaming at their dead child and sobbing and asking why they did it. It’s a creepy feeling knowing that they’re standing there screaming at a dead body that’s in God knows what kind of condition.”

SmokeEater509 added, “Best you can do is try to stay professional and get the information needed for the responders. It definitely helps to be able to compartmentalize so you don’t let it affect your personal life outside of work.”

SmokeEater509 also added, “I think a lot of public safety telecommunicators will tell you the part that wears on you the most is the abuse you take from the general public. It can go from rude to downright abusive and the entire time you’re expected to remain completely professional. People will project their problems as being something you caused or take out their frustrations on you when they don’t get a timely response or the solution they wanted for what is most of the time a non-emergency. It’s extremely frustrating 80% of the time but rewarding about 20%. Lol.”

4) FarmerExternal wrote:

“Back in the day when my dad was a police officer, different counties didn’t use the same 10 codes (i.e., 10-4, 10-9, etc.). This came into play when he was handling a minor traffic accident in an intersection right on the border of our county and the next one over (literally the line runs down the middle of the street).



“My dad’s on the scene immediately, and radios in to our county saying he’s handling an accident at the intersection. He then switches over to the other county’s frequency and says he’s handling a minor accident and they should send someone out. Except he gave [what was in his area] the 10 code for a minor collision.

“Almost immediately he hears sirens start up from every direction, moving towards him *fast*. First couple of cars come flying into the intersection and officers roll out of their cars guns drawn, and my dad’s like, ‘Yo, what the fuck?’ One officer walks up to my dad like ‘What happened’ and my dad’s like, ‘It’s a fender bender like I said.’

“Turns out the 10 code for a fender bender in our county is the ‘send in the cavalry because they’re shooting everybody over here’ distress call for theirs. Many changes were made.”<sup>57</sup>

## **58. “What’s The Fastest You’ve Wiped A Smirk Off Of Someone’s Face?”**

1) GRZMNKY wrote:

“A customer came into my work and was making lewd comments to one of the females who worked there. She was uncomfortable with the comments, but wanted to make the sale. I overheard one of the comments and he looked at me and did that ‘You think it’s funny, too’ laugh. I walked up and said, ‘Hey, sis. Dad is here with lunch. I’ll take over.’

“All of his jokes suddenly stopped. He bought the same amount of stuff, and she didn’t have to put up with the jokes.

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<sup>57</sup> Source: WhimsicalxxButcher, “911 dispatchers what has been your most creepy/unnerving call?” Reddit. AskReddit. 7 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lzjahn/911\\_dispatchers\\_what\\_has\\_been\\_your\\_most/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lzjahn/911_dispatchers_what_has_been_your_most/) >.

Next time he came in, he was much more polite and well-behaved.”

2) King\_Kestrel wrote, “I responded to ‘you retarded or something?’ with ‘close. Autism. Why? You finally want to have something in common with someone?’”

3) Metallic\_Blue wrote:

“When, as a former trainer, I was asked to audit a revamped New Employee Orientation.

“‘So? How was it?’

“‘Abysmal. No one shows up on time. If someone runs over their time, the next instructor throws them under the bus.

“‘Within 10 minutes of my first day, you asked me to speak to my bowel movements, and asked about my discharge. Your inability to recognize your own institutional lingo borders on elitism and makes me feel like a fool for asking questions rather than being inviting and welcoming.

“‘You told me not to take notes because there was so much information, so now even though I met department and team leads, I don’t know their names, what they do, and how they influence my position, or how I can help their goals.

“‘You paid me for two weeks’ worth of lectures and tours in which I’ll still have to figure out my place in the organization.

“‘Thanks for the easy paycheck. All I had to do was dress decent and feign interest.’”

4) PaprikaIsLife wrote, “A friend brought her new boyfriend over for drinks at my place with a small group of friends. The boyfriend got drunk quite early on and he thought he was being funny by making a racist comment when we were playing hip hop. We’re all white so maybe he thought it

would be taken as a joke but it's never acceptable. It was super offensive and not welcome in our home, so I kicked him out and his girlfriend stayed and we partied the night away. He had to find his own way home, tail between his legs.”<sup>58</sup>

## 59. “What Was The Dumbest Thing You Did As A Kid?”

1) Illidariislove wrote:

“I said the N word to a black kid twice my size.

“I was like 14 at the time so not really a kid anymore; however, I was a fresh immigrant who came here two years prior and my English at the time was atrocious. I was able to have basic conversations but I didn't know a LOT of the context and nuance. Anyways, the kids I hung out with were all listening to rap and I pretended to understand it, but I definitely remember a lot of people saying the N word very casually so I threw it out there at this black kid I was sort of friends with. I genuinely thought it was just a cool way to greet someone.

“Luckily, the kid was nice and didn't immediately get mad and instead asked, ‘Do you know what that means?’ and tried to explained it to me. At the time I still didn't really get it, but I understood it was a bad word so I just didn't say it. It wasn't until years later that it really finally clicked in.”

2) Salty-Tortoise wrote, “When I was eight years old, on Christmas Eve I was using the NORAD Santa tracker and it said he was in Niger. I proceeded to tell my family that he was in Niger but I mispronounced it as something else. My

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<sup>58</sup> Source: Abdullah2073, “What's the fastest you've wiped a smirk off of someone's face?” Reddit. AskReddit. 7 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lzpxf2/whats\\_the\\_fastest\\_youve\\_wiped\\_a\\_smirk\\_off\\_of/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lzpxf2/whats_the_fastest_youve_wiped_a_smirk_off_of/) >.

older sisters who were in high school proceeded tell me that I pronounced it wrong and told me that Niger with two Gs is a bad word.”

3) ItsMyView wrote, “When I was around four, I tried to ride a dog and it bit my leg. My mom took me to the doc to get stitches and when we got back home I tried to ride the dog again and it bit me on the hand.”<sup>59</sup>

## **60. “Once You Were Old Enough, What Were The Dark Family Secrets You Were Finally Let In On?”**

1) lilSnowmanlil wrote:

“My cousins lived with us for a while and we thought that was fun because it’s like a sleepover every day. One time our mom even took us out of school to pick them up.

“I learned later that it was because Child Protective Services took my cousins away from their mom because of mental health issues. My mom offered to take her sister’s kids until she got her mental health back in order.

“My cousins live with their mom now and their mom is in a much better condition mentally.”

Sumit316 commented, “Dude, your mom is a legend! Changed the life of your cousins and her sister. Total badass.”

2) kikistiel wrote:

“My dad used to send me birthday cards every year when I was a young girl (my mother left my dad while pregnant with

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<sup>59</sup> Source: TheParrotMann, “What was the dumbest thing you did as a kid?” Reddit. AskReddit. 7 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lztkah/what\\_was\\_the\\_dumbest\\_thing\\_you\\_did\\_as\\_a\\_kid/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/lztkah/what_was_the_dumbest_thing_you_did_as_a_kid/) >.

me for good reason). Even though I never got to meet him when I was young, I was glad to still receive a card from him with a few bucks acknowledging I was alive and that he did one day want to see me.

“Around 14-15 I learned that my mother had written every single one of those letters and my grandfather would mail it to ourselves to make it seem legit. I never ever actually received any letter from him.

“**Edit:** I didn’t expect this comment to blow up as I slept, but I wanted to answer a few questions that I got!

“My dad was a pretty terrible guy. Without airing all my family’s dirty laundry, he was a sexual abuser. I did eventually meet him two times: once at my aunt’s funeral at 17 where he wrote me a long letter about how he wished he was better, and once when I was 19 when he tried to establish a relationship. He gave me terrible vibes and I never answered his attempts to reach out after that, and I’m happier this way.

“My mom raised two kids by herself. Unfortunately my family has its issues. My family suffers from alcoholism and my mother has deep mental health issues. Growing up with her wasn’t always easy and still isn’t now — some days she is lucid and a wonderful mother. Other days she’s violent and unstable. But I know deep down inside her where she is well and unafflicted by her illness, she is an incredible mother and kind. I just have to accept that she is unwell and try to remember good times. My family and I are estranged these days, but it makes me want to work harder to be a stable and loving mother if I do become one someday. At the end of everything, I do still love my mom and am thankful she shielded me from him.

“Thank you, guys. I’m so sorry to read your stories of similar things happening to you. My inbox is always open if anyone ever needs to talk / vent. Be well, everyone.”

3) foodsexreddit wrote, “My grandma actually legally disowned my mother for marrying my dad. The family house was supposed to go to my mom, but after the disowning, Grandma didn’t say who she wanted house to go to, resulting in a decades-long family feud that has split the family even to this day. Sad thing is, my parents actually ended up divorced after 20 years of marriage. Mom took care of my grandma until the end and was the one who handled the funeral arrangements when my grandma passed two years ago. She never asked for the house back. It’s worth millions. Nobody told me any of this until I was thirty.”

ImJokerBish wrote, “Honestly, mad respect to your mom from this post. Did what she wanted and in the end, even though she was disowned, still came back and took care of her mom. I honestly can’t say I’d do the same.”

maimoul commented, “Being disowned ain’t so bad. Source: me. Grandpa and Dad were worth a couple million each, and none of that money made it to me. It’s ok. I’m good financially through my own / my husband’s hard work.”

thegreensmile asked, “May I ask you why they did it? It’s OK if you don’t want to tell, of course.”

maimoul answered, “I wanted to study nursing, marry a man nine years older than me when I was 20 and still in college. The man had on occasion smoked some weed in his younger days. Also, I was still in college, and the guy was divorced with an 11-year-old kid. Skip forward 40 years, I’ve been a nurse for 34 years, the man’s snoring in the bed next to me. (He’s retired, I’m still working.) I got my bachelor’s and he

got a master's after we married. Some tough times on occasion, but it's been a good life."<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> Source: Flash\_Dimension, "Once you were old enough, what were the dark family secrets you were finally let in on?" Reddit. AslReddit. 8 March 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m0bbah/once\\_you\\_were\\_old\\_enough\\_what\\_were\\_the\\_dark/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m0bbah/once_you_were_old_enough_what_were_the_dark/)>.

## Chapter 4: Questions 61-80

### 61. “What Is A Hated Thing That Isn’t Actually That Bad?”

1) ScuddsMcDudds wrote, “Opossums / possums. They may look ugly, but their low body temps mean they don’t carry rabies and they eat ticks which carry Lyme disease.”

ridandelous commented:

“STORY TIME Once, I was housing a friend who was homeless (and I myself had only 30 cents to my name) and he went out back to smoke a cigarette and I had a tiny little picket fence around my compost pile next to the house, right? He looks over mid-puff and sees an opossum stuck on my little picket fence thing and so he FREAKING OUT RUNS INSIDE TO TELL ME and I’m like, ‘Oh, god, he’s impaled. He’s dead. There’s a dead furry friend in my compost. Oh, no.’ I go out, and he was just chubby with a big ole butt and couldn’t fit through the slits. So I lift the big booty boi up by his tail and let him go because, hey he’s not bothering me. He’s just tryna live his life and I turn around and my friend is just like ‘Oh!’ I’m like, ‘What?’ He’s like, ‘Bro, you just saved an opossum. You just didn’t even think. You just did it. You’re a hero to him and to me.’

“And I have never felt so great as that moment and I will always protect the little American marsupials.”

vidproducer commented, “You are now a Disney princess.”

2) brokendowndryer wrote:

“Going to the movies alone.

“I actually prefer it that way. Most people I know won’t go alone, but movies aren’t exactly social, so I’m fine by myself.”



camoango commented, “It’s kinda strange how afraid a lot of people are to go alone since it’s the ideal activity to do by yourself, in a dark theater with no talking the whole time.”

Morphitrix commented, “On the flipside, it was the traditional go-to for first dates for a long time. Sitting silently next to someone that you can’t see very well and looking at a screen for a couple hours is not the *worst* way to get to know someone but it’s not very high on the list.”

lankymjc commented, “I think it’s chosen because it’s no pressure, you don’t have to keep up small talk and it gives you a solid topic of conversation after.”

Shadow3397 commented, “Movie first, dinner after. That way to have a topic to talk about during dinner. Easy way to have a topic when you don’t know what else to talk about.”

el\_monstruo commented, “Similar, eating at a restaurant alone. I’ve had a co-worker spot me doing this and they sit down and act like I’m lonely. No, I just wanted a brief moment to escape so thanks for ruining that.”<sup>61</sup>

## **62. “Therapists And Psychiatrists Of Reddit, What Is The Best / Most Uplifting Recovery Journey You’ve Witnessed?”**

1) PM\_Me\_Impressive\_Pix wrote:

“One that stands out most was a woman who had used heroin, alcohol, and crack for all of her adult life. She was homeless, had never really held a job, and had multiple legal problems due to her drug use. At 50-something, she had

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<sup>61</sup> Source: naimail, “What is a hated thing that isn’t actually that bad?” Reddit. AskReddit. 8 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m0kazn/what\\_is\\_a\\_hated\\_thing\\_that\\_isnt\\_actually\\_that\\_bad/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m0kazn/what_is_a_hated_thing_that_isnt_actually_that_bad/) >.

decided to get clean and did so for several months, until her child was murdered. She had a brief relapse, but got clean again. In four years, she sorted out her legal issues, reconnected with her family, left her abusive partner, obtained her own housing, volunteered regularly, and completed a four-year degree.

“I can’t imagine having gone from a complete street lifestyle, enduring the worst tragedy one can imagine newly sober, and then entering and excelling in academia.

“Honestly, it’s not the huge stories that stand out, it is little things that people accomplish during their recovery.

- A person meeting their grandchild for the first time because they’ve gotten clean.
- A person that always wanted to go to the circus but had never gone because money always went to drugs.
- A person finishing school or actually keeping a job.
- A person leaving an abusive relationship and excelling.
- A person finally reaching out to family and getting an answer back or kind words after years of broken promises.”

DependentPipe\_1 wrote:

“When I was using heroin, I knew a woman who had her Master’s Degree framed and hanging on the wall. She had a knack for interior design, and seemed to really care about other people, as long as she was well (had dope). This was a smart, resourceful woman who had a bright future.

“She also shot up heroin and meth daily, smoked a pack a day, and kept a pint of bottom-shelf whiskey in her purse that she would take pulls of throughout the day. She had an

approximately eight-year-old son that her mother took care of, and she only saw once a month or so.

“Just before I got clean, she got pregnant again. The pregnancy was into the second month when she knew for sure, and she’d been using all these substances heavily during that time. She told me that she was pregnant when she began to show, maybe three months in or so — when she told me, we had just picked up from our dealer, we were in her bathroom, and she was sitting on the toilet trying to find a vein to inject a mixture of heroin and meth, but she was having trouble as most of her good veins had long ago given up the ghost.

“As an active user at the time, I’m ashamed to say that I really didn’t care. I needed to get well myself, as my nose dripped and the specter of dope-sickness loomed in the back of my mind. I assumed that she’d abort it or, more likely, miscarry. But she said she wanted another child, she was keeping it, and that she’d given up drinking and smoking. Well, she still had a cigarette here and there, but she was trying. Yeah, right, I thought to myself — you literally just pushed the plunger down on 60CCs of dope and ice, but at least you stopped drinking two months in.

“I got clean soon after — not because of this situation, but for my own reasons. I got a call from her a few months later, in which she said she was clean and doing well. I hope that was and is still true. That was over a year ago, and I believe she carried the baby to term. I drive by her house sometimes. I’ve seen her dog outside and caught a glimpse of her once or twice. I think that I saw some baby stuff, but I’m not sure. If the baby was born, I hope the drugs didn’t affect it too badly, I hope that she’s still clean, and I hope she is able to finally make use of that Master’s in Social Work, so that it isn’t just a piece of paper hanging on a wall anymore.”

bisexualxxxhibit commented, “Honestly, coming off opioids can be really hard on a pregnant woman and can cause miscarriage because of the intensity of the withdrawal. That’s why sometimes methadone doctors keep addicted pregnant women on methadone because it’s actually safer oddly. Of course, it’s better to not be on anything. But if a person CAN’T stop using if they stop their methadone, it’s better to stay on the methadone with an even dose and keep their life together.”

2) wellnowyawn wrote:

“As many other therapists mentioned, we can’t share many things because of confidentiality, but here’s something I can share.

“Any time a previously depressed, disinterested, apathetic, or suicidal client tells me about a new hobby or passion, I get so excited.

“Doesn’t matter what it is. Dungeons and Dragons, pet rats, growing herbs, 3D printing, anime, video games, geocaching .... I don’t know about any of those things, but if my client is excited about it, I’m over the moon and I want to hear all about it.

“Seeing them find a passion for SOMETHING, no matter if it’s something that I personally find weird or boring — that’s a part of my job that I love and I will sit and listen and cheer them on and I will leave that session feeling so happy.”

3) escherthecat wrote, “Had a client with chronic illnesses. She was often sick or in pain and felt terribly guilty for not being able to care for her family when she had really bad days. On the days when she felt good, she would push herself to her absolute limit by cooking and cleaning and fitting in as much family time as she could before she felt sick again. Inevitably, she would wake up the next day feeling way worse than she did previously because she overextended

herself. This became a rather predictable cycle. It took months to convince her to slow down a little on the days she felt good and to take care of herself on those days, too, so that her good days might last a little longer, and to stop feeling guilty for her bad days. She was able to find a balance and improve her overall quality of life. She did amazingly, and I still think about her from time to time. It's been 10 years, and I hope she's still killing it."

Thongp17 commented, "I had a client who had a serious back injury but loved to hike. They had moved to the area to enjoy nature. There was some anger or guilt involved whenever they had to recuperate. We made a chart trying to figure out how much recuperation time they would need after a hike. I think I labeled it the 'Pain Payment Chart.' It was a way to visualize the things they had to consider when doing what they loved."

Sheerardio responded:

"Solutions like this are wonderful, absolutely vital, and so freaking easily overlooked.

"Having to go from an active, healthy, able-bodied person who can do whatever they like, to someone who has maybe enough energy to either make dinner *or* take a shower is legitimately hell. It can feel like your entire life has been taken away from you and that there's no point anymore. You have to be able to figure out how to mentally shift gears in terms of expectations, while also becoming a master juggler / tactician in order to figure out the best, most efficient use of [the spoons](#) you have.

"People can absolutely still enjoy lots of their favorite things after that adjustment; it just requires being able (and willing) to get creative with your solutions—and learning to be patient with yourself."

Note by David Bruce: see the Wikipedia article on “Spoon theory”:

< [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spoon\\_theory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spoon_theory) >. <sup>62</sup>

### **63. “What’s The Worst Thing You Can Say At A Funeral?”**

1) 1banana2bananas wrote, “Certainly not the worst per se, but spoken by the bikhuni (female monk) who led the ceremony at my grandma’s funeral two weeks ago. She bade my family farewell by saying, ‘Till next time.’”

1banana2bananas added:

“The worst part is, she actually did laugh when she realised her blunder.

“She was quite authoritarian and had berated my family for not properly following certain rites.

“Living abroad, I attended the funeral via Zoom, and got a glimpse of the funny little despot she was. She looked so innocent, wrapped in her tangerine robes, round spectacles sliding down her nose, and holding her singing bowl. She stood in the corner of the frame but would occasionally lean into the laptop’s camera lens. Her distorted face from the fisheye effect made it look like she was a giantess peering into a glass bottle, to sternly gaze at us, tiny mortals. She did so to yell at online attendees and make sure we were paying attention. To be fair, she provided much-needed comic relief.”

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<sup>62</sup> Source: KelsConditional, “Therapists and psychiatrists of Reddit, what is the best/most uplifting recovery journey you’ve witnessed?” Reddit. AskReddit. 9 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m180f4/therapists\\_and\\_psychiatrists\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_is/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m180f4/therapists_and_psychiatrists_of_reddit_what_is/) >.

2) ProfessionalOrder8 wrote, “My mum used to be a funeral director and when they scheduled funerals in their calendar they abbreviated it to ‘fun.’”

DOUGLAS451 commented, "We put the ‘FUN’ in ‘FUNERAL’!"

Qasiel commented, “We put the ‘LAUGHTER’ in ‘MANSLAUGHTER’!”

StGirl commented, “You can’t spell ‘manslaughter’ without ‘man’s laughter.’”

3) Mattou wrote, “My grandmother attended her sister’s funeral, which shocked everyone since they hadn’t spoken in years. Detecting the shock, she blurted out, ‘I’m here to make sure she’s actually dead.’”

4) Insane\_Behavior wrote, “At my mother’s funeral, my niece noted that they put a pack of cigarettes in the coffin (she was a massive smoker to the end); however, they hadn’t included a lighter or matches. My brother said out loud, ‘She won’t need any lighter where she is going.’ Some of us laughed, the extended family was horrified.”

TjW0569 commented, “I suppose she could throw a cigarette out of the coffin. Then it would be a cigarette lighter.”

5) Nursebirder wrote:

“I’ll quote someone from my great-grandfather’s funeral: ‘Well, we all know Al wasn’t a very nice guy.’

“No one got upset. We all knew it was true. Lol.”

Transcibbla commented, “Ain’t gonna lie, Al was a prick. Anyone else have a positive story? No? Great. Blah, blah, blah, done. Bye, y’all. Please file out to the left and have a great day.”

Nursebirder responded, “Yeah, pretty much. Except he left like \$30,000 to throw a massive party so ....”

6) Parvus\_ wrote, “I attended the funeral of a guy I went to school with who was killed in a hit-and-run accident. My partner and I were over an hour late because of traffic. When speaking to his parents, I apologized for being so late and my dumbass decided to say it was because there were so many accidents on the way up.”<sup>63</sup>

#### **64. “What Famous Person Did You Regret Meeting Because They Were An Ass?”**

As usual, Redditors also wrote good encounters with celebrities, sometimes after writing about a bad encounter with a different celebrity.

1) DustiestSquid2 wrote, “Met Tiger Woods when I was 15. He slapped my hat out of my hand. A different golfer whom I didn’t know ran up, picked up my hat, and asked if his signature would be ok. I agreed, but I don’t know who he was or what his name was, but my grandpa was pleased upon seeing it.”

2) heanbangerfacerip2 wrote, “I was the ass. I saw Don Cheadle at an airport and was thinking about *Oceans 11* and said to my friend, ‘Dude, it’s Bernie Mac,’ and he looked back and said, ‘No, I’m the other black guy from *Oceans 11* but at least you liked the movie.’”

IsolatedHammer commented, “Daaaaamn ... you fucked up. Lol. He handled that pretty well.”

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<sup>63</sup> Source: DeathMetalGiggler, “What’s the worst thing you can say at a funeral?” Reddit. AskReddit. 10 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m1w4tu/whats\\_the\\_worst\\_thing\\_you\\_can\\_say\\_at\\_a\\_funeral/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m1w4tu/whats_the_worst_thing_you_can_say_at_a_funeral/)>.



premiumpinkgin commented, “Fuck. That’s gold. He’s a funny dude.”

3) Antilon wrote, “Best interaction was with Conan O’Brien, who’s a total class act. Chatted him up in a bathroom line of all places and said my wife and I were huge fans. He said we should come by the table to chat. I told him we didn’t want to interrupt his dinner but he insisted, then asked if we wanted pictures, and was super cool.”

