

***Be Kind and Be Useful:***  
***Volume 4***  
**David Bruce**



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Note: Yes, many of 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.

**Educate Yourself**

**Read Like a Wolf Eats**

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**Be Excellent to Each Other**

**Books Then, Books Now, Books Forever**

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## Chapter 1: Questions 1-20

### 1. “What’s Your Happy Story Of Meeting A Celebrity?”

jerk\_store\_manager wrote:

“Met the cast of *Letterkenny* [Canadian TV series] at their show in Chicago two summers ago. My buddy got us the VIP tickets to meet them, but we didn’t know the Meet and Greet was before the show, so we tried to see if we could get something figured out, to no success. Finally my wife created a Twitter account just to tweet about what happened and some random girl private-messaged me about meeting the cast after the show. [...] Long story short, turned out to not be a prank and Jared Keeso and Co. are some of the nicest people I’ve ever met. They took the time to actually talk to us and made sure we walked out with good pictures. He said once he saw the tweet he told the rest of them they had to do something about it.

“No celebrity encounter will ever top that for me.”<sup>1</sup>

### 2. “What Was The Local Scary Story Told To You When You Were Growing Up?”

Rogue\_Patriot13 wrote:

“We have an Indian reservation behind our land, but in the buffer zone between our land and theirs were two abandoned houses. As a kid I would hear the weirdest shit coming from those houses and my parents led me to believe it was native American spirits and ancestors watching over their borders

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<sup>1</sup> Source: chazzybeats, “What’s your most exciting story of meeting a B-list celebrity?” Reddit. AskReddit. 9 August 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p16spl/whats\\_your\\_most\\_exciting\\_story\\_of\\_meeting\\_a\\_blist/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p16spl/whats_your_most_exciting_story_of_meeting_a_blist/) >.

and making sure no one but blood-born natives could pass and they would torment anyone going on their land.

“My ancestors are from Scandinavia and we are a pagan / neo-Norse family so these beliefs run strong amongst ourselves in our own culture, and so news this absolutely terrified me. I literally felt like I was living in some modern-day version of M. Night Shyamalan’s *The Village*.

“It turns out I was and it was all bullshit ... those were trap houses [houses where illegal drugs were sold], and my parents just didn’t want me to go near them.

“I learned the truth when my native buddies went to take me to a traditional pow wow and I was adamant they ask their ancestors for permission to allow me on their land. After they stopped laughing themselves to death, it was pretty much the talk of the pow wow.

“Their chief personally thanked me for at least showing respect to their culture and even inquired about mine. We pointed out similarities in our beliefs and even joked about how our ancestors would have probably gotten along just like this. He blessed me and to this day I get the side joke from some of the tribe members who remember me from when I was a kid.

“They even gave me a Native American name. I don’t remember how to pronounce it, but it roughly means ‘Cautious Warrior.’”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Daven25, “What was the local scary story told to you when you were growing up?” Reddit. AskReddit. 9 August 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p1b75n/what\\_was\\_the\\_local\\_scary\\_story\\_told\\_to\\_you\\_when/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p1b75n/what_was_the_local_scary_story_told_to_you_when/) >.

### 3. “Smart Bilingual People Of Reddit, What’s An Idea For Making Income?”

AjdeBrePicko wrote:

“I’ll give you a serious answer that worked well for me. Goes for people learning or who know a second language.

- Find some public domain books, translate them. You now have rights over the translation.
- Get it into a library.
- Profit.

“Works really well if you’re from an obscure part of the world undergoing political turmoil (Georgia, Armenia, Ex-Yugoslavia) that has been talked about in the media the past 30 years. University students will need primary sources, and there is a lack of supply.”

AjdeBrePicko added:

“My story:

“I translated the works of Vuk Karadzic from Serbian to English. (It’s like the brothers Grimm for us.) Someone picked up on it because of the turmoil in my home country.

“You have the turmoil (Castille-Leon, Catalonia, Basque). You have to find public domain works that haven’t been translated in a while, something like a memoir of how people lived in the Republic during the Spanish civil war, for example.

“Then, you go to all the major publishing companies, and you get rejected. (You will, I guarantee it, though I hope not, worth a shot.)

“Then you self-publish, but make sure you do it properly, have an ISBN.

“And then, you’re from Spain / Latin America, I assume, I’m going to use Spain as an example because I know it, you tell your friends to reference your translation in their assignments regarding Spain, which you give them a free copy of, primary source and what not. They have to be in an American / Canadian / Australian / yadda university. Do it with at least ten people, the more the better. The odds of one professor picking up on it are quite high (believe it or not).

“Once they pick up on it, you have an in with the library of whatever university. You’ll actually get contacted from them, not the other way around. You’d be surprised how much they’re dying for primary sources in English, even from Spanish sources.

“You sell your book [a physical copy] to a library for >\$200 a copy. Once you sell one to one university, they will all want it.”<sup>3</sup>

#### **4. “What’s The Deepest Interaction You’ve Had With A Total Stranger That You Haven’t Forgotten?”**

1) Bluedogan wrote:

“The year was 2012. Orlando. Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios. I was waiting in the line to enter the Silent Hill haunted house. Anyway, this line kind of intertwined with the line at a different haunted house. When you made it to one side of the queue, you were standing against the line of a different house.

“Anyway I make it to that one side. By myself all alone. This girl in that other line said, ‘Hey.’ I look over and she says, ‘You look like you need a hug.’ I say, ‘What?’ She says,

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<sup>3</sup> Source: Kenneth0233, “Smart people of reddit, whats your best ideas for passive income?” Reddit. AskReddit. 9 August 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p1g9lq/smart\\_people\\_of\\_reddit\\_whats\\_your\\_best\\_ideas\\_for/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p1g9lq/smart_people_of_reddit_whats_your_best_ideas_for/)>.

‘You need a hug.’ She reached out. I hugged her. It was comforting and awesome. She just smiled and said, ‘Something told me you needed that.’ The guy with her laughed. I walked away.

“Now later in life with a failed marriage. And depression. I think of the girl. The one who cared enough to hug me. Even though at that point in life nothing was really very wrong.”

mfkent99 commented:

“Damn, I know us guys don’t always get attention like that, so I know you cherish it.

“I know that me from a couple years ago would want to steal this interaction from you, but I have a girlfriend now, so I don’t really need it.

“I’m glad this memory is a glowing orb of positivity for you, man.”

Bluedogan responded, “It’s something to hold onto. I mean I got married. Had 17 good years. Kids. There have been highs and lows. Just the hug has always stuck with me because the randomness and kindness. I didn’t earn or deserve it. It was given out of kindness.”

2) Pengroves wrote:

“Eating breakfast at a local diner and some older woman came in and sat next to me and ordered a cup of coffee. It turns out she was waiting for her bus to get to work.

“The diner had some documentary on the TV about baby birds that just hatched in a nest on the side of a cliff. The documentary began discussing how the baby birds would need to jump out of the nest in order to learn how to fly or something like that.



“Well, one of the baby birds jumped out of the nest and began smacking against the side of the cliff as it was falling, just completely unable to fly yet. This actually caught the attention of most of the patrons at the diner because it was so shocking and kinda sad. You could sense the distress as the baby bird hit new cliff ledges as it fell — it was awful.

“Eventually, the baby bird hits the ground and is actually alive and no fucking joke a fox runs in from off frame and eats the baby bird on the spot.

“The entire diner freaked out and people were screaming to turn it off. The bartender started to change the channel but not before more baby birds started jumping out of the nest. It was so traumatic, people just sitting there, awkwardly laughing, super uncomfortable. It was a whole scene, and I will never forget it.

“Edit: Oh, yeah, sweet old lady. We chatted for a while, and we bonded over our shared trauma.”

3) TheBoozehound wrote:

“When I was like 24, I was working at a large video rental chain. I was organizing a display on a busy night and a dude comes in a full white work outfit. He was dressed like a professional house painter. We get to chatting and the convo [conversation] turns semi-religious. He talked about some friends of his who died abruptly in a car crash and generalized it out to more of a point that you never know when your time is up, so we have to live a good, honest, empathetic life. It was a deep convo. As we wrapped the interaction up, we exchanged names, and he said, ‘My name’s Peter, but my friends call me Saint Peter.’ And then he left the store. Didn’t rent or even peruse around for a movie. Just walked out.

“I’m not a religious dude at all, I consider myself largely agnostic. But the interaction has stuck with me for years after

because of that little thought that if there is a God, and if at moments throughout our lives He tries to connect and put us on the right path, that interaction was it.”

4) VanillaGuy34 wrote, “Fifteen years ago, I was on my first solo travel trip and I was walking along the pavement of this quiet residential area in Bangkok and it started raining heavily and this man with an umbrella who must have been walking behind me was suddenly at my side and we shared his umbrella for a few blocks and neither of us said anything because we didn’t speak each other’s languages and then when we parted ways we both smiled at each other and I remember thinking that this man’s lovely, kind soul was visible both in his actions and his smile.”

5) Mushypeasmintsauce wrote, “On a train from London to Paris Eurostar, I sat opposite an elegantly attired older lady and we got talking about where we were travelling to. The lady was very classy and eloquently spoken. Proceeded to tell me she was on the way to her niece’s wedding in Paris and told me that the groom was a wet blanket as his mother was demanding the first dance with her son (before the bride). I looked shocked and said, ‘No way!’ ‘Elegant posh lady replied, ‘Yes, way, and I FUCKING HATE HER.’ Never laughed so hard. We wished each other well as we parted ways. (Funniest and most candid, maybe not deepest interaction, but there you go.)”

6) kendappa wrote:

“Once I took my cat that I had recently adopted to get his vaccinations. While he was waiting his turn, a woman arrived with a Labrador retriever, then she hugged him and started crying. We were both alone at the reception, since the other employees were in consultation, so I asked him why she was like this. She told me that her dog was more than 10 years old but already had cancer and although they had tried everything to help him, his quality of life had deteriorated a

lot and today was the day the vet was going to euthanize him, but she did not have the courage to accompany him in his last moments but she didn't want that he went through it alone.

“Her dog didn't make any noise; her dog just let her hug. I began to talk to her, to tell her that surely her dog was happy and grateful for all the good life she gave him and for how much he did to extend her life and no matter what choice she made he would accept it and he would forgive her. I told her about the rainbow bridge, something that where I live is not a known story and I learned by reading here in Reddit. I sat next to her, stroking her back and managed to calm her down. Then the receptionist from the vet came in, recognized her and spoke to her first. Her appointment was on another floor, so I saw her go up to her office, lifting her dog in silence. I went to another consultation with my cat. When leaving, I did not meet her again.

“It has been more than 13 years ago, and now that my cat is older, although now he is healthy and very well for her age, I inevitably think about her and how sooner or later I go through her same situation.”

7) Idle\_Threats wrote:

“Complete stranger at a rave party. Place was packed and you could barely move. She got pushed up against me in the crowd and I hugged her to keep her from falling. Our eyes met and we just started kissing. Zero verbal communication at first. Just passion. I dunno, I felt like I had known her for decades. Her eyes held the stars. For her apparently I was the nameless satisfaction she desperately needed, and finally satiated.

“We left immediately. Talked and laid around naked for three days straight. No phones, we had turned them off. It was amazing. It was perfect. She had to go home, though, so

I took her to the airport after she calmed her panicked friends down. Had a lovely, lovely kiss goodbye and some kinky sex in a bathroom.

“Never saw or heard from her again. Been almost 14 years since then. [...] I hope she’s happy wherever she is.”<sup>4</sup>

## 5. “What Is A Prank That Got Taken Too Far?”

PastorLewis wrote:

“When I was young as, probably like eight or nine, I thought it’d be hilarious to hide from my family (mum, two brothers, two sisters), in the house. The best place I could think of was under mum’s bed.

“In the beginning, it was hilarious, five people all trying to find me, trying not to laugh as to give my position away, You could start to hear my mum getting more and more upset, which made my brothers and sisters upset. Still funny. Next thing I know, Mum is bawling her eyes out, screaming my name, just super upset, as you would be if your eight-year-old son suddenly vanished. I thought, ‘Now I’m gonna be in trouble. I’m staying right here.’ About five minutes later, she comes in sits on her bed and says, ‘I’m the worst mother ever,’ as she picks up the phone to call the police. It was then I realized I had fucked up bad and slid out from under her bed.

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<sup>4</sup> Source: ZombieBoy98, “What’s the deepest interaction you’ve had with a total stranger that you haven’t forgotten?” Reddit. AskReddit. 11 August 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p2hstv/whats\\_the\\_deepest\\_interaction\\_youve\\_had\\_with\\_a/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p2hstv/whats_the_deepest_interaction_youve_had_with_a/)>.

“But, I don’t think she has ever been so happy to see me, before or since, and gave me the best hug ever. So at least there was a silver lining.”<sup>5</sup>

## 6. “What Is The Most Damage You’ve Ever Done With A Typo?”

1) AdeptAdapter wrote, “G and t are very close on the keyboard and for this reason ‘regards’ is not my favorite email closing.”

Johnny\_Appleweed commented:

“Used to sign off all of my emails with ‘Regards.’ Then I made this mistake.

“I just use ‘Thanks’ or ‘Best’ now.”

SymphonyForTheDevil commented, “Someone at work called a Ms. Moran a Moron by mistake.”

alittlebitmental commented, “Is that because that someone cunt spell?”

solongamerica commented, “I taught briefly at CUNY (City University of New York) and realized that if you mistype CUNY in emails it becomes CUNT.”

alittlebitmental responded, “Lol, ‘Cuny’ pretty much means the same thing in the UK!”

2) vacabi wrote, “Asked a vendor if they can ship out an urgent order the same day, except p in ‘ship’ turned into a t.”

3) smokehidesstars wrote:

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<sup>5</sup> Source: SomeActivity 247, “What is a prank that got taken to far?” Reddit. AskReddit. 14 August 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p44z6v/what\\_is\\_a\\_prank\\_that\\_got\\_taken\\_to\\_far/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p44z6v/what_is_a_prank_that_got_taken_to_far/) >.

“I used to work for a museum booking group visits and educational programs for tour companies and schools.

“I was working on a reservation and they had only told me how many students were in the group, but I also needed the number of adults. So, I sent an email to the teacher:

“‘Hello \*teachername\*, we’ll also need to know approximately how many sluts will be visiting from your school.’

“Luckily, they had a sense of humor:

“‘Not sure how many of us are sluts, but if you meant ‘adults,’ it’s going to be around eight or 10.’”<sup>6</sup>

## 7. “What’s A Scam You Fell For?”

StoolToad wrote:

“At the start of college one year when everyone was moving into houses in the usual shitty but affordable part of a college town, a guy walked up to us and said he can get us free HBO, he’d just take \$20, he knew a guy.

“We’re like, ‘Cool.’ He takes out his cell phone, walks a few steps away out of earshot, says to check our TV, we go, and lo and behold, HBO! We give him \$20 and he walks away.

“A week later, it was gone. The dude just called HBO for some free trial week. He must have hit up every college kid moving in that day and made bank.”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Source: DoesntUnderstands, “What is the most damage you’ve ever done with a typo?” Reddit. AskReddit. 19 August 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p7ewxx/what\\_is\\_the\\_most\\_damage\\_youve\\_ever\\_done\\_with\\_a/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p7ewxx/what_is_the_most_damage_youve_ever_done_with_a/)>.

<sup>7</sup> Source: pissgf, “What’s the most elaborate scam you fell for?” Reddit. AskReddit. 19 August 2021 <

## 8. What Would You Say To Someone Who Says, ‘Money Can’t Buy Happiness?’”

1) KatEyes1990 wrote, “Poverty can’t buy anything.”

BigPickleKAM wrote:

“I’ve been poor and now I’m fairly well off.

“When I went from under \$15k a year and surviving off the grace of friends and family to \$30k a year my happiness more than doubled. In fact, my increase in happiness was not calculable. I had food, shelter, and a handed-down Xbox. A full belly and somewhere warm to sleep.

“I now gross well over \$120k a year, and I might be twice as happy as I was when I settled into my \$30k a year lifestyle. For a time while I worked like a dog to change careers and had zero social life, I was not happy at all.

“I think money can buy you out of misery, but it can’t buy you into happiness.”

act5312 commented, “It’s true, the biggest satisfaction is when you have enough that you can stop stressing 24/7 about money. Buying a nicer car or a new toy is great, but there’s nothing as nice as not worrying constantly.”

nylockian commented, “I think one of the really nice things is to be able to feel like you’re a successful person. Like you can go to a high school reunion and be excited. A lot of people don’t talk about these things, but it’s all part of it.”<sup>8</sup>

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[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p7dack/whats\\_the\\_most\\_elaborate\\_scam\\_you\\_fell\\_for/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p7dack/whats_the_most_elaborate_scam_you_fell_for/) >.