Glldinkiering commented, “He came in for dinner at a restaurant I worked for, was an absolute charmer, and then stayed an hour after dinner signing autographs and taking pictures with people. The guy knows how to work a room and was very friendly and warm. Incredibly tall, too. Lol.”

4) RedditingAtWork5 wrote:

“Most interactions involving Reggie Jackson that I’ve read about have been negative. That said, my dad used to work as a mechanic, and I’m not sure if he worked on Reggie’s car but he got to speak with him for a short time. Said he was a nice enough guy. My mom was pregnant with me at the time and he asked him if he could write an autograph for me which he was happy to do. I still have it. Just on a regular cardstock piece of paper; it says, ‘RedditingAtWork5, Good Luck. — Mr. October.’

“My dad also met Rickey Henderson a few times through the same place and my dad loves Rickey Henderson. Says The Man of Steal is always cool and pleasant. I’ve got a couple signed cards from him.”

5) O\_for\_a\_muse\_of\_fire wrote:

“I have the perfect combination of bad star / good star. It was at DragonCon, maybe 2005? I’m going through the big autograph room, waiting to get David Carradine’s autograph. He looked so mad. He didn’t say a word as I told

him how much I enjoyed his work. OK. I get it. Maybe he was having a bad day.

“Next to Mr. Carradine was Marc Singer, star of *Beastmaster, V* [TV series], etc. Mr. Singer is smiling, talking to people as they go by; he looks genuinely happy to be there.

“Suddenly, a woman behind me stumbled and dropped a huge stack of materials she wanted autographed. Mr. Carradine looked down on her like she was a bug. Marc Singer *jumped* over his table and started helping the woman pick up her things. Didn’t hesitate one moment, just started helping.

“That when I decided that if I ever became famous, I was going to try to be like Marc Singer, not David Carradine.”

6) Keefer1970 wrote:

“Ace Frehley of KISS. It was at a rock n roll / TV / movie memorabilia convention in the mid 90s, shortly before the Kiss reunion, and he clearly didn’t wanna be there. He didn’t talk to fans, didn’t say hi — hell, he didn’t even LOOK at you when you came to his table. He just signed whatever you placed in front of him and then you were hustled away.

“On the other hand, Adam ‘Batman’ West was at the next signing table and he was a totally cool guy ... shook hands, chatted with everyone, signed whatever we wanted, posed for pix, etc. Meeting him more than made up for Ace’s surly, hung-over douche-baggery.”

7) melbornnycarhorder67 wrote:

“My sister and I saw Alec Baldwin, Tina Fey, and Salma Hayek on the street when we were eating lunch. They were just coming out of a car, about to go into some building next to us. We had no idea why they were together, but in

retrospect it was definitely because they were filming *30 Rock* together.

“My sister said, ‘OH, MY GOD! IS THAT TINA FEY?’ and Alec Baldwin turned around and went right in her face and said, ‘Don’t fucking say that. Don’t speak to us. Why would you say something like that? You can’t speak to us, not now.’ But it didn’t really end there, he yelled AGAIN at us outside his building, saying, ‘DONT LOOK OVER HERE. TURN AROUND AND EAT YOUR FOOD. FUCK OFF.’ He sounded genuinely furious at us. Almost like he wanted us to yell back and start something with him. Honestly, my sister was on the verge of tears, it was horribly embarrassing. Everybody knows, now, that Alec Baldwin has a history of screaming at people. But at the time we had no idea. Don’t get me wrong, my sister shouldn’t have yelled at Tina Fey like that, but the way Alec snapped was straight-up scary, like he was about to physically hurt her.

“Salma Hayek and some other lady whom I didn’t recognize came over and apologized to us. She asked if we wanted her to go and get Tina and get her autograph because apparently Tina felt bad, too, but we said no. She then talked to us about the food we were eating, which was Mexican food, and we ended up having a brief conversation about NY’s lack of quality Mexican food. She was INCREDIBLY charismatic and sweet.”

spfromkc commented, “My daughter worked with Salma on her upcoming movie *Bliss* and said she was fantastic.”

8) After writing about a celebrity who was having a bad day, FestiveSquis wrote about a good celebrity, “On the flip side, my brother met Gord Downie (also RIP) at a get-together. He was with his girlfriend and her family at one of her parent’s friend’s place. They’re all sitting, chatting, having a good time. Out of nowhere, Gord walks in like it’s nothing. (Apparently the owners of the house were friends with

Gord.) My brother being a huge Tragically Hip fan was internally freaking, but he kept cool on the outside so as to not bother him. He talked with him for a while about sports and things like that. Towards the end of the night when my brother was getting ready to leave, Gord stopped him and shook his hand while saying, ‘Thank you for pretending to not know who I am.’”

9) brxn wrote:

“I met Morgan Freeman at a Bed Bath and Beyond. He was shopping for a teapot on a lower shelf and stood up right when I almost walked into him, and I was like, ‘Wow, you look just like Morgan Freeman!’

“He, without skipping a beat, was like, ‘If I was Morgan Freeman, wouldn’t I be in Hollywood or something?’ and the voice made me now 99.9% certain it’s him.

“I was like, ‘I guess you would. Enjoy your time here.’

“I don’t regret meeting him and don’t think he was an ass. I just thought it was so Morgan Freeman of him to have a line like that to make you wonder if you met Morgan Freeman or just a guy who likes to act like a character in a bunch of his movies.”

10) gqpenguin wrote, “When I was working at Best Buy back in 2003-09, Robin Williams came into our store and purchased every single copy of *Mrs. Doubtfire*. He then whipped out a Sharpie and signed all 50+ copies for the employees at the store. He then stuck around telling jokes and just hanging out with the staff. I just wanted to share; he was definitely the best actor interaction I’ve had personally. So nice. Rest In Peace.”

11) Schmeeble wrote, “I used to work in a posh hotel in Canada (vague on purpose) and I met many, many famous people during my time there. Most were forgettable

interactions honestly [...]. For the record the best celebrity guest for me was Dave Grohl. He's an awesome guy."

Feralcrumpetart commented, "One of the first concerts I attended had the Foo Fighters on one of the main stages when *The Colour and the Shape* had just come out. There was a young guy in a wheelchair, in the pit. People were tossing him around ... but like carefully, cause you know, don't wanna damage him or the chair. Dave leaned over to check on him during a solo. Kid gave him the thumbs up; Dave had the biggest grin and gave it back."

TannedCroissant commented, "Yeah, he's definitely someone to look up to, the perfect Grohlmodel for kids."

caramelcooler commented, "I wasn't always a huge fan of Foo Fighters puns, but they're Grohling on me."

aozoraninaru commented, "My mom adores Grohl, and I'm absolutely going to share this with her."

SorryNewspaper commented, "Personally, I think he's the Fred Rogers [Mister Rogers] of music."

12) gmabarret wrote, "Bumped into the late great Alan Rickman in London. He was just walking down Oxford street, I said to my significant other — I thought quietly — 'That's Alan fucking Rickman.' She said, 'No, it's not.' He stopped, turned around with a massive smile, and said, 'It really is.' He was obviously in a rush but was still polite and charming."

13) Scouseulster wrote, "Met the actor [Nikolaj Coster-Waldau] who plays Jaime Lannister as I was walking to work. I stopped when I saw him and so did he. I said, 'You're

that guy.’ His response was, ‘I am,’ with a big wide grin. We both then walked on and that was that. It was pretty cool.’<sup>64</sup>

**65. “[Serious] Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Has Said, ‘The Ascent Of Billionaires Is A Symptom & Outcome Of An Immoral System That Tells People Affordable Insulin Is Impossible But Exploitation Is Fine.’ What Are Your Thoughts On This?”**

Note by David Bruce: Some of what follows is about the USA, which lacks a health care system paid for by taxes.

1) AbstracTyler wrote:

“As a Type 1 diabetic this is very close to my own personal experience. I was diagnosed when I was a baby; just 1.5 years old. So I’ve lived with the condition for my entire lifetime, essentially.

“Many people are unaware of what Type 1 diabetes actually is, so I’ll give a basic rundown just for your information. Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition in which the immune system targets and destroys the cells in the pancreas that produce insulin (beta cells in the islets of langerhans). Insulin is a critical hormone that allows the body to metabolize glucose for energy. An untreated Type 1 diabetic will die within a couple of days, without insulin.

“Contemporary insulins (Humalog, Novolog, and Lantus, etc.) have been around for decades with only minor tweaks to the production of those insulins. The price for a 10ml vial of Humalog or Novolog was around \$20, over the counter, without insurance. Those same insulins are now priced at ~

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<sup>64</sup> Source: moneybot13, “What famous person did you regret meeting because they were an ass?” Reddit. AskReddit. 12 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m3nhmj/what\\_famous\\_person\\_did\\_you\\_regret\\_meeting\\_because/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m3nhmj/what_famous_person_did_you_regret_meeting_because/) >.

\$300 over the counter, without insurance. That's an astronomical price increase without any major change to the formula or production method used.

“I may be off the mark here in just talking about the price of insulin and not talking about billionaires, but you don't need billionaires to understand just how ethically bankrupt our systems are when a product like insulin that is necessary for survival is priced at a point of such staggering profit. It costs something like \$6 to produce a 10mL vial of life-sustaining insulin, which is then priced at ~ \$300. People die because they can't afford to pay that. It's just wrong.”

Minxologist commented, “Agree with you! My son is Type 1 diabetic. His insulin prices keep going up since his diagnosis in 2003. He has to pay a small fortune just to stay alive, each month. All of this on top of what regular people have to pay, mortgage, car insurance, electric bill, water bill, etc. This is NOT something he can just go without — he will literally die! Do you know the terror of knowing, if you don't have the money, you have a high chance of death? Disgusting, and disturbing.”

SunflowerPits790 commented:

“My art professor was Type 1 and he was having to ration his insulin, this man made more than the average person and STILL was unable to afford these astronomical prices. I hope he is okay, I haven't seen or heard from him since the start of the pandemic.

“And no real way to find out because I had to drop out of college to pick up a second job during the pandemic.

blurplethenurple commented, “Just the insulin also doesn't take into account all the medical technology behind being able to live a semi-normal life without needing to carry syringes and temperature sensitive medication everywhere you go. Sure, having an insulin pump isn't a requirement to

stay alive, but the healthier and more normal of a life you try to lead, the more expensive it gets.”

smartypantschess commented:

“Type 1 here too. However I’m very lucky that I’m from the UK and the NHS covers insulin, testing strips, devices, eye exams, HbA1C tests, foot checks & general checks.

“The people inflating the prices of insulin are genuine human scum.

“I’m not sure if there is anyone on Reddit who knows about insulin production, but it’s a shame all US diabetics can’t chip in and create a company where insulin can be produced and sold at production costs.

“Frederick Banting said, *‘Insulin does not belong to me. It belongs to the world.’*”

mister\_newbie commented, “The patent for the manufacturing of insulin, which was discovered by Dr. Frederick G. Banting, Canadian, was originally sold for a symbolic \$1 to ensure a cheap supply to those who need the life-saving drug. The current situation is fucked and would have him rolling in his grave.”

BrahmTheImpaler commented, “My God, how do the people profiting off of this sleep at night? No sarcasm implied here at all — it’s totally mind-blowing that these people are even human.”

boxdkittens answered, “They sleep in a very comfortable bed, in a large paid-off house that they believe they worked hard for and deserve.”

2) chastity-spider wrote, “I’m fortunate enough to have no medical conditions (that I’m aware of). When it comes to voting time, I support legislation that benefits those who do suffer. Why? Not because I had to go through it to



understand, but because it's just the goddamned right thing to do. I'm puzzled by the fact that so many can't seem to grasp that idea: Just do what's right. We live in a society where about a good half or more will not accept the idea of being kind to others, where the only ideas that are considered worth exploring are the ones that explicitly benefit them. As it has been for thousands of years. I'm just amazed that after all this time, we still tread these same dusty roads, kicking the same old cans, and still have no fucking idea where it is we're headed."

hausishome commented:

"One of my favorite quotes about politics:

"'If you're struggling, vote for a better life for yourself. If you're doing quite well, vote for a better life for others.'

"It's really that simple. We are all humans. Golden Rule and all that jazz."<sup>65</sup>

## **66. "Security Guards Of Reddit, What Is Your 'I Don't Get Paid Enough For This Shit' Moment?"**

GreatJanitor wrote:

"I was a security guard 20 years ago at a mall. So yeah, I was rent-a-cop. I was in training when my trainer mentioned the codes that we used. He said: '[code] means bomb threat.' He asked, 'What do you do if I give the code for a bomb threat?'"

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<sup>65</sup> Source: last\_goodbye1, "[Serious] 'The ascent of billionaires is a symptom & outcome of an immoral system that tells people affordable insulin is impossible but exploitation is fine' — Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. What are your thoughts on this?" Reddit. AskReddit. 14 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m4wb71/serious\\_the\\_a\\_scent\\_of\\_billionaires\\_is\\_a\\_symptom/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m4wb71/serious_the_a_scent_of_billionaires_is_a_symptom/) >.

“I said, ‘I make \$8 / hour. You give the call for a bomb threat, and my ass is out the door before everyone else.’

“He laughed and said, ‘Good. I hate working with assholes who want to be heroes.’”

Guvnuh\_T\_Boggs wrote, “I’m just a paid witness, that’s my job in those situations. If I **can** stop something, mazel tov. But generally speaking, we are under no obligation to be Billy Badass and start swinging.”

Malaevolent\_Bunny responded, “Your job is to make sure idiots know they are being watched, or to start an orderly evacuation if something terrible happens. Bomb disarming is for someone else to do, your job is to clear the place out without a panic if at all possible, and I thank you for it.”<sup>66</sup>

## **67. “What Is The Most Selfless Thing Someone Is Unaware They Did For You?”**

1) catjudges wrote, “My friend’s parents feeding me and letting me stay the night at their homes, even on school nights when shit was getting crazy at my house. Maybe they were aware, but they never let me know.”

WhiskeyDickens commented, “I had something similar, but it lasted like a year. Thank you, Mrs. Flynn. I was an angry piece of crap, and a stranger to you on top of that, and you were an angel.”

AurorasHomestead commented, “My friend’s parents saved my life. My ‘spending the night’ at age 14 was because I was

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<sup>66</sup> Source: blackjack967, “Security guards of reddit, what is the ‘I dont get paid enough for this shit’ moment?” Reddit. AskReddit. 17 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m6rj1b/security\\_guards\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_is\\_the\\_i\\_dont\\_get/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m6rj1b/security_guards_of_reddit_what_is_the_i_dont_get/)>.

homeless, and it was that or foster care. Miss those amazing people. Sadly they have passed.”

havens1515 wrote:

“At one point in high school I was pretty much living with one of my friends who lived a couple streets over from me. I’d sleep at my house (most of the time) but spend most of my day (outside of school) at her house. She and I spent so much time together that many people in school thought we were dating. Truth is, for most of that time, each of us were in relationships with other people.

“I was there so much that her mom actually got upset one night because I *wasn’t* there for dinner. She had planned on me being there for dinner (because I was there just about every night) and when I didn’t show up, she was upset because she had cooked for me and didn’t want the food to go to waste.

“[...] My pager number (yes, this was early 2000s, I had a pager) was on the white board in their house, and her mom used to page me when she needed to get ahold of either of us. (I knew the difference between my friend’s page and her mom’s page because we were cool and all of my friends had individual ‘pager codes’ that they’d use when they paged me.)

“My parents were divorced and I was living with my dad, but he was working nights at the time. So I was pretty much on my own most of the time (we had food in the house, and he provided everything that I needed in that respect.) But I’m sure my friend’s mom knew this, and that’s why she didn’t mind me essentially living at their house.”

throwaway251680765 commented, “Something I found also is certain people just don’t care [about cost]. Like maybe having you over several times a month costs them 100

bucks? Really not much in terms of cost if it makes their kid happy and you are enjoyable to be around.”

2) SolarisIX wrote, “A coach from a different school bought me a brand-new pair of racing flats after talking with me for a few minutes at a race. He sent them to me through my coach, and I never got to thank him in person, sadly.”

3) macva99 wrote, “My daughter has a progressive neurological issue that is slowly taking away her right side. A few years ago, when she was 12 and could still ride a bike, we were riding to a place to watch fireworks on the 4th of July. She was struggling to ride and was somewhat unsteady and couldn’t make quick moves. We weren’t riding far. As she was riding by a new Mini Cooper, she was struggling to keep her bike straight and her handle bar hit the sideview mirror of the guy’s Mini. The driver was in the car and just smiled and waved us on, saying everything was fine. I think he had a sense that my daughter had to work extra hard to ride her bike. After we moved out of the way, I went to thank the guy but he drove off. I know she broke the glass on his mirror, I heard it. I’ll never forget the guy’s face and how compassionate and understanding he was.”

Note by David Bruce: From the story, apparently it was obvious that the daughter was unhurt. I wonder whether the car was parked, with the driver still in it.

Additional note by David Bruce: Words is hard. Sometimes we leave important details out of our writing.

Teekteekee commented, “Some people are just really nice. It’s heartwarming to come across people like that. Especially I noticed that most people are not kind to children. One mistake in a public place is enough for everyone to judge the kid like they are spoiled and it’s their parent’s fault for raising such a spoiled kid. The same kid could be very quiet,

and the least trouble-maker otherwise. I hope your daughter gets to come across only the nicest people in the world.”

macva99 responded, “Thanks for the very kind words. When you have a child with a rare illness or special needs, life can feel so isolating and lonely. Everything is about them, and I mean that in a loving way. It needs to be about them. People are generally kind and sympathetic, but occasionally you have people in your life who just remind you that you and your child are human and deserving of grace and compassion. I think about that guy a lot. He didn’t get out of his car and yell at her, he didn’t shame her or us, he smiled and said it’s no problem, go have fun. I try to be sensitive to people’s needs and circumstances and hopefully have demonstrated to others what that guy demonstrated to us. It meant so much to me as her dad that she could simply go watch fireworks without her disability creating yet another problem. It was such a small and quick gesture, but it made a huge impact. As you said, people are not kind to children and parent-shaming is epidemic.”

4) Upbeat\_Whole1628 wrote, “Someone donated their kidney when they died and they allowed me to be healthy enough to have and raise my son. He just turned 21.”

5) Back2Bach wrote:

“On a very long train ride, the woman sitting next to me was reading *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

“I kept wishing that I had remembered to bring reading material with me.

“When the lady got off at her stop, she inadvertently (I think) left the book behind. For the next several hours, that excellent novel ‘kept me company’ until I eventually arrived at my destination.”

6) poobrainmace wrote, “While I was in college, I couldn’t afford groceries most of the time so a few of my friends would buy me lunch with their dorm meal cards. I’m not close with any of them anymore, but I still think about what they did for me a lot.”

7) rizcriz wrote:

“I was having a really bad depressive episode and this man and his dog were walking down the street. I was waiting for my food and considering just saying fuck it and walking down to one of the bridges on the river.

“The man’s dog was walking with her leash dragging on the floor, and she came up to me and sat down on my feet and looked up at me and refused to move for about five minutes.

“I don’t know if the man realized I needed this or what, but he didn’t say or do anything as I stood there crying and petting his dog.

“When the dog decided she was done, she got up and they walked off and I never saw them again.”

8) Verticalparachute wrote:

“I was driving and hit another car. He was stopped to turn and I simply wasn’t paying attention. I rear-ended his car at about 30 miles per hour. Set off my cars air bags. I managed to pull over to the side, and he completed his turn. I was in shock and got out of the car and blundered right into the highway.

“He ran out and pulled me to safety and as I’m sobbing and apologizing, he just gave me a big hug and kept telling it’s ok, we’re ok, cars can be fixed. He was so sweet and calm when I was a complete mess.

“I found out from my co-worker a week later, the gentlemen I hit had lost his wife to cancer the week before.

“Just ... wow.”

9) chelseabels wrote, “I’m a nurse in a public hospital and every day, no matter how shit my shift is going, I look forward to my morning tea. This consists of a banana and a very strong coffee. Simple, but it puts the spring in my step. Anyway one morning I LOST my banana. Could not find it. I was having a rough morning and really needed my banana. Anyway I just got on with it and went on with my day, albeit a little bit sulky. Haha. About 20 minutes later, an orderly comes up to me holding a banana he had gone all the way to another floor’s kitchen to get for me. He was like ‘I heard you lost your banana. I know you needed that. Go have a break, eat this and I’ll listen out for your call bells.’ This was over two years ago and probably seems so small, but I still think about this and it makes me so fuzzy to know the compassion and kindness of the people I work with. What a legend.”

Sonja42 commented, “Never underestimate the power of a banana. But seriously, what a sweet gesture!”

10) Fiascoe wrote, “When I was in grade 3, my teacher invited me to have dinner with her and her family. My family life was not good. I never had a dad. My mom is an alcoholic. (She has been sober now for 30 years.) I did not know what a normal family was like until that dinner and night at my teacher’s house. It was just so calm and stable. I remember that day like it was yesterday. It was almost 40 years ago. It made me realize that there was another way to exist.”<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> Source: astridius, “What is the most selfless thing someone is unaware they did for you?” Reddit. AskReddit. 19 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m8l011/what\\_is\\_the\\_most\\_selfless\\_thing\\_someone\\_is/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m8l011/what_is_the_most_selfless_thing_someone_is/)>.

**68. “State Troopers Or Police In General: Three Cars Blow Past You Going Ten MPH Over the Speed Limit. Do You Go After The One Leading The Pack Or The Cars Lagging Behind?”**

tar\_guard\_SCHP wrote, “I’m typically looking for at least 15-20 over, but if I don’t think I can get all three stopped, I don’t bother blue lighting them at all. I’ll just pull out to scare the crap out of them and then follow the car who makes the most drastic change in speed because nothing says I’m guilty like a complete overreaction. After I’m done toying with their emotions from behind, I typically drive past and give them a look that says, ‘I saw you, but it’s your lucky day.’ I like to hand out warnings through facial expressions.”

Note by David Bruce: SCHP may be the abbreviation for South Carolina (State) Highway Patrol.

BloatedBana9 commented, “I’ve been given one of those warnings before. Shortly before I-94 becomes 694 around the Twin Cities, the speed limit drops from 70 to 60, but very few people actually slow down, so everyone who had been doing 5-10 over is now doing 15-20 over. I was one of those people driving back to school one time, and as I was passing someone (doing about 17 over), I look in my rearview mirror and there’s a state trooper right behind me. I finished the pass, moved back to the right lane, and he went by and just gave me a little nod. He ended up pulling someone else over about half a mile in front of me.”

KenDanger2 commented, “Last year I was doing a nine-hour or so drive and was going maybe 10 or 15 (kph) over. A police SUV coming the other way must have clocked me because they just flicked their lights on for half a second to warn me and then kept going.”

tar\_guard\_SCHP responded, “Haha, I do that one all the time, too, especially if I’m already on my way to another



call. Basically, I saw you and I want you to know it, but I've got bigger fish to fry right now."

Phunky123 commented, "The ticket isn't what stops people from speeding, it's more the fear of getting pulled over. Pulling out after them is enough to slow them down for at least a few weeks."

tar\_guard\_SCHP responded, "Agreed, I typically save the tickets for those who are acting with a complete disregard of the safety of those around them."