<sup>8</sup> Source: LazyHippo4, “What would you say to someone who says ‘money can’t buy happiness?’” Reddit. AskReddit. 20 August 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p88drn/what\\_would\\_you\\_say\\_to\\_someone\\_who\\_says\\_money\\_cant/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p88drn/what_would_you_say_to_someone_who_says_money_cant/) >.

## 9. “What’s One Thing You’re Always Willing To Pay The Extra Price For?”

Bicameral\_vtec wrote:

“Motorcycle helmets.

“You don’t need the most expensive helmet, but you should pay what it takes to get something with a decent certification (SNELL\*, ECE, FIM) and not just DOT. Some technologies like MIPS are also well worth the extra spend.”

Dookieie commented, “Everyone made fun of me when I got my Shoei helmet because of the cost and them saying I don’t need it and that I was paying for equipment that was made for racing. Sure enough a lady pulled out in front of me and I ended up in her backseat. Helmet saved my brain from going mashed potatoes. All my friends have Shoei helmets now.”

Blenderhead36 commented, “That’s the thing about safety equipment. You need it work only once, but man, you *really* need it to work that one time.”

Miraclefish commented:

“I was a motorcycle journalist and tester in the UK for magazines. I got invited to Amsterdam to visit Arai’s European research and testing location and to see how the helmets are made, tested, and improved.

“I’ve personally taken an Arai helmet shell (with nothing inside) and jumped up and down on it sideways and top to bottom. It didn’t crack or crush.

“They also took an Arai helmet and dropped it three times one after the other onto a metal ball, with a head-weight inside it and lots of G sensors. Three times that helmet fell 3m onto a metal ball and absorbed enough energy to make it a very survivable impact.



“So did the cheap alternative helmets they let us test it on. The first time. At some angles.

“I used to buy, and then choose to test (free in return for coverage) Arai and Shoei helmets. After that experience I’d seen firsthand why you pay the extra for a good crash helmet.

“In my experience, Arai, Shoei, Shark, BMW, Caberg and Nolan/X-Lite are among the only ones I’ll either trust to wear or recommend.”

laeiryn commented, “One day while alone my stepdad got knocked off and shredded through the elbow of his leather jacket; the leather went instead of his flesh, so there was only a wee bit of scrape on the skin, rather than down to the fucking bone.”<sup>9</sup>

## **10. “When Did You Ever Console A Random Woman Who Was Crying In A Public Space?”**

1) bakemeoffapiece wrote:

“I’ve done it a bunch of times for women / girls in bathrooms (work, clubs, school) and a bunch at work (but sort of secluded areas of work like empty offices or back rooms), and a few times on the street.

“However I will never forget the elderly lady who sat next to me, gave me tissues, and held my hand while my mother was dying in a hospital Emergency Room, and I had to stay in the waiting area.

“She never spoke to me, I don’t know her name, and she held my hand for over an hour before my sibling arrived at the

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<sup>9</sup> Source: biancalin, “what’s one thing you’re always willing to pay the extra price for?” Reddit. AskReddit. 20 August 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p7xluj/whats\\_one\\_thin\\_g\\_youre\\_always\\_willing\\_to\\_pay\\_the/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/p7xluj/whats_one_thin_g_youre_always_willing_to_pay_the/)>.

hospital. She's probably the only thing that stopped me from full out screaming hysterics and she will never know how important it was because I needed to keep my head to make decisions and give information."

2) whytewyrm wrote, "Yes, once. I was on lunch at McDonald's when a girl in the parking lot got out of her car hysterically screaming, collapsing on the ground, running around to the front of her car saying what I thought was 'No, no, no, it's dead.' I thought she had hit a dog. She got in her car and put it into gear still screaming crying. I went up to her and asked her if she was okay and realized there was nothing in front of her vehicle. She told me she was just informed her sister is dead; she and her mom were both in the car. She was in the process of leaving the lot when I talked her into letting me park her car in a parking space because otherwise she could hurt herself or someone else on the road without meaning to. Out of the maybe 30 people in that lot (it was lunchtime), only one man and I stopped to help her. Everyone else was beeping / screaming at her to move. I walked to each of those people and told them the situation and to have some fucking compassion. The other guy called the police and they came to console her. It was really fucking sad, and I still get misty-eyed when I think of her. I pass that McDonald's every day and it makes me wonder where she is and how she's doing."

3) bcoftyheimplication wrote, "I used to work at a bank, and a woman who came in for something totally normal just started randomly crying. She told us how she just found out her husband was cheating on her with her best friend. :( I was only 19, so when I went around to give her a hug and comfort her, my advice was not the best. Lol. It was just your standard 'Forget them! Men are trash, they're both trash! You deserve better!' But sometimes you just need a pep talk. I think about her sometimes, I hope she cut them both off and sailed off into the sunset."

4) Old-Necessary1400 wrote, “Switch the wording ... one time I was in a low period of my life and went to my stoop and smoked a cigarette at 3am ... this random guy stopped and talked to me. I told him I was depressed and he stood a safe distance from me but consoled me. Never knew his name. But I remember that moment. He helped me. Complete stranger just let me vent and cry about my depression.”

5) ImaginaryBookomatic wrote, “The time I remember most clearly I was on the bus into town from my college campus and a woman who got on a few stops after me looking troubled just slowly descended into uncontrollable sobs. Like, you could see her trying to hold it together and she just couldn’t. And everybody was like looking away from her or even moving seats further away which made me mad. So I got up and sat right next to her and offered her a tissue and asked if she was safe and if she needed to talk about it and offered a hug. And she told me how her brother was considering going into the military and she was so scared for him and he was so young. (This was right after 9/11 and Bush had just declared ‘The War on Terror.’) She was a lot calmer and even smiling when she got off. I didn’t do or say anything special; I just listened and showed basic kindness. And it was a brief interaction because she was going only a few stops away. I’m still kinda salty that everybody was clearly annoyed with her instead of worried about her on that bus, but I’m glad I was there that day so *somebody* showed her some decency.”

6) BlackWidow1414 wrote, “Never for me, but I’ve seen it happen in ladies’ rooms in restaurants and bars. Tissues come out of purses, other women cluster around the one who’s crying, and they all make consoling comments and soothing noises. It sounds very movie-cliché, but I swear it’s a cliché that actually happens.”

7) EmilyamI wrote:

“I stopped to check on a woman in a bar bathroom once. She was absolutely *sobbing*. Crazy ugly crying, trying to catch her breath, whole nine.

“I’m super introverted and had to talk myself up to it, but I was like, ‘Are you okay? Do you need help?’ when I was washing my hands.

“Turns out she was just *super* drunk and watched a gif of kittens that was so heartwarming it made her cry. One of her friends came in right after she managed to tell me between gasps. ‘Angie, you drunk-ass whore, I love you. Is it kittens again?’ and forced a bottle of water into her hands and started mopping up her running makeup.”

8) tuttipeachyfrutti wrote:

“I once saw a young woman crying on the tube, I got out when she did and asked her if she’d like a hug. We hugged for a long time. I asked if she was safe and had somewhere to sleep, she said ‘yes’ and ‘thank you.’ Then I walked back down to the platform to catch the next train and carried on my journey.

“I think about her from time to time. I hope she’s OK now.”

9) ga\_bree wrote:

“Two stories:

- About a month ago, I was driving back home on a six-hour drive with my 17-month-old son. He was teething really badly and I think he was sick. He also does horrible being away from home. I was mentally in a bad place because I was fresh out of a cast on my ankle from ankle surgery so I’m not walking well, in a lot of pain, traveling with a toddler who wouldn’t stop screaming if he was awake. About four hours into this car ride and hours of crying, I started

screaming and crying back, yelling in the car. I pulled over at a random McDonald's to change his diaper and try to gather my composure. There were no changing tables in the restroom. He was screaming while I was using the restroom. I lost it again and was crying uncontrollably. I came out of the stall and a woman (who was clearly a mom) consoled me and talked me down from a literal panic attack. The rest of the ride was smooth.

- Last weekend I met a friend at a restaurant for my birthday lunch. I got there before she did so I went to the restroom. There was a waitress in there trying to gather herself. You can tell she had been crying. I just tried to talk calmly to her; she didn't want to talk about what was going on though. She ended up being my waitress. I tipped her well."

10) Namada88 wrote, "Any and every drunk girl crying in a bar / club bathroom, because nothing ignites GIRL POWER like alcohol and a bathroom. I will hug you, talk shit about your man, tell you you're beautiful, adopt you, bring you back to my table, become your best friend, and never remember your name."

11) Old-Owl4199 wrote, "I was in my senior year of college and saw a girl crying in an alleyway in the downtown section of our town. I asked the guys in my group to stay on that side of the street, and the other girl in our group and I went over and sat with her asking what was wrong. She was a freshman who had moved in that week, her dorm friends convinced her to go out that night, it was her birthday, they left the party to go to another one while she was in the bathroom, she didn't know anyone else at the party but one of the guys hosting the party had let her use his phone to call her mom, but she was waiting outside for her. I let her call her mom from my phone and it turned out she was lost and panicking and circling downtown looking for her and we sat with her until her mom finally found us around 30 minutes later."

12) mangomadness wrote, “I drove past a woman who had been in a minor accident with a dump truck while I was out picking up lunch one day. She was standing in the middle of the road, crying, talking to the truck driver, so I pulled my car in front of hers, got out, and asked if she was okay. The truck driver was on the phone with his employer (he’d already called the police), so I walked the poor woman back to her car and tried to calm her down. People were driving by, HONKING and YELLING at her, but nobody stopped to check on her or comfort her except me. I stayed until she assured me she would be okay, and I left.”

13) GlitteringEarth\_ wrote, “I arrived at a grocery store. A young mother was trying to get her screaming toddler to the car and buckled in the car seat. Her cart was empty and the mom was close to tears. She hadn’t been able to buy ANYTHING. Obviously a toddler meltdown. I asked her if she needed a hug. She nodded, ‘Yes,’ and burst into tears. I stayed with her for a few minutes (toddler still screaming) and told her, ‘It gets better. This age is a tough one. You’re doing fine.’ She was grateful and seemed to calm down. Older women (like me) need to support younger women. Just being held can bring back some calm. Experience matters.”

14) ramence wrote:

“Oh, god, this happened two days ago and I’m still conflicted about it. Walked past an alleyway with a young woman, maybe in her early twenties, absolutely *bawling*. Like really deep, heartbreaking sobs.

“Now this city, and in particular the area I was in, has a HUGE problem with drugs and crime — I’d say maybe 2/3rds of the people you walk by on the street are homeless, mentally ill, and / or addicts (and some are pretty hostile). I stopped and wanted to go console her. My partner said no, leave it, it’s not safe. We went back-and-forth a few times before I bit the bullet and walked up to her.

“I asked her if she was okay, but she kept sobbing and didn’t reply. I then noticed the syringes hanging out of her bag, track marks all over her arms, etc. I didn’t want to risk freaking her out and having her stab me with a used syringe or something, but also wanted to make sure she was okay. Asked if she was okay again, no reply. Boyfriend told me we need to go, so I said, ‘Okay, I think you want to be left alone, and I’m going to go unless you tell me you need help.’

“I left her sobbing in that alley, and still don’t know how to feel about it. Maybe she was just having a bad trip. Maybe she’d just been assaulted. I don’t know what I should have done. Called someone — who? I don’t know. Boyfriend told me I was naïve and reckless for going up to her; best friend said he wouldn’t have, either, and he’s this massive dude. Maybe I shouldn’t have done anything.”

15) palindromer03 wrote, “Yes. One time I was on a run around my home city (big East coast city) and this woman stopped me, near to tears, trying to find her hotel. She showed me the hotel name, and it wasn’t that far, and I tried to explain until I quickly realized she spoke zero English. So I motioned for her to follow up me and I walked her there. It was pretty much silent due to the language barrier (she spoke Portuguese and a little French, and I had taken basic French six years ago), but I showed her to the hotel and she gave me a hug. From our broken French conversation, it was my understanding she was there at some kind of hospital nurses meeting.”<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Source: Censordoll, “When did you ever console a random woman who was crying in a public space?” Reddit. AskWomen. 23 August 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/paa5uf/when\\_did\\_you\\_ever\\_console\\_a\\_random\\_woman\\_who\\_was/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/paa5uf/when_did_you_ever_console_a_random_woman_who_was/)>.

## 11. “Time To Get Creative! NOT Including Death, What Would You Wish On Your Worst Enemy?”

Squaregogh wrote, “Personal growth and a sense of empathy.”

hytarx\_23 commented, “I think we have a winner.”<sup>11</sup>

## 12. “What’s That One Embarrassing Moment That Keeps Coming Back To Haunt You?”

1) UnsolicitedCounsel wrote, “So I was interviewing for a job in the bio-industry early on in my career and it was a panel interview with about 10 people. They asked me what would set me apart from other candidates, so I went into the normal spiel about being a fast learner and easily cross-training in multiple areas. As soon as I said, that one of the guys laughed and a few jaws dropped and I quickly realized that instead of saying cross-training, I said cross-dressing. What sets me apart from other candidates? Cross-dressing. I did not get the job.”

lesllle commented, “You’ve just reminded me of the time that I said ‘twerk’ instead of ‘tweak’ (as in to adjust) during an interview. Also did not get the job.”

2) General\_Weakness5746 wrote:

“My mom threw me a graduation party. She had the party in the community room of the local rescue squad and had a table full of food.

“No one came. Most of the people she invited were fellow graduates so they had their own thing going on. We gave the

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<sup>11</sup> Source: only\_norj, “Time to get creative! NOT including death, what would you wish on your worst enemy?” Reddit. AskReddit. 25 August 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pbajjb/time\\_to\\_get\\_creative\\_not\\_including\\_death\\_what/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pbajjb/time_to_get_creative_not_including_death_what/) >.



food to the rescue squad people. I mostly felt horrible for my mom. Just writing this story made me feel like shit and it has been 25 years since this happened.”

Fabulous\_Title commented, “That was my worst fear when throwing my four-year-old his first birthday party. The RELIEF when the first few people came. I’m sorry that happened to you.”

HyFinated wrote:

“I have three kids. We really invite only family to birthday parties. Then we schedule a play date with the best friends that they ask for. Unless you live in suburbia, it’s hard to get all of the families of their friends to come over on a weekend. They all have things they have to do and like 20% can actually show up. We fixed that by doing one to several play dates, depending on the kids’ schedules. We usually take them to the trampoline park or something like that. And their families are happy to get a little break and let us take care of them for a bit. It’s a win-win.

“It has worked out great for us. My kids look forward to the one-on-one time with their friends more than a bunch of people singing ‘Happy Birthday.’ Though they still get that from the family party.”

tri-trii commented, “I feel this. Not graduation, but my 18th birthday party My parents went all out, made loads of food, bought loads of booze, and one person showed. One. And my parents didn’t exactly have the money to go to waste on all of that. I felt terrible for them as well as for myself.”

3) TheSkooterStick wrote, “Freezing up in the middle of a best man’s speech. My brain just went completely blank. I had never had a problem with stage fright before, so it caught me off guard and made it worse.”

trajectory commented:

“When I gave the groom’s speech at my own wedding, I had a close call of that sort. I’d run the short speech through my head countless times, but the instant I stood in front of the mic my mind went completely blank. And I mean completely — the sort of brain vacuum where a fly can enter one ear, do a lap of honour, and exit triumphantly from the other ear without anything slowing it down.

“It felt like I stared at the crowd for an endless time before the first words of my speech came to me. Once I got started, everything flowed as normal and the speech went well. To the audience, apparently, it felt like the usual dramatic pause / gathering of thoughts before a speech, so no-one noticed anything weird ... but to me it was an endless eternity of social terror.”

welluasked commented, “This is me but ordering food.”

peacekipper responded:

“In sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.’

“Sir, this is McDonald’s.”

4) zugzwanggg wrote:

“I was at the airport one time and during the security check in, one of the TSA [Transportation Security Administration] people stuck his hand out in front of me. I proceeded to give him a high five, thinking he’s trying to be friendly only to realize that he meant for me to wait in line ...

“Feeling redfaced thinking about it right now.”

Kenjamine commented, “I did something similar at an airport. I’d handed my passport to the passport control guy and he stuck his hand through again. I was so tired and I’d already handed over the thing he wanted, so I just decided he wanted to shake hands, so that’s what I did. He actually

wanted my boarding pass. Thankfully he found it hilarious and stood up to introduce himself properly.”

5) ChampaDillo wrote:

“When I was in grade eight, we had to give a presentation on a Greek God.

“I chose to do my project on Zeus.

“However, I was nervous and for some reason referred to him as Zesus (Jesus with a Z).

“The presentation was like eight minutes long and I said it wrong countless times.

“It wasn’t until I finished the presentation a kid asked, ‘You do know it’s pronounced Zeus, right?’”

6) m3rc4d3r wrote, “Went to the urinal to take a piss before a c-level meeting and tried to squeeze out a fart and shit myself. I had to clean up in a stall and call in sick from the bathroom. I exited the building out a back fire exit.”

fabricated\_anecdotes commented, “Did you know that when you say ‘poop,’ your mouth makes the same shape your asshole would.”

BootyThunder commented, “Yours got me! It’s ok, I queefed the longest queef that ever was queefed when I was in the middle of a quiet café / study area on my college campus. The look of disbelief on the group of boys nearby is seared into my memory. The look was of uncertainty about whether this was really happening and whether or not it was ok to laugh. The answer unfortunately was yes, and also yes. I don’t think I went back there for the rest of my college career.”

I\_am\_not\_the responded, “It reminded me of a Redditor who said he searched what ‘queef’ was. After he had a

presentation to make in front of several people and they saw the projection of his computer screen with search tab about ‘Queef.’”

7) SignificantBoot7180 wrote, “I was taking a bus home from the beach years ago. When I got close to my stop, I walked to the front of the bus, so I would be ready to get off. I was wearing a denim skirt that was a bit loose, but I had been wearing it all day without a problem. Well, the denim had gotten a little wet at the beach, which made it heavier, and it sort of stretched out a bit while I sat during this two-hour bus ride. So, as I’m standing in the front of this crowded bus, with my hands full of my belongings, I can feel my skirt begin to slide down. I didn’t have any hands free to grab it, and nothing to lean against to hold it up, so it fell all the way to the floor. The passengers around me just stared as if they were in shock. (This was pre-everyone glued to their phone days.) I stood there in my granny panties, wanting to cry, but I started laughing like a maniac instead. I must have looked like a total nutjob. I stopped wearing skirts after that. Dresses are safer!”

8) Dawn-of-the-Ginger wrote, “When I was 13, I got my first bikini swimsuit. The top didn’t have a strap on the neck or anything but just stretched across my chest. I went swimming one day with my cousins while on vacation at my grandmother’s house. I swam all day long and the bikini stayed in place just as it should. We packed up and I threw on a T-shirt over my swimsuit for the ride home. Grandma did not go swimming with us and was at home eating popcorn at her table when we came in. There were uncles, aunts, and older cousins at the table with her. When she saw me in my T-shirt, she jokingly asked if that was all I was wearing. I said nope and proudly pulled my T-shirt over my entire chest to show her I had on a swimsuit. I watched as her face changed to shock and she choked on her popcorn. I looked down and what do you know, my freaking top had

slid beneath my boobs, exposing them and making them stick sort of straight out because the top was right under them. Everyone at the table just died laughing all with red faces, putting their heads down and pounding the table howling with laughter. So yeah, I flashed my grandma and some relatives with my boobs.”

Polarnoseflush commented, “I was horsing around in a (public) pool with a group of friends and planned to do an elaborate jump / dive thing with my boyfriend kind of throwing me in the air (his hands under my feet and pushing up). I shouted, ‘Look at me,’ right before being thrown in the air. The force of being pushed up through the water pushed my bikini top down. So basically I shouted, ‘Look at me!’ and then flashed all my friends and a bunch of strangers. :/”

9) geloraXO wrote:

“My middle school did a program where a bunch of Japanese students came to visit our school for a couple weeks. I was assigned as a buddy to show someone around and stuff, and at the end of their visit here, they all took a trip to NYC. Only a few of the American students came along, but I was among them. The Japanese teachers wanted to be inclusive, so they took the mic that the bus driver uses to make announcements and kind of like awkwardly interviewed each of us in broken English, though the students didn’t seem all that interested. When it was my turn, I got the typical ‘What do you like to do?; which I tried to shut down quickly with a simple ‘Oh, I’m in choir. I like to sing sometimes.’

““Oh, why don’t you sing for us!’

“And suddenly, the mic is in my hand.

“I really am not one for singing solos, especially in front of a BUS FULL of students who probably don’t know what the fuck is going on. I guess the teacher picked up on this, so she encouraged me to sing a Christmas song because those are

the only songs that the kids would be able to sing along to in English. So I'm thinking, Ok, it won't be too bad if they all join in right? So I start.

“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.”

“SILENCE.

“I painfully sing the ENTIRE SONG, acapella, completely solo, all eyes on me. Finally, the pain ends, and I crumble into my seat as awkward polite applause ensues. But this wasn't enough for the teacher. She wanted this to be a participatory event. And she didn't care who had to suffer in order to make that happen. So what does she do?

“Okay, try again, but this time everyone sing along!”

“I pray for it to be a dream, but somehow, the mic is in my hand yet again, her expecting eyes upon me. At this point, all dignity is lost so I figure why not. Again, I start the song. And again, I sing it completely alone.

“Fuck my life.”

10) thebeespatella wrote:

“When I was in first grade, I had just recently moved to Oklahoma. My class was doing a showcase for the school assembly in two weeks. We were going to do some line dancing, and I was paired up with a boy I really liked for part of the routine. I practiced like a maniac in an attempt to assimilate to my new country classmates' way of life.

“I guess I had forgotten to give a note to my parents saying that they wanted us to wear cowboy boots for the performance. I showed up to the showcase in flip flops. The partner section starts happening and I'm kicking my legs like I'm a Rockette. My flip flop flies off into the crowd and hits an older kid in the face. I immediately stop in the middle, but the people behind me didn't get the memo that I launched a

projectile into the crowd. The person behind me runs into me and falls into the crowd. This has a domino effect and causes a mini pile up of seven-year-olds. I hobble off the stage into the bathroom with only one flip flop. I cried while I waited for my teacher to give me back my shoe.”

Without-Reward wrote, “My parents have a video of my first (and only) ballet recital when I was three. One of the other little girls smacked me in the nose by accident so I immediately stopped and started bawling, which caused someone else to bump into me and also created a domino effect of three-year-olds. Then you can see my mom run up and lift me off the stage, still bawling. I’m so glad we no longer have a working VCR for my parents to replay that humiliation on.”

11) Worldly\_Salamander\_ wrote, “Finished a phone call to my not-so-friendly boss with ‘Goodbye, love you!’ Couldn’t look him in the eye for weeks.”

12) nicholasaaronpurvis wrote:

“Just started dating this girl who’s half-Korean. I go to her parents’ Korean church. The whole way there they were explaining how I was going to be greeted by the pastor and I was supposed to bow, be as respectful as possible.

“Well, seeing that he was Korean, he had quite the accent. He greeted those in front of me: ‘Welcome. Welcome.’

“My dumb ass thought he was saying, ‘Where from?’ So in front of the church and my girlfriend’s parents, whom I just had met I got up and yelled, ‘Nick Purvis Bowie, Maryland.’ He looked extremely confused, didn’t bow ... just stared at me and let’s just say ... her parents weren’t super hyped.”

RegularOrMenthol commented:

“‘Wherecome, wherecome, plaise the Lord.’

“My mother is Korean, and I can hear it perfectly.

throwingthisrightawa commented, “I think you just have to own these. My girlfriend is Viet and I’m black. Sometimes I look up while eating with them and everyone is staring at me and then my girlfriend will lean over and whisper, ‘You basically just put ketchup on mac and cheese.’ I just shrug. Now they know I just do me and they love it.”<sup>12</sup>

### **13. “What Outrageously Misogynistic Incident Or Comment Left You So Stunned That You Couldn’t Even Respond?”**

1) Legacy\_user1010 wrote:

“Years ago I was dating a large animal vet. Great woman, tall, smart, strong, nice looking. She had like three degrees from serious academic institutions.

“Anyways, we were at a farm and I was riding along with her because it was my day off. So if I didn’t go, it was gonna just be me, myself, and a couple critters all day.

“So she tells this farm manager that if he doesn’t do the thing, his client’s horse is gonna die. So he is hemming and hawing about whatever.

“She gives me the ‘Really?’ side eye. So I just repeated verbatim what she said.

“Dude was like, ‘Yeah, that is a great idea. Let’s do that.’ Without missing a beat.

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<sup>12</sup> Source: Thomas\_0990, “What’s that one embarrassing moment that keeps coming back to haunt you?” Reddit. AskReddit. 25 August 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pbp8re/whats\\_that\\_one\\_embarrassing\\_moment\\_that\\_keeps/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pbp8re/whats_that_one_embarrassing_moment_that_keeps/) >.



“So she writes prescriptions and instructions on how to keep a multi-million dollar race machine alive.

“Then we hop in the truck. I was looked at her and said, ‘Did that really just happen?’ And she was like, ‘Oh my God, I thought it was just me!’ Then as we drove off the farm she was like, ‘You really saw that?’, and of course I had.

“Apparently it was a thing that happened all the time. But everyone just blew it off. It was not the last time it happened, just the most memorable because she was all excited I saw it.”

2) brunette\_mama wrote:

“I work in staffing. We regularly run background checks in staffing. I had a new employee come to me for advice on a background to see if it was permissible.

“His candidate had a rape charge. I said absolutely not. Especially violent or sexual crimes are NEVER permissible for any of our clients. He then proceeded to tell me it should be okay because the charge was filed by his wife.

“I had to explain to him that rape is rape no matter the parties involved. He was an absolute idiot.”

emilylovescode asked, “Was it a charge or conviction?”

brunette\_mama answered, “It was a legit conviction.”

lascielthefallen commented, “I work in local government and the court system in my state has online access. All you need is someone’s name and it will show every case they have ever been involved in. This includes traffic tickets and any pending charges. Every person we consider hiring gets their name run through there. Try to get a job in law enforcement and the background check goes even deeper than that.”

3) blondedavinci wrote:

“A guy who, when I told him that I’m a business owner, would not believe that my business was copywriting and marketing and NOT OnlyFans.

“The conversation was about how women are ‘never the breadwinners yet expect a man to do everything for them.’ I brought up that I work 60 hours a week and my boyfriend does most of the housework and cooking.

“Then he went on to tell me that my boyfriend probably resents me secretly. Like, dude, I make close to six figures alone and he gets to play video games for most of the day. He’s living the fucking dream.”

4) StarWars\_Girl\_ wrote:

“A couple of days ago, I was on another subreddit. I mentioned that I’m 26 and still live with my parents for financial reasons. A guy came and commented on my post that at 26, apparently, I’m supposed to be living with a romantic partner and not with my parents. He continued that if I didn’t find someone (and apparently soon!) that I would become a spinster cat lady who would hate men. Also that the women in my life should have taught me these things but apparently have failed.

“I told him his opinion was offensive and sexist and proceeded to block him.”

lac1988 commented:

“I’m a 30something woman who lives alone with her cats. And while I don’t hate all men ... I do hate their AUDACITY.

“Get yourself some cats, friend.”

StarWars\_Girl\_ responded, “Already did. The joke’s on that guy: I was a crazy cat lady at five years old.”<sup>13</sup>

#### **14. “What Is The Craziest Customer Encounter You’ve Had While Working In Retail?”**

1) streetmitch wrote:

“Worked at an auto parts store for a little over a year. I could write a book on all the stories. This probably wasn’t the craziest, but one of my fondest memories. Store is closing at 9. Customer comes in at 8:50. Dick move, but whatever. At 9 we lock the doors so no new customers come in and then we walk out anyone left in the store when they are ready. Dude was just casually browsing the store putting stuff in his basket. At 9:05 or so, we made an announcement that the store was closed but no rush, we will help you when you’re ready. Dude just screams at the top of his lungs, ‘Fine, I didn’t want to buy anything anyways,’ throws his full basket on the ground and sprints for the front door. Now before anyone could say anything, this dude is already at the door in a full sprint not knowing they were locked and slams straight into them. We are like WTF is he doing and my manager walks over there, unlocks the door, and the customer leaves without saying another word while holding his face. We finish closing up while laughing the entire time.

“TL;DR. Dude came into the store last minute. Got upset that we told him we were closed. He ran for the front door mad, but he didn’t know we had already locked them and continued to full sprint face first into the locked doors.”

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13 Source: CaptainHMBarelay, “What outrageously misogynistic incident or comment left you so stunned that you couldn’t even respond?” Reddit. AskWomen. 25 August 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/pbobsp/what\\_outrageously\\_misogynistic\\_incident\\_or/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/pbobsp/what_outrageously_misogynistic_incident_or/)>.

2) GetKrass wrote:

“Back in college, I was an assistant manager of a small gas station. In the summer the manager was on vacation, so I was the man in charge of the place. I get this phone call from my overnight cashier, ‘Some dude just waved his dick at me out the window.’

“It was like 1 in the morning. The lady worked overnights and was like 65 or something. She was pretty upset. So I come in and roll back the surveillance footage to take a look at what happened and sure enough, her story checked out.

“I place a call to the local police department, and then an officer came and I showed him the footage, and this is the best part. The officer recognized this guy. He was a teacher at a local middle school. Not only did he get arrested, but the officer got a search warrant for his home computer because he committed a sex crime (indecent exposure) and had high exposure to 10- to-13-year olds. Sure enough, he was on the news the next day because he had child porn on his computer.

“So, I never encountered this customer directly, but it was a real pleasure bringing a predator to justice. He got 10 years.”

3) gummy8 wrote:

“Not crazy, but it taught me what true ADD [Attention-Deficit Disorder] was. I was in retail at Circuit City.

“This dude ... could not ... stay on topic ... for five seconds.

“Every five to 10 seconds, he would say something and just shift gears to talk about that instead.

“This TV stand has some cool wood patterns. You know Wood is usually harvested from place XYZ, you know what sort of food they make there. XYZ food. My mom used to

make good XYZ food, When I was a kid, my mom took me to Disneyland once, Did you know Di ...’

“I wasn’t upset because I realized really quick that it wasn’t his fault. I just helped him out as best I could. Ever since then when someone says, ‘Oh, my ADD,’ I am reminded of that man and what true ADD looks like.”

4) squidvalley wrote:

“I was a cashier at a Dillon’s grocery store in the bible belt when I was a kid. One day a woman came up to my counter and, in a quiet voice, says, ‘Excuse me, you’ve got some ducks out in the parking lot. Um, they’re mating, and everyone can see it.’ I didn’t know what the fuck she was talking about, so I just kinda joked about it being that time of year or something, but she continued, ‘Everyone can see what those ducks are doing; you need to send someone out there right now.’ Lady was serious. She wanted an employee to go outside and cockblock a duck so kids wouldn’t know what banging was.

“I rolled it to my supervisor, who did send a cart pusher to make the lady feel better and ruin some duck’s big day.”

5) LoverBoiArson wrote:

“Not me but my grandma used to work in Walmart in the Fish and Game section and she would print licenses, sell knives, guns, etc. She had a customer came in looking for a 22 revolver and she had the strangest feeling about him because he was just sitting there talking to himself almost acting to the point of insanity.

“He had kept looking down when speaking to her. She had asked for his ID and these were his words: ‘I’ve bought a gun here before, so you should have my information on your computer system, right? Right?’ And she had to explain that even though she had his info, she still needs to see ID, but he

would listen and kept nagging my grandma until she refused to sell to him.

“She ended her shift like half an hour later and guess who starts following her until she gets to her car — yep, it’s the weird insane dude so she had gotten into her car then he tried knocking on her window, and no, it wasn’t any sorta polite knock, it seemed like it could break his knuckles.

“So my grandma had got out of her car. Walked up to him. Held him still. And said very calmly, ‘Listen, if you follow me, harass me, or even look in my direction again, your funeral won’t be open casket.’ Got into her car and left.

“TL;DR: Grandma refused to sell gun, was harassed, threatened the harasser, left with no problem.”<sup>14</sup>

## **15. “Ex-Anti-Vaxxers Of Reddit, What Made You Change Your Mind?”**

1) meatgrandma wrote:

“My whole family, including my parent, are anti-vaxxers so I got out of having to get shots like the other kids at school. My parent told me that the shots were bad and dangerous, and as a kid who hated getting shots, how could that not be true? Pain = bad. Anyways, the internet calling anti-vaxxers crazy made me start to really question the reasoning as I got older, but I was still scared of vaccines because I didn’t understand how they worked.

“After high school I decided that I would rebel and get vaccinated, the only problem was, I had no idea where to get

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<sup>14</sup> Source: HandcockElisha9a, “What is the craziest customer encounter you’ve had while working in retail?” Reddit. AskReddit. 26 August 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pbzb3/what\\_is\\_the\\_craziest\\_customer\\_encounter\\_youve\\_had/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pbzb3/what_is_the_craziest_customer_encounter_youve_had/) >.

vaccinated or how. I went to the on-site medical center on my school's campus, but I got embarrassed and left.