Wishbone commented, "I got pulled over once for rolling through a stop sign, one of those small-town intersections everyone rolls through. The cop gave me a warning and now I remember to come to a complete stop there. Truly effective police work, it's a shame it doesn't often go like that."

tar\_guard\_SCHP responded, "That's how I enforce. I'd rather make it a learning experience than ruin someone's day."

DontShowMomMemes commented, "Often, if someone is tailgating me I'll speed up, so I would hope the person behind gets pulled over."

QA-Imoverhere responded, "Happened to me once. Guy was tailgating me big time. Two-lane highway. I didn't actually realize how much I'd sped up until we passed a patrol car on the side of the road. About 20mph over limit. Cop flipped on lights and siren and chased us. I pulled over. Tailgater kept going. Cop blew past me and pulled over the asshat. Good cop."<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> Source: Benw9242, "State troopers or police in general. Three cars blow past you going ten over, do you go after the one leading the pack or the cars lagging behind? if so Why?" Reddit. AskReddit. 20 March 2021 <

## 69. “What Is The Best Comeback You’ve Used To Crush Someone’s Colossal Ego?”

WatchTheBoom wrote:

“While in the military, I received special permission to occupy a position that was typically reserved for senior leaders. Part of the job included liaising with other DoD operations centers, where my ‘peers’ were often several ranks senior to me.

“On several occasions, I’d answer the phone and get the ‘put your boss on’ treatment. I’d usually verify that they were looking to speak to our Emergency Operations Center Supervisor, and then calmly explain that I was the person they were looking for.

“One particular guy was a real ass, though. I answered the phone as I normally did: ‘Emergency Operations, Lieutenant /u/WatchTheBoom speaking.’ The Commander on the other end of the line asked to speak with my boss. I went through the motions as I had before.

“*Are you looking to speak to the EOC Supervisor?*”

"Yes, Damn it. Put them on the phone."

“*Well, that’s me, sir. How can I help you?*”

““NO! Fuck! I want to speak to whoever is ACTUALLY IN CHARGE OVER THERE!”

“At this point, I said, ‘Oh, okay. Let me go get him.’ I waited for about twenty seconds and introduced myself again, exactly the same way I did the first time. It went about as

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[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m98m7m/state\\_troopers\\_or\\_police\\_in\\_general\\_three\\_cars/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/m98m7m/state_troopers_or_police_in_general_three_cars/)>.

expected: he rage-quit the call after a comically frustrated ‘hrrmph.’

“He then called a different number to our ops center — one of the guys on the team stepped into my office and let me know that some Commander wanted to talk to me. I asked him to forward the call to my phone. This time, when I picked up the phone, I just said, ‘EOC Supervisor, how can I help you?’

“He breathed a sigh of relief (having finally gotten ahold of the correct person) and started to tell me about the twit lieutenant that gave him a bunch of attitude. About 30 seconds into a rant, he asked who he was speaking with. I let him know that it was me. Silence. In hindsight, I wish I would have said something tough like ‘Like it or not, I’m who you need to talk to, sir,’ but instead he told me what he needed and we proceeded as grumpy professionals.

“After the call, I warned my boss that a guy was a dick to me on the phone and I stood up for myself — he gave me a thumbs up. I thought I’d hear about it again at some point, but never did.”<sup>69</sup>

## **70. “Gift Guides For Men Are Boring And All The Same. Men Of Reddit, What Gifts Would You Actually Want To Receive?”**

1) deutschdachs wrote, “This thread has made me realize that a lot of men actually do want all those boring gifts from the gift guides.”

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<sup>69</sup> Source: DuggTheDumbass, “What is the best comeback you’ve used to crush someone’s colossal ego?” Reddit. AskReddit. 22 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/maor96/what\\_is\\_the\\_best\\_comeback\\_youve\\_used\\_to\\_crush/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/maor96/what_is_the_best_comeback_youve_used_to_crush/) >.

SirJuggles commented, “Only one caveat— a LOT of those kits are full of junk-quality items. Go look at the Gift For Men kits, pick one piece out of there, and buy a high-quality version of that thing.”

tehm commented:

“100% this.

“Most men CAN and will buy for themselves whatever they want or need. So what makes the best gifts? Things that are a direct upgrade for things they already buy for themselves.

“If I go to buy whiskey, I usually buy Crown, anyone who knows me knows this. This makes Crown a mediocre gift. It makes Crown XR (or whatever) a FANTASTIC gift. I’m sure to love it and I’m not going to pay that premium very often if ever for myself.

“This isn’t just limited to the kinds of things that appear on those lists though!

“Off the top of my head: Cooking utensils, earbuds / headphones, cannabis, ‘food’ (for my birthday this year my wife bought me like two pounds of just ridiculous quality jerky. FANTASTIC gift!), computer accessories (keyboard, mouse, speakers, even the damn chair! If it’s high enough quality, I’m sure to still be using it daily ~8 years down the road. THAT’S what men want in a gift!) ...

“Hell, I’ve received towels as a gift and had them be the best gift of the year. Quality towels are NOT something a guy will buy for themselves, but once you’ve used them you’ll be hooked ... and the really good ones will last nearly a decade.

“That’s the trick.

“Not selection, not quantity ... quality.”

LOTRfreak101 commented, “I think it varies person to person. I’d rather have a lot of something that I think is good than a little of something I think is really good. I’ve always been more of a quantity-over-quality guy, though.”

tehm responded:

“For myself I’m the same way [in my day-to-day life, but not when it comes to gifts], and I think most people are like me.

“That’s why I drink Cokes instead of New York Seltzer or buy Crown instead of XO or whatever ... it’s exactly because of this that I so appreciate gifts where they chose the other.”

“If I buy myself headphones, they’ll be a \$50 pair, they’ll last me a couple years and they’ll be fine and I’ll be happy.

“If my grandpa buys me headphones, they’ll be an obscure \$200+ pair of studio cans I would have never even found when looking, they’ll last me until I literally fuck up and break them, and they’ll be more comfortable, sound better, and literally BE better in every conceivable way.

“I wouldn’t have paid 4x the price for that quality (or even known what to look for) but I sure as hell can appreciate it once I’ve got it!”

tristanjones commented:

“One thing that is missing is the negative.

“I DONT WANT A GIFT is a wonderful gift to take seriously.

“I’m not hard to gift for. I’m the easiest in the world. No gift. I’m an adult with money who is the best-equipped person in the world to make purchasing choices for me.

“If you must get me a gift, just get me a six pack of any beer. I won’t have to keep it for a few years on display in a knickknacks cabinet or wear it even if I hate it. I’ll drink it if I like it or bring it to a party if I don’t.”

edrho commented:

“The last gift from my girlfriend was the hardback complete collector’s edition of *Calvin and Hobbes*. I love that thing so much I don’t even want to touch it. Just look at it and smile knowing it’s there while flipping through my old dog-eared paperback copies.

“So yes, whatever it is the man in your life is interested in, go for the premium version.”<sup>70</sup>

## **71. “What Is Something That Everyone Seems To Understand That You Don’t?”**

1) Hairynipz wrote, “How the fuck you’re supposed to buy a house.”

pseudocultist wrote, “By the time you walk into a bank, you should already know you’ve got the mortgage. We decided to finally buy a house three years ago, and it was surprisingly easy. We had terrible credit, I spent a few months cleaning up collections accounts, sending pay-for-deletes, opening new credit cards and paying them off every month. We started getting pre-qualification letters even before we started looking for houses. Pre-qualified at one institution and carried that letter around to the other banks, seeing if they could do better (one did). We had maybe only a couple

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<sup>70</sup> Source: birththebird, “Gift guides for men are boring and all the same. Men of Reddit, what gifts would you actually want to receive?” Reddit. AskReddit. 23 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mbk6oa/gift\\_guides\\_for\\_men\\_are\\_boring\\_and\\_all\\_the\\_same/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mbk6oa/gift_guides_for_men_are_boring_and_all_the_same/) >.

thousand down on a quarter million dollar loan — definitely no nest egg — but the closing office spent a couple days jamming that fucker through, and it was done. Going into a bank to start the process is like going to a marathon to learn how to run. You gotta start small — run your credit, pull your financial picture together, start making yourself appealing. It takes a while but again, I was shocked, I thought it would take *years* to fix our credit and save up a big enough down payment.”

2) tnt\_for\_now wrote, “How people keep deep friendships in adulthood. like I try but with COVID, a job, keeping up a house, a relationship, planning a family — I’m exhausted at the end of the day trying to keep my partner and two dogs happy and I don’t know how to keep up the deep friendships I once had. Don’t get me wrong, I value them and I still reach out and talk regularly, but it doesn’t feel the same and I’m just burnt out.”

UncleJessesBlowDryer commented, “Same. A friend is just another meter I have to watch and nurture, like in Sims. I don’t have the time to feed another meter to keep it happy!”

Vsonrisa100 commented, “I have very dear friends, I know they’re just as busy as I am, expectations are within reason. We don’t see each other often or check in too often, weeks go by but when we do, we pick up right where we left off. I have two or three friends like this. If they experience some sort of crisis, I make the time and give them more, I know they’ll do the same for me.”

LohannaBux commented, “For me it’s a question of priorities. I value my relationships above my career and my friends give me energy (like my partner) instead of draining me (at least mostly). So when I have to decide who to spend my time on it goes: me (always take care of your own psyche first), then friends/partner, then work and then hobbies. This way I usually manage fine although of course some weeks I

don't talk to any of them but the core relationship has never changed. :) Here (in Austria) I do have two benefits, though:

“1. We don't always value partners above friends, so dividing time somewhat equally between them is fine.

“2. I was born in Vienna and if that is the case you usually don't move anywhere for studying or work, so I have had the same friends for 15, 20 years or longer.”

3) Joe434 wrote, “Benefits of homeownership vs renting.”

kingjoey52a commented:

“Homeownership: You own the place, you can do whatever you want with it, when the value of the property rises you can sell it for a profit or take out a loan against that extra value, stability of knowing you don't have to renew any kind of lease and your mortgage will stay the same (I believe), cheaper in the long run because you'll eventually pay off the loan and won't pay any kind of rent equivalent (other than taxes).

“Renting: Anything goes wrong with the house, the owner has to fix it, you aren't locked to one location for a super-long time, usually only a year or two, related to the above two if a disaster happens like flooding or whatever you don't really have to deal with anything other than your personal belongings so no trying to fix the water damage, just move to a new place, easier to get approved to rent a place vs the process to get a loan for a house, depending on the market but it can be cheaper to rent vs buy (at least monthly).”

mgraunk responded to the comment, “You own the place, you can do whatever you want with it” by writing, “Not if you're in an HOA [Home Owners Association]. In my city, I can't realistically get a house anywhere in the greater metro area without joining an HOA.”



iLNal commented:

“I own an apartment; it’s on the 12th floor of a 128-unit residential building. I’m in a big city on East Coast USA. Sounds neat ... except the more I think about it the more I realize I own a bunch of moving air. I own empty space in midair that has no true property value [...]. As in if the walls weren’t there to contain my unit I have nothing. I have no boundary lines or earth to ‘land’ on, I have not a single plot of physical mass to sit my ass down onto. Basically I am an air rights owner, and with a restricted view of the sun. Let’s say if a natural disaster hit and took out my building, will all 128 units of us split the ground size of lot ? Not counting neighborhood and zone value — assessed property market value — well I have no ‘property’ anyway my value is also dependent on my neighbors taking pristine goods care of their units above, below, next to me to not flood me or burn me down etc.

Here’s the kicker my taxes and common charges each month is a little over 3k USD. With COVID hitting rental market hard, I’m seeing rent prices reduced by 25% (I don’t know the actual statistics. I’m just guesstimating by ads I see), and yet my common charges don’t change or reflect that market adjustment, while other rentals with the same services and amenities (common charges) are dropping in prices. Anyway sorry for long-winded rant. If you buy, buy land property. Because even if everything goes to sh\*t, you can pitch a tent and grow some vegetables and you get bonus air and full sun rights, too.”<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> Source: stan849, “What is something that everyone seems to understand that you don’t?” Reddit. AskReddit. 23 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mbvyxr/what\\_is\\_something\\_that\\_everyone\\_seems\\_to/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mbvyxr/what_is_something_that_everyone_seems_to/) >.

## 72. “What’s Something You Loved As A Kid But Hate As An Adult?”

BobbyPeel77 wrote, “The thought of having a job.”

IronDominion wrote:

“Yup. Before I thought it would be fun and cool to have money. Now I’ve gone a year deep and when my supervisor goes to cry in his car over the stress of the job I honestly relate.

“Please be nice to your veterinarian staff guys; we’re trying.”

LengthinessDue5066 commented:

“My vet recently took his own life.

“I can’t imagine him being treated poorly by anybody. But it was still just too much for him.”

Crazy-Marionberry-23 wrote:

“It’s hard when you just love animals and you want to help them, but you’re in so much debt from the vet school. Then people can’t afford or aren’t willing to pay for the treatment that would help their pet. Nine times out of 10, we will do what we can to help the kind ones afford it, at the loss of clinic profit and all the employee salaries. Sometimes the angry ones who yell, ‘You’re only in it for the money,’ end up getting the discount, too, because what are you going to do, not help their pet? Now you’re not making any money, your staff aren’t paid well and are working themselves to the bone. You’re the oncologist, radiologist, anesthetist, you’re treating multiple species, and just getting up every day to go lessen the suffering of others gets harder and harder as you lose hope that you’re even making a difference amidst all the anger and negativity.

“Sorry for ranting a little, I’ve been a vet nurse for five years now, and it’s been an especially rough time in the field.”

Kubanochoerus commented, “My family dog had to be put down a couple months ago, I had had her since I was a kid. It was devastating. But the kindness, gentleness, and compassion of the vet nurses and vet themselves is something that will stay with me. My dog had been in so much pain— she would have died a slow painful death without being put down — but they gave her a sedative beforehand that made her more relaxed, happy, cozy, and cuddly than I had seen her in years. Her little happy snores almost made me cry. And they gave me all the time I needed, and when it was time to say goodbye they were mourning with me. They even sent me a ‘sorry for your loss’ card afterwards with her nose print and paw print. Just ... thank you to all the vet techs and veterinarians out there.”<sup>72</sup>

### **73. “(Serious) Teachers Of Reddit, What Was The Student You Gave Up On Like? What Are They Like Now?”**

1) zachtheperson wrote:

“There was this one kid who was a smug, self-entitled little brat. He was raised to believe that winning was everything, and (unfortunately) he was actually really good at athletics. When he was in fifth grade, he would single-handedly win five games in a row, then when a kindergartner accidentally scored a goal on him he threw a fit like he was three years old. He was constantly rude to staff and a bully to other kids. Talked like he owned the place!

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<sup>72</sup> Source: ChaosEO347, “What’s something you loved as a kid but hate as a adult?” Reddit. AskReddit. 23 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mb9ltx/whats\\_something\\_you\\_loved\\_as\\_a\\_kid\\_but\\_hate\\_as\\_a/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mb9ltx/whats_something_you_loved_as_a_kid_but_hate_as_a/) >.

“I don’t ever give up on kids who can be helped, but the problem was this kid’s parents. Not only as I mentioned before did they raise him to believe winning was life or death, but they always backed down on punishments. One time we reported something to his mom and she grilled him in the hallway for a few minutes. The next day she came in and explained to us how she ‘felt bad for punishing him yesterday, so [she] bought him the new video-game he wanted to make up for it.’ Like sorry, *what!* You don’t ‘make up,’ for disciplining your child!

“We literally couldn’t do anything to help him, as everything we did to help was immediately undone by his parents that evening. He ended up being decked one time by a kid he was picking on, and while I won’t say that I enjoyed it, I certainly didn’t feel sorry for him.”

elevatedenough commented, “I knew a kid in high school who thought he was the shit. He’d take your water bottle and throw it around, he’d laugh and make fun of anyone who walked by, etc. One day, he messed with this other kid’s sister (all being high school age) and the brother didn’t take kindly to that. The kid who once thought he was the shit came to school with a black and blue face and was honestly kinda cool after that.”

2) goldmonstera wrote:

“Oh, I remember the student I gave up on. It was my first year teaching, too, so it stuck with me.

“I teach primarily ESL and in my class I had this one student whom I just despised. He made sexually aggressive comments about other students in Spanish, but I knew enough to understand what he was saying. Plus I had some angels in that class who would look out for the other kids and tell me privately how the comments this particular student was making were disgusting and highly

inappropriate. Anyway, after days and a few weeks of desperately trying to understand his struggles and try to get him on a better path, he kept making gross comments and even started hurling some at me. I was at my wits' end.

“Eventually, one of my female students told her dad about this student and he got the police involved. (Kudos to him because my admin was doing jack shit and I felt hopeless like I couldn't help these kids or protect them). She was able to get a restraining order from him and he wasn't in our class for the rest of year.

“After that, my first year of teaching went smoothly. I don't care much about that other student, but the rest of the students in that class graduated and are in college now! I did leave that school after my second year there, but I did come back to their prom and graduation because my first group of students holds a special place in my heart.”

3) Ashtero wrote:

“When I was undergraduate, the university that I studied in had a system of clubs where university students taught math to high schoolers. Usually high schoolers are very motivated, because well, only someone very motivated will choose to go to another part of the city on Saturday evenings to study math.

“But once I had that guy who was very disruptive and wasn't doing any studying. So I asked him, why exactly is he here. Turns out, that for some reason (his parents lied to him?) he thought that going to those clubs would guarantee him being enrolled in the university (which is absolutely not the case, universities don't even have their own exams, everything is determined by results on the state exam, state competitions, etc.).

“So I thought that on the one hand if he continues to visit us, he might learn something. But on the other hand, it doesn't

seem that he is doing anything useful and he is preventing overs from studying. So I gave up on him and told him the truth. Haven't seen him since that day and have no idea what he is doing and whether he managed to enroll.

“Since then, I’ve worked as a teacher in a few schools and summer camps. I can’t say that I was always successful, but there is only one other person I ever gave up on.

“It was a summer camp and I taught to a group of 13-year-olds. In summer camp kids are less motivated because it is summer and because some of them are shoved there against their will. So it’s not a big deal if some kids are not studying much. That guy was a relatively big deal. I don’t remember what exactly he did on my lessons, but after the second day I recommended expelling him. That was the only time in my career when I recommended expelling a student. The camp manager declined it, probably thinking that I am just being dramatic. On the fifth day he didn’t show up for my lessons. Why? Because he was expelled for peeing on the head of another student.”

4) LaothFrius wrote, “A student who just acted as a cat, no jokes, first year of work, they send me a cat kid. Never talked, suddenly drops from his chair to the floor, a complete loner, it was a hard class, I also had an orphan, disabled kids, a lot of special needs, but I managed to work with them (at least got them to learn), the cat kid was a lost cause, the years of college never prepared me for him. Kid failed the whole year, can’t read, can’t do math, can’t talk, just meow, sometimes even walk on all fours, parents were of course uninterested, never cared to do anything for him.

“Of course I was blamed for his failures,. The only way I managed to not get fired on the spot after his results was to take the director to the class and show him what was going on. Eventually I was released from that school.

“I have no idea what’s going on with him today, but that experience killed my career. Currently I’m a second-year psychology student; maybe with this major I’ll find out what I was doing wrong during that job.”<sup>73</sup>

#### **74. “People Of Reddit, What Was A Moment You Felt Like You Were In Danger?”**

worm\_138 wrote, “I was walking home from a gas station at like 1 or 2 in the morning. Dude follows me out. I cross the street. Dude crosses the street. I cross the street again. Dude crosses the street again. Mind you, this is all on the same block, it makes zero sense to cross back and forth like that. So I look back and he is staring at me with his hands in his jacket pockets. I pulled out my phone and pretended to start talking to someone. He goes, ‘Oh, you don’t need that.’ I respond with, ‘Yeah, I think I might.’ Then he turns the opposite direction and walks away. Maybe it was harmless but this was in Savannah GA and I did not feel safe.”

jillyszabo wrote, “Thank god you pulled your phone out. I’ve always heard if you’re talking to someone on the phone and someone approaches you like that, describing their appearance / clothing is usually enough to scare them off from trying anything. Not sure if it works, but glad you didn’t even need to do that.”<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> Source: GoGamer64, “(Serious)Teachers of Reddit, what was the student you gave up on like? What are they like now?” Reddit. AskReddit. 24 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mcjfj2/seriousteachers\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_was\\_the\\_student/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mcjfj2/seriousteachers_of_reddit_what_was_the_student/) >.

<sup>74</sup> Source: Viablecake, “People of reddit what was a moment you felt like you were in danger?” Reddit. AskReddit. 25 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mczutb/people\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_was\\_a\\_moment\\_you\\_felt\\_like/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mczutb/people_of_reddit_what_was_a_moment_you_felt_like/) >.

## 75. “What Was The Most Inconsiderate Behavior You Ever Witnessed?”

1) LetsBeReal24 wrote:

“I call this ‘One of the moments I lost faith in people.’

“I use to work at a hotel front desk. This particular one was mostly nice quiet business people during the week, and HORRIBLE partiers on the weekend.

“We had a lovely elderly couple staying with us: Bob & Sue. They were getting their house worked on, so they stayed with us long term. Sue was feisty and hilarious. Bob had dementia but was semi-functional. They were on the first floor so that he could scoot out front to smoke about 10 times a day. Lol.

“One day I had a guy at the desk complaining about the way another person parked in our parking lot. Out of the corner of my eye I see Bob shuffling like usual out the front door to smoke. Then I see Bob slip (shoes flying off his feet) and crumple to the ground. I ran outside to see if he was ok, totally freaked out. The man was like 80. Telling him to stay still while I figure out how the hell I am going to get him up, resigned to calling 911. Desk guy follows us out.

“Does he ask if we need help? Is the old guy ok?”

“Nope. HE CONTINUES TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE PARKING TRYING TO POINT IT OUT TO ME AS WE ARE STANDING OVER THE BODY OF A CONFUSED BRUISED-UP OLD MAN!”

“I told desk guy I did not care about the parking as we had an emergency. He kind of wandered away after that...”

“Luckily, two OTHER men saw us from a distance and offered to help. I had the bright idea of getting my rolling desk chair out there and they put Bob in it and rolled him to



his room. LOL!! Sue was grateful but annoyed. Apparently Bob fell lots of places even when she told him to sit his ass down. LOL.

“I guess this could be a story about faith lost then restored in humanity. But I can never forget that man not giving a damn about an injured old man.”

2) Uhappy-Emu3180 wrote, “Once at the restaurant I worked at in college, a customer started having an emergency (I think they were choking or something), and some asshole strolls up trying to order a damn burger while we’re obviously trying to help this person. It annoyed the hell out of me.”

3) Ohnoimgonnarunoutofc wrote:

“My boyfriend had this younger couple move into his apartment as roommates. They seemed fine at first, a bit wet behind the ears but nice enough.

“I think they were secretly aliens, oh, my god. They would leave the stove and burners on (sometimes with food, sometimes without) for hours! They would leave the house with them on, or go to bed. When they were asked to please be careful, as it was dangerous, they would noncommittally apologize and say they were just forgetting. It happened so often we put up signs, but nothing changed. We started doing before-bed and before-we-leave checks.

“The boy in the couple loved to stroll around in communal spaces in nothing but a towel. He would sit buck ass naked on the couch with just a tiny little cloth covering his peen and get his butt juice on everything. Then he would take this rank damp nasty towel and shove it in the bathroom drawer! It smelled so bad, and there were towel racks available!

“They also refused to chip in on WIFI. Said it was too pricey. Requested the password from the front desk and leached it.

When they left (after only a month, thank god) they stole a bunch of blankets and wall art.”<sup>75</sup>

## **76. “Doctors Of Reddit, If Free Healthcare For All Happened Tomorrow In The US, What Pros And Cons Would You See In Your Profession From Day To Day?”**

1) cogottli7 wrote:

“As a [USA] cancer doctor, I know there are many, many people who avoid going to the doctor due to fear of cost. Some people do not get treatment for cancer at all, some people wait until it is late and their cancer has already spread, but most importantly in my mind: Many, many people do not get the routine cancer screening or tests done when they first have symptoms. It is true that even those with insurance sometimes have other barriers to healthcare, including things like low health literacy, denial, alternative treatment preferences, missed diagnoses, etc. But affordable access to healthcare saves lives and costs less.

As an example: my landlord in NY [New York] was in the Army Reserves and just before his time was up he was called in to do two tours in Afghanistan. He is currently self employed as a plumber and owns several rental properties. Several years ago he noticed a small lump on the side of his neck. He ignored it at first, but then when it started to grow he made an appointment with his PCP [Personal care Physician] at the VA [Veterans Administration] who ordered an ultrasound, then a scan. It was eventually biopsied and shown to be cancer. He was treated with radiation alone, and nine years later he remains completely cancer free. Had he

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<sup>75</sup> Source: Shaunna\_thedork, “what was the most inconsiderate behavior you ever witnessed?” Reddit. AskWomen. 27 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/mecyf4/what\\_was\\_the\\_most\\_inconsiderate\\_behavior\\_you\\_ever/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/mecyf4/what_was_the_most_inconsiderate_behavior_you_ever/)>.

not had health insurance (as is the case for many self-employed people in America), he may not have had a PCP, or the cost may have caused him to delay care, or delay scans, etc. If he had waited, he very easily could have required extensive, invasive and disfiguring surgeries, months or years of chemotherapy, feeding tubes, complications, etc. Not only would this have cost much, much more to our healthcare system, he also might be dead despite all that. Having access to free healthcare quite literally saved his life, and was much cheaper overall.

“TLDR: Cancer sucks. Cancer sucks much more if you are uninsured.”

Esc\_ape\_artist commented, “The ‘Death Panels’ that conservatives freaked out about when socialized health care plans were discussed years ago already existed. They’re part of private health insurance where your life is balanced against a matrix of surviving, your continued payment of premiums, how much a hospital will write off, and profit. Government may not always be the best solution, but they aren’t weighing your expensive treatment against a quarterly report to the shareholders.”

hails29 commented, “I live in a country with a public health system and what we tend to see is more preventative testing offered like free mammograms after 45 and bowel screening etc. because they want to catch stuff early. It cost far less to catch it early so preventative medicine is the best bang for the buck in a large public health system.”

2) Ssutuanjoe wrote:

“FM [Family Medicine] doctor here.

“The pros of mitigating what’s best for the patient without having to worry about what’s going to destroy their finances really outweigh any of the cons I can think of, to be honest.

“Outside of people with low health literacy or outright ignorance, the biggest barrier to getting routine screening and follow up is cost. Same goes with medication.

“Seriously, insurance formularies can change up to three times a year ... and when they do, your \$5 ProAir inhaler is instantly \$170 unless I switch it to a \$5 Ventolin inhaler. Sometimes it’s just as simple as putting ‘substitutions permissible’ on the script, but not always.

“I’d honestly and genuinely like to hear from anyone in primary care who can think of any substantial cons to universal healthcare that would outweigh the benefits.”

3) SchnarchendrSchwein wrote:

“I nearly died because I’m LGBTQ, because of these insurance issues.

“We get on better now, but when I first got married, my parents hated it. They were okay with it in theory, but I think they hoped it would never be their *own* kid.

“Naturally, getting married under 26 means losing parents’ insurance, which I thought would be okay, since as a household of two, my wife and I now made low enough income to qualify for free state insurance.

“But, that insurance now didn’t cover a maintenance inhaler I was prescribed. \$190/month. No generics yet. Obviously we hadn’t *got* \$190/month. I got a month free with talking to the manufacturer, but still suffered from having to ration it and thus not follow the use recommendations. So, I asked all of my family if they might help cover the cost for me — even getting it every other month would be better.

“Nope, they all said. You chose your way. You won’t see a cent. Of course, I understood that I had made a choice, but

my parents and extended family are upper middle class and could afford it, and this is a matter of *breathing*.

“I’ve forgiven. My lungs haven’t.”<sup>76</sup>

### **77. “(Serious) What’s Something Someone Has Said To You That Has Stuck With You Forever?”**

1) electriclear wrote, “When my parents got divorced, my mom was low on money, so we didn’t have the fanciest clothes. One day a family friend took me out and bought me some new pants and a sport jacket for the school dance so I could attend. She said, ‘Someone once did this for me in my time of need and I hope one day you’ll return the favor to someone else.’ I’ve never forgotten it, and am always looking for the right moment to bestow this act of kindness on someone else in need.”

2) CommunistCarpenter wrote, “My father told me a few days before his passing, ‘Remember, be better than your elders, and tell your kids the same thing.’ I managed to get it framed in my apartment and it’s the best thing I’ve ever been told.”

3) pullin2 wrote:

“Middle school, new band students are meeting with the director so he can decide which instrument we’ll play. I walked up to him in the crowded room and he looked at me, laughed out loud, and shouted: ‘He’s got arms like an orangutan — put him on trombone!’

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<sup>76</sup> Source: tate1212, “Doctors of Reddit, if free healthcare for all happened tomorrow in the US, what pros and cons would you see in your profession from day to day?” Reddit. AskReddit. 29 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mfnlz7/doctors\\_of\\_reddit\\_if\\_free\\_healthcare\\_for\\_all/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mfnlz7/doctors_of_reddit_if_free_healthcare_for_all/) >.

“Funny how stuff like stays in your memory for so long. At least I could reach 7th position, rare for 12-year-olds.

“Note for non-trombonists: The slide has seven pre-defined positions and 7th is the furthest away, requiring a lot of stretching for youngsters new to the instrument.”

4) awesomeone6044 wrote, “High school American history teacher. Told us forget what you’ve been taught by parents and religion, always judge a book by its cover. If you see a group of dudes who look like they’re trouble, get out of there, if you meet someone who gives you a bad vibe stay away from them. Better to be wrong and apologize if needed than have to live to regret it, or worse, not be living anymore.”<sup>77</sup>

### **78. “[Serious] For Those Who Legitimately Were Lazy, Good-For-Nothing Wastes Of Space And Later Became Functioning, Productive Members Of Society, How’d You Pull That Off?”**

1) Whole\_Cauliflower408 wrote:

“I realized I didn’t have to turn it all around in one week or one month. The weight of being so far behind on my life accomplishments froze me into a state of life paralysis in my 20s. I never went to college and I had only a few dead-end jobs. One day I was forced into making a life-changing decision. Stay in the city I grew up in and make it on my own or move with my parents and keep the cycle of terrible life-choices going. (They coddled me and didn’t push me out of the nest.) I decided to stay, so I asked one of my best friends

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<sup>77</sup> Source: Comprehensive-Cash91, “(Serious) What’s something someone has said to you that has stuck with you forever?” Reddit. AskReddit. 29 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mfv7az/serious\\_whats\\_something\\_someone\\_has\\_said\\_to\\_you/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mfv7az/serious_whats_something_someone_has_said_to_you/) >.

for a job at his company and the rest is history. I started out with nothing at the bottom of the rung, packing boxes for shipments and stocking shelves in the warehouse ... at 30 years old. Only this time I treated every day like it was a gift. I treated every moment at work as an opportunity to get better. This mindset spilled over into everything I did. I spent a lot of time asking other, sometimes younger co-workers for advice on how to improve myself. Talking with them, sharing stories, getting book or podcast recommendations and ultimately holding myself accountable to a higher standard helped so much. Six years later and I'm making double what I was when I started and I'm trusted with several supply-chain processes for the company.

“tl;dr — I shrunk my timeframe down into smaller, more manageable bits of actionable decisions. Go to bed at a good time. Wake up. Go to gym. Shower. Work hard. Come home. Read. Go to bed at a good time. Repeat. I strung days like this into many weeks and then many months and the pay-off was tremendous. You don't have to turn it all around in one week. Give yourself time.”

kribble118 commented, “Sounds like it helped a lot having a good friend, too.”

zangor commented, “Yeah, I don't wanna be a Debbie downer ... but that's always how it goes. The friend giving an opportunity was crucial.”

lunchbox commented, “Shelving pride makes such a difference. I have had to ask for advice on things I should definitely know how to do. It's embarrassing and awkward but ultimately not as embarrassing and awkward as still not knowing! I had a friend who worked in retail in her 30s and wasn't planning on applying for a promotion because it would be 'accepting that she worked in retail' rather than it being a temporary thing. She ended up having a change of heart and applied for and then got the manager job and I

ended up going into the industry. Would never have happened if she hadn't thought, 'Oh, well, at least I should do better at whatever I am doing.'"

2) gamedemon24 wrote, "When people invested in me who had no reason to or no benefit from doing so, I didn't waste it and invested equally in myself."

3) HitEmWithDatKTrain wrote:

"Every day for 10 or so years starting in middle school, I said tomorrow would be the day. One day in my early 20s I decided today is the day.

"I don't know how to describe it. A switch just flipped."

Samisoy001 commented:

"Yeah, that's how I finally lost weight and got into shape. One day I just stopped eating junk food and drinking soda. Then I just started running.

"I kept saying tomorrow, but tomorrow never came. I just had a day where it all clicked and never looked back."

4) Peetwilson wrote, "I decided that every time I have a productive thought, I will follow through and do it instead of procrastinating. Now I have plenty of time to be lazy because I've done what needs to be done."<sup>78</sup>

## **79. "Spouses Of Law Enforcement Officers: What Are Your Thoughts And Feelings About The Current**

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<sup>78</sup> Source: fullofregrets2009, "[Serious] For those who legitimately were lazy, good-for-nothing wastes of space and later became functioning, productive members of society, how'd you pull that off?" Reddit. AskReddit. 29 March 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mg5tpd/serious\\_for\\_those\\_who\\_legitimately\\_were\\_lazy/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mg5tpd/serious_for_those_who_legitimately_were_lazy/)>.



## **Societal Attitude Towards Your Significant Other's Profession? How Does It Affect You As A Spouse?"**

SnowFlurries90 wrote:

“My wife is a police officer, and I know everything that’s been going on has deeply affected both of us. I think what’s difficult about being married to a cop, at least for me, is that you are associated to the profession even when it’s not your personal profession. I am very proud to be her wife, but I’m just not comfortable wearing or displaying the thin blue line flag anymore. I also get frustrated because people assume since I’m a ‘blue spouse’ that I’m a Republican, or racist, or things like that which is untrue for both of us. We are both Democrats in a same-sex, interracial relationship. In fact, many ‘blue’ families we are friends with are Democrats. I also know many blue families who aren’t necessarily Democrats, but still strongly condemn and are angry about police officers who commit acts of violence against citizens.

“My wife is in the sex crimes unit and most people, even those who dislike law enforcement, applaud what she does (‘oh, it’s not her that we’re against; we like those types of officers’ is a common thing she / I hear). I just personally feel torn because I know how much good the police can do and I DO support the police a lot, but I also am so disappointed with how many of them behave.

“With the protests and things, I also get scared that every time I say goodbye to her, it may be the last time I see her. It’s a tough relationship to be in, but worth it because we love each other!”

SnowFlurries90 added:

“I want to preface this by saying it’s my personal opinion and others have different experiences and opinions:

“What I meant is that the blue line flag used to not be so divisive. Much like the military flags or red line flags, it used to be a way to just display your pride in your profession / family member’s profession. It’s a dangerous / traumatic job and the blue family within a department feels like a true family. An officer’s young child in my spouse’s department was dying of cancer and people around the department made cards / sent funny videos / did a food train. An officer at the department got shot and died, and everyone rallied around his wife and made sure she had all the help and support she needed. An officer in the Vice unit committed suicide and it was the same thing. Tons of stories like that. It’s hard to explain, but it is a family experience. Cops see a lot of bad stuff like human trafficking, child molestation, murder, domestic violence, etc. every day. It’s nice to be friends with other cop spouses who understand worrying that their spouses may never come home or may have mental health issues because of the trauma of the job. The thin blue line was a show of solidarity and support.

“Well, lately I feel that the thin blue line flag has been twisted into a symbol of support for the bad officers (much like what happened to the American flag). It feels very ‘you’re with us or against us’ from both sides which I hate because we should be working together and not engaging in blatant group think. Therefore, when I’ve worn the blue flag it’s felt like I was showing support for the Derek Chauvins of the world, which I’m not comfortable with. I have it displayed in my home, but not on my car and I don’t wear the shirts out and about. At least not right now when tensions are high.”

2) 5leeplesinvcouver wrote:

“It hurts to know that people who don’t know the first thing about my Significant Other or how hard he works wouldn’t hesitate to lump him in with dangerous, bigoted, shitty cops

like Derek Chauvin. I have several friends who have been posting ACAB [All Cops Are Bastards] on their social media and I just don't say anything ... because I understand it. I do. It makes me incredibly angry that so many police organizations harbor and protect corrupt, negligent, and unfit officers. It's not okay for cops to discriminate against certain groups of people, or to hurt or kill people without consequence. It's totally unconscionable, and the erosion of the public's trust makes it that much tougher for good cops to do their jobs.

“I agree with the commenter above that people make a lot of assumptions about what it means to be a cop or married to a cop. Neither of us is a gun-loving, racist Trump-lover. My Significant Other is in a more senior rank and he hires a lot of women and minorities. His entire detachment is just as diverse as any other workplace. All of their senior leadership are visible minorities. My Significant Other himself is mixed, and I'm a visible minority. He won't cover for bad cops either. I know that he recently wrote up another cop for bullying behavior, even escalating it over his boss's head when he felt that the bully cop wasn't dealt with harshly enough. He's extremely critical of cops he feels are incompetent, and he isn't shy about telling his superiors when he thinks another cop is a moron who shouldn't have a badge. He busts his butt, puts himself in physical danger, loses sleep, has horrible nightmares, all because of his job. Yes, he chose it and he knows what he signed up for, but that doesn't mean it's not a heavy burden.

“People also forget that a lot of folks out there actually ARE really awful. My Significant Other and his colleagues deal with unimaginably horrible people on a daily basis. If I have a bad day, it's because a client sent me a rude email or something pretty trivial. Meanwhile, every single day my Significant Other and his colleagues deal with violent offenders, murderers, rapists, child molesters, people who

make and distribute child porn, human traffickers, and more. It's the constant disappointment of seeing people make really poor decisions that have senselessly ruined their own lives or other people's lives. It's answering to victims and their family members who will never be the same again.

"I'm not saying that police should have carte blanche to enact justice on accused criminals — I don't think that at all, I'm actually a lawyer so clearly I believe in due process. It just seems that in the present climate, people are placing all cops even further below child molesters in terms of human value and moral culpability, and that's been tough for my Significant Other and me. Most cops are genuinely doing their best to preserve order and safety for the public."<sup>79</sup>

### **80. "What's The Most Blatant Act Of Racism You Have Witnessed In Person?"**

angryscout2 wrote:

1) "When I was in the Army stationed in Kentucky, three guys from my unit and I went out one Friday night (late 1990's); me, another white dude, a Hispanic guy, and a black guy. We got pretty lit and the Hispanic dude was the Designated Driver for the night. On our way back to post, we had to drive through a notorious town, it had been a 'sunset town' until the 1960's I heard. This was at like 3 a.m. on a Saturday. As we were driving through town, we got pulled over by the local yokel town cop. The driver was stone sober, but the cop asked us three drunk bastards in the back to get out, a cop says do something and you do it so we

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<sup>79</sup> Source: "Spouses of law enforcement officers: what are your thoughts and feelings about the current societal attitude towards your SO's profession? How does it affect you as a spouse?" Reddit. AskWomen. 14 April 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/mqwu2u/spouses\\_of\\_law\\_enforcement\\_officers\\_what\\_are\\_your/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/mqwu2u/spouses_of_law_enforcement_officers_what_are_your/)>.

did. He then proceeds to cuff our black buddy and place him under arrest. We are all like ‘What The Fuck?’ and the cop says he is arresting him for public drunkenness.’ He ignores our excuses that the other white guy and I are just as lit, but the cop tells us we are cool. We decide this cop ain’t arresting our buddy but not us so we stand in front of the doors on the cop car so he can’t throw him in the car. The cop calls for backup and when they arrive, the new cops tell us if we don’t get out of the way we will be arrested, too, and we say cool. So we all three get cuffed and thrown into the cop cars and taken down to the station. The Designated Driver they let go and he says he got this.

“So the three of us — one black guy and two white — are in the station for about 30-45 minutes when we hear a commotion up front from where we are at in the drunk tank. There is a lot of yelling and after about five minutes the original cop gets frog marched into the holding area by an Military Police Officer and unlocks the cage door. MP tells us to go up front. At the front of the station is an MP officer arguing with the duty Sergeant from the local Police Department about our paperwork and documents they had confiscated from us. He finally gets all that stuff and takes outside where there are five MP vehicles waiting. They get us in the cars and drive us back to post where our Designated Driver is waiting for us. The officer gives us a card and asks us to come by the MP station that following Monday.

“What had happened was our Designated Driver drove straight to our unit and got the OOD [Officer On Duty] to call the MPs to come get us. It turned into a pretty big stink locally, but we were all shocked that that kind of bullshit still happened even back then.

“tl;dr: Racist cop tried to arrest only the one black guy in our group, but we wouldn’t let him and caused a stink.”

2) AlbanyGuy1973 wrote, “This was in 2017. Young white cashier at a gas station (in South Carolina) refused to check out a black customer (or even acknowledge her). He kept waving other customers forward rather than serve her. She repeatedly asked why he was ignoring her. Eventually the manager asked him the same question. He replied with something like, ‘Trump said I don’t have to like (n-word)s.’ He was fired on the spot.”

3) Afrin\_Drip wrote, “I was driving out of my gated community and a lady stepped off the curb and in front of my car yelling at the top of her lungs. She comes to the driver side and is like, ‘I see you driving through here. Do you live here?’ Her husband, not far behind, grabs her and proceeds to explain to her that I live literally around the corner from them. She then proceeds to ask me for my driver’s license. As I laugh, I invite them over for drinks later. The husband thanks me as his wife continues to yell. Six hours later, I walk to their house with a bottle of red wine and white wine (not knowing which they like). The husband answers the door, shocked, he invited me in, only to have his wife say, no. Embarrassed, he says he’ll stop by later. Fast forward, he’s one of my closest friends and she’s still a raging bitch.”<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> Source: Jamally1980, “What’s the most blatant act of racism you have witnessed in person?” Reddit. AskReddit. 17 April 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/msqtjf/whats\\_the\\_most\\_blatant\\_act\\_of\\_racism\\_you\\_have/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/msqtjf/whats_the_most_blatant_act_of_racism_you_have/) >.

## Chapter 5: Questions 81-100

### 81. “What Is The Most Wholesome Compliment That You’ve Received From A Complete Stranger?”

1) TurdsforNipples wrote:

“The lady who told me I looked great in blue, and that it was clearly my color.

“To this day if I’m deciding between shirts to buy, or wear, I’ll go with blue.

“That compliment was about fifteen years ago at least.”

2) mrs\_radio\_station wrote:

“I was working at a furniture store at the time, and I was spending a good part of my day helping an older woman pick out a few things.

“At the end of her shopping trip, once I was helping her check out she said, ‘You know ... there aren’t very many genuinely good people left in this world. You’re one of them.’

“I was speechless. I still think about that a lot, and it was almost 10 years ago.”

3) Back2Bach wrote:

“In a downtown city church, a homeless man would sleep in a pew during weekdays while I practiced the organ.

“He knew my usual practice schedule and that I’d let him in to the locked church so he could escape the cold on winter days and have some rest.

“One day he said: ‘You’re the *only* one who cares for me — and your music gives me a lift to face each day. Can’t thank you enough for your kindness.’”

4) throwaway65465487346 wrote, “In college I was sitting on a bus, very happy for no particular reason, quietly singing to myself, and an old man with a little bouquet of flowers pulled one flower out and gave it to me because he said he likes to see young people being happy.”<sup>81</sup>

## **82. “Restaurant Workers Of Reddit, What Is The Worst Thing You Have Seen Done To A Customer’s Order?”**

Disobedient\_Bathing wrote, “At my last restaurant job, my coworker would make very ugly sundaes for customers who were rude. For particularly nice customers, she would painstakingly recreate the sundaes in the menu pictures and give them extra cream and sprinkles.”

Lumberjackofalltrade commented, “Pretty much this. I’ll make what you order but will not put any love into it. If you’re a decent human, I will try to make you the best version of what you order.”

2) SailorSpoon11 wrote:

“Tampering with food is not that common. I’ve been in the business a long time and worked with only one girl who spat in someone’s food. Another server saw her and she got reported and fired immediately.

“The only other thing that sometimes happens is when people get cocky and ask for extremely spicy food the kitchen staff turns into evil geniuses. A guy once asked me for wings so spicy that they would give a woman a miscarriage. I relayed those lovely instructions to the kitchen

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<sup>81</sup> Source: ihave1, “What is the most wholesome compliment that you’ve received from a complete stranger ?” Reddit. AskReddit. 17 April 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/msqgfg/what\\_is\\_the\\_most\\_wholesome\\_compliment\\_that\\_youve/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/msqgfg/what_is_the_most_wholesome_compliment_that_youve/) >.



and I don't know what they did but the sauce was burning my nose and making my eyes water as I carried it out. He was not able to finish his wings.”

3) remotetissuepaper wrote, “My dad started going to his neighborhood pub frequently for wing nights and would ask for wings ‘as hot as you can make ’em.’ Went on for quite a while with them just dousing them with as much Frank Red’s as you could possibly fit on them, because that’s all they had for making hot wings. Well, I guess eventually the cook got sick of being asked for ‘as hot as you can make ’em’ and acquired some special ingredients. Next time my dad asked for ‘as hot as you can make ’em,’ he got a dozen wings spicy enough to strip paint off the space shuttle. My dad went back to just asking for plain hot or extra hot from then on. Lol.”

your-yogurt1 commented:

“A friend did this at a restaurant. He kept sending the food back like three times, demanding it be more spicy. We kept telling him to cut it out, he was being obnoxious, but he kept doing. The waiter was like, ‘*Oh, you want it spicy? I’ll make it spicy.*’

“While we all ate our food in good moods, my friend just stared at his untouched spicy dish and grumbled, ‘I can’t eat this.’”

ToulouseDM commented, “My friend and I used to get Thai food on a regular basis and would always order it the highest spice level they’d offer. One time the waitress asked us multiple times if we were sure, and we were, having been to this place many times. The food was so incredibly spicy our eyes wouldn’t stop watering. Haha. It made it hard to even see the food.”

haluura commented:

“City I live in has a large Cambodian population. The really authentic Cambodian places around here will quadruple check with you if you aren’t Cambodian and order one of their offal-based dishes.