“Then, COVID hit, and I had the decision shoved in my face and there was no more running from these choices. My cousin stole some COVID vaccination cards so I had the option to use a falsified document in place of getting vaccinated, but I declined the offer.

“About a week later, I go to CVS to face my biggest fear and get my very first vaccine ever. In a horrible twist of fate, that very same day, my cousin who stole the cards died suddenly of COVID-19. That was a slap in the face like I have never felt in my life. He left behind a pregnant widow (who found out she was pregnant after his passing) and an infant son.

“His death changed the tune of no one in my family. This weekend I'm going to the funeral to pay my respects. I will have to bite my tongue when my whole family barks about all their conspiracy theories about how he 'actually' died. Needless to say, I'm convinced more than ever, if you haven't yet been vaccinated, please do so.”

derpthe goat commented:

“I had horrible similar parents. They weren't Trumpies, in fact, not right wing at all, but forced me as a baby to be unvaxxed, vegan, and only take herbal remedies and not real medicine when I was ill. I grew up malnourished and sick, and I'm very short for an adult male. (I'm 5'1".) I was so glad to move away from those fuckers in college.

“I'm a lot healthier now, but I can never recover from the fact that I'll always be short and that my cat died without any good reason. Fuck parents like that. I'll gladly take two Covid shots.”

derpthe goat added this comment about his cat, which his parents fed a vegan diet: “It was extremely malnourished

despite being fed lots of vegetables. It died within three years of age.”

FlourySpuds commented:

“I’m so sorry to hear about your experiences. I have a few questions, if you feel comfortable answering them:

“Have you gotten a professional medical opinion on enforced veganism being associated with your height?

“Have you got all of the vaccines you should have now?

“What kind of relationship (if any) do you have with your parents now?”

derpthe goat responded:

“Yes, I’ve spoken to my family practitioner and he said that it is highly likely that I did not receive proper nutritional content, which caused my stunted growth, considering my parents had eaten meat / milk as kids and they are average height.

“I’ve got all my regular shots, and I take proper medicine for my medical conditions.

“I cut my parents off after high school and paid for my own college dorm. I moved out my dorm to an apartment immediately after college with loans. I eventually paid them off. I work a stable job now. I’m better.”

tarnin commented, “I was at my GPs the other day and overheard this very conversation. A younger person was there asking about the Covid shot and how she never had ANY vaccine because of her anti-vax parents. They sat her down and laid out a schedule for her to get up to date. It was one of the most painless things I’ve seen in a doctor’s office.”



Fcktbckt commented, “For your other vaccines, ask the pharmacists where you can get them, just explain to them why you don’t have them and they’ll understand.”

Skellingtoon commented, “Second this. There should be ZERO judgment when someone asks for help.”<sup>15</sup>

## **16. “Women Of Reddit, Those Who Have Filed For Sexual Harassment In The Workplace, How Did It Go?”**

1) iamthefoolofatook wrote, “Corporate told me they wouldn’t touch it because he was doing it through social media; my shift manager was livid at that response. It was very clear that whereas corporate didn’t care what the harasser did, my shift manager’s daughter had experienced similar results to a similar situation when she was my age as well and he remembered how frustrating that was as a father. He still pulled the guy in to speak to him about it against their recommendation. Never scheduled me on the same shift with him again, and if he switched to a shift I was on (always had to get it approved by another manager because the shift manager sure wouldn’t), he would help me on my solo duties to make sure the guy didn’t slink off and corner me. He watched that guy like a hawk, and regularly checked up on the ladies who did end up working with him as well. He could have gone with corporate’s decision and written it off, but he went out of his way to make sure none of us ever felt unsafe at work. Absolute treasure.”

2) MommaG0614 wrote, “The first time it occurred, I reported it to my direct boss and he didn’t seem to deal with it at all. So the second time it happened, I reported it to someone at a higher level. When my boss got that call, he

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<sup>15</sup> Source: S\_A\_Woods, “Ex-antivaxxers of Reddit, what made you change your mind?” Reddit. AskReddit. 27 August 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pcfrrxa/exantivaxxers\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_made\\_you\\_change\\_your/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pcfrrxa/exantivaxxers_of_reddit_what_made_you_change_your/) >.

pulled me aside and basically ripped my ass for going above his head, but the offender was fired and it wasn't ever mentioned again. A few years later I was working in retail and the offender was hired on. As soon as I saw him there, I reported what had happened at my last job and they released him that same day."

3) miathemanga wrote, "My head manager laughed and said, 'Wow, it seems like all women these days are being "assaulted."' I quit right then and there."

4) dindia91 wrote:

"I was so impressed with how my company handled my situation.

"I worked as a rep for a different company inside of an auto dealer and someone from the dealership was constantly trying to take upskirt photos, refusing to take no for an answer when asking me for dates and another employee said that 'women like me' (young, single, and attractive) were all sluts and had no real values. I was really timid and casually told a male coworker at my company how much I hated going to work. He said I needed to report this. I went to our manager and within two hours my HR [Human Resources] rep had taken me out to discuss what happened. My HR rep went to the dealership's management and the employee who was taking photos was fired on the spot and the one with the lack of tact was transferred to a different department and given sensitivity training. I was offered the chance to transfer offices if I wanted to but was not required to if I wanted to stay. I stayed for a week, but realized I have a really sour taste in my mouth and asked to be moved. HR reached out three months into that job role to make sure that I was not experiencing anything that made me uncomfortable."

5) ladyshopsalot2626 wrote, “Horribly. I was hit with ‘His wife is eight months pregnant. You don’t want to destroy his career, do you?’ I was fired a week later.”

6) cheekmo\_52 wrote, “HR intervened. Had an investigation during which he wasn’t allowed in the building. Ultimately they forced him to retire, had each of his employees separately sit down with outside counsel to ensure everyone was satisfied with the proposed resolution, and we all got placed in other positions in the company.”

7) peppermind wrote:

“Nothing happened, and I knew it wouldn’t. He was my supervisor and the textbook example of a missing stair in the workplace that everyone tolerated for some unknown reason.

“It didn’t matter all that much to me because it was just a summer job and I went back to school soon after. I wonder how many other women that creep harassed after I left, though.”

8) Acrobatic-Permit1516 wrote:

“It was my job the summer after finishing high school so I was barely 18. He would bump into me on purpose, and he would make jokes. I reported him. Other girls reported him too. Months later he got fired for drinking on the job.

“A professor for a five-unit statistics research class made sexual comments toward me in front of the class. In a lecture he was talking about recessive genes or something, but he set up a scenario saying if he got me pregnant, what recessive traits, blah blah blah. I was mortified. He used me as examples in a lot of creepy ways, over and over again. Made jokes about threesomes. He said I was doing poorly in the class and we needed to set up one-on-one office hours. I immediately dropped the class. Fucking creep. I went to the Dean of the department and she helped me file a sexual

harassment complaint with the university. The Title IX office took it very seriously. Interviewed the Dean, the professor, and me twice. They wrote a report of their findings. They wouldn't reimburse me for the money I spent to take the five-unit class and he just got a slap on the wrist. He didn't get punishment but at the very least, if someone else were to report him, they'd see that on his record.”<sup>16</sup>

### **17. “What Is The Most Disturbing Thing To Know?”**

CankeredOne wrote:

“I worked as a palliative carer for about three years. I looked after terminally ill people who had chosen to die at home after being discharged from hospital. After a while, you learn some telltale signs that people are deteriorating. After a bit longer, you start to learn how long people generally have left — even down to a few hours. I always went with honesty, I felt it was my job to support the patients’ families as well as the patients, so if they asked how long I thought they had left I would answer honestly (obviously with the disclaimer that I wasn't a doctor and I could only base it on my previous experiences).

“The wife of one of my patients told me that their children (adults) were visiting the following weekend to say their goodbyes. I had to decide carefully on what to say next, but I ultimately chose to recommend that they visit the following day, at the latest. I regretted saying it because she was devastated. She took my advice and her husband passed away peacefully 48 hours later, after seeing his kids. I'm

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<sup>16</sup> Source: “Women of Reddit, those who have filed for sexual harassment in the workplace, how did it go?” Reddit. AskWomen. 29 August 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/pduto1/women\\_of\\_reddit\\_those\\_who\\_have\\_filed\\_for\\_sexual/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/pduto1/women_of_reddit_those_who_have_filed_for_sexual/) >.

glad I did it, but upsetting that lady was absolutely gut-wrenching.

“Some people didn’t want to know, and it was their right not to know. That was the worst. In those cases, you had to not say anything. Sometimes they’d say, ‘See you tomorrow,’ and I had to reply, ‘Yes, have a good night and I’ll see you in the morning,’ knowing full well that they were going to pass in the night.”

Rob\_T\_Firefly commented, “While what you said upset that wife in the moment, I’m sure she and the kids were grateful for what you did for them when looking back later on.”

alpine-ylva commented, “My mum was a nurse for many years and she said the same thing. One thing she told me about that really struck me was when patients themselves knew how long they could hold on for and held on long enough to say goodbye to their families. My mum said that often when a patient would have their children visiting and the patient would already have told my mum that they would be ‘happy to go’ after saying their goodbyes, and sure enough, as soon as the patient’s children had left the ward, the patient would go into cardiac arrest or something similar and that would be it. Apparently it was crazy the number of times patients had passed mere minutes after their loved ones had left after saying their goodbyes, but my mum said that lots of them seemed to have already made up their minds that once they’d said goodbye, they would pass.”

MeOulSegosha commented:

“My grandfather died in my parents’ house when I was 17. We knew he hadn’t long to live when he came to stay (he had lung cancer) and in the final week or so he had palliative care there. I don’t remember much about that period, strangely, but I remember the nurse (who used to stay every night and sit in a chair in his room) telling us when the time

was nearly at hand. She was subtle about it, but made sure my dad knew, and as a result it was a ‘good’ death for my grandad, who was surrounded by loved ones. She called it to within hours, everyone was ready, everyone was there. I’ll never forget the skill of that nurse, the selflessness and dignity of the care she offered, and I got a tiny glimpse of the knowledge she brought into that house that most of us will never know.

“Thank you for what you do. I know I couldn’t do it.”

killahkrysti commented, “When both my maternal grandparents died, my uncle missed them both by a few hours because he didn’t listen to my mom telling him what the hospice nurses said and he lived about 350 miles away. They were spot on both times.”

warmaster\_whorus commented, “Nurse here, I also have to remind people that even though a client is non-responsive and passing, they can hear everything, I’ve seen a patient who was non-responsive have tears down their face because a family was tearing itself apart airing grievances in the room when the patient was on their deathbed.”

lostintime2004 wrote:

“When I worked at the bedside early in my nursing career, I was assigned dying patients who haven’t made the call to go peacefully. I guess it’s because I am a big guy, but I am a softy, and have no shame in hugging it out with family and crying with them.

“I worked nights. I would chat with these patients when I could. I would tell them the thing no one else would. They would tell me how hard they are fighting, 85, 90 and beyond, but they’re tired, in agony, and they don’t want to disappoint their family by dying. But as a nurse you know that they don’t have much left in the tank. Pressures aren’t responding to meds, increasing O2 over and over again until you’re

maxing out on the bipap, and they only have a vent in front of them left.

“I lost my mom at as a young adult. I watched her fight. I watched her suffer, for us. I told her the same thing I told every other patient in that condition. We feel your pain. And if you want to keep fighting, you do that. But none of us will be disappointed if you want to punch your ticket on this life. Just let us say goodbye. These people were full codes, save-at-all-costs people. And I would, I still would. I advocate for my patients, but I would respect the choices.

“Ninety-five percent of my patients would go on to palliative care within a day. Family would find me often, and they would thank me for guiding their family to a comfortable passing. How they were at peace now. It was an odd gift I was given, but the cost was high. I left part of my heart with every patient who was dying, opening that old wound I drew strength from.”<sup>17</sup>

### **18. “Throwaways! What Is Your Darkest Secret That You Want To Get Off Your Chest?”**

Thin\_Host wrote, “My dog died in 2010. I haven’t gotten another one. It’s the longest I’ve been without a dog in my life. When my family asks why I haven’t gotten another dog, I just laugh and tell them that I don’t want the expense, the mess, the responsibility, but that’s not true. When my dog died, it broke me. It’s been over 10 years and I still miss him and the real reason I haven’t gotten another dog is I don’t want to feel the pain of losing him again. I keep that to myself, I guess.”

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17 Source: Bancoarotelle, “What is the most disturbing thing to know?” Reddit. AskReddit. 29 August 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pdzzrw/what\\_is\\_the\\_most\\_disturbing\\_thing\\_to\\_know/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pdzzrw/what_is_the_most_disturbing_thing_to_know/) >.

Ryoukugan commented:

“We had a dog, and she was the sweetest dog I’ve ever known. We didn’t even really train her, but she was so eager to please that she really didn’t misbehave at all. Wouldn’t even run out the door unless you called her first. Didn’t need a leash to be walked (without training) because she just wanted to walk with her family, not run around. I’ll spare you the details, mostly because even seven years later I was still tearing up typing what I’ve written so far, but she died very suddenly of a medical issue. We took her to the vet for something that had been bothering her and wound up having her put to sleep the same day.

“It was devastating. A few days later, we were randomly given the chance to adopt two puppies. It was a big debate, because none of us were sure if we were ready for another dog so soon. It seemed impossible to love another dog while still mourning her. In the end, we did take them, though, and if possible I love them even more than her. Not because the love for her diminished, but because the loss made me appreciate them that much more. It’ll be hard when they die, too, but I know that I can love another dog then, too, and I will give that dog the best life I possibly can. You can never replace your passed dogs, but you can find another brother or sister of theirs to love just as much.”

ThaiChili commented, “Jesus, I’ve been feeling like I might feel that way, too. I lost my last pup last January. He was 14 years old, and I can barely think of him without beginning to tear up. I had him since he was eight weeks, and that little critter and I were tight companions. I’ve just been telling people that I’m enjoying my freedom right now or that I’m just waiting for the right one to come along or that I’m just so busy with work that I don’t have the time. They’re all very true factors, but a tiny bit not. I’ve had pets when my life was not completely steady so now that my life is going decently



well, I could open my home. It's hard as I have always had pets and work in an animal environment and all my coworkers have always known me as a pet parent. I just keep telling myself, maybe one day ... but the heart still hurts. I get where you're coming from."

Frolicking-Fox commented:

"I took a little Aussie dog from a shelter, and he was absolutely the best dog I've ever seen.

"I had him nine years when I took him to the vet, and she said he had cancer.

"I watched him hurt. I watched him lose his appetite. I watched him whine in pain.

"There was no way to cure the cancer, and the vet told me I should put him down.

"I cried as I carried him to my car and drove to the vet. I cried as I held his face and the vet put the needles into his leg. And I cried when I held his face and saw the life go out of him.

"That was 2016, and I still think about it.

"But, I looked at the local shelter and found a dog that I love and take with me everywhere. While I have never forgotten my first dog, I'm glad to share love with my new dog, and give him a home.

"And I know my first dog would have agreed, since I picked him up from a shelter.

"If you can, save a dog from a shelter. You will be glad you did."<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Source: KayGee1922, "Throwaways! What is your darkest secret that you want to get off your chest?" Reddit. AskReddit. 1 September

## 19. “Teachers Of Reddit, Who Is One Student You Will Never Forget?”

1) quakermoonman wrote:

“I used to teach ESL [English as a Second Language] to pre-K through 3rd grade. I had one student who was only four when he first joined my class, named Noah. He was very serious. The other kids always goofed around and lost focus, like little kids do, but not this guy. I started shaking his hand every day and greeting him with a very formal ‘Thank you for joining us, Mr. Noah,’ and for whatever reason it was the ONE thing that would crack that kid up.

“He was so adorable. Serious little guy. I’ll always remember Mr. Noah.”

2) hawffield wrote:

“I worked as a substitute teacher, an After-School Teacher, and a Group Leader for the YMCA, so I’ll give three stories:

“At a pre-school, I was holding hand with a kid to help them keep their balance. They looked at my hand and asked what are the black dots on my arms. ‘They’re moles,’ I said. The kid nodded, then asked, ‘Why are you black?’ My favorite question a kid as ever asked me.

“I was substitute for a 4<sup>th</sup>-grade class. One girl introduced herself as being black and white so she’s a panda. I believe she will be going to 7th grade this year. I don’t think she is still calling herself a panda.

“Last one, I was about to quit my job and move across the country. I already told the kids and they were sad. I also was

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2021 <

[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pg94gp/throwaways\\_what\\_is\\_your\\_darkest\\_secret\\_that\\_you/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pg94gp/throwaways_what_is_your_darkest_secret_that_you/) >.

able to be with the kids only a couple a times a week instead of every weekday so that upset them more. One of the time I was able to make it was during their Valentine's Day party. I jokingly told one of my kids I didn't get a Valentine Day's card. She immediately (and **very** seriously) went to a table with some paper and markers. A good 20 minutes later, she came back with a Valentine Day's card for me. I wish I could explain how much I care for that card."