“But the spicy dishes? Nope. They will give it to you balls-out Cambodian spicy without even thinking about it.

“Fortunately all the locals know and expect this. Those of us who don’t want it that hot know to speak up, and we are careful to warn visitors when we take them to the authentic restaurants.

“I personally love that things are this way. It’s a way of knowing that the food you’re getting isn’t being altered to match Western tastes.”

networkrider commented, “There’s a Thai place in my town that has some of the best curry I’ve ever had. When I first started going there, I would get asked if I was sure I wanted ‘Thai hot.’ Then one day I ordered it Thai hot and asked for some chili on the side. He brought me a dipping cup full of chopped fresh Thai chilies. When he walked away I dumped the entire cup in my curry and went to town. It was the most satisfying burn I have ever experienced. When he came back he saw the empty cup and just said, ‘Uh-oh.’ I loved it, and from then on whenever I came in he called me ‘Spicy.’”

4) 0110bot wrote:

“Seventeen years in that shit and 100% no matter how fucking awful the customer is, you simply do. not. FUCK. with. the. food. Ever.

“Anyone caught doing that shit would be tossed out on their ass so fucking fast at any of the places I’ve ever worked or hung out at or known about.”

ben\_wuz\_hear commented, “I worked at a pizza place when I was about 17. New person got hired, worked at a Hardee’s previously. Said if someone came in they didn’t like, he would piss on the grill and then cook them a special burger. Whether or not this was true doesn’t really matter, but while this dingleberry was saying this the owner heard him and fired the guy. Lasted just a few hours.”

0110bot responded, “Good. I would have done the same thing. Sounds like bullshit, but we don’t need any of that either. Bye.”

5) lilly\_white\_adore wrote:

“We had what we would call the ‘Bitch Tax.’

“You’re a bitch? You receive a 3/4 portion.

“You’re a bitch? Have fun with your practically virgin drink.

“We would never mess with their food, but if you were over-the-top rude, then you get less food.”

6) Equal-Independence-1 wrote, “I haven’t worked in a restaurant in over 15 years. I never messed with anyone’s food because that is assault. What I used to do to snotty Karen types is give them a senior discount and announce to the table when I dropped the check that I remembered to add the senior discount.”

dramboxf commented, “Satan says, ‘Just wanna say I’m a big fan of your work.’”

7) Dumfk wrote, “Wanted extra mayo so I maliciously complied by drenching it. Lady thought I would forget her fake \$10 prayer tip the last time she was there.”

redpurplegreen22 commented:

“I worked at a McDonald’s in high school and college and this kind of malicious compliance was the worst we ever did.

“Worst was a guy wants extra pickles on his quarter pounder. We cover the burger in pickles. Comes back and says, ‘That’s not extra.’”

“Okay. We slapped a big fuckin handful of pickles on a new burger. Like, almost couldn’t wrap the thing. It was like 80% pickles. He started to get huffy but the manager goes, ‘Well, we didn’t want to short change you this time and we figured it was better to give too many and you could pick them off than to give too few.’”

“And then he stormed out.”

DavidKowalski commented, “That’s 100% my level of petty. I love it.”

LowCalPal commented, “Honestly? That is 100% my level of pickles. I would not have complained.”

roifraikou commented, “I 100% want that burger. I wonder how many times people have gone, ‘This will be so many they will be disgusted,’ and they come back, ‘That was **perfect**. Thank you so much.’”<sup>82</sup>

### **83. “What Achievement — Large or Small — Are You Proud Of?”**

1) CompletelyChaotic wrote:

“I had been working my butt off on this project at work. Wasn’t a major project, but still took a lot of work and thought. I sent it out to everyone before our meeting and thought I was going to have to redo it all after the meeting

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<sup>82</sup> Source: RegulatoryCapturedMe, “Restaurant workers of Reddit, what is the worst thing you have seen done to a customer’s order?” Reddit. AskReddit. 19 April 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mu5e4w/restaurant\\_workers\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_is\\_the\\_worst/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mu5e4w/restaurant_workers_of_reddit_what_is_the_worst/) >.

because everyone would have different opinions on it ... my boss emailed back to everyone, 'This is AMAZING,' and that made my fuckin day. I joked with my husband about printing it off and putting it on the fridge. I ultimately had to change a lot of it around anyways because everyone had different opinions, but I was so pumped from that one email to care.

"Just goes to show that a little praise or appreciation, even in just one email, can make someone's day."

springflingqueen commented, "That is so awesome! Little praises like that totally make my day. I actually have a document on my computer where I just copy and paste nice things people message or email me so I can read it sometimes. I got one today actually. I am filling in for someone and one of the 'big wigs' who she works with messaged me just to say he thought I was doing a great job filling in. Those kinds of things are so necessary."

2) Psychic wrote:

"This was a few years ago, but I was housebound due to crippling social anxiety. I didn't leave my home for five years.

"The moment I was able to walk my dog around my neighborhood without fear. I was very proud of myself."

3) decentwriter wrote, "I just bought a swimsuit from Aerie, which was impossible for me to do before my breast reduction a few months ago. I am so ready for hot-girl summer."<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> Source: International-Cat176, "What small achievement are you proud of?" Reddit. AskWomen. 20 April 2021 <

### **84. “What Is The Kindest Thing You Have Ever Done For A Stranger And Why Did You Do It?”**

1) Kemokiro, a woman, wrote, “Saw this dude cornering a clearly distressed woman. I walked up, grabbed her by the elbow and said, ‘Girl, what the fuck! Been waiting on your ass.’ Led her off, while giving creep up and down look, with stink face.”

jamichou commented, “You’re the best!”

Kemokiro responded, “I stole the move from a woman who did it for me. Except she ripped the guy harassing me a new one.”

2) desbisous wrote:

“I found 13,000+ US dollars in cash in a man’s wallet and returned it to the owner of the license ID card. I was actually visiting on vacation and was planning to ship it to his address. When I received the phone call, I drove back to the city I found it in before my vacation trip was over. I didn’t take any cash or ask for anything, but he was insistent on giving me \$200 so eventually I gave in and politely accepted.

“I did it because it didn’t belong to me and it was the right thing to do.”

3) scusername wrote:

“Probably not the kindest, but most recently I spent 45 minutes of my spare time sitting with a couple of patients on the ward just for a chin wag. There was no reason for me to be there, but it can get so boring being in hospital, and these ladies were kind of hilarious. One of them had been completely delirious for weeks from an atypical brain

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[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/musx1r/what\\_small\\_achievement\\_are\\_you\\_proud\\_of/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/musx1r/what_small_achievement_are_you_proud_of/)>.

infection, so she doesn't remember yelling at me a lot, but she was better when I came to chat with her, after I helped the nursing staff take her chest drain out.

"The other lady wasn't my patient, but she was hilarious so I stayed 45 minutes past my shift just to chat about the weather, movies and music.

"Before I left, I helped my patient get comfortable in bed (if you've ever been in a hospital, you'll know how confusing the bed controls can be), rearranged her position and finally left.

"They were both very grateful and I had a good time listening to their stories and telling them jokes. I also filled my patient in on all the things that happened while she was delirious, like how she told me that she loves her daughter-in-law so much and is proud of her son."

4) DaddysPrincess wrote, "In winter a few years ago, I saw an elderly gentleman in a wheelchair holding a sign that said, 'Will work for food.' I offered to buy him food & drink, because I had the time and money to do so, plus it would give him an excuse to be out of the cold for a few hours. It was a soup place. I bought him soup, a sandwich, and a coffee. "

5) loco\_vox wrote, "I don't know if it's the kindest thing, but I once went and bought someone homeless a bunch of food (and water) that was pretty durable when it became colder in autumn season because I kept seeing him sitting at the same place every day after I came from school and he really seemed to be miserable."

6) \_alizarin wrote, "I saw a blind man at the exit of the grocery parking lot trying to cross the street; it appeared that he had walked there. I saw him at the edge of the road with his walking stick, carrying his groceries, I presume listening for when there was a break in traffic (four-lane road!) with

all these cars flying by. I got the hugest pit in my stomach. I pulled my car over immediately and my boyfriend and I got out and waited with him for the road to be clear and guided him by the elbow as we helped him cross so he could get to his bus stop. Honestly, now that I write it down it just seems like basic human decency, but I was the only one who stopped to help him. He was so grateful and kind, but honestly I feel grateful because when I look back at it, I am proud of myself for how little I hesitated in helping someone in need. I know it's not about me, but I think that feeling good about doing good deeds makes people want to keep doing them. I hope to do many more good things in my life to help other people. I hope the man is doing okay."

7) souponastick wrote:

"I was killing time eating alone in a McDonald's. A kid (18 years old) came in and flopped on a seat near me, clearly looking for some attention. He caught my eye and said, 'Lemme use your phone.' I scoffed and said, 'Uh ... no.' He mouthed off a little bit like, 'I hope you're given stuff when you need it' type thing.

"I said, 'Come over here, please.' He came and sat at my table with me and I said to him, 'You know ... I don't know you from the next person. Instead of just expecting someone to do whatever you want, you might get a better reception if you're nicer.' He sighed and said, 'Hi ... my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm in a bad spot right now, and I was hoping to use your phone to call my sisters to get me out of this bad spot. Would you mind if I did so?'

He ended up calling two sisters and both of them were like 'Welp, sorry, bro.' By the end of the second conversation, he was crying, and then he was embarrassed about crying. He moved back to a different table after thanking me, and was sitting alone trying to process what had just happened.



“Years before my grandma had handed me a \$100 and told me to save it for an emergency. I’d had it in my wallet for at least five years and had never needed it. I was also at the point in life where replacing that \$100 wouldn’t be difficult. I went and refilled my drink, and on my way out I handed him the \$100. I said to him, ‘This was given to me for an emergency. This constitutes an emergency in my book, so have a nice day.’ He said he couldn’t accept it, but I said I wasn’t taking it back. He started crying again and thanked me.

“I did it because he reminded me of all of my closest guy friends. They all struggle with feeling worthy of being helped. They all have struggled all throughout their lives. Yes, a lot of the time they are dealing with the consequences of their own actions (or inaction), but that doesn’t change the fact that they struggle. I have always wondered how their lives would be different if someone had shown them a bit of kindness, so it was my chance to help out. I know that \$100 isn’t life changing, but maybe seeing someone’s kindness might be. I’m not sure, but I also don’t regret what I did by any means, and I’d do it again in a heartbeat.”

8) beautiful\_so\_much wrote, “I helped an old woman with her groceries while waiting in the bus station. We ride the same bus. That time I was so sleepy, and when I woke up the driver told me my fare is paid. When you give kindness to others, kindness itself will follow you.”

9) Bebe\_Blaeus wrote:

“Probably not nicest, but recent:

“I took a wrong road (I35W instead of I35). I stopped in a big mega gas station for directions home.

“Ran into a lady who was scraping together enough pennies to hopefully have enough gas to make it to her mom’s house an hour away. (Or at least get as close as possible before the

car ran out.) It was evening. She was, no doubt, impoverished. And she looked tired and hungry.

“I filled up her car with gas. The station had all kinds of fast food, so I bought her a nice meal and a big cup of coffee.

“And blessed her with kind words and affirmation.

“The reason I did it was because I always pay it forward from times when I, myself, was a young, broke, single woman on her own. So many people have helped me in emergencies. I might not even be here today otherwise.

“I couldn’t bear to think of another woman out there alone in the dark and vulnerable.”

10) VaginaGoblin wrote, “Saw a homeless man walk up to a Wendy’s counter with a dollar and when he found out they didn’t have a dollar menu, he quietly asked the cashier if there was a McDonald’s nearby. I bought his breakfast instead.”

11) peyotepancakes wrote, “Was driving home in a torrential downpour with tornado warnings on a Sunday. Had the kids in the car heading home. Drove by a local business that was closed and saw a young guy trying to take cover underneath the building overhang. He had his bicycle with him. He was just absolutely wrecked looking. I hurried home, got the kids out and into the house, ran in and grabbed an oversized Pink Floyd hoodie that I had, thinking it should fit him okay. I drove the few miles back down to where he was. Wheeled in and asked if he wanted help and a ride. He said yes and dropped his bike to jump in the car. He was freezing cold in a short-sleeve shirt and shorts. Told him, ‘Nah, we’re going to take the bike, too,’ and we loaded it into the back of my vehicle. We both then jumped in, I gave him the hoodie to put on and I drove him home with his bike. Told him to keep the hoodie; he told me he didn’t think people like me really existed. In the amount of time it took me to go home, drop

off my kids, get the vehicle ready to grab his bike quickly and the hoodie I can guarantee at least 50 cars must've gone by him. That's awful. I was hoping he'd be gone when I got there, that someone else stopped to help."

12) fllofidastatee wrote, "Not fully a stranger but I became roommates with an acquaintance at work who had a young daughter and couldn't take living with the baby's father anymore. I was a 24-year-old single woman at the time. I love kids and didn't mind having a baby roommate, but my coworker could not afford to live somewhere safe with her daughter, pay bills, food, and daycare on her own. Baby daddy had been in and out of the picture and was unreliable as anything. Although a little messy, they were the best roommates I'd ever had. I did it because I grew up in a shitty home and knew that little girl didn't stand a chance if they had to move to a bad area, leave the good day care, and struggle every single day. Little girl is six now. She's smart and caring and still calls me her best friend. We lived together for only 18 months but in that time my coworker was able to get a better job, make more money, and get back on her feet. Baby daddy finally got his shit together and they've been happily back together for a few years now and are planning on getting married. She's thanked me so many times over the years but honestly I'd do it again in a heartbeat. [...] Bonus was seeing the baby's precious little face every day when I got home from work. It's hard to be sad with a little kid running up and hugging you and giggling at you 24/7."

13) Dianachick wrote:

"I stepped in when a guy was harassing a girl in the street, his girlfriend. He took her phone and wouldn't give it back and was verbally abusing her and trying to drag her away with him.

“I was with my teenage kids, and because we were at the beach, hundreds of people were there and at least 100 people watching, mostly men. No one did anything. The girl was clearly distressed.

“I just walked up to them and said to her, ‘Are you OK?’ She said, ‘No.’ He told me to mind my own business I told him I wasn’t talking to him and I convinced her to come with me. When he tried to follow, I told him to fuck off or I was going to call the police. She came with me and stayed with me and my kids until he left. I did offer her a ride or to call the police but she said no to both.

“What really bothered me is that he was much bigger than me, I was with two teenagers, he was aggressive and verbally abusive and all those men just stood around watching doing fuck all.”<sup>84</sup>

### **85. “What’s The Pettiest Thing A Neighbor Has Done To You?”**

1) snoozer854 wrote, “Stole the windshield wipers off of my car. I caught him on a security camera stealing them one night. Next day I went over to his house and told that some low-life stole my damn wipers. The look he gave me was priceless, don’t think he liked me calling him a low-life. After I told him I had him on video, he goes, ‘Fine, take them back,’ and that was the last time I spoke to him.”

2) [namecensored] wrote:

“A dorm neighbor was a huge dick and didn’t care for anyone in the suite. So he did something like tip over his sub-

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<sup>84</sup> Source: wolt342, “What is the kindest thing you have ever done for a stranger and why did you do it?” Reddit. AskWomen. 22 April 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/mvztyu/what\\_is\\_the\\_kindest\\_thing\\_you\\_have\\_ever\\_done\\_for/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/mvztyu/what_is_the_kindest_thing_you_have_ever_done_for/) >.

woofer, turn the music up and left for the weekend. The entire crew could feel it from our beds. I guess he didn't know that RA's have keys to the rooms. Maybe he also didn't know that you could get ejected from dorms.

“Fuck you, Bosco. You turd.”

TragedyPornFamilyVid wrote:

“A roommate did this during midterms in college with an annoying video clip. She set it to loop for 14 hours at max volume on her laptop and hooked up speakers before leaving for the day. She'd locked it so I couldn't turn the noise off. She'd even thought to do something to disable the power button.

“So I pulled the battery out, waited 10 seconds, and put it back in. Blissful silence.

“Unfortunately, there was a lot of unsaved work on that laptop. I'm still stunned someone would plan to leave their classwork for 16+ hours without saving it, but *would* think to change the power key to make it harder to stop the noise.

“She was randomly assigned and the only person I've ever known who has had their coworkers stage a surprise intervention at their home to ask them why they were such an asshole and how could this change. It was seriously 15 people all trying to figure out how to get her to stop being so indiscriminately nasty.”

3) EvilBosch wrote:

“I live in a townhouse that has an adjacent townhouse on either side. The neighbours on one side are absolutely fantastic.

“About two years ago, there were renters on the other side, where the adult male living there was some sort of tradesman who regularly left for work at 4.40am. Whenever he left he

would slam his front (metal) gate closed, which would regularly wake me and my four-year-old daughter. (The gate is only about 10 metres from our bedroom windows.)

“I wrote a very polite note, explaining that it was a problem and asking them if they could please close their gate quietly. To his credit he started leaving via the other exit.

“About a month later, it was becoming clear that my front lawn was increasingly covered in dog poo, so I set up a webcam to see where it was coming from. Very quickly it became clear that these neighbours were regularly opening their gate, letting the dog out to do its business, and then return home, with no attempt to clear it up.

“I approached him one early evening as the dog returned home from its defecation excursion, and (again very politely) asked him and his wife to stop letting the dog leave its business on my front lawn. They denied it, although I had just caught the dog in the act, and told them that I had video evidence of what their dog was doing.

“That absolute asshole decided that every morning he left for work thereafter he would literally slam his front gate using all his strength. Some people are human garbage. Thankfully they moved out only a couple of months later.”

nobodywon commented:

“For context, I lived on the corner, next to an empty lot. Neighbor lived on the street behind me, behind the empty lot.

“This old man used to walk his dog through his back yard, through the empty lot, stand next to the line of bushes that marked our property line and send his dog through the bushes to our yard to do its business. Until I finally stood up from my spot on the porch one day to scream at him that if he didn’t knock it off I was going to start tossing my dog’s

crap on his back porch, which would have been easy to do because the back corner of my fence was only about 15 ft from his porch.

“Some people are just trash. That same neighbor had his grandkids living with him. The grandkids shot my Halloween pumpkins with a bb gun. They were horrible shots, so they also shot up the front of my house in the process.

“And those weren’t even our worst neighbors in that house. But I just saw from the city council meeting minutes last week that the other one’s property is being condemned — yay!”

4) Silaquix wrote:

“Two years ago my husband and I had just bought our first house. I was so excited to finally have flower beds so I bought five purple tiger rose bushes and went out every day to tend to them.

“Our next-door neighbor came over one day while I was watering my roses and decided to be a creeper. Asked if he could give me his number, started asking probing questions about my schedule like how long I was home alone, and kept hitting on me. I turned off the water and went inside, locked the door and called my husband because now there’s a strange man walking through my yard that knows I’m home alone and won’t accept my boundaries.

“My husband came home and met the neighbor’s wife in the driveway to explain what happened and how the guy was out of line.

“Didn’t see the guy again, but within days my roses started to shrivel up and die. I tried everything but I’m pretty sure he sprayed them with plant killer.

“Karma’s a bitch, though, because he got fired for sexually harassing a customer shortly after, and his wife booted him out of the house.”

5) sump\_erson wrote:

“I had a neighbor, who I had never met, continue to throw dead animal carcasses in my yard. This went on for several months. Rabbit. Rabbit. Possum. Squirrel. Raccoon. You name it. One day, I witnessed him doing it and this was how I determined who was actually performing this strange act. He was probably in his 60’s. He opened his garage door, walked out with a pitchfork and something dead on it, then proceeded to yuck it in my front lawn.

“I waited until that night, picked it up and hurled it onto his car’s windshield.

“He never did it again. My other neighbor, who I eventually met, said he had some feud with the previous owner of my house. I guess he never realized I wasn’t the guy he feuded with.”

FansForFlorida wrote:

“I had an asshole neighbor who would skim the dead bugs, dead frogs, and debris from his pool and dump them in my yard. I found out when I heard a ‘tap tap tap’ noise and looked over to see him reaching his pool skimmer over his fence to knock the rotting stuff into my yard.

“So later when I found dog crap in my yard, I picked it up with a shovel and yeeted it over the fence into his pool.”<sup>85</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> Source: Collins71514, “What’s the most petty thing a neighbor has done to you?” Reddit. AskReddit. 24 April 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mxw8z6/whats\\_the\\_most\\_petty\\_thing\\_a\\_neighbor\\_has\\_done\\_to/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/mxw8z6/whats_the_most_petty_thing_a_neighbor_has_done_to/) >.



## 86. “Lawyers Of Reddit, How Do You Go About Defending Someone Who Is Clearly Guilty?”

Ogreknob wrote:

“I’m a practicing criminal defense attorney, in the United States.

“The short answer is: the same way you defend someone who is not clearly guilty, in most instances.

“Here in the United States, knowledge of responsibility is protected by attorney-client privilege, and the right to plead not guilty (and thus have a trial) is protected by the constitution itself.

“What that means for someone accused of a crime is that they have *an absolute right to force the government to prove its case in open court*. That right isn’t limited to the innocent, that right is unlimited, and it applies to **every person accused of a crime**.

“It helps to understand that ‘guilty’ is a legal term, not a factual one. Most of the non-lawyers in this thread, including Original Poster, are using ‘guilty’ to mean ‘factually responsible for the criminal act.’

“What ‘guilty’ actually means, is “proved responsible for a criminal act, by the government, beyond a reasonable doubt, to a neutral factfinder.” Everyone is *presumed innocent* until the government meets its burden of proof.

“The government can meet that burden in three ways typically. The first, and by far most common, is through plea negotiations. As part of a plea deal, a criminal defendant waives their right against self-incrimination, and tells a judge under oath what law they broke and how. That is considered proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

“But defendants are not required to plead guilty — remember, *everyone has a right to a trial*: So even though that’s how a majority of cases resolve, it is not how they all resolve.

“The remaining cases go to trial. The vast majority of those cases go to a jury trial. The government must present evidence, establishing guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The defense has the opportunity to cross examine witnesses, and challenge the strength of the evidence. It is very much possible to be factually responsible for a crime that the government has only weak evidence to support. When that happens, a trial is very meaningful.

“The third way, is to just have a trial to a judge. Same rules apply, though — the government still has to prove its case.

“If an attorney knows 100% their client is guilty, then certain defenses come off the table — usually things like alibi defenses, since that is a defense that requires the defendant to offer evidence, which in this case would not be true.

“But it doesn’t preclude anyone from challenging the weight and strength of the evidence. The government has virtually unlimited resources and time to investigate crimes thoroughly, and make sure they have enough admissible evidence to prove a case beyond a reasonable doubt. If they fail to do so, it’s because the government screwed up their case. They know the rules, and it is imperative those rules be followed absolutely.

“Otherwise the government could target you, with thin evidence, simply because you’re a non-conformist. That would not be good.”

In response to a comment, Ogrekno added:

“False confessions are a real thing. But even ignoring that, there are plenty of reasons to plead not guilty to something.

“Maybe you need to get into treatment to get a better sentence, and you want to delay pleading so you can prove yourself.

“Maybe the offer to resolve the case from the prosecutor is no better than the result of losing a trial — and you want to force the prosecutor to work hard to give a better deal. This is surprisingly common.