3) Hopesick\_2231 wrote:

"A girl I had this past year whom I'll refer to as MG.

"Extremely smart little girl. Always asking high-level questions. Read at a 3rd-grade level at five years old. I'm not exaggerating. While the other kids liked to play with blocks or dolls or in the pretend play center, she would be in the class library working through a stack of books or sitting at a table practicing writing. I was in constant fear that I was wasting her time. That I wasn't challenging her enough. I found more advanced books for her to read. I found a kinder-level math book for her to work through. But really she was content to make her own fun, which she was very good at. She never complained about being bored. She never acted like her classmates were 'beneath' her. She was a joy to have in my class. I hope I end up voting for her someday."

GreenLurka commented:

"I teach high school, and I've run into several of these kids in their teens. They're all very different, but they're all scary-level geniuses. I teach public school so the one thing they all had in common when I got to them was they had pretty much been let down by the system or their parents.

"One was actively hiding his genius to pass as normal; he would strategically score 62% on every assessment. He wanted to be a mechanic; he had it all planned out. 62% was exactly the right amount to get into the courses he wanted to

do, not upset his parents, and avoid being seen as an underachiever. Kid was reading science textbooks before grade school. Nice kid, waste of potential, but he was seeking happiness and I wasn't going to ruin that. Weirdly, he would stop answering questions at 62%, like, just stop doing assessment. That part wasn't sneaky.

“One was stuck in a general class because he had routinely failed every assessment put in front of him for years. He was bored to death of everything any teacher had ever given him because he learned at a terrifying rate. If he heard it, or read it, or it was just a piece of something new, he would break it down and understand it fantastically. Every other teacher only ever assessed using written tests, but I'm a nerd for assessments so I have all these different ways of assessing. It was pretty clear the kid had surpassed his grade level already. I had him put into the gifted class where he stayed for a month and was kicked out because the teacher was useless and said the kid failed every test, that he was a useless waste of space and dumb as a brick. I left that school eventually because of how useless they were at doing anything well. The funniest thing was he genuinely struggled to understand how everyone else was so slow, how they couldn't grasp things like he did. We had some wonderful conversations about brain development and memory to fix that hole in his knowledge. I miss that kid; he used to visit my classes and out-nerd my nerdiest kids.

“There's others, but I don't want to bore people.”

4) omild wrote:

“My first year I taught 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. This one 6th grader was a nightmare ... disrespectful, combative, swore all the time, never stayed in class, would slam and break doors, fight with everyone including staff, etc. I still tried my best to try to establish some connection with him, which led

to him giving me the least amount of trouble out of all his teachers, though admittedly he was still awful.

“My second year of teaching, he is now in 7th grade. Still mostly the same as before but this time slightly better behaved for me, not super disrespectful to me directly but would still get upset in class, walk out, and not do work. The year goes on, and I feel like he’s always around when I am taking pictures of school activities so I’d let him pose with me. He’d always be around when I was doing stuff and bothering me.

“As time went on, I could interact with him when he had one of his meltdowns when most other adults trying to talk to him set him off more. Late in the school year, he did something wrong and I told him he couldn’t go on a field trip hosted by a different teacher. He lost it! He got super pissed at me and had a meltdown. The vice principal talked to him to find out why he was so mad at me, and apparently this kid told him I was like a second mom to him and he was angry I was disappointed in him and took him off the trip. I was floored because I always thought he just was trying to be around me to irritate me as payback for irritating him but instead it was because he looked up to me. He and I eventually talked, he got to go on the field trip, and the year ended.

“In 8th grade he is put into my homeroom. I have no idea how he is going to be this year given the last one ended on a weird note between us. He’s by no means perfect at the start of the year, but he’s ... different. Swearing but not at anyone and isn’t disrespectful. Slow to start but attempts his work and accepts help. Volunteers for class tasks. Not walking out. Not getting into arguments with other kids in class. Doesn’t get into fights. Asks to come up to my class during lunch with a friend or two to play with my over-the-door basketball hoop and to listen to music. I have so many funny

memories of this kid dancing in my class, vibing to the music, singing silly songs, and just acting like a happy kid. He ended the school year with a B- average. If someone had pointed to him year 1 and told me all this, I'd have never believed it.

“The next year one of his friends tells me this student has copies of the pictures I took with him from 7th grade on a mirror in his room, and he would come by after school to visit me and say hi. I don't know how he's doing now as my district moved me to another school, but he will always stick in my mind as my favorite student.”

5) stiffcoffeeplease wrote:

“Emily. She gave me a small stuffed bear on her last day in my classroom. She didn't speak English well and tried really hard in my class. It was very sweet. My wife was pregnant at the time.

“It's now one of my two-year-old daughter's favorites and makes me happy every time she's carrying it.”

6) backaritagain wrote, “One girl. I had taught her sisters and she was the last. We both loved reading and I sent her home with bags of books weekly from my own collection to borrow (had her mom's permission). Encouraged her to write as she was amazing. She also had an amazing voice. I convinced her to try out for theater. She got the lead. She wrote her college essay about me. I was shocked. It came down to her learning not to be afraid and that I gave her back her voice. I still cry a bit, thinking about it. All I did was talk to her and get to know her. She taught me about how important it was to form those bonds with all kids, not just the outgoing ones or the troubled, for the quiet, good kids

need that bond as well. Just because they are doing well doesn't mean that they don't need you."19

## 20. "What Is The Cringiest Thing You've Done?"

1) luckybug20 wrote, "I'm a waitress, and a few years back I had a party of 9 or 10 stop by in really nice dress clothes. Upon greeting the table in my perky table voice, I said, 'Hi, everyone how are we all doing? You all look great. What are we celebrating today?' They replied they had just gotten back from a funeral. I was so embarrassed, but they were very nice!"

2) iCalet wrote:

"I was at my friend's house and went to get something from the lower part of the fridge. As I squatted down, I farted so loud that I got paralyzed for about five seconds.

"I don't know if this classifies as cringe or just straight-up embarrassing."

3) ContemplatingMeth wrote:

"Joined a dance performance at school because my crush was in the group. She dropped out a day before the performance, and I still had to go on.

"The song was that car wash song from *Shark Tale*. I still hate hearing it and remembering this."

Note by David Bruce: ContemplatingMeth was 14 or 15 when this happened.

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19 Source: ThyEagle, "Teachers of reddit, who is one student you will never forget?" Reddit. AskReddit. 3 September 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/ph9jml/teachers\\_of\\_reddit\\_who\\_is\\_one\\_student\\_you\\_will/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/ph9jml/teachers_of_reddit_who_is_one_student_you_will/)>.

4) Elaquore1 wrote, “When I was a stupid teenager, at Christmas, my uncle was poor. He gave me my Christmas present, and having heard this joke elsewhere and thinking it clever, I said, ‘Thank you. I’ll have the rest later.’ The room went silent; I tried to explain, but I made it worse. That was about 25 years ago and I still cringe at the memory!

omniprntx commented, “This is so relatable. ~70% of my cringe teenage memories is me repeating ‘cool’ quips from movies only to instantly realize it doesn’t sound 0,000000000000001% as badass as it did in my head and is in fact wildly inappropriate.”

5) litjen wrote:

“It wasn’t so much what I did. I was more the target of a cruel prank by my friends.

“When we were teenagers, we were all in our mate’s house when his parents were away, and we had a few drinks. There was a girl in school I really liked and my friends encouraged me to phone her and tell her. The lad whose house it was said I could use the housephone upstairs for privacy (this was before we all had mobile phones) so I did.

“But they then put the downstairs phone on speakerphone but on mute and listened in as I told her how I felt about her, asked her out, and got rejected.”

6) Murren606 wrote, “Watching *Serendipity* (romcom about destiny) and messaged my crush, ‘If you’re watching this, too, it’s meant to be.’ Yeah, I know. I then received a call from her! ... It was she and her friends laughing at me.”

7) Womper1 wrote, “Someone started having a seizure during a game of charades, and I thought it they were trying to act it out and I started yelling, ‘Freak out!’ ‘Spazzing!’ ‘Twitching!’ When his mom yelled at me to stop and told me



he was having a seizure, I just about died from embarrassment.”<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Source: LexiDuck, “What is the cringiest thing you’ve done?” Reddit. AskReddit. 4 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pi2hz6/what\\_is\\_the\\_cringiest\\_thing\\_youve\\_done/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pi2hz6/what_is_the_cringiest_thing_youve_done/) >.

**Chapter 2: Questions 21-40****21. “People Who Had Criminal Neighbors, What Was Your Experience?”**

1) Honic\_Sedhehog wrote:

“I lived in a place for a year and my neighbor was a pretty serious dealer. Bit rough around the edges but he was sound, always chatted to us over the back wall when we were smoking in the back yard. Once I heard him having an argument in the street threatening to shoot someone, but he was always sound with us.

“Went away for a week and came back to find police in my house and yard — someone had tried to break in. The cops explained that they’d hopped the back fence, kicked in the back door and then had seemingly been beaten to an inch of their lives and were still there when the cops arrived.

“Blood all over, no witnesses, nothing pointing to who’d done it.

“After everything was sorted went into the back yard for a smoke, neighbor pops his head over the wall, ‘Sorted them for you, mate; they won’t be back.’

“I moved out three months later.”

2) tax yarn wrote:

“Ugh. I tried to just ignore the absolute drug house next door. When we moved in, the house was vacant. Then a few months later some dudes showed up and installed security cameras on every corner of the house. After that, it was endless streams of cars coming and going 24/7.

“I stupidly figured I was isolated from it. My stupid way of rationalizing this whole thing was to think, ‘Why would they

make trouble for us if we could just turn them in?' Ha ... hahaha.

"It was actually fine for about a year other than our driveway occasionally being blocked by some junkie's car.

"Then one day someone showed up and shot up the drug house. The dealer-neighbor shot back, but every single one of their bullets came through our walls. Seriously, they swiss-cheesed our house. We were home, but somehow none of us got shot. I still don't understand how because it was that bad.

"Moral of the story: If a dealer moves in on your street, just fucking leave. Not worth it. Your neighborhood is ruined now, and you can't fix it. Turning them in is just as dangerous. Just go."

3) CubaGoodingIII wrote:

"One winter night in 1999, the next-door neighbor let himself in — no shirt, no shoes, bloody knuckles. 'Gotta lay low for a while, guys,' he says as he lies down on the floor and seemingly passes out.

"We're all stoned, playing *Goldeneye* on the N64 and are bemused by this turn of events. From outside, cop lights are flashing. We start to put two and two together.

"After a twenty-minute nap in our uncomfortable silence, he wakes up suddenly, helps himself to a bong hit, and lets himself out the back door. Five minutes later we hear a scuffle from the backyard as the cops bring down the master criminal.

"Turns out he and his brother (who also lives next door) got in a fight over their cocaine stash. Our invader had fought his brother and clocked him with a pot and then tried to hit their mom. She called the cops, and he fled to our place.

They all got arrested. He for assault, brother with possession with intent to distribute, mom for assaulting one of the cops when he arrested the son who got clocked with the pot.

“This was one of several occasions where the cops showed up for one or both of the guys next door.”

4) Fisherman\_Gabe wrote:

“My upstairs neighbor was into selling drugs and robbery. Nighttime wasn’t the most fun at times. Lots of running up and down stairs, and occasional crying girls, arguments and stabbings (yes, really) outside of my bedroom window. Would’ve driven me crazy if I wasn’t a very heavy sleeper.

“It did make me more motivated to keep my apartment super clean, though, because I never knew when the police would ask to peek inside my apartment.”

5) H\_Marxen wrote, “He was great help when we locked ourselves out of our apartment.”<sup>21</sup>

## **22. “People Who’ve Been Banned From Somewhere for Life, What Happened?”**

1) Complicated\_Business wrote, “In college, at the local college bookstore, I attempted to sell some books back to the store. After hearing what the buyback value was, a guy behind me said he’d pay \$20 more for my books. (He was taking the same course the next semester and the store’s markup would be 100%.) The bookstore owner warned me if I sold to this other dude, I’d be banned for life. I told him money makes the world go round and took my extra twenty.”

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21 Source: Amieisrad, “People who had criminal neighbors, what was your experience?” Reddit. AskReddit. 6 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pivnek/people\\_who\\_had\\_criminal\\_neighbors\\_what\\_was\\_your/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pivnek/people_who_had_criminal_neighbors_what_was_your/) >.

2) indigowulf wrote:

“I was banned from a bar I worked at, the same night I got fired.

“The owner’s wife had a friend, who had her bachelorette party at the bar. The bar had hired me because they had already been in LOTS of legal trouble for overserving and other bad things. (Someone was sexually assaulted in the girls bathroom, so they needed a woman that could walk in and check on things.)

“I saw the man sitting at the bar, wearing his winter jacket indoors where everyone else was wearing their ‘desperate for a lay’ skimpy clothes. I noticed the badge that he wore on his belt, mostly hidden. I was doing my job the way I was supposed to.

“I cut off a super-intoxicated man, after he threw up all over the place. Turns out, he was part of the little party the owners wife’s friend was having. She screamed at me in front of staff and customers. She fired me and banned me from the bar for life. I smiled and left, knowing what would happen.

“As they had already had multiple warnings, they were one warning away from being shut down. Guess what happened? Yup, psycho washed off the X’s I had put on drunk’s hands and told the waitress to serve him anyway. Cop busted them for intentional overserve; they lost their liquor license AGAIN and got a huge, huge fine. That was the last day they were open. They had to sell the place.

“That lifetime ban? Well, the bar died that night, so turns out it was for the life of the bar, not my life. I was back in there as soon as the new owners had their grand opening.”

3) Stilleto\_Rebel wrote, “I’m banned from a cafe in a town in North Wales, neither of which I’d been to prior to this experience. I walked in and the guy behind the counter said,

‘You! I’ve told you before! You’re banned!’ Confused, I said, ‘I’ve never been here before,’ but he just pointed at the door, so I turned around and left. Almost 30 years ago.”

WattebauschXC commented, “Not actually a ban, but your story reminded me of the time when a fair opened in summer next to my school when I was 10 years old. They gave out free tokens for the Autoscooter to every kid. As I went to get a free token, they told me to get lost and not being so greedy, that I already got a few. (I hadn’t.) As I went home, some other kids told me of the shit ton of tokens they managed to get. Suffice to say, I was pretty mad.”

4) snizuitz wrote:

“I was banned for life from attending *Late Night with David Letterman* because I cancelled my reservation. I guess it was hard to find people for the audience in freaking New York City? The intern (I assume) who I talked to was very serious: ‘You should know if you cancel you will never be allowed back. Ever!’

“Somehow I got over it.”

5) TheRavingRaccoon wrote:

“The prison I used to work at.

“I had tried numerous times to receive therapy to treat PTSD I gained while working the job and thanks to the HR taking their vacation was not able to get it and the administrative assistant warden told me, quite literally, ‘Officers don’t need therapy, and if they do then they aren’t cut out to be officers,’ and refused to help me find help.

“When they learned (somehow) that I had sought therapy on my own, they attempted to place me on ‘indefinite administrative leave’ citing ‘officer has conducted themselves in a manner unfitting their position.’

“So yeah. I sued them and quit and they banned me for life — from their prison.

“Okay.”

6) snodnif wrote, “The local liquor store in my old neighborhood never had a ding dong that went off as people came in and out of the store. I would crawl into the store *Mission Impossible* style and steal nudie magazines from the front counter where you would normally find candy bars and such. The day I got caught, a quarter had rolled off the counter and onto the floor where I was and the owner came around the corner to pick it up and picked me up by my shirt and threw me out. He never said I was banned, but I never went back due to being embarrassed as hell.”

7) ChillinInChernobyl wrote, “My college roommate got permabanned from Target for putting ‘Wet Floor’ signs next to the *50 Shades of Grey* display.”

8) Worlds\_Best\_Coffee wrote:

“In 2001 or whenabouts I got banned from the small Chinese carry-out restaurant next door to the Blockbuster video in Zachary, LA. I had just started dating a girl and her mom offered to buy us carryout for dinner if we went to pick it up. She wrote down the order and handed it off to us and away we went.

“When I got to the front of the line, I produced the slip of paper only to see it said shit like ‘flied lice’ and ‘don’t forget the ching-chong chopsticks.’ I was flummoxed when I saw all this and the cashier assumed I had trouble reading, snatched the list from me and began to read it. A few seconds later, they were yelling at me to get out and never to come back.

“I wonder if their sesame chicken was any good.”

WantToBeBetterAtSex wrote, “The mom clearly didn’t want you to date her daughter.”