“Maybe you were 30 minutes late to court and didn’t have time to review that pages of legal documents with your lawyer before court, that you have to review in order to enter a knowingly, intelligent plea of guilty.

“Maybe you are guilty, are going to plead, are going to take the deal, but the deal involves jail time and you want to wait two months to serve the time, so you can make childcare arrangements and take off work.

“There are countless motivations for entering a ‘not guilty’ plea, beyond the basic reason, which is simply ‘because you can.’”

In response to the question, “Why don’t they all get contempt charges for wasting taxpayer dollars with an obvious lie of ‘not guilty’ at the start?” OGREKNOB wrote, “Because it isn’t a lie. You are deliberately ignoring the most important point of my post — *guilty is a legal term, not a factual one*. Everyone is not guilty until the government proves their case. Saying in court ‘I plead not guilty,’ is not the same thing as saying ‘I’m innocent.’ When you say ‘I plead not guilty,’ you are saying ‘I am choosing not to plead guilty at this particular moment.’ You can always plead guilty later, or, you can exercise your constitutional right to force the government to prove their case, in your presence. Either way, you are not lying to anyone by making that decision. There is *no legal requirement in the United States*

*that any person plead guilty to any crime, and there never has been.*"<sup>86</sup>

### **87. "What Is A Totally Wrong Thing That Has Become So Widespread It's Not Considered Wrong Anymore?"**

noguerad wrote, "Spam email. We ignore it, it's just there. But it shouldn't be."

Itsyamatey commented, "I'd tack onto this one, paper mail that you never asked for. It's a waste of resources! Been getting magazines, catalogues, advertisements and other solicitations in the mail and I've never once responded in any fortuitous way to any of them."

bigeasy- commented, "Really it should be illegal to mail people trash."

CaptchaSolvingRobot commented:

"Here in Denmark you can just sign up for 'No commercials.' You get a sticker which you put on your mailbox and they aren't allowed to hand you any.

"I never get any."

lexybenkey commented:

"Here in Amsterdam (specifically this city, not the rest of the Netherlands) we have switched to 'I DO want commercials' stickers. So the default has become no — only if you specifically do want ads you can opt for them, which I think should just be the default everywhere.

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<sup>86</sup> Source: IntermediateNOOb8, "Lawyers of Reddit, how do you go about defending someone who is clearly guilty?" Reddit. AskReddit. 29 April 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n0yqch/lawyers\\_of\\_reddit\\_how\\_do\\_you\\_go\\_about\\_defending/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n0yqch/lawyers_of_reddit_how_do_you_go_about_defending/) >.

“Edit: Wow, thanks for the responses and upvotes. Was not expecting that. Also, apparently I [erred]. It’s not just Amsterdam but six major cities in the Netherlands (so far).”

CaptchaSolvingRobot commented:

“That is a great idea.

“I really do not understand why shopping bags are so frowned upon, when companies are producing and distributing literal garbage to the whole population. A shopping bag has a purpose and I use it as a trash bag afterwards — thereby saving another bag. Commercials [paper advertisements] are just physical spam.”

PorkoGonzo responded:

“Because shopping bags are a way to bring the responsibility to you, the consumer.

“Not saying shopping bags aren’t bad for the environment, they are, but shifting the blame for pollution to the consumer has been a tactic for a while now.”

RGB3x3 responded, “Right, there’s been a concerted effort for decades to say, ‘It’s *your* responsibility as the consumer to control pollution.’ This just shifts blame away from companies that don’t want attention brought to the fact that *they* are the ones causing the problem.”

TheMoines commented, “See water conservation effort by trying to convince people to take shorter showers and et cetera when residential water use is a very tiny part of overall water use. In California urban water use is only 10%, and that includes golf courses, governmental, commercial and

most industrial using of water. Most of the water goes to agriculture.”<sup>87</sup>

### **88. “Surgeons Of Reddit, How Do Bathroom Breaks Work On A 10+ Hour Surgery?”**

1) FigBanana wrote, “Resident of general surgery here, so here’s how it is done in my place (mind that I speak for only my fellow general surgeons — it may be different for neurosurgeons or heart surgeons). If the patient is stable and under no life-threatening condition, the first assistant (usually a senior resident or a more inexperienced attending) will take over for a few minutes (there are a lot of minor things to be done, for example, controlling minor bleeding spots, or removing adhesions, or just inspecting other parts of the abdomen for possible metastasis). If the operation is a particularly complex one (liver transplant), there are usually 2-3 teams of surgeons who participate in the surgery. For example, 1 team will do the procurement (remove healthy liver from donor), 1 team will do the removal of the diseased liver and the liver team will do the transplant. All teams have to discuss and plan out everything carefully before the operation, and the idle team will stay in the break room to follow the operation, so not much is lost in communication.”

2) skidawayswamphag wrote, “Serious answer: If the MD needs a minute, the patient’s safety is assured (no active bleeding, etc.) the wound is covered with a sterile sponge soaked in 0.9% saline solution (same as bodily fluids, or isotonic) and he breaks scrub to go pee. They’ll grab a sammich on the way back from the bathroom sometimes.

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<sup>87</sup> Source: JimmysBacc, “What is a totally wrong thing that has become so widespread it’s not considered wrong anymore?” Reddit. AskReddit. 30 April 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n29moe/what\\_is\\_a\\_totally\\_wrong\\_thing\\_that\\_has\\_become\\_so/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n29moe/what_is_a_totally_wrong_thing_that_has_become_so/) >.

They scrub back in and surgery recommences. As an OR [operating room] nurse I have given docs OJ [orange juice] from a straw while they were scrubbed in and their blood sugar drops. I have also changed doctors' masks for them when they had a head cold ... like caring for a toddler. Always, always we do what is best for the patient. If you gotta pee, sometimes you hold it. If you shit yourself, there's clean scrubs in the Doctors lounge. The patient always comes first, at least in MY room."

WyrdHarper commented, "Additionally, sometimes when you're stuck in a procedure or an intense case you get so laser-focused you don't really notice those other things. It's not until afterwards that it catches up to you. I think it's hard to imagine if you haven't done it."

pro\_nosepicker responded:

"This x 1000 is the answer. I can have prostate problems, a small bladder, irritable bowel, terrible insomnia, etc., to the point I'd be almost afraid I could perform, yet that all magically disappears in the OR. You are laser focused as mentioned and always get through, no problem.

"Afterward is a totally different matter.

"A whole other point is that surgeries that long are often done in shifts ... the cancer removal team, the surgical reconstructive team, etc."

KeyRageAlert asked, "Could you not wear a diaper of some sort just in case?"

SchumoForPrison answered, "Depends."<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> Source: ProfessorCentaur, "Surgeons of Reddit, how do bathroom breaks work on a 10+ hour surgery?" Reddit. AskReddit. 30 April 2021  
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## 89. “Atheists Of Reddit, What Made You Turn Into An Atheist?”

srcoffee wrote:

“Growing up around Christians and constantly being told by them that others are ‘evil’ and ‘sinners.’ When in fact, the sinners were the actual kind people.

“The Christians in my life were hypocritical, judgmental, greedy, maniacal, and rude.

“Atheists were honest, accepting, and cared for people around them.

“As Ghandi said, ‘I like your Christ. I don’t like your Christians.’”

throwawaytrumper commented:

“The kindest relative I had was my grandma who was both an atheist and a communist. Her politics were a bit extreme, but she was the only person who would reliably get us gifts for Christmas and birthdays, she was also the only relative who visited and seemed interested in us and she never once did anything abusive to me or my siblings.

“By contrast, my mother was hyper-religious and had zero empathy for other human beings. She did horrible, horrible shit to her kids with zero remorse. She was also insane, but religion certainly didn’t help her, it just gave her more excuses to hurt us and things to make us hate ourselves for. It’s tough for me to take religious folk seriously when they try to act pious, I know the morally reprehensible filth that a religious mind can easily embrace; you telling me about

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[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n271go/surgeons\\_of\\_reddit\\_how\\_do\\_bathroom\\_breaks\\_work\\_on/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n271go/surgeons_of_reddit_how_do_bathroom_breaks_work_on/) >.



Jesus doesn't make me think you're any less likely to beat or rape your kids and find a religious justification for it."<sup>89</sup>

**90. “Has Anyone Wrongfully Assumed You Were Dumb And In The Process Made Themselves Look Really Dumb? What’s Your Story?”**

1) richardec wrote:

“I just started to work on the production line of an auto parts manufacturer. I was hot pressing rivets into the base plate of an emergency brake base. According to production logs, a day’s run was 300 pieces. Acceptable errors were three.

“I worked there for two weeks before the line supervisor advised my managing consultant that I was not meeting production requirements. According to my logs, I had zero errors and exceeded my 300 quota every day.

“Another line supervisor confided in me that I was being replaced with my supervisor’s cousin, just arrived from the Philippines. I did not argue or protest. It would have done me no good. The managing consultant knew as well but had no pull.

“After re-examining my resume and seeing I had a degree in computer science and certification in technical manual writing, I was brought back to the very same production floor in a different role. As part of QA compliance, every workstation needed the production one-offs documented with illustrated inspection reference guides.

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<sup>89</sup> Source: afterglowsky, “Atheists of reddit, what made you turn into an atheist?” Reddit. AskReddit. 2 May 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n34kp2/atheists\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_made\\_you\\_turn\\_into\\_an/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n34kp2/atheists_of_reddit_what_made_you_turn_into_an/) >.

“When I arrived at the office, my former line supervisor demonstrated the quadruple take. Patrick Stewart had nothing on her. No one told her what my role was. My presence there resembled that of a site inspector. I walked the entire floor borrowing templates, taking measurements and photos. Looked very official.

“My former line supervisor thought I was put on her production line as a ringer to inspect her. She worked every day worried I was preparing to give her the axe. She shared that concern in confidence with others who knew better. No one corrected her. They just told her not to worry.”

2) FizzleKit10 wrote, “Customer yelled at me for ten minutes about how her two \$5.99 pizzas were \$12 when ‘FIVE PLUS FIVE IS \$10.’ She called me a fucking idiot, so I smiled and said, ‘Okay.’ Then she got all smug and left without her food. I wonder how she’s doing sometimes.”

3) sarcastinymph wrote:

“I film and edit promotional videos, then post them on my company’s YouTube channel.

“The day after I uploaded a particular run-of-the-mill video, my manager calls me into his office because one of our douchebag directors (who hates our department and loves undermining me in particular) sent an email to my manager and a few higher-ups. In the email he stated that I had messed up the promo video, because there were ‘all of these other disgusting videos attached to it.’

“As proof, he included a screenshot of the end of the video, where all of the recommended videos appeared to star scantily-clad Asian women in suggestive poses.

“Neither he nor my manager knew how YouTube algorithms worked, and that the videos were suggested because he (or someone on his account) had viewed that kind of content

before. I have no idea how my manager explained this to him.”

4) sg1gal wrote, “I had a paper returned to me this morning because I didn’t write out all the names of the authors in the manuscript. I took a screenshot of their submission guidelines detailing AUTHOR NAMES MUST BE FORMATTED WITH THE FIRST INITIAL FOLLOWED BY LAST NAME and sent it back. Got an apology e-mail and an ‘submission received’ notification a few minutes later.”

5) imk wrote:

“I am an application developer in the public sector. I have made many of the computer programs where I work such as the Human Resources, incident reporting, and some of the case management systems.

“Several times I have had people try to tell me, wrongly, how to use an application that I made. I especially like it when they tell me I should ‘ask the people at the company’ — uh, what company would that be? I tell them that it is very flattering that they think that the software was made by an entire company instead of by me alone in my office.”

6) chadwick7865 wrote, “Didn’t necessarily make anyone look dumb, but certainly made some people feel bad. I lived in Germany for a year after high school as part of an exchange program, and there were several times where I had to make phone calls. I had to call doctors, employers, program coordinators, etc., so I got fairly used to the whole telephone garb in German. I could speak pretty fluently on the phone, but since it’s not my native language I would of course make small grammatical errors and stuff like that. This led to the unfortunate situation where people would assume I was German when on the phone because I spoke well enough, but since I kept making mistakes I was also

stupid. People were quite rude to me over the phone, assuming that was due to the assumed stupidity. After I revealed I was actually a foreigner. they always sounded so surprised and complimentary of my German and were much more helpful and polite afterwards.”<sup>90</sup>

### **91. “People Of Reddit, What One Random Act Of Kindness Have You Never Forgotten?”**

1) Invectus380 wrote, “A football Coach / Teacher I had knew I had a difficult situation at home. After a particularly nasty instance that got around school, he ‘made’ me come to school early everyday as an excuse for me to get out of my house as soon as I could. And every morning I showed up he had food waiting for me. Like a real breakfast. And he didn’t pressure me to ‘talk’ to him about the shittiness as home or pressure me to do anything other than discuss game plans and enjoy some peace for an hour. Huge impact. Years later when I got some shit together and became semi-successful, I tracked him down and went to say thank you. I found out it was his breakfast; he would just ask his wife to pack an ‘extra’ one because he got hungry. Thanks, Coach Ray. You made me believe in the goodness of Humans.”

2) MasteringTheFlames wrote, “In August of 2019, I loaded a bunch of camping gear onto my bicycle and spent the better part of the next seven months riding 5,300 miles around the US. Along the way, every single person I met wanted to be a positive part of my story in wherever way they were able. Many incredibly kind locals opened their homes to me for an evening, providing me a warm bed, a hot shower, and

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<sup>90</sup> Source: 7t9h50andthena2, “Has anyone wrongfully assumed you were dumb and in the process made themselves look really dumb? What’s your story?” Reddit. AskReddit. 2 May 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n3hk94/has\\_anyone\\_wrongfully\\_assumed\\_you\\_were\\_dumb\\_and/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n3hk94/has_anyone_wrongfully_assumed_you_were_dumb_and/)>.

their wonderful company over a delicious home-cooked dinner. Drivers would see me on the side of a desolate road and pull over to offer me an extra bottle of water when I was a million miles from the next town. Neighbors in the next campsite over, after seeing me ride into camp on my bike with all my stuff on it, would come over to ask about my travels. I'd give them a summary of where I'd come from and where I was going, and they would invite me to join them around their fire to exchange their food and beer for my stories. It was absolutely incredible, the unending kindness of so many people, and I will never forget any one of the countless people who made my journey so memorable."

3) Nadmania wrote, "When I was pretty young, I befriended a kid on the bus who was from a poor family. I noticed he wore broken-down shoes when winter hit. We live in Minnesota. I mentioned it to my mom in conversation. She immediately took me to the store to get him a pair of Sorels. When I gave them to him on the bus, he was overjoyed and so grateful. He wrote us a thank you letter in big rainbow block letters that I found in Mom's belongings a few years ago after she died. I have never forgotten how much a simple thing like comfortable feet can make someone happier every day."

4) Ernigirl wrote, "Took our son (then 16m, 6'2", autism) to a concert a few years ago; he enjoyed it, but he's huge and not spatially aware. Kicked the older lady next to him more than once, hogged the arm rest, used the rest room every other song (crossing in front of her, stepping on her feet and her purse multiple times), etc. I prompted the appropriate behavior each time ('excuse me,' 'pardon me,' 'I apologize,' etc.) but was still not anxious to make eye contact after the lights came up. We waited until the theater was mostly empty before we left. As we came out the door into the lobby, I saw her. She broke into a lovely warm smile, came

directly towards me, and said quietly in my ear, ‘You’re doing a great job, mama.’ I gave her a huge hug, and ran out of the theater before breaking into a massive ugly cry. I don’t think it would be an exaggeration to say that she saved my life. Bless you, sweet lady from the Mannheim concert at the Fox.”

5) BrackishBit wrote, “I was squatting in a house with no power, or heat for about six months when a friend’s father took me in for the second time in my life.”

Slabhre commented:

“See, this is what I expected my parents to do when my best friend got kicked out by her mom when we were teens. It was a rude awakening when they said she couldn’t stay there, because I never questioned that she could stay with me. She had nowhere to go and it was the right thing to do.

“Well, I wasn’t about to abandon my friend so we slept in the back of my station wagon for a few nights until her mom let her back home. I never saw my parents the same way again afterwards.”

BrackishBit added:

“After I got kicked out of my house when I was in high school, I slept on my neighbors’ floor or couch, whichever was available. I had a sleeping bag and figured, this is just life for some people. After about six months of that, I moved in with them and crashed on the bed of my friend who went away to college. I stayed there for a little bit but then went to school myself out of state. After not having money for tuition and no one to co-sign a loan for me, I had to leave.

“This is when I came home to squat in that house. I ran into my friend whom I had lived with and I told him where I was staying. He brought his father over and he just grabbed me and shoved me in the truck and drove me to his new house.

“He treated me better than most people ever have. I pay forward as much as I can and try to remember those who have been there for me. I can’t say I have lived a luxurious life by any stretch, but it has been a hell of an adventure. Most people watch others struggle, some help. I know what it is like to be on the boot heel of life, I try to be kind and I am ferocious when I see the downtrodden stomped on.”

6) ketchuppersion wrote, “I was in third grade and a girl made me a birthday card with her friends. We weren’t even close and I always annoyed her, not on purpose, though. I almost cried that day.”

Spookwagen\_II commented, “This is so sweet.”

7) Le\_Oww wrote, “In kindergarten I was in a public school and it was time for everyone to go to the playground. While all the students were running down the hill, I tripped and started to get trampled over. One of my friends ran over and shielded me with her body so I stopped getting hurt.”

8) DevDMC wrote:

“I was driving home, and a massive storm hit. The rain was so heavy that I couldn’t see a thing and I can get very panicked being out in bad storms (especially when driving). I pulled into a McDonald’s and went inside to wait it out. I ordered a drink because I felt rude just going in and just sitting there and not getting something.

“The storm didn’t look like it was letting up any time soon so I decided to order some food. I was still pretty anxious and scared from the storm and I guess the girl taking my order could tell because she went to her manager and they gave me my meal for free.

“Thanks to those McDonald’s workers for trying to make an anxious girl feel better!”

9) maswriter wrote, “When I was growing up, my mom made wonderful Thanksgiving dinners for us. That was until the fall of 1979 when she had a massive stroke that left her paralyzed and speechless. I had turned 18, and my brother was 15. She was still in the hospital at Thanksgiving time. A nurse asked if we were OK for Thanksgiving. I told her I didn’t know what we would do. The hospital gave us two dinner certificates for Bob Burns, a nice steak restaurant where we lived. It wasn’t like the dinners Mom used to make, but it offered us some comfort at a difficult time.”

10) billstrash wrote, “I had moved to Florida for work and was working my balls off. On Thanksgiving my co-worker Donna left her husband and kids and brought me a plate of Thanksgiving dinner about 30 minutes away. I think about it probably once a month and this was in 1999. I can’t remember her last name or I would find her and give her a proper thanks in the form of some awesome gift. It kills me how nice she was.”

11) Jerrys\_Wife wrote, “I was very young, broke, and foolish. I was involved in a long-distance relationship and agreed to meet my boyfriend about 100 miles from home. It was kind of halfway for both of us. At first I told him I couldn’t because I was flat broke, but he said he’d help me out when we got together. I didn’t even have a credit card, and this was long before cell phones. There was some mix-up, and I didn’t find my boyfriend at the hotel where we were supposed to meet. I was in tears wondering how I would get back home on gas fumes when a man approached me and asked me what was wrong. I explained, and he took \$50 out of his wallet and gave it to me. I asked him if I could write down his name and address so that I could repay him, but he refused. I have never forgotten that man’s kindness and can only wonder what I would have done without it.”



12) LastStevey wrote, “Every single time somebody has laughed at a joke I’ve made.”

13) Zebeyana wrote, “When my children were in grade school, we were about to go shopping at a low-price store. I was strapped for cash. They had one of those donation boxes by the cash registers where you buy a toy and donate it for a charity to distribute. (It was close to Christmas.) Every time we saw one of those boxes, my kids wanted to donate toys but we couldn’t afford it. As we were walking into the store to get something we needed a man handed me an envelope, said, ‘Merry Christmas,’ and walked away. In the envelope was a \$100 bill. I allowed my kids to each pick out one toy for the donation box. They were *so* happy! My youngest is 21 and still remembers it fondly. I also used some of it for stocking stuffers, etc. It basically allowed me to give them a better Christmas that year.”

14) princessoffire wrote:

“When I was an insecure young girl in childhood, a random stranger who was a conventionally attractive woman saw me, stopped, and told me I was beautiful. It stuck with me through the years to build my confidence.

“I was going through my parents’ divorce where my dad was incredibly abusive. I mentioned it to a teacher who told me, ‘It’s not your fault,’ and then made me say it back. Hearing him say it, then saying it myself, really anchored the thought. I knew deep down it wasn’t my fault, but having that phrase in my head really helped me through some harder times of the divorce.

“I was waiting tables after college, looking for a ‘real job’ (aka: one with insurance) and a couple came in on a slow day, left me a \$50 tip, and a note on the receipt saying, ‘You were amazing.’

“All three things really changed how I saw myself and shaped how I could be a positive change in someone else’s life.”<sup>91</sup>

## **92. “Ex-Racist People Of Reddit, What Changed Your Views?”**

1) JimmyRat wrote, “When I was wounded in Iraq, two white guys stepped over me (one literally stepped on my back) to get themselves to a safer place. A black guy picked me up like I was a child, carried me to safety, and held my hand until a medic got there.”

2) drop)dead wrote, “Grew up with a racist step-dad and although I never actually felt hate towards anyone I would laugh at and repeat the jokes. Until I was kicked out at 18, [as far as minorities are concerned] I had met only a Mexican family (my adopted neighborhood family) and a black guy I was friends with from school. They also made the jokes about their race and laughed along, depending on the crowd. Wasn’t till I got older that [I realized] they were doing that to fit in and could’ve been living somewhat in fear. After being kicked out, I moved around a few times before finding a job working with developmentally disabled adults. I was hired as the white guy, the company and all the workers were all born in Africa and moved to the US. It was a cultural shock at first, but they immediately became family. They taught me how to cook, how to treat others, and their culture. They even made sure to teach me how they were treated in public by citizens and police. Since then I haven’t made or laughed at a single racist joke, I’ve made sure to look at everyone the same way no matter, and I’ve made sure to try

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<sup>91</sup> Source: WinterKig975, “People of Reddit. What one random act of kindness have you never forgotten?” Reddit. AskReddit. 3 May 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n3ivqq/people\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_one\\_random\\_act\\_of\\_kindness/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n3ivqq/people_of_reddit_what_one_random_act_of_kindness/) >.

and help others understand how their actions may not be racist but they can still be hurtful. I've met so many beautiful people that I wouldn't have had the chance to talk to had I followed that influence growing up. If anyone who has any racist thoughts is reading this, please just sit down and have a meal with someone [who is a minority]. You'll be surprised how much you have in common while also having such different lives."

3) CannaKingdon0705 wrote, "I moved away from my one-horse hometown and got away from my extremely prejudiced family."

amaezingjew commented:

"I didn't even live in a one-horse town. My hometown had one of the fastest growing zip codes in the country at one point before I left for college.