Worlds\_Best\_Coffee responded, “She was a from a hick dot-on-the-map ‘city’ with a population that could comfortably fit in a bus stop. I think she was just racist. Dated the girl for four years and the mom was bummed out when I ended it.”

DMike82 wrote, “I got drunk off of other people’s drinks and announced on a microphone that I felt God at this Chili’s.”

9) Dyllis\_Philler wrote:

“I had just paid for a dress in Forever 21 and noticed one of the seams was ripped as the cashier was bagging it up. I pointed it out and asked if I could just exchange it for one that wasn’t damaged.

“The cashier hit a button on the register to print my receipt and slid it across the counter to me with a nasty smile as she recited their strict return policy. I can’t remember the bullshit reason she gave, but she refused to exchange the item.

“It had been a long week. I didn’t even think before I reached out and swiped all these little containers filled with cheap items off her counter. Thousands of keychains, nail files, thongs, earrings and a bunch of other items flew across the floor. The cashier immediately lost her mind and started screaming about how long it was going to take her to sort them all out.

“I was already at my car when mall security caught up with me to let me know I was banned from the store.”

10) Debubba wrote:

“This was always one of my dreams.



“To have a place, like a bar or just a restaurant with a bar where I can’t go.

“Like ‘Oh, sorry, guys, I’m not allowed in that Applebee’s ... had a bit of a wild night a few years back.”

11) rhett342 wrote:

“The outdoor amphitheater in St Louis. There was a Pearl Jam show back in 1998 my buddy and I went to. We had extra tickets, so he held our place in line while I went to sell the extra tickets. Apparently, even if you’re selling them for below face value, it’s considered scalping there. They had me get in the back of the pickup truck and drove off somewhere, wrote me up but didn’t fine me, took the tickets in my pockets but not the one I had hidden in my sock, took me to the front entrance, and said if I ever came back again for any reason I’d be arrested for trespassing.

“I watched them drive away, cut through the parking lot, found my friend in line, switched shirts and took off my hat and glasses, walked in right past the sheriff who said he’d arrest me, and went to one of the best shows I’d ever seen.”<sup>22</sup>

### **23. “What’s A Job That You Just Associate With Jerks?”**

vaegrin wrote, “Paparazzi.”

birdiekittie commented:

“Blake Lively recently posted, saying, ‘Oh, look at these pictures. it looks like I’m smiling and happy, but that’s

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<sup>22</sup> Source:IPsycheAsHell, “People Who’ve Been Banned From Somewhere for Life, What Happened?” Reddit. AskReddit. 6 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pjd4ll/people\\_whove\\_been\\_banned\\_from\\_somewhere\\_for\\_life/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pjd4ll/people_whove_been_banned_from_somewhere_for_life/) >.

because it was the only way I could get this man to stop stalking me and my young children who were freaked out.’

“They’re horrible.”

xandrenia commented, “I think Halle Berry has advocated for a law that prevents paparazzi from photographing celebrities’ children.”

Objective-Steak-9763 commented:

“Kirsten Bell and Dax Shepard got all celebrities to stop talking to any media outlets that published pictures of celeb kids.

“One red carpet where every single celebrity walked past the major magazines without speaking or interviewing, and there was no more child photos.”

Joe\_Kinincha commented:

“Damn.

“Just one more reason to love Kristen Bell.”

Johnnyfutbol86 wrote, “I forget what actress, it was but she was surrounded by paparazzi and one of those dickheads kept intentionally hitting her arm. And when she finally pushed back, they all started snapping photos like crazy. He was trying to goad her into a reaction to make her look like an asshole. They are the fucking worst.”

Darius2112 commented, “I remember an interview with Emma Watson who mentioned that on the day she turned 18, that was the day paparazzi started lying on the ground to take upskirt pics. Animals.”

fatal\_\_flaw commented, “A friend of mine took to being the paparazzo of paparazzi, meaning he went around looking for paparazzi and photographing them. My friend told me the paparazzi got really agitated, angry, and belligerent at that.

You'd think that would change their minds about their careers.”<sup>23</sup>

**24. “Women Of Different Ethnicities, How Much Did The Lack Of Ethnic Representation Affect You While You Were Growing Up (Disney Movies, Dolls, Magazine Covers, Lead Actors / Actresses, Etc.)?”**

1) LLBHxo wrote:

“I think in hindsight it affected me massively, though I was too young to explain it at the time.

“From the ages of around six to 17, I did not want to be black. (I'm mixed race.) I hated family holidays as I didn't want to be in the sun getting tanned. I wore factor 50 and stayed in the shade. I chemically straightened my hair, which took years to undo the damage. I went through a 'goth' phase wore make up that was too pale for my actual skin shade. I was embarrassed by my culture and wanted to dissociate from it completely. I hated that I was naturally curvy and not thin like my white friends. I felt ugly and unattractive, which made me an absolute nightmare teenager.

“Looking back, I believe a lot of this was to do with the lack of positive representation of people who looked like me. There was plenty of negative representation in the news (which I remember distinctly) and in the stereotypes at school. I remember my school giving me an award for some exam results because basically I did 'really good for a black person.'

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<sup>23</sup> Source: Sauced\_Penguin, “What's a job that you just associate with jerks?” Reddit. AskReddit. 8 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pk1ju3/whats\\_a\\_job\\_th\\_at\\_you\\_just\\_associate\\_with\\_jerks/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pk1ju3/whats_a_job_th_at_you_just_associate_with_jerks/) >.

“It wasn’t until I was around 23 that I started to truly feel comfortable in my body and embrace my culture and heritage.”

baguetteworld wrote:

“As an East Asian woman, I really identify with everything you wrote. Another thing I experienced growing up was that I never saw East Asians in any sort of movie, TV show, or media unless it was to make fun of them. This meant that whenever I saw an Asian man on TV, it was usually because he was the butt of a joke or emasculated in some way because of the ‘stereotype.’ That was incredibly harmful to a lot of women like me because we grew up being told our own men were inherently unattractive by Western standards. As a result, for several decades the only men I could be attracted to were white men with Eurocentric features, and those were the only men I dated.

“Currently I am dating an Asian man now and I really enjoy the comfort and similarities of dating within my own culture. However, it took a lot of un-learning in the years leading up to now to accept that the men from my own culture aren’t inherently unattractive, effeminate, or dorky just because they’re Asian.”

brusclewr657 commented:

“Damn, it feels like I could have written this.

“Half-Latina, half-white, growing up I used to play up the white and downplay the Latina. I didn’t want to wear eyeliner in middle school or big hoop earrings because I didn’t want to look like ‘those Latinas’ who are stereotypically portrayed in media. I wore super preppy clothing. (Think Ralph Lauren-inspired.) I woke up early to straighten my hair EVERY DAY before school. I hated how dark I turned in the summer and I ESPECIALLY hated it when my white friends would put their arm next to mine and

comment how tan I had gotten. I was embarrassed to speak Spanish in public with my mom and embarrassed by her accent in English.

“I didn’t realize the implications of these behaviors until I got to college and I left my very suburban very white hometown. Being in a new, more diverse, environment allowed me to contemplate my identity and explore what it meant.”

myheartisyourjn commented:

“I grew up in a predominantly white town and constantly felt ugly and unwanted. I wanted my hair to be long and straight, and I hid from anything that made my blackness stand out. Hated how I didn’t have a body like any of my friends or anyone else in school. Hated that I never dated anyone in school because being black and curvy wasn’t attractive at the time. I HATED my body growing up because no one I saw on screen looked like me and I felt so fat and ugly.

“On top of that, I was involved in honors, AP classes and in choir / musical theatre and never really got the recognition I deserved because I was black. Never got lead roles because there were no black characters in current musicals. There were never any smart, black girl characters on TV.

“I’m 24 now and still slowly trying to become comfortable with my body and while there’s more representation on TV, I still have a lot of trauma and years of self-hate to get over.”

raptprclvb commented:

“I was like ‘Nah, I was fine,’ and saw your comment. I remember not wanting to play with black Barbies (I’m also mixed race), but I always had some sort of black media (*Cinderella*, *Moesha*, *Sister Sister*, *That’s So Raven*, etc.) and even spent time with the black side of my family. The Mexican side ... whew. Not allowed to be in the sun that

long, sunscreen drilled into me from a young age, etc. I used to be more brown as a kid when I played outside, then I got lighter and lighter and even had a whole ass vitamin D deficiency because of how I couldn't be outside all the time. That mixed with an abusive household was horrible for me. I lived in Arizona and apparently a vitamin D deficiency is normal there, hmm.

“If anything, to be honest, I felt more alienated in my teens and even now at almost 30 because I didn't have biracial representation in the media. Sure, we have biracial people that exist — there's Travis McCoy, Halsey, Pete Wentz, Alicia Keys, Jordin Sparks, etc. But even for them, it seems that they had to 'pick a side' like we had to. It's Travie the black front man of Gym Class Heroes, Halsey the white female singer, etc.

“I wish it wasn't 'pick a side' for me and for them. I wish that there was something that showed us that it's okay to be biracial and celebrate both *día de los muertos* and Kwanzaa, or Mexican Independence Day and Juneteenth, or whatever the holidays and events are that make you uniquely you. But we didn't have characters like that.”

extreme-boredom wrote:

“Didn't bother me then, but it bothers me now that you can find every race and ethnicity under the sun represented as long as they fit what the media deems 'interesting' / exotic / trendy. Well, not eastern Europeans ... nope, not us. And no, I don't feel represented by western whites. I know it might seem mind boggling to some, but we're not the same.

“What annoys me the most is that it's trendy to include some people and scream diversity while at the same time appropriating our stuff.

“The most popular example of that right now would be the *Witcher* series. No, I don't want everyone in there to be

white, but I want there to be actual eastern Europeans in it because it's a story inspired by our myths and culture. They just picked the story apart and kept the stuff that would appeal to the American viewers while discarding the stuff that was distinctly eastern European.

“Another lesser-known example would be some American fashion brands that took our traditional clothing and sold it as ‘high fashion inspired by African women’ because black culture is trendy to them. It was insulting to everyone involved on so many levels. When called out, they said, ‘It’s fashion inspired by ALL women,’ never recognizing that they simply stole traditional designs from local artisans.

“Source:

[ctvnews.ca/mobile/lifestyle/romanians-angered-by-designer-tory-burch-s-faux-pas-1.3456889](http://ctvnews.ca/mobile/lifestyle/romanians-angered-by-designer-tory-burch-s-faux-pas-1.3456889)

“Another example:

[boredpanda.com/dior-copy-traditional-romanian-design-clothes/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_campaign=organic](http://boredpanda.com/dior-copy-traditional-romanian-design-clothes/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic)

“It’s all happy diversity as long as it sells, not because anyone gives an actual fuck.”

annaaii commented:

“There’s nothing that connects me, an eastern European, to white people in the USA and the UK except for skin colour. Obviously, there are similarities, but our cultures and mentalities are different.

“Eastern European culture is hardly ever properly represented. They don’t even bother to actually hire actors from our countries because apparently, it’s enough to just have Americans ‘speak’ our language (and I don’t know about you, but I never realise they’re supposed to speak

Romanian until the ‘[speaks Romanian]’ subtitles show up. Lmao). Plus, we’re always playing the roles of mobsters / terrorists / witches with thick Russian accents even if that particular character comes from a country where people don’t speak Russian.

“But hey, I suppose just seeing someone with white skin should be enough, eh? /s [sarcasm].”<sup>24</sup>

## **25. “Fellow Muslims Of Reddit, What Misconception Or Mostly Unknown Fact About Islam Do You Want To Share / Explain?”**

1) TheRavenSayeth wrote:

“The hardest part of being Muslim isn’t any of the things anyone usually asks about. It’s 100% holding in your farts so you don’t have to put your foot in a sink in a public bathroom.

“I know that sentence doesn’t make sense, but it’s exhaustingly true.”

PuzzledPoet9313 commented, “Put your foot in a sink? Please could you explain?”

Hira\_Said responded:

“They’re referring to when Muslims do *wudhu*, which involves cleaning one’s hands, arms, nose, face, ears, and feet with water. This is primarily done before each of the five major prayers and before reading the Quran. Now, if someone has done it once and the next prayer time is close

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<sup>24</sup> Source: blackmoonbluemoon, “Women of different ethnicities how much did the lack of ethnic representation affect you while you were growing up ( Disney movies, dolls, magazine covers, lead actors/actresses etc)?” Reddit. AskWomen. 8 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/pk84k4/women\\_of\\_different\\_ethnicities\\_how\\_much\\_did\\_the/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/pk84k4/women_of_different_ethnicities_how_much_did_the/) >.



by (like in areas of the world where days are short and nights are long), it can carry over unless the person breaks the wadhu by smelling something bad, seeing something inappropriate, going to the bathroom or just farting, and hearing or saying a swear word. I know after I browse r/all, even with the NSFW filter on, I still end up scrolling past scantily clad women, so I know I have to *wadhu* every time I open Reddit. Lol.

“Edit: In some *madhubs*, or schools, it’s only going to the bathroom and bleeding that really break it, but not the seeing something inappropriate, smelling something bad, or swearing that breaks it. I placed my own precautions in my comment without realizing it, so I apologize.

“Edit: I also forgot to mention the *wadhu* involves cleaning our mouths, either by just plain water or brushing.”

2) zyido2 wrote, “Islam is a very decentralized religion. There is no pope-like figure in Mecca presiding over a global hierarchy of clergymen. Instead, many Muslim-majority countries have their own national councils, with varying degrees of influence and authority, that their residents look to for guidance on religious matters. Many Muslims also choose to follow local clerics or imams, or to rely on their own interpretation of the faith. That’s partly why there is so much variety around the world in what Muslims believe and practice.”

danenotdane commented:

“Repentance is a private affair that is directly between you and God Almighty alone. No middlemen needed. You’re even told as Muslims to hide your sins and faults from people (within reason, of course), and to repent to God Almighty directly. One of the attributes of God with the most emphasis in Islam is his mercy.

“Anas ibn Malik reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, ‘**Allah Almighty said: O son of Adam, if you call upon Me and place your hope in Me, I will forgive you despite what is within you and I will not hesitate. O son of Adam, if you have sins piling up to the clouds and then ask for My forgiveness, I will forgive you without hesitation. O son of Adam, if you come to Me with enough sins to fill the earth and then you meet Me without associating anything with Me, I will come to you with enough forgiveness to fill the earth.**’

“Source: Sunan al-Tirmidhī 3540

“Grade: Sahih (authentic) according to Al-Albani

“Honestly, there have been times I have come incredibly close to tears reading about the mercy of God on his servants. It’s an incredibly powerful feeling knowing that no matter how badly you mess up, if you sincerely repent, you will be forgiven without question.”<sup>25</sup>

## **26. “What Random Piece Of Safety Advice Do You Want To Give?”**

swannyMcswan wrote:

“I cannot stress this enough.

“I have gotten into people’s face and yelled at them about it.

“Damn near threatened violence over it.

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<sup>25</sup> Source: Cannonfury, “Fellow Muslims of Reddit, what misconception or mostly unknown fact about Islam do you want to share/explain?” Reddit. AskReddit. 8 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pkeyih/fellow\\_muslims\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_misconception\\_or/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pkeyih/fellow_muslims_of_reddit_what_misconception_or/) >.

“For the love of god, Allah, Ra, Odin, Zeus, whatever, **stay the fuck away from heavy machinery.**

“People don’t realize how big of a blind spot those things can have, and chains, ropes, cables, etc. can slip at any moment so stay clear.

“Sure, the operators have their own responsibility to maintain a safe work environment and follow proper procedures, but if some dumbass steps behind a backing truck, they can’t do much about it.

“It’s almost always city slickers who don’t understand. I had to physically grab someone out of the way because they were going to walk right behind a roll off truck as it was unloading.

“While extraordinarily rare, I’ve seen the cables on those trucks break, hydraulics fail, and the box slip off the rails and fall over.

“Humans are made of squishy flesh; heavy machinery can kill you instantly.

“So if you’re around big pieces of equipment, pause, assess the situation. Stay well clear, be sure you can see the operator, and either wait, or find a different solution before you get anywhere close.

“And if you do have to get close, try to alert the operator and be constantly vigilant.

“So please, please, please don’t win a Darwin award because if you do I’ll personally attend your funeral and tell the crowd what a huge dumbass you were.”<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Source: tfdsupplies, “What random piece of safety advice do you want to give?” Reddit. AskReddit. 9 September 2021 <

## 27. “When Was A Time Where Your Quick Thinking Likely Saved You Or A Friend From A Dangerous Situation?”

1) ThedaBarasBoobs wrote, “I don’t know if it was the right thing to do, but one time a friend and I (both female and in our early 20’s) were stoned and walking down the streets of the red light district in Amsterdam. A very creepy guy started following us and muttering obscene things under his breath. There was nobody around so we both just started walking faster and faster, and suddenly he was too close for comfort, like maybe three feet behind us, and I turned around with a balled up fist and shouted, ‘DON’T YOU DARE COME ANY CLOSER, YOU PIECE OF SHIT.’ He was definitely caught off guard. I think he didn’t expect us to talk back to him or put up any kind of fight. And fortunately right then a barkeeper opened his door and saw the whole thing. He was big and muscle-y and he said, ‘I’m watching everything, man. Leave them alone,’ and the guy slinked away.”

GoFletchYourself commented:

“Had something similar happen with a friend when we were both 19. This guy was following us, causing us to increase our pace (which he continually matched). Suddenly a part of me snapped, and I just turned around and stared him down, almost daring him to come closer. He very promptly crossed the road and disappeared.

“In hindsight I was quite lucky, I don’t know what I would have done if he took that as the opportunity to attack me.

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[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pkytb0/what\\_random\\_piece\\_of\\_safety\\_advice\\_do\\_you\\_want\\_to/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pkytb0/what_random_piece_of_safety_advice_do_you_want_to/) >.

“But I swear to god half of these creeps just enjoy seeing us visibly terrified of their presence, and they never expect a retaliation.”

2) thiefcandy wrote, “I insisted on getting my dad to the hospital when I saw how violent his shakes were from his ‘cold.’ It ended up being a liver infection that if left untreated would have likely evolved into sepsis and probably killed him.”

3) lxzxh wrote, “When I was about nine, my little brother and sister thought it would be a good idea to tie a jump rope to a slide to swing and then go down. My sister (seven) went down but the rope ended up around her neck so she was dangling there. I quickly looked at my grandma expecting her (as the adult) to run over there and take her down but the poor lady was in shock she just stood there watching, so I ran over to my sister and pushed her back up the slide, which was not easy at all, especially with her body flailing everywhere. My sister ended up with deep cuts around her throat that she had to go to the hospital for and still has the scars from it 12 years later.”

4) sunnynightmares wrote:

“I was 15 at the time, and on my way home from a friend’s house. It was around 6 pm already. While I was walking, a guy greeted me hello. Thinking he was someone I know or someone my mom knows (it was a very small town where everyone knows everyone), I politely smiled and went on my way. He started following me, asking for my name and if I was single and if I need someone to talk to. I kept on shaking my head and trying to get rid of him. When he suddenly grabbed my arm. without thinking, I pulled away and pushed him hard before running. At the exact moment, I saw a familiar face at the end of a street. It was my uncle’s friend. We weren’t close, but he was a six-foot-tall man with tattoos all over and he was smoking a cigarette. With tears in my

eyes, I immediately ran towards him and called his name. He was startled, of course, and it took a while for him to recognize me.

“I told him what happened and when I turned around, the guy was staring and he had a very scary look in his face.

“My uncle’s friend raised his voice at him and said, ‘Oi! You’re harassing my niece right here! You want me to beat the shit out of you?’

“The guy raised his hands and immediately backed away. Uncle’s friend took me to the nearby McDonald’s and called my uncle, who picked me up since he didn’t have a car and didn’t want me to commute on my own.

“I’m still thankful for you, Uncle Rod. Thank you for saving my life that night.”

5) TwinklyLite wrote:

“My boyfriend at the time and I were walking to our car in the middle of nowhere at 3am. Forest on both sides of the street and not another person in sight. A car with four sketchy-looking dudes slowed down to where we were walking. I told him to bolt. He didn’t want to, so I bolted and he felt pressured to follow me and ran after me. The car stopped, and guys came out of the car to yell after us telling us to come back. We did not and didn’t stop until we got to the car and drove back. The men were gone, and nothing was there.

“He asked me why I ran away because they could shoot us if they had guns. I told him no thug will go after difficult prey. Prison penalties are much longer for murder and theft rather than just theft and mugging. If we run away if they come near us, they will find someone easier to steal from.”

6) Jay\_Boogie96 wrote, “Not me, but this happened to my grandma when she was a child. She was born in 1942 and she was in elementary when this happened so late 40s-early 50s. She and her best friend were walking home from school, and some man pulled up next to them asking if they wanted candy. My grandma didn’t have a sweet tooth, but her friend was trying to go to the van to get some candy. My grandma pulled her away and they ran home. She still tells this story and knows they would’ve been kidnapped had she not convinced her friend to run home.”

7) alrezin wrote:

“We arrived at a party with a friend’s brother. He got pretty drunk during the evening and then he tried to make us go outside to wait for him to pick us up when we were going to leave. He got really angry when I said he’s drunk and started screaming at us to go outside, like he looked like he was gonna hit us if we didn’t do as he said.

“When we were getting dressed, I took the car keys without him noticing. He got really pissed when he was going to unlock the car only to find that he didn’t have the keys. He thought he had dropped them somewhere inside and went looking and after like 20 minutes or so of looking, he just wasn’t able to stay awake any longer due to the alcohol. Had we gotten into the car, he probably would have crashed it.”

8) Mella\_20 wrote:

“My mom and I were at a market, and some of the men who were selling were really creepy. This one guy told us that he had ‘more shoes and bags’ in another location, so we followed him. (I don’t know why we did.) We went in this elevator and we were gonna enter the room. (I guess it was an apartment, like an apartment and the market was on the ground floor.) Something seemed really off, because nobody else was going there, and it looked dark inside the apartment,

so I told my mom we have to go back downstairs and leave right away.

“I really think we would have gotten @ssaulted or m\*rdered if we went inside.

“Quick thinking in other cases when I have been harassed resulted in me running. I run really fast when I’m scared, so I just ran like my life depended on it.”

9) Risa-- wrote:

“Walked into a parking garage elevator in a dangerous area of downtown (couldn’t take stairs), and a man was standing in the far corner. He didn’t exit. I walked in. Then I realized that he was just ‘riding’ the elevator.

“He had a gang symbol tattooed between his eyes, his eyes looked strange, like he was out of it, and his facial expression looked angry / frustrated.

“I decided to act friendly, confident, happy, and polite towards him. When the elevator doors opened, he said, ‘I’m getting in your car with you.’ I said, ‘I’m sorry, but you can’t come with me.’ He aggressively declared, ‘Yes I’m going to go with you.’ I told him, ‘I’m sorry, but you can’t come. Have a nice day.’ Elevator doors closed on him.

“There was a story on the news the next morning that someone, with a similar description, attacked a young girl in the area of town that I was in.”

10) RombauerAtoZ wrote:

“This happened last week ... our family dog (technically she is my mom’s dog that I’m dog sitting) was attacked by two pit bulls at a dog park, completely unprovoked. The pit bulls knocked her down and immediately began EATING HER! I lunged into their fancy feast and grabbed our 12-year-old,



sweet lab mix that weighs 50lbs, despite me having a lifelong fear of pit bulls.

“I could have lost a hand, arm, etc. by doing pulling her out of that attack, but that was the last thought in my mind in that moment.

“She required surgery, stitches, staples, and 24-hour constant care for the past week.”

11) Blondeshvmorfun wrote, “I was a freshman in high school at a HUGE party of mostly juniors and seniors. By 11pm, the house and grounds were littered with several hundred drunk and / or high kids enjoying the free beer keg and several huge trashcans full of fruit punch and Everclear soaked melon balls! I saw a girlfriend of mine, so totally smashed that she could barely stand, being ‘escorted’ away from the party and towards a dark, secluded corner of the back yard by two very large seniors! I knew whatever their plan, it wasn’t good for her! There wasn’t time to summon anyone, so, in a panic, I pretended to be just as drunk! Grasping her hand, I was loud and persistent that she needed to accompany me back towards the party! She was oblivious to what was going on as they began to separate us physically and forcefully! I doubled down and eventually, they stopped and walked away into the night! I KNOW I saved her from a sexual assault and to this day it is chilling to think, had I not been there, how quickly and easily she would have been out of range for anyone to have heard or seen her in distress!”<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Source: [alwaysamensch](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/pkx69n/when_was_a_time_where_your_quick_thinking_likely/), “When was a time where your quick thinking likely saved you or a friend from a dangerous situation?” Reddit. AskWomen. 9 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/pkx69n/when\\_was\\_a\\_time\\_where\\_your\\_quick\\_thinking\\_likely/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/pkx69n/when_was_a_time_where_your_quick_thinking_likely/) >.

## 28. “What Screams ‘Pretending To Be An Intellectual?’”

1) powdereddrinkmix wrote, “Often using big words incorrectly.”

Dampenguins4269 commented, “What’s wrong with masturbating large words into sentences despite not knowing what they mean?”

BarfingOnYourFacde commented, “As long as you are ejaculating to the right audience, it might not be a big deal.”

escaped\_prisoner wrote, “Sometimes I use big words I don’t understand to make me sound impotent.”

Crazed\_waffle\_party commented:

“I consider myself a logophile. Often when I talk to people, I will add the caveat: ‘I don’t get to use this word often, so I’m going to use it now.’ I recently learned the words ‘attenuate,’ ‘redolence,’ and ‘pulchritude.’ I love words. I don’t exercise my vocabulary to seem intellectual (at least not for the most part), I do it because I believe every single word conveys a specific meaning and I should use the word that best communicates my thoughts and feelings.

“I could say that someone is playing with me, but ‘playing’ is not a specific word. I could mean that they are joking with me, or toying with me, or copulating with me, or having fun with me. Except for the latter, I’d rather use a more specific term than playing to avoid ambiguity. English does have a few redundant words, but they are quite rare. Most words have a specific meaning, prosody, or intensity. I simply prefer to use the best words.”

djinnisequoia commented, “*Exactly!* People have sometimes thought that I used big words to intimidate them or some bs but for me it’s exactly the same reason: precision.”

Flat\_Awareness5626 commented, “I try to use small words because I feel that it generally gets the point across to more people more easily, but today I got caught using ‘concretize’ and had to explain that it wasn’t a typo. Sometimes the long words really do just fit better, but I wonder how much good it does if people don’t know the meaning.”

Crazed\_waffle\_party commented:

“It’s best to tailor your communication for your audience. Yes, using the best words matters, but even if they truly vocalize your thoughts, if your audience is perplexed, you failed. You did not communicate clearly.

“I will occasionally sprinkle vocabulary words into my writing, even when I know my audience might be perplexed, but that’s to dog whistle to other authors that I have mastery over the language, not to impress my targeted readers.”

2) Catctus wrote, “Not considering that you might be wrong. Intellectual insecurity, basically.”

3) entinio wrote, “States, ‘Do your own research.’”

ChampionSignificant wrote:

“‘Vaccines make you magnetic’

“‘What peer-reviewed journal is that from?’

“‘DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH!’”

alkalineorion commented, “The ‘vaccines make you magnetic’ thing is one of my favourite conspiracies, because every time someone claims this, when they demonstrate it, they immediately prove that they’re not.”

Flat\_Awareness5626 commented, “There was one guy who had a video ‘proving’ it was true and it turned out his skin was sticky from sweat and that’s what was holding the magnet on. He was asked to try again after washing the spot

and it no longer worked. To his credit, he was pretty sheepish about it.”<sup>28</sup>

## 29. “What’s The Worst Thing Someone Has Done For You With ‘Good Intentions’?”

1) The\_Bloppenstein wrote:

“Bought me a cat for my birthday.

“Here is a present you have to spend money on and take care of for a decade.

“Don’t do this. Please.”

manymoreways commented, “It takes a very irresponsible person to gift a pet without prior discussion with the future owner.”

superveniunt\_cunt commented, “I gave my ex a kitten without asking. She was badly allergic but attached, and she still has the cat eight years later. It was wrong of me to do that.”

idiotdroid commented:

“Also, don’t accept gifts like this.

“Just say you appreciate the gesture, but you can’t take care of it.

“You can decline gifts and explain yourself without coming off as rude. If they can’t handle that, you shouldn’t be friends with them.”

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<sup>28</sup> Source: Animeking1108, “What screams ‘pretending to be an intellectual’?” Reddit. AskReddit. 9 September 23021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pl86mj/what\\_screams\\_pretending\\_to\\_be\\_an\\_intellectual/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pl86mj/what_screams_pretending_to_be_an_intellectual/)>.

dishonourableaccount wrote, “The type of person to buy a surprise cat as a gift for someone is also someone who’d take your rejection as an insult, think you hate animals, think you hate them, and tell everyone their version of the tale loudly and often.”

mynameshungry commented, “If that’s how they’re going to be about it, then I probably *do* hate them, and it’s likely a huge load off not to have to associate with them anymore.”

LivingStCelestine, “My friend bought me a rabbit for my birthday when we were teenagers. I took her but was not okay with keeping her. I did not want to look after a rabbit. I had no idea how to care for one. I ended up giving it to a coworker whose niece had rabbits and really wanted another one. I got lucky I was able to rehome her so quickly with someone who’d love her. Giving pets as surprise gifts is so not cool!”

FormalMango wrote:

“When I was 16, someone I was friends with bought me a baby turtle for my birthday.

“Now it’s 23 years later and I don’t remember the name of the person who did it, but I do know that I’ve hauled the turtle and his 6ft indoor tank set up *and* his portable outdoor pond summer residence through six house moves *and* paid someone to look after him for a year when I was living overseas.

“I love him, but I would *never* have voluntarily bought a pet that lives for 60 years.”

geico\_fire wrote:

“Make sure you can actually afford to take care of the pet — big living space, cost of food and vet bills and such, etc. — before you gift a pet.

“Here’s an idea: if you want to gift someone with a pet and they’re open to getting one, and if they have the means to take care of one, take them to an animal shelter, have them look, and if they find a pet they like, then buy it for them.”

2) efluxr wrote, “When I was 16, I was out to very few people, one of them a person I considered a best friend. One day, she invited me to ride horses at her boyfriend’s farm, so we ditched class and went. When we got there, his KKK grand wizard grandfather sat me down and proceeded to tell me the Lord told him that I’m gay and he was going to bring me back to God. I spent a few hours confessing my sins to Jesus and pretending to ‘see the light,’ then never talked to her again.”

44Skull44 commented, “All things considered that’s a lot more progressive than I figured that would go. Sounds like they genuinely wanted to help you. Albeit in a fucked-up, misguided way. I would have thought they’d, at the very least, beat the shit out of you and drag you off the property.”

3) Bullydaddy wrote:

“I’m male.

“When I was very young, my mom saw I had a big interest in dolls and princess stuff. Being the very liberal and progressive mother that she was, she raised me as a girl for a couple years. There’s a several-year time period where all pictures of me are of a little girl.

“I just liked dolls.”

Shurgosa commented, “Lol. I’ll never forget when I was like five years old I, grabbed this little vinyl purse from the toy room. I was gonna sling it on my shoulder while we went to the mall and my dad would not let me. Haha. This was decades ago. I was so ticked off at him. I was a five-year-old boy, and I wanted to bring that purse to the mall, dammit.”

loftier\_fish commented, “My sister intentionally didn’t get her daughter any gendered toys or expose her to any gender-norm-type stuff for the first few years as an experiment, and she very naturally gravitated towards traditionally girly things, and is a very girly girl now.”

Isaacasdreams commented, “Bruh ... I’m straight as F\*\*\*, but I love American Pop music and I like Fashion. I swear to F\*\*\*ing god I hate it when people think I’m gay just because.”

Lina\_Elison commented, “When I was one year old, my mother cut my hair bald, so that the quality of my hair would be better later. Only recently, when I was looking at old photos, I asked the question: Who is this boy? Imagine my surprise when I was told that it was me.”

Oscarmaiajonah commented, “Lol. I went to stay with my aunt while my mother went into hospital to have my younger brother. When she came to collect me, I was bald, my Aunt had shaved my hair off so it would grow back curly. My mother was furious; I was too young to care.”<sup>29</sup>

### **30. “What Is Your Opinion On Biden Mandating The Vaccines [Or Testing Once A Week For Businesses With More Than 100 Employees]?”**

1) VheloGrace wrote:

“Technically, The Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (aka OSHA) is the one creating the mandate, not Biden directly. This is a smart workaround because a.) He’s not doing it directly so it can’t

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<sup>29</sup> Source: MhmmmmMoist, “What’s the worst thing someone has done for you with ‘good intentions’?” Reddit. AskReddit. 9 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pl7orc/whats\\_the\\_worst\\_thing\\_someone\\_has\\_done\\_for\\_you/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pl7orc/whats_the_worst_thing_someone_has_done_for_you/) >.

be challenged as quickly in the courts, and b.) OSHA is about safety regulations, so trying to deny the idea that vaccines create a safer work environment is going to be very difficult for non-vax mandate supporters.

“Ultimately, it’s the best thing to do right now since we’re nowhere near the level of vaccines we need to be to stop COVID from spreading or lessen the chance of it mutating. Plus, people need to get vaccinated because it lessens the chance of going to the Hospital.