"However, the religious environment I grew up in (more the Catholic / Christian aspect of it — my religious upbringing is stupidly complex) was very racist (and homophobic of course, I feel like those always go hand-in-hand). My father told me that the Bible says you shouldn't date outside your race, and that I would never date or marry a Black or Hispanic man because he didn't want his bloodline mixing with theirs. Don't worry, this wasn't *his* thoughts, he talked to God and God told him this!

"Joke's on him, after dating a bunch of loser (just so happened to be white) guys, I was set up on a blind date with a man who happens to be Hispanic. That was five years, five pets, and a house purchase ago, and we're getting engaged any day now. I had to go through a journey to becoming a decent person before that, but it started pretty immediately after I went to college and started making friends that didn't have to be approved by my parents. Turns out all of the people my parents hate are actually really fucking nice and

supportive people once you treat them as humans. Meanwhile all of the respect and courtesy in the world won't make my parents any less ... themselves."

4) darkisright wrote:

"Brother was racist.

"We both love science fiction.

"One time he was talking about all the cool races in the *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* and *Mass Effect* universes. How creative Lucas and Roddenberry were. He talked about how great it would be to be among those races as a human and acquaint yourself with alien cultures and people and mythology.

"I said, 'You can't even mingle with the other races on your home planet.'

"Maybe it was the weed, but what I said had some effect on him. He's very noticeably more 'tolerant' and curious about other peoples now. I think he realized that his previous philosophies were not in line with those of The Federation. Good for him."

ddh85 commented, "Funny how expanding 'race' beyond humanity helps someone think about how stupid it is to be racist against their fellow humans."

5) Probably-a-Orangatun wrote, "Not me, but my grandpa told me that when he was young he was a bit racist, due to his a-hole alcoholic dad being really racist and teaching him to treat others of different races like trash. He told me this stopped though when he was around 13 when his dad left. He realized how stupid it was to judge others based on race, and I'm glad he realized how stupid it was since he's a really sweet guy now."

Fncfq wrote:

“My grandparents used to tell me about my grandpa’s evolution when it came to racism.

“My grandma was born and raised in California. Her best friend in high school was a Black girl named Sonja, and if memory serves, her parents also had Black friends as well (and her father was born and raised in Louisiana).

“My grandfather was from Georgia. One time while he was still courting my grandma, she said they were talking on the sidewalk and a Black couple was walking on the same sidewalk, coming towards them. Grandma thought nothing of it, Grandpa apparently shoved her behind him and shouted, ‘Get on the other side of the road you <insert racial slur here>!’

“Grandma was *horrified*. I don’t know the details, but by the time my mom was born and in school, my grandparents were really good friends with a Black couple who owned a bar that people of color frequented. My mom would tell me that more often than not, she and her brother and my grandparents would be the only white people around. The owners were even hosting a wedding one time or one of their children was getting married, and the caterers backed out or flaked out for some reason. My grandparents and mom were invited as friends but they ended up catering so that the family didn’t have to worry about anything.

“By the time I came along, my grandpa was a totally different person and while he never told me what helped him change his mind, I still liked hearing the story and the subsequent stories that showed his evolution.”

Wrastling97 commented:

“This is sorta like my dad. I don’t mean to make excuses for him, but my grandfather (Poppa, I called him) grew up in rural ND [North Dakota] and didn’t see a black man until he was in his late 20’s. He had been exposed to the words of

other racists, and never heard anything opposing those thoughts and never saw a black man where he could form his own opinion.

“When my dad was growing up, they were watching football and my dad asked why there weren’t any black quarterbacks and my poppa said, ‘Because they’re too stupid to be quarterback. They literally just don’t have enough brain cells.’ My dad lived with that information for a very long time, with that outlook until he joined the Air Force and finally met black people who completely changed his opinion. It helps that my father is an extremely intelligent and widely open-minded person. I don’t think many other people would be able to work themselves out of thoughts like that which they’ve grown their entire lives with.”

Mizango commented:

“Sadly, that [opinion about the lack of black quarterbacks] was a widely propagated narrative that was still alive and well, broadly, into the late 80s and early 90s.

“Rush Limbaugh, may he burn in absolute hell, made a flippant comment in 2003 alluding to the intelligence of black QBs, while on ESPN.

“As a black physics major, and now astronomer, from the goddamn hood, that shit always made me feel some type of way.

“I’m glad your dad saw the light! That’s a hard narrative to dispel.

“Being born and raised in the south, we’re often seen as the ‘good ones,’ which is crazy to me.

“Thanks for sharing!”

smakola commented, “My grandpa over compensated on the anti-racism with my mom, so that at school when the teacher

asked what she wanted to be when she grew up she said, ‘A negro.’ (My mom is old.)”

woosterthinkit wrote, “Hehe! Our white friends’ kid asked if he could grow up to be Chinese because we are Chinese.”

6) Appledoo wrote, “Not me, but my best friend’s parents. They told her not to touch me because she would get my ‘skin disease.’ (I’m a brownie and at the time we met I was 12.) They didn’t want us to be friends, but I would always be kind and polite to them, full well knowing how they felt about my skin color. One year my friend (at this point best friend) was having a sleepover birthday party and her parents said I could come, but couldn’t sleep over. My friend canceled her party and her parents must have felt like complete shit because they started to talk to me more and more after that. We have been best friends for almost 30 years now. Her parents came to my wedding, they send me a Christmas card every year, they call me and ask how I’m doing, and they invite me to their get-togethers. I’m glad they came around and am proud of them.”

rose1983 asked, “So are they not racist anymore, or did they just make an exception with you?”

AestheticAttraction responded:

“Asking the real questions, really.

“I say that because I’ve literally had a white friend tell me, after I’d already been over to her house (and could sense a coldness from her mother but wasn’t sure of the source): ‘My mom hates black people, but you’re okay.’ I never would have gone over her house had I known that! And we’re definitely not friends anymore. Smack my head.

“I’ve had so many experiences of being an exception to the rule before I realized it. But let me tell you, if you do one

thing the people tolerating you don't like, you will see another side of them and they will become cruel.

“So, it's a good question.”

7) TheOneTrueE wrote, “Man, I don't even know where to start with this one. I grew up in the middle of fucking nowhere Mississippi where the slave trade was referred to as the great African migration in our history books. Every person of color was referred to by the N-word as just the default. It wasn't until I moved the fuck out of the south that I begin to comprehend what racism was. I wish I could say I had a moment of clarity that washed away all the racist bullshit that I'd grown up with but it was more like a couple decades worth of mental deprogramming I had to fight against. There was so much underlying hate of different people that warped how my view of the world was.”

Zack\_knifed commented, “Don't matter how long it took, what matters is where you are now, and now, my friend, you're in a better place.”

8) JerricaPickney wrote:

“My grandma grew up in Virginia in the 1900s. Being racist is just the default setting. Nana loved her family more than anything, though. So at one point in the late 1980s, she met her first not-100%-white grandkid, and discovered she still loved him.

“She made astounding late-life progress accepting that darker-skin-toned people were not only people, but family, friends, and welcome in her house.”<sup>92</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> Source: uraO\_O, “Ex-Racist people of reddit, What changed your views?” Reddit. AskReddit. 3 May 2021 <



### 93. “What Is Your Blackout Drunk Story?”

1) tinynarrator wrote:

“On my 21st birthday, a friend and I drank an entire bottle of vodka before going out with a bunch of other friends. I don’t remember it, but I apparently went into the clubs parking garage with a random guy, got in his car, peed all over the interior, and he brought me back into the club and told my friends. I still don’t know why my friends let me leave with a guy when I was that drunk and I’m glad he was at least nice about it.

“My second-worst time I was at an outdoor festival and drank too much before going in, and then people just kept buying me drinks. I really had to go to the bathroom but didn’t know where it was, so I went behind a dumpster and squatted down, but there happened to be a cop standing there and could see me. He waited until I finished, came over and told me to go home, so one of my friends took me back to their apartment and I passed out.”

2) Soggy\_Newspaper8798 wrote, “I can’t remember. No, no but seriously, I once drank a whole bottle of vodka at pre drinks [at a club called Pre-Drinks? as pre-drinks before going to the club?]. I don’t remember anything onwards, but I got kicked out of the club, my partner picked me up, I threw up in his car, and he showered me and then put me to bed. I remember I woke up at 3am and went, ‘What the fuck?’ Never again.”

3) queenoreo wrote, “Most recently my husband and I went to Vegas for our anniversary. We have flashes of how we got

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[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n44yuf/exracist\\_people\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_changed\\_your\\_views/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n44yuf/exracist_people_of_reddit_what_changed_your_views/) >.

back to our hotel and the rest of the night, but no solid memories. We had a blast, though.”

4) freshorangetictac wrote, “I remember going to my friend’s house, drinking (not even that much, just forgot to eat that day) and leaving her house to go to the club and then absolutely nothing after that. Apparently I tried to give my number to every single person with curly hair I met that night.”

5) SleepFlower80 wrote:

“I don’t remember any of this but there’s many, many photos and my friends still tell me about this…”

“We went to Cardiff for my 21st. That weekend was also the weekend of a massive rugby match so the whole city was absolutely teeming. It was an amazing atmosphere and I’m sure it contributed to the messy situation I got myself in.

“Because it was my 21st, I ‘had’ to drink three dirty pints — a pint glass filled with a shot of all the optics, and sometimes topped up with beer. That was along with all the other alcohol I consumed that night. My friends were telling people it was my 21st so random strangers were buying me drinks all night. I ended up falling asleep in the middle of the road and almost got ran over by a night bus. I then fell whilst trying to climb the stairs in our hotel and fractured my ankle, but I didn’t realise that until the following morning when it was swollen up like a massive black balloon.

“I couldn’t work out why I woke up feeling like I was dying — ‘but I didn’t even drink that much!’ Once we got the pictures developed (you can tell how old I am!) I suddenly

understood why I'd woken up feeling as rough as a badger's arse."<sup>93</sup>

#### **94. "Flight Attendants And / Or Pilots Of Reddit, What Are Some Things Passengers Do That Get On Your Nerves?"**

1) Hellsich wrote:

"Former flight attendant here ... 15 years I've seen it all! (Sorry for formatting, am on mobile.)

1. Walking throughout the aircraft barefoot. Especially into the toilets... Those floors are not as clean as you think they are!
2. People who talk to us and treat us like scum. And yes, we'll provide better service to the ones who are nice, or think of them first when a whole row is free and they need to lie down and sleep during an 11-hour flight.
3. Parents who don't watch their kids during the flight. The aircraft isn't childproof, and there's a surprising number of things they can injure themselves on.
4. Passengers who do aircraft yoga during the service. By all means if lights are off and it's quiet go ahead, but if there's a buzz of activity near the galley then maybe wait a while.
5. Speaking of which, assuming the galley is a free for all. Sometimes we don't get provided crew food for work and bring our own. If we're busy attending to a

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<sup>93</sup> Source: minwralssmarie, "What is your blackout drunk story?" Reddit. AskReddit. 4 May 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/n4luyr/what\\_is\\_your\\_blackout\\_drunk\\_story/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/n4luyr/what_is_your_blackout_drunk_story/) >.

call bell and can't finish out snack or whatever ... It's not for you to just grab and eat ... At least ask first!

6. Complaining about how rough the flight was. I've had some cuss out the flight deck about their abilities because the aircraft hit wake turbulence ... If you can magically see wake turbulence on a tiny monitor and think you can do a better job, then join a flight academy, pay several thousand dollars for the training and certification and do it yourself ....

"I left Aviation in August (because of you-know-what), but that's just what I can recall from the top of my head."

kelsobjammin commented, "Is COVID like Voldemort now? The virus that shall not be named?"

2) 426763 wrote, "I used to fly back and forth during college. I always travelled with two bags, one checked, one overhead bin (laptop and electronics and such.) A lot of times, I go over the weight limit with my backpack, but the folks at the counter usually don't check it because my backpack looks tiny compared to me despite being dense and heavy. During one of my trips, they weighed it and it went over. And this was one of the 'stricter' airlines in my country. I was fearing the worst because I was like 10kg over but the girl at the counter waived it off. I chalked it up to me being polite."

basicbitchcheddar commented, "Honestly being polite goes a long way! I was a check-in agent in London and I waived a lot of overweight bags if people were kind. That kindness bar was pretty low as well, and yet some people still couldn't manage it."

3) Night\_Stalker\_69 wrote, "When passengers get up as soon as the aircraft stops ... y'all could be sitting effortlessly until we make the bridge and disarm the door, but nah."

GreenAppleLady commented, “I witnessed a flight attendant yell at one guy when he did that. We were still taxiing and she ripped him a new one. Very polite, but ‘I’m yelling because you seem to be hard of hearing, since we \*just\* told everyone to stay seated!’ was golden!”

motivated\_loser wrote, “Air travel has me sold on the idea that 80% of the people in the world are incredibly stupid and it’s the 20% who usually drive us forward.”

Ispring commented, “I’m going to be a little more charitable, based on what this era of COVID vaccines has revealed about human beings. Now that vaccine demand is dropping off steeply, we can now see how many people willingly went out of their way to get vaccinated, whom I would deem as ‘decent and intelligent.’ Everyone else who needs to be coddled, convinced, or simply won’t do it is either a dumbshit or an asshole. So about 40% of the population are ‘decent and intelligent’ and 60% are ‘dumbshits.’ It just looks like 80% because the dumbshits are much louder and take up so much space and attention.”<sup>94</sup>

## 95. “When Was The Worst Time You Farted?”

1) LidoCalhoun wrote:

“I used to work as a video director. One time the control booth was empty, so I put my feet up, started reading the paper and let out a fart. I forgot that the studio was reserved for that hour and soon people (coworkers) started pouring in. Everyone was wondering what this smell is. One girl says, ‘I had a dead rat in my house last year and that’s a dead rat!’

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<sup>94</sup> Source: theburiedsalmon, “Flight Attendants and/or Pilots of Reddit, what are some things passengers do that get on your nerves?” Reddit. AskReddit. 6 May 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n62pgr/flight\\_attendants\\_andor\\_pilots\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_are/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n62pgr/flight_attendants_andor_pilots_of_reddit_what_are/) >.

So everyone starts looking for a dead rat. Then our manager comes in and asks what the smell is. ‘A dead rat,’ they tell him. So he gets out a flashlight and gets down on his knees looking for the dead rat under the console, behind the equipment racks. I just sat in the corner biting my lip bloody and holding back my laughter and tears.

“They never found the rat.”

2) TheDarkGrenadeX wrote, “It wasn’t really the worst time, but it was a shameful situation, I slipped and fell, my pants ripped and I farted at the same time as they ripped.”

RealMcGonzo commented, “Did you guys see that? I farted so hard that I ripped my pants!”

3) PuppyShy wrote, “My wife and I sleep with an oscillating floor fan in the bedroom on my side of the bed. We were in bed and I farted with my ass out of the covers toward the fan not thinking about it and it was immediately swept up to our faces, forcing my wife out of the room in a gagging panic. It smelled like actual dog shit.”

Ward9-6 commented:

“Ok, I gotta say this:

“I’ve read through a lot of these stories and even though I’m almost 50 years old, I have the sense of humor of a 14-year-old boy, so fart stories make me laugh ... it’s just a thing.

“However, this made me laugh so hard that I now have tears rolling down my cheeks and I’m wheezing from laughing so damn hard.

“I don’t know why this struck me so funny but Oh My God!

“And God bless your wife.”

PuppyShy responded, “I’m glad it could bring you some joy. My wife is the definition of a trooper. I’m nearing 30 with

no sign of losing the childlike joy I get whenever I read a fart-related story and I wouldn't have it any other way.”

4) licucf80 wrote:

“I work at a hotel. One day a gentleman came in, just inquiring about rates and availability. I reached over to grab some brochures to give him, and as I did so a loud fart came out. He gave me the worst look of horror, refused the info I tried to give him, and quickly ran out the door.

“I never did see him back, so I may have cost my hotel a potential guest.”

Usual\_Yam\_7031 commented:

*“Gets back in the car.*

“Wife: What’s it like in there, honey?”

“Man: We’re not staying there.

“Wife: Why?”

“Man: I SAID WE’RE NOT STAYING THERE!”

5) JealousNetwork-8852 wrote, “Tried to push one out a few years ago to torture my son and his friends by rolling up and locking the windows. I shit my pants.”

Usual\_Yam\_7030 commented, “I’m just laughing so hard at the fact the other kids would have gone home and told their parents.”

WalkingGiraffe commented, “You talk as if you failed in torturing them. You were very, very successful.”

Burnt\_Snauusages commented:

““How was hanging out with Bobby, son?”

“Oh, it was cool until Bobby’s father shat his pants in front of us. I think he thought it was funny!”

“Okay, son, maybe you shouldn’t be going around there for a while.”

JealousNetwork-8852 responded, “I know their fathers, and they would have appreciated the effort.”

6) ironman288 wrote:

“Happened just a couple nights ago actually. I had eaten something a little off, so I was extra gassy and it was extra stinky.

“I bought my wife a bed fan years ago because she’s always hot. Basically, it’s a fan with an attachment that you stick under your sheets and it blows air directly on you. The sheets billow up and don’t touch you and it’s extremely effective at cooling you off if you sleep hot.

“Well, the AC was broken and we live in a hot climate so she was using the fan. I, however, always get cold, so I had a blanket. The blanket was forcing the sheet down over my half of the bed, so my nasty fart immediately went to the left where the sheet was lifted by the bed fan, and it was blown directly into my wife’s face.

“She did not enjoy her extreme Dutch oven experience! She also did not enjoy me laughing uncontrollably for several minutes.”

Note by David Bruce: According to the Wikipedia article on “Flatulence humor,” “A **Dutch oven** is a slang term for lying in bed with another person and pulling the covers over the person’s head while flatulating, thereby creating an unpleasant situation in an enclosed space.”

mykbuck123 commented, “Dutch oven, now featuring convection!”



Lebrat\_The\_Man commented, “The Dutch Blast Furnace.”

Fyrrys commented, “Dutch air fryer.”

7) DramaticChoice4 wrote, “I was about to have a singing lesson, my teacher told me she was going to make some photocopies and she’d be back in a sec. We all know it means they’ll chat with colleagues and it’ll last forever. Anyways I figured since I have plenty of time, I might as well rip some ass. I just got the time to let out the warmest, most disgusting poisonous fart that I hear the door open and she’s back in the room. Being the dumbass that I was and still am I thought it would be a good idea to let it out right in front of the door. So when the teacher came, she walked right into my nuclear mushroom. There’s no way she and I aren’t getting cancer in 30 years from that radioactive fart.”<sup>95</sup>

## 96. “What’s A Niche, Unassuming Hobby That Has A Surprising Dark Side To It?”

unculturedheathen wrote, “I’m not sure if it’s still a thing, but when I played *Magic: The Gathering* a number of years ago, I heard some real horror stories about how competitive *Pokemon* and *Yu-Gi-Oh* players were. One story involved a guy at a *Yu-Gi-Oh* tournament holding a gun under the table to scare the opponent into losing.”

Laniraa wrote, “Wasn’t there one *Yu-Gi-Oh* card that got banned in competitions because it was making people show up smelling like absolute shit?”

Paulel300 commented, “There’s a card that would force the players to handshake; if the other player wanted to be nasty

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<sup>95</sup> Source: 007194, “When was the worst time you farted?” Reddit.

AskReddit. 6 May 2021 <

[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n678hj/when\\_was\\_the\\_worst\\_time\\_you\\_farted/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n678hj/when_was_the_worst_time_you_farted/)>.

they could lick their hand or run it through their balls and you'd be forced to shake their hand.”

wowinim commented:

“They then changed the ruling so that you don't actually have to shake their hand, just accept the idea of a handshake.

“The card is Yu-Jo Friendship, by the way.”

Kondrias commented:

“The card had a line on it about the players shaking hands. And if you shook hands, you would get a beneficial effect. So people would choose to not bathe or just smell terrible so that their opponent, while they might want that beneficial effect would resist because they don't want to touch the other player's hand or be near them.

“It kind of reminds me that *Super Smash Brothers* tournaments when held in person actually had to put in rules about competitors having to bathe since some of them were unhygienic nasty fools. And it was such a common problem, they had to make a TOURNAMENT RULE ABOUT IT for some tournaments people ran.”

Pancreatic\_Pirate commented, “Somewhat related. My fiancé told me that gaming tournaments had to start banning people who didn't wear deodorant because it smelled so bad. Some people just don't understand or don't care about basic hygiene.”

ratzonerresident commented, “When I was in 8th grade, I witnessed a fistfight almost break out between a bunch of 6th graders over *Beyblade*.”

MadameCat wrote, “Ooooh, I heard of another *Yu-Ji-Oh* strategist who took advantage of a tournament's lack of upper limit to the deck size and just had a deck of like, 900 cards filled with nothing but fluff cards and ‘draw x number

of cards’ to just waste so much time drawing, searching for a specific card, and shuffling that the opponents would just give up because the matches would take too damn long.”

jedimika responded:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nsl7sYK4Eag>

2,222 cards

PolecatEZ commented:

“I briefly took over a games / hobby / comic shop as part of an estate when the owner died until the relatives could figure out what to do with it.

“The biggest issue I had were the late-teens / early 20’s kids from the university that would hang out playing all day on weekends, but when you weren’t looking they would be scamming the smaller kids out of their good (expensive) cards with bad trades. Sometimes they would talk the kid into buying an expensive card from us and then immediately trading them crap for it.

“I figured it out after an encounter with a very not-amused parent.

“Talking to other shop owners, I found out this is quite common and you need to be on your toes to sort out the truly helpful from the card sharks.”<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>96</sup> Source: daytonaletstrowaway, “What’s a niche, unassuming hobby that has a surprising dark side to it?” Reddit. AskReddit. 6 May 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n6fnt6/whats\\_a\\_niche\\_unassuming\\_hobby\\_that\\_has\\_a/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n6fnt6/whats_a_niche_unassuming_hobby_that_has_a/) >.

## 97. “What’s Perfectly Acceptable But Always Makes You Feel Like An Asshole?”

kibrsifr wrote, “Taking the last piece of a shared meal.”

Orange\_Kid commented, “At some point in my life I realized that if I just say, ‘Hey, last slice of pizza. I’m gonna take it,’ people are actually grateful. They’d rather not have to all stare at the last slice and urge everyone else to eat it.”

Maudesquad commented:

“So we have never mentioned this in our house, but since she was like three or so my daughter always checks to see if anyone wants the last bit of something shared before she eats it. Granted she typically palms it and walks around the room sticking it out at people and saying, ‘You want this?’

“But just warms my heart she’s so thoughtful ... definitely not like me or my family ... if you’re not first, you’re last and if you want to eat it, eat quickly!”

Snugl-v301 commented:

“How sweet!

“Kind of a similar story when my kid was five. He loves cucumber, so one day we were having dinner and had a bowl of cucumber slices on the table. The little dude munching away. Until the last slice. He grabs it.. Gets his knife and cuts it into pieces so that everyone could have a part of a slice of cucumber. Hehe. Kids can be so sweet and thoughtful.”<sup>97</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> Source: flowlowland, “What’s perfectly acceptable but always makes you feel like an asshole?” Reddit. AskReddit. 8 May 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n816eq/whats\\_perfectly\\_acceptable\\_but\\_always\\_makes\\_you/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n816eq/whats_perfectly_acceptable_but_always_makes_you/) >.

## **98. “Women Who Reported Sexism To Human Resources, What Ended Up Happening?”**

The Original Poster added, “What type of sexism did you face? Once you reported it what happened?”

1) QwithoutU1982 wrote:

“I was cornered and groped by a manager many years ago. I went straight to Human Resources. Like literally ran away from him into the Human Resources office.

“The Human Resources guy totally believed me, was clearly very sympathetic and apologetic, but told me he couldn’t do anything about it due to who the guy was. He offered to help me find a new job.

“I threw a porcelain coffee mug at the creep on my way out. It was a good shot.

“This was ages before MeToo, so I just spread the word among the women I knew who might want to apply for my position. It was a very desirable job.”

2) Lillilsy wrote:

“I had a manager who was very creepy and flirty with myself and a couple of the other girls in our office. It got to a point one day where me and one of the other girls were on lunch and talking about her hair since she dyed it the night before, and the manager thought it was appropriate to ask me, a natural redhead, ‘if the drapes matched the carpet.’

“I ignored him but as soon as my colleague got back to her desk, she wrote an email to Human Resources explaining what he had just said and CC’d [Carbon-Coped] me in, I didn’t expect it and at first got kinda upset about it and worried I would lose my job. She said, ‘If that’s the shit we need to deal with, then the job isn’t worth it,’ and we followed it all the way through.

“He was put on suspension for investigation and he was made to take a harassment in the workplace course, he came back and hasn’t spoken a word to me or any of the other girls he used to hit on and I’m pretty sure when his wife caught wind, she wouldn’t have been best pleased so I’m actually surprised how seriously it was taken, had some pretty awful jobs in the past where I’ve been told to just brush it off when things like that have happened.”

3) 7000DuckPower wrote:

“Me: ‘So John did this.’

“HR: ‘Oh, that’s not good. Let me know if he ever does it again, and then we will put a note in his file.’

“Me: ‘He has done this before, so why can’t you do something now?’

“HR: ‘Well, there’s no note in his file and we don’t take action on a single, unverifiable claim.’

“Me: ‘Well, you are the third Human Resources person we have had in two years. If no one is willing to put a note in his file, the next Human Resources person won’t know either and we will be back at square one again.’

“HR: ‘Maybe you should just stay away from him so we don’t go through this again.’

“I found a new job and I know of two other women who were harassed by ‘John’ after I left. The company’s Glassdoor reviews are full of harassment complaints. I hope no woman ever gets suckered into a job there ever again.”

4) rocksandlsd wrote:

“I used to office share and since I was the only woman in the company I worked for, I would gravitate to the women in the other company to have people to talk to. There was a guy

who partnered with my company who had the most archaic views on women and had no problem explaining them to us (often resulting around women being weak, which didn't help my imposter syndrome at the time as I was in the tech field).

“Eventually one of my bosses was around and the three of us were telling him what had happened, and he tried to brush it off at first and said, ‘He has some bad PTSD from the military, you know, he’s been through a lot.’ One of the other women immediately said, ‘I’m a military veteran with overseas tours. This isn’t his PTSD. He’s being an asshole.’

“There was a pause and he said ‘okay’ and that he would talk with the others about it. Immediately the next day I got an email from another boss saying that they were no longer hosting the offender in the office space, and any business that needed to be done with him would be done separately away from everyone else. Literally one day later I never saw or heard from him again.

“My other boss followed up with us all later about it and said women are already hard enough to hire because of this guy’s attitude in the workplace, and the fear that they’ll just be entering another misogynistic company, and they want to be able to be a diverse and open employer in the local area.

“The turnaround on this was quick and I almost couldn’t believe how fast and simply they told him to bugger off to keep us happy and safe.”<sup>98</sup>

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<sup>98</sup> Source: Then-Stage, “Women who reported sexism to HR- what ended up happening?” Reddit. AskWomen. 9 May 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/n8hdw1/women\\_who\\_reported\\_sexism\\_to\\_hr\\_what\\_ended\\_up/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/n8hdw1/women_who_reported_sexism_to_hr_what_ended_up/) >.

## 99. “What’s The Most Unprofessional Thing A Doctor Has Ever Said To You?”

1) voice\_of\_craisin wrote:

“Note, I love this doctor. He just doesn’t fuck around.

“Me: How do I prevent these back spasms from ever happening again? This is awful!

“Doc: You’re old and fat. You can’t be younger, so be less fat.”

Holy\_plaster\_batman commented:

“My wife’s OBGYN was this young-ish Russian doctor who was actually quite accomplished and respected; I have no clue why she was practicing at this rural hospital.

“Anyway, my wife was pregnant with our son and around the 4-5 month mark we’re in an appointment and the doctor says in a thick accent, ‘Your weight gain is ... fine now. Try to stop gaining weight.’ We laughed for quite a bit at this.

“We loved this doctor as well; she was great but also didn’t fuck around. A lot of her reviews were negative due to her lack of fucks to give in regards to coddling her patients.”

kobechadwick commented, “I’ve noticed Russians are more blunt in comparison to Americans. I have a Russian co-worker, whom I adore by the way, and I’m pregnant. He didn’t realize I was around five months pregnant, and he said, ‘You used to be too skinny, then you ok. Now you need to stop eating all this food because you get a little fat.’ Then he gave me a reassuring pat on the shoulder. Lol.”

LethalPirate wrote, “I also went to see a Russian doctor with the same attitude. Everything was fine, but she told me to stop eating fast food and lose weight. ‘You’re fat and you



need to stop that.’ I won’t forget those words, but I love baked goods a lot.”

Apprehensive\_Ad\_2237 wrote, “I also had a Russian woman doctor who was very blunt about my weight. I will say that I followed her advice and lost 90 pounds, so her bluntness was pretty effective.”

Skidmark666 commented, “About 12 years ago, an ingrown hair on my nut sack got infected and made my package swell to the point of looking like an orange. That’s what I said to the doctor. When he had a look, he said, ‘Looks more like a grapefruit to me.’”

2) Epsilon\_One wrote, “One time I went in for a general checkup and my doctor said, ‘Well, everything is fine with you except for that haircut.’”

1911MG asked, “Did he give you any cream for that burn?”

3) altiif wrote:

“Doctor here and I really hate to admit this ...

“Very early in my career, I was talking to a male patient. I had to ask him about penile discharge and I just couldn’t remember what the professional way to ask was. Do I say dick? No, no. That’s not right. C’mon, think, dammit. You’re a doctor now. Wait. There’s been too long of a silence. Dong. I went with dong.”

altiif added:

“Sigh. I said, ‘So, are you having any discharge from’ — *points down there* — ‘your dong?’

“Cue pin-drop silence.”

4) mandjari wrote:

“I had a very rare complication of the flu and my nerves were getting eaten away by my immune system. I could barely walk and was numb from the waist down. By the time I was transferred to a hospital that could treat me, it was close to midnight and the doctor who admitted me was very young. I was the first person he’d seen with this condition. He kept saying how cool it was to do a neuro exam on someone who wasn’t an actor [nonprofessional actors are used in doctors’ training] and when he would see how weak I was he’d be like ‘Oh, wow, you really are weaker on that side! That’s so interesting!’

“To be fair, after twelve hours of everyone talking to me like I was going to die, I found it quite entertaining! It was unprofessional, but I appreciated his enthusiasm for learning.”<sup>99</sup>

### **100. “What’s The Kindest Gesture A Stranger Has Shown You?”**

1) mwise\_writing wrote:

“The wife and I were super poor. Like, paycheck to paycheck and playing the fun game of ‘what bills can we postpone?’ We have a new baby. We are on food stamps. Go to the store and start buying food. Cashier rings it up. We are 20 bucks over. (I’m super embarrassed as I know we have no money aside from EBT [Electronic Benefits Transfer, aka Electronic Food Stamps] and I was meticulous about adding values up to avoid this possibility. I still don’t know how I was so off.)

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<sup>99</sup> Source: Thewavesofthesea\_2, “What’s the most unprofessional thing a doctor has ever said to you?” Reddit. AskReddit. 10 May 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n94xyn/whats\\_the\\_most\\_unprofessional\\_thing\\_a\\_doctor\\_has/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n94xyn/whats_the_most_unprofessional_thing_a_doctor_has/)>.

“We start looking at the groceries, trying to establish what we are going to get rid of. I decide rather than put back small items to equal \$20, I’ll save everyone’s time and end the embarrassment sooner rather than later and just grab a high-value item. We had a pack of bacon in there. Exactly 22 bucks. (We always bought bulk. It was the cheapest way to make it last longest).

This middle-aged woman walks up to the cashier and says, ‘I’ll buy that for them.’ and then tells my wife and I that ‘she remembers being young and making it work with a baby.’

“I wish I’d gotten her name or a way to contact her. Something. I still think about that 10 years later and how kind of a gesture it was.”

2) arobotdoctor wrote:

“My father died when I was young. As soon as he passed, my mother’s best friend rallied everyone she (the friend) knew well and they set to work making sure my family was cared for. Someone from this group stopped by to check on my mom (and of course us kids) every single day, and they always brought food for all of us. My mom didn’t have to cook for at least two months, which gave her time to grieve and figure out our finances.

“We knew maybe three of the roughly two dozen women who rallied around us. For the rest, my family were essentially strangers, yet they were there for us when even our church and the vast majority of our extended family did nothing.”

3) marie-llama wrote, “When I was a kid, I was at the beach with school and I went to buy an ice cream cone, but I didn’t have enough money and this teenager next to me paid for it.”

4) incredigirl wrote, “A couple days before Christmas, Mom had just been released from the psych ward again, and

my siblings and I knew it would be another bleak holiday, at best, again. The doorbell rang after dinner one evening, must've been the 22nd or 23rd of December. My older brother answered the door and we found no one there, just a basket overflowing with winter clothes and groceries and cards. There was also a turkey, all the traditional holiday vegetables, and gift cards to the mall to get some shopping done before the big day. It's been more than 25 years and while I'm 99% sure I know who it was we never received confirmation who our Secret Santa was. But I do my best to pay it forward to the women's shelter every year."

5) soap\_bubble wrote, "I was riding a bicycle as a kid and my shoelace got tangled up with the pedal so that it tightened alongside pedaling. It got pretty tight and I had to slow down eventually to a halt and I fell down. I couldn't reach my foot to untighten it and I was too shy to ask for help from some passersby, but some old dude saw my plight and helped me. Thanks, stranger!"

Pedalinga commented, "Something like this happened to me one morning on my way to work! I had forgotten to tie up my pants on the gear side, and the leg got caught as I was starting up. It was a busy corner, I freaked out a bit, and I started to fall over. As a woman, I also was a bit frightened at being trapped in something. Out of nowhere, this guy ran up, caught me by my shoulder before I went down, did this quick spin thing on my gear and freed me — then ran away in to the crowd before I even realized what happened. I just yelled out, 'THANK YOU!'"

6) Vapur9 wrote, "Some stranger gave me a pin with the words 'I Am Loved.' Later I laughed when somebody said, 'Nobody loves you,' because I know it's not true."

7) Pedalinga wrote, "One time my boyfriend and I were between jobs, pretty broke, using the time to renovate our apartment. We had a few bucks and decided to treat

ourselves to McDonald's. We had a long discussion of what to get, nuggets vs burgers, lol, and decided on burgers. We were sitting inside, really savoring our little 'special' meal. This woman, maybe late 20s / early 30s, came over and offered us her nuggets. She was so sweet, she said she had one, but she'd also had a burger so she was full, and she was just going to throw them out otherwise. It was sad to realize ohmygod I look like the kind of person you offer food to, but it was so wonderful to know that someone was so aware and empathetic they even thought to share. I took them gladly and thanked her profusely. If I ran into her today, I'd hug her."

8) travis-singularsound wrote:

"Before I found recovery for substance use disorder, I was in the hospital detoxing. After a while, I couldn't take it anymore and I walked out, and walked down the highway until I got to a strip mall. I was so sick that I laid down in the middle of the parking lot outside of an Italian restaurant.

"After about thirty minutes, a young woman approached me and sat beside me. She handed me a piece of paper, and it was a sketch she had done of me. It was so strange to see my likeness at the lowest point in my life. It gave me some semblance of stability, just knowing that I still existed in a time when I felt like I shouldn't. She gave me water, and talked to me for an hour about what had happened to me.

"I went to treatment the next day, and I still have that picture."

9) RoyalElemental wrote:

"I was maybe 10 or something, pretty young. I was staying at a hotel with my parents that had an arcade attached. I remember going there in the early evening, and it being completely empty, except for this one teenage employee. I went in, exchanged a pound for some tokens, and started

playing. I've always been a sucker for claw machines, so I went straight for one of those.

“It had these bears inside, about the size of my torso, and I went for a white one. The claw went down, and didn't even attempt to close around it. I thought huh, must be a glitch, and tried again. Same thing happened. I gave up and went to exchange a few more pounds, except the machine didn't give me the right number of tokens, so I was left with maybe eight instead of 10.

“I went over and told the teen and he came back to the machine and opened it, and instead of giving me the two tokens I was missing, just gave me a HANDFULL of them. Not only that, while I was standing there with all my stupid tokens, he went over to the claw machine, opened it up, and gave me the bear I was trying to win. He had seen that the claw hadn't even attempted to grab the toy when I tried. Honestly, I don't remember him saying anything, and he just going back to working. I'm 20 now, and I still think back to that often. Still have the bear, too. Hope he's doing well for himself. :)”

10) Southern Snowshoe wrote, “My mother had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, but she still had access to her car (my fault). One night she set out from her apartment in search of — of all things — Kentucky Fried Chicken. She ended up some 20 miles away in a different city, hopelessly lost and confused. She stopped at a drug store to ask directions, but was basically incapable of understanding the directions they tried to give her. A Good Samaritan, a middle-aged black lady (Mom is white), overheard Mom's plight and told her to get in her car and just follow her (the Good Samaritan) because she knew exactly where she needed to be. This wonderful lady drove 20 miles out of her way on a dark Saturday night to an adjacent town to lead my mother to my house. That's exactly what she did, and Mom

got home safely to her family that night (and I took her keys away!). God bless that Good Samaritan lady. My wife mailed her a card and a little money as thank-you, but it wasn't enough. I know she didn't do it for money, but still, I wish we could have given her more. There are wonderful people in our world, and that lady is among them.”

11) squidazz wrote, “I was a nineteen-year-old jackass driving piss drunk in the wee hours in the middle of a heavy snowstorm. I got lost and slid on ice until my car was half stuck in a ditch. After failing to free the vehicle for a while, I resigned myself to spend the night there with the engine running for warmth. Two guys in the apartment on the corner witnessed my struggles and came out to invite me into their place. I immediately passed out on their couch. I woke up having to purge, so I rewarded their kindness by vomiting all over the dirty dishes piled up in their kitchen sink. In the AM with a pounding headache, I slunk out embarrassed and ashamed without so much as a goodbye or a thank you. Whoever you dudes were, I will always remember.”

12) sbashe5 wrote, “I was on my way back home, driving from Mississippi to Kentucky. I had my two youngest kids who were five and seven. Well, I blew a tire on the way. I was able to pull into a gas station but then realized I didn't have a lug wrench. The kids were getting restless as I was trying to call people when two teens walked over and said they'd help. They changed my tire lickety-split and I was on my way.”

13) PopukoMiku wrote, “I was at a concert and I made a heart sign with my hands at the band. (The band was blessthefall, by the way). The singer saw me and he gave me

the heart sign back. Not sure if this counts, but it involved gestures, clearly.”<sup>100</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> Source: invisible\_gent, “What’s the kindest gesture a stranger has shown you?” Reddit. AskReddit. 10 May 2021 <[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n9gnsf/whats\\_the\\_kindest\\_gesture\\_a\\_stranger\\_has\\_shown\\_you/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/n9gnsf/whats_the_kindest_gesture_a_stranger_has_shown_you/)>.



**APPENDIX A: FAIR USE**

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I assume these things:

Everyone wants Good Samaritans to get credit for their good deeds, and this book about Good Samaritans is a good way to do that.

People who post on Imgur and Reddit or write letters to the editors want to share their information with the world.

Credit must be given where credit is due. I definitely try to do this.

I must not make money from this book.

Light editing is OK for such things as Imgur posts, Reddit posts, and letters to the editor. I see nothing wrong with correcting an obvious misspelling.

## APPENDIX B: ABOUT THE AUTHOR

It was a dark and stormy night. Suddenly a cry rang out, and on a hot summer night in 1954, Josephine, wife of Carl Bruce, gave birth to a boy — me. Unfortunately, this young married couple allowed Reuben Saturday, Josephine’s brother, to name their first-born. Reuben, aka “The Joker,” decided that Bruce was a nice name, so he decided to name me Bruce Bruce. I have gone by my middle name — David — ever since.

Being named Bruce David Bruce hasn’t been all bad. Bank tellers remember me very quickly, so I don’t often have to show an ID. It can be fun in charades, also. When I was a counselor as a teenager at Camp Echoing Hills in Warsaw, Ohio, a fellow counselor gave the signs for “sounds like” and “two words,” then she pointed to a bruise on her leg twice. Bruise Bruise? Oh yeah, Bruce Bruce is the answer!

Uncle Reuben, by the way, gave me a haircut when I was in kindergarten. He cut my hair short and shaved a small bald spot on the back of my head. My mother wouldn’t let me go to school until the bald spot grew out again.

Of all my brothers and sisters (six in all), I am the only transplant to Athens, Ohio. I was born in Newark, Ohio, and have lived all around Southeastern Ohio. However, I moved to Athens to go to Ohio University and have never left.

At Ohio U, I never could make up my mind whether to major in English or Philosophy, so I got a bachelor’s degree with a double major in both areas, then I added a Master of Arts degree in English and a Master of Arts degree in Philosophy. Yes, I have my MAMA degree.

Currently, and for a long time to come (I eat fruits and veggies), I am spending my retirement writing books such as *Nadia Comaneci: Perfect 10*, *The Funniest People in Comedy*, *Homer’s Iliad: A Retelling in Prose*, and *William Shakespeare’s Hamlet: A Retelling in Prose*.

By the way, my sister Brenda Kennedy writes romances such as *A New Beginning* and *Shattered Dreams*.

## APPENDIX C: SOME BOOKS BY DAVID BRUCE

### Retellings of a Classic Work of Literature

*Ben Jonson's The Alchemist: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's Bartholomew Fair: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's The Devil is an Ass: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's Epicene: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's The New Inn: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's The Staple of News: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's Volpone, or the Fox: A Retelling*

*Christopher Marlowe's Complete Plays: Retellings*

*Christopher Marlowe's Dido, Queen of Carthage: A Retelling*

*Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus: Retellings of the 1604 A-Text and of the 1616 B-Text*

*Christopher Marlowe's Edward II: A Retelling*

*Christopher Marlowe's The Massacre at Paris: A Retelling*

*Christopher Marlowe's The Rich Jew of Malta: A Retelling*

*Christopher Marlowe's Tamburlaine, Parts 1 and 2: Retellings*

*Dante's Divine Comedy: A Retelling in Prose*

*Dante's Inferno: A Retelling in Prose*

*Dante's Purgatory: A Retelling in Prose*

*Dante's Paradise: A Retelling in Prose*

*The Famous Victories of Henry V: A Retelling*

*From the Iliad to the Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose of Quintus of Smyrna's Posthomerica*

*George Peele: Five Plays Retold in Modern English*

*George Peele's The Arraignment of Paris: A Retelling*

*George Peele's The Battle of Alcazar: A Retelling*

*George's Peele's David and Bathsheba, and the Tragedy of Absalom: A Retelling*

*George Peele's The Old Wives' Tale: A Retelling*

*The History of King Leir: A Retelling*

*Homer's Iliad: A Retelling in Prose*

*Homer's Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose*

*Jason and the Argonauts: A Retelling in Prose of Apollonius of Rhodes' Argonautica*

*The Jests of George Peele: A Retelling*

*John Ford: Eight Plays Translated into Modern English*

*John Ford's The Broken Heart: A Retelling*

*John Ford's The Fancies, Chaste and Noble: A Retelling*

*John Ford's The Lady's Trial: A Retelling*

*John Ford's The Lover's Melancholy: A Retelling*

*John Ford's Love's Sacrifice: A Retelling*

*John Ford's Perkin Warbeck: A Retelling*

*John Ford's The Queen: A Retelling*

*John Ford's 'Tis Pity She's a Whore: A Retelling*

*John Webster's The White Devil: A Retelling*

*King Edward III: A Retelling*

*The Merry Devil of Edmonton: A Retelling*

*Robert Greene's Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay: A Retelling*

*The Taming of a Shrew: A Retelling*

*Tarlton's Jests: A Retelling*

*The Trojan War and Its Aftermath: Four Ancient Epic Poems*

*Virgil's Aeneid: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 5 Late Romances: Retellings in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 10 Histories: Retellings in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 11 Tragedies: Retellings in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 12 Comedies: Retellings in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 38 Plays: Retellings in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 1 Henry IV, aka Henry IV, Part 1: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 2 Henry IV, aka Henry IV, Part 2: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 1 Henry VI, aka Henry VI, Part 1: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 2 Henry VI, aka Henry VI, Part 2: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 3 Henry VI, aka Henry VI, Part 3: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's All's Well that Ends Well: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's As You Like It: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Coriolanus: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Cymbeline: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Hamlet: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Henry V: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Henry VIII: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's King John: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's King Lear: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Love's Labor's Lost: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Macbeth: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Measure for Measure: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's The Merry Wives of Windsor: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Othello: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Pericles, Prince of Tyre: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Richard II: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Richard III: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's The Tempest: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Timon of Athens: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's The Two Gentlemen of Verona: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's The Two Noble Kinsmen: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale: A Retelling in Prose*

### **Other Fiction**

*Candide's Two Girlfriends (Adult)*

*Honey Badger Goes to Hell — and Heaven*

*I Want to Die — Or Fight Back*

*The Erotic Adventures of Candide (Adult)*

### **Children's Biography**

*Nadia Comaneci: Perfect Ten*

### **Personal Finance**

*How to Manage Your Money: A Guide for the Non-Rich*

### **Anecdote Collections**

*250 Anecdotes About Opera*

*250 Anecdotes About Religion*

*250 Anecdotes About Religion: Volume 2*

*250 Music Anecdotes*

*Be a Work of Art: 250 Anecdotes and Stories*

*The Coolest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Coolest People in the Arts: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Coolest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Coolest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes*

*Create, Then Take a Break: 250 Anecdotes*

*Don't Fear the Reaper: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Books, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Books, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Dance: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Families: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Families, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Families, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes*



*The Funniest People in Families, Volume 4: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People in Families, Volume 5: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People in Families, Volume 6: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People in Music: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People in Music, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People in Music, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People in Neighborhoods: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People in Relationships: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People in Sports, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People in Television and Radio: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People in Theater: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Funniest People Who Live Life, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds, Volume 1: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*  
*Maximum Cool: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Most Interesting People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Most Interesting People in Politics and History: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Most Interesting People in Politics and History, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Most Interesting People in Politics and History, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Most Interesting People in Religion: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Most Interesting People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes*  
*The Most Interesting People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Most Interesting People Who Live Life, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*

*Reality is Fabulous: 250 Anecdotes and Stories*

*Resist Psychic Death: 250 Anecdotes*

*Seize the Day: 250 Anecdotes and Stories*