“I work in a Hospital and we’re almost at capacity (the limit of patients you can take before you have to start telling EMTs to go to another Hospital or they have to wait in the ambulance). Fun fact — all but ONE of the patients in our Hospital due to COVID are unvaccinated; the vaccinated one is here for other complications with COVID. Had these people gotten the vaccine, they more than likely wouldn’t be here with us.

“The vaccine is proven effective by helping keep our Hospitals from hitting capacity and increases the odds of making COVID feel like just an annoying cold. It’s in everyone’s best interest to get it so I’m okay with a mandate. If people just got the shot and moved on with their lives, we wouldn’t be having this conversation (like every other vaccine we’ve ever gotten).

“P.S. — The dirty little secret in all of our Healthcare is that most Hospitals are not capable of taking on large numbers of patients at any time; a pandemic was always going to show this discrepancy so if you’re not vaccinated, please do so! You do NOT want to be going to the Hospital right now.”

envis10n emphasized:

“The mandate says vaccinate OR get tested once a week. It’s for employers with over 100 employees, you know, places more at risk of creating an outbreak.



“It does not require that those people get vaccinated. It provides another option for those who don’t want to.”

ProjectShamrock wrote, “Given the scientific information that has been published and the real-world results we’ve seen for vaccine efficacy, I think it’s about time for a mandate. That being said, I would like to think I’d trust them even if Trump were president but realistically I would have been more skeptical than I was with Biden. That being said, I would have been vaccinated long ago either way, but maybe if Trump were president I would have been only 1-2 weeks more skeptical before getting the shots. Unlike a lot of people online, I consulted with doctors before getting the vaccine and they reassured me that it was a good idea.”<sup>30</sup>

### **31. “Women Of Color, How Would Your Life Be Different If You Were White?”**

theloveycunt (Original Poster) added, “I apologize in advance if this seems insensitive. That is not my intent. I am curious if women of color would feel like their lives would be different if they were white? I have often tried to put myself in other women’s shoes and understand their perspectives on life, career, money, growing up, etc.”

1) alrezin wrote:

“I wouldn’t have people trying to greet me in Chinese or Japanese.

“I wouldn’t have had people walking as far away from me as possible at the start of the pandemic.

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30 Source: rezrekt1, “What is your opinion on Biden mandating the vaccines? And would your reaction be the same if trump had mandated them?” Reddit. AskReddit. 10 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/plljad/what\\_is\\_your\\_opinion\\_on\\_biden\\_mandating\\_the/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/plljad/what_is_your_opinion_on_biden_mandating_the/) >.

“I wouldn’t have had people pulling [rolling?] their eyes at me.

“I wouldn’t have people who deny that I’m Swedish.

“I wouldn’t have people telling me to ‘go back to your country.’

“I wouldn’t have people thinking me to be submissive just because of my looks.

“I wouldn’t have people telling me how mixed kids would be soooo cute if I’m in a relationship with someone who’s white.

“People wouldn’t assume I don’t speak Swedish.

“I would likely be treated very different if travelling.”

2) PetitPied21 wrote:

“I wouldn’t have to wonder if something is happening to me because I’m black.

“Real estate people would probably call me back. People wouldn’t assume I know what living in the hood is like. (I really don’t know what it’s like.)

“I would just wake up, quickly brush my hair and go out. (I can’t do that.)

“I’d probably fit better at work because I wouldn’t be the only black person / woman out of 450 people.

“I wouldn’t have to think about race when dating. I wouldn’t need to code switch ever.

“I’d be the ‘norm’ for once.”

Note by David Bruce: *Urban Dictionary* defines “code switching” in this way: “To **customize** style of **speech** to the **audience** or group being addressed.”

<https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=code+switching>

3) Riin183 wrote:

“Easier to get a job.

“More men would find me attractive / not reject me so easily.

“Not getting stupid comments like ‘You’re so exotic’ or ‘Where are you from? No, where are you really from?’

“Not having my citizenship questioned.

“Not getting stupid comments about my hair or people asking me if I would ever want to straighten it.

“I wouldn’t be interrogated about my education (because apparently, it’s impossible for a WOC to be well educated).

“I wouldn’t have to worry about where in the world I travel to. Yes, being a woman, you have to be careful about where in the world you travel to by yourself but being non-white adds an extra layer.

“In a nutshell, my life would be massively different.”

4) Confetticandi wrote:

“I’m East Asian in the US.

“The ‘good’ if I were white:

“No one would question my American-ness. Just because I’m Asian doesn’t mean I’m from an immigrant family. Asians have been immigrating to the US since the 1800s, as long as the Irish and Italians. My family came to the US from Japan in 1902. My parents and grandparents were all born here and all speak English as their first language.

“I could probably drink and eat cheese. I have the Asian enzyme deficiency and so I have alcohol intolerance and

lactose intolerance both. That takes a lot of fun out of social events.

“I’d probably have a more chill relationship with my parents. They probably wouldn’t have been as authoritarian and I wouldn’t have been required to show as much deference to age and authority. I’d have been allowed to have more of a social life.

“I wouldn’t have to worry about weird Asian fetishist men, who are almost always kind of awkward, emotionally damaged, whiny guys for some reason.

“I’d get more intangible networking benefits since most people in the US workforce are white and that in-group / out-group dynamic is powerful.

“No anti-Asian racism.

“I wouldn’t have to worry about myself or my parents being attacked in the street for being Asian and the media not caring about it since it’s a tricky social issue when other minorities are doing it.

“I probably wouldn’t have felt so much like an ugly duckling in my teen years for not conforming to a white standard of beauty.

“The ‘bad’ if I were white:

“I probably wouldn’t be as thin or healthy. White American diets seem to be mostly combinations of meat, cheese, and pasta, with higher levels of butter, salt, and sugar. Whenever I eat like that I feel terrible. I think that’s why average weights are higher.

“I may not have done as well in school. Statistically, East Asians score higher on everything on average because we study harder, which is a double-edged sword with admissions and stuff.

“I probably wouldn’t age as well. I’m pale when I stay out of the sun, but the melanin still helps. Also, being told by your mom your whole life that pale is beautiful and to stay out of the sun. White people try to tan on top of having paler skin. My white friends already have forehead lines in their late 20s/early 30s, and generally just look older because of their bone structure. Statistically, I would gray sooner if I was white and apparently you lose your vision at a way higher rate in your old age if you have light eyes.

“I might have had student loans. I’ve noticed that in white families, they’ll give their kids gifts like gaming consoles, clothes, and cars, but then expect them to take out loans for school. In Asian families, education is the number one priority, so you don’t get presents but school is paid for, no matter what it costs.

“I don’t think white people do music lessons at anywhere near the same rates either (again, with the difference in financial priorities). I play piano and violin and that’s nice.

“I really like my cultural heritage and I don’t know what it would be like not to have that.

“Losing the minority solidarity. This can go either way because it only exists because of discrimination, but if I meet other Asian girls it’s like we automatically have something in common that we can bond over and become friends: same niche media, same family dynamics, same struggles and complaints, same pressures, same food preferences. Actually, most of it is food related. Lol.”

5) hannah97858 wrote, “I wear the hijab but look ‘white’ when I don’t. Hence I’ve experienced being treated as a white woman (when I choose not to wear it) and as a Woman Of Color when I do choose to wear it. To be completely honest, I get treated pretty similarly when it comes to things that actually matter such as how seriously I’m taken at work

/ school, interviews etc. The only difference is in casual settings when I might get way more romantic interest / random favours from men as a ‘white’ woman than when I choose to cover my hair. I’m not salty about that because it’s not up to men to change who they’re attracted to. That’s not their job.”<sup>31</sup>

### **32. “Clergy Of Reddit, What Are Some Aspects Of Your Job That Most People Don’t Think About?”**

1) Back2Bach wrote:

“The pastor of the church where I was music director / organist often lamented the amount of time and effort spent maintaining the buildings and ground that is required of him.

“He said that he went into the ministry ‘to do God’s work,’ but never thought that raising money and working with contractors to replace slate roofs, old furnaces, plumbing, repointing bricks, etc., would become the main focus of his pastoral concerns.”

2) AleksandrNevsky wrote:

“I used to help my priest as a teen both during services and with things that needed doing after service hours.

“Number one thing I was doing outside of service? Maintenance. I would help the priest with fixing and maintaining bits of the property. I did it when I could but he was doing this almost every day. We had to:

- Scrub the church floors

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<sup>31</sup> Source: thelovelycunt, “WOC, How would your life be different if you were white?” Reddit. AskWomen. 9 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/plb2ck/woc\\_how\\_would\\_your\\_life\\_be\\_different\\_if\\_you\\_were/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/plb2ck/woc_how_would_your_life_be_different_if_you_were/) >.

- Polish the candle holders
- Clean the icons (to venerate them, you kiss the icons so they have to be cleaned very frequently)
- Polish and clean the censor
- Refill the alter server candle staves
- Bake the prosphora
- Clean the altar\*

\*I was forbidden from touching the altar since I'm not clergy so I couldn't help him with this one.

- Get the proper colored cloths and robes ready for service
- Print the weekly bulletin
- Clean up old wax from the floors
- Make sure the votives are refilled
- Clean the considerable amount of dust that built up in the choir loft.

“That’s just the week-to-week stuff. There’s a lot going on when it’s not Sunday services. There’s also some less regular things.

- There was the lawn, hedges, and gardens to take care of. This was practically a full-time job on its own.
- One of the big projects was repairing the cupolas, which are really old at this point.
- He had to make sure the kitchen in the attached hall was clean and stocked for coffee hour and any events that were planned. He does have the church council to help, but that only alleviates so much.

- There's also the service schedules, which as a result of things like midnight services means he can sometimes get very little sleep.
- Break-ins and vandalizations are more common than they should be. It's only gotten worse since 2014 because this is an Orthodox church and while it's under an American jurisdiction (Orthodox Church of America or OCA) the style, writing, aesthetic are all clearly Slavic. Guess who has to clean it up or help pay for it? And in some cases re-sanctify what's been vandalized.
- Sometimes, because of me, he would have the police called on him or get snide comments from people near us. We had to leave the church grounds for funerals, weddings, blessing houses, etc., and people seeing a boy or young teen with a man who is clearly a priest is going to invite ... less than intelligent responses. Getting harassed by anything from some rando to an uppity cop while having to remain tactful and calm isn't going to be the highlight of anyone's day. Which makes this next bit supremely ironic.
- Listening to parishioners' problems and giving confession. (I know people are well aware of this one, but I feel it needs to be said anyway.) Often because of the nature of a priest's job, parishioners will come to them for guidance. A death of a friend or loved one, financial hardship, coming-of-age issues, sexual-assault victimization, or any number of things that makes life a nightmare. This can happen as a result of confession or just approaching them in confidence. I know for a fact he's heard some things that would bother him. I've overheard some confessions, and I realized that he hears things like that all the time and can't talk to anyone about it. I also talked to him about being sexually assaulted by my ex. (He's the first person that actually gave a shit, help services treated it like a joke.) I can't imagine things like that rest lightly on him.



- Then there's also the aspect of Last Rites. It can't be easy knowing that the person you're giving the rites is going to be dead soon. I went with him to an old folks home once to give a service and it's disheartening to see people living like that. He's got to see them like that all the time and, he's gone to that home and to the nearby hospital repeatedly to give Last Rites.

“The job of a priest doesn't stop at the end of Divine Liturgy service on Sunday. They've got a lot to deal with and they don't always have deacons or altar servers around to give them a hand. I also didn't have to put up with the church council's drama, and he did, which isn't something I'd wish on a lot of people.”

3) ThisIsntMyName3 wrote:

“Throw Away Account for what should be obvious reasons.

“I'm a Catholic Priest.

“The amount of negativity that gets casually thrown my way can be surprising. Especially online. There have already been some hateful comments made about the Catholic Church in this thread, and I'm about 99.999% sure that someone will respond directly to my comment with something truly awful. But that's pretty par for the course these days.

“People who actually care about the faith can have very unrealistic expectations of me. I studied theology and learned how to preach, administer the sacraments, etc. But I'm also expected to:

- Keep the parish running financially (which, for the sake of analogy, is like operating a rather complicated 'small' business), but at the same time never really ask for money because people don't like it when Father mentions money

- Maintain and operate multiple buildings, most of which are very old and have lots of problems
- Manage staff without ever being the bad guy, because priests aren't allowed to be 'mean'
- Be a discount (i.e. free) therapist, something I'm not qualified for
- Speak out against injustice (but only those injustices that this particular person sees as injustice)
- Emotionally bounce between celebrating funerals and weddings (often on the same day),=
- Be able to explain to people, without any time for preparation, very complicated points of Catholic doctrine — things like bioethical questions can get extremely complicated, very quickly. And I have to be able to do it in a way that the average person can understand
- Be available 24/7 to drop everything and run to the hospital
- Be available 24/7 to simply have a chat with an emotionally needy person
- Be available 24/7 to go to whatever event has been planned and wouldn't it be nice if Father showed up?
- Figure out a way to, as many a Mary Q. Parishioner has said, 'get the young people back to Church,' as if I can undo decades of people seeing their parents treating their faith as an afterthought, and therefore as something that isn't important, by offering the correct program
- This list goes on and on ...

“Don't get me wrong. I love being a priest. I wouldn't trade it for anything else. But I'm exhausted all the time.

“Fun fact: Your local Catholic Priest is likely to be one of the most highly educated people around. I spent 14 years in higher education. I have an undergraduate degree in one of the natural sciences, and then after going to seminary, I got four different graduate degrees.”

Chefhitt asked, “Please forgive my ignorance, but I’ve been to church only a few times in my life. How do you word it when you ask for money if people don’t like it when you do? I always thought it was understood that one is expected to give money to the church if one attends services there.”

ThisIsntMyName3 answered:

“It’s a complicated issue. There is the expectation you’re talking about — you go to the church, you therefore give to the church to help it stay up and running. But there are also a lot of people who started putting \$1 in the collection basket back in 1980, and they haven’t increased the amount since. \$1 doesn’t go very far these days. Obviously, if you can’t afford anything more, there’s nothing wrong with that. But most people in my area that come to church could easily put in \$10 or \$20, and if they did, we wouldn’t need to constantly be looking for ways to save money. But if you try to mention that to people, there’s always complaints afterwards that ‘Father talks only about money!’

“So how do you actually word it in a way that people understand the need without coming across as ‘always talking about money’? I’m still trying to figure that out. I try to always be clear and upfront about the parish financials as possible — a yearly parish financial report if you will. And I mention fundraising only when it’s absolutely necessary.”

ElizardethBennett commented, “Transparency is so helpful. At our parish we have a small section in the bulletin that’s updated every month with the monthly and YTD [Year-To-Date] financial statements. Everyone knows that it takes

roughly \$13,000 / month to run our parish, and it eliminates any of those unpleasant ‘hey, it’s the year end and we need twenty thousand more dollars, surprise!’ appeals.”

4) Elizabeth Bennett wrote:

“Clergy spouse here. Some things off the top of my head that people don’t think about:

- how long sermon prep and writing take compared to just delivering it
- how transitory it can be; in our denomination the Bishop can just up and move us to another parish / city at his discretion
- how many evenings you give up for meetings and pastoral calls
- how difficult it is to form and maintain genuine friendships. There are obvious boundary issues within your own congregation, and outside of it people can be really weird about clergy and their families
- you live in a goldfish bowl, where everyone thinks they know you
- how stressful the administration side of things can be and how much time it eats up
- how difficult it can be to maintain your own healthy spiritual practices
- the prevalence of burnout, and the emotional toll of constantly attending to people’s pastoral needs (It’s important to do but it can be really hard as well, and it’s crucial for clergy to have their own support in place)
- that, unlike with the megachurch pastors we all love to hate, most clergy salaries fall somewhere between ‘modest’

and ‘peanuts.’ This is not a get-rich-quick profession. It’s not even a get-rich-at-all one

“I don’t mean to sound as if things are only negative! In truth it’s pretty amazing to get to be part of people’s lives in this special way, and especially to be present for so many big moments — births, deaths, baptisms, marriages. But a lot of people don’t have any idea what this life is actually like.

“Edit: Sometimes what people don’t think about just makes me laugh. I remember one year my husband was serving at a large parish and Christmas was on a Tuesday, and someone asked us if we were going away for Christmas. Lol, no ... the church is running eight services over the next three days. We’ll be here. (Don’t even get me started about the busyness of Holy Week ...!)”

RogueRetlaw commented:

“Clergy here. All of these are true. I want to highlight the ‘time for meetings and pastoral care calls’

“Most ministers attend the committee meetings: The board, stewardship, pastoral care team, small-group facilitators, worship team, leadership development, and more. I have at least two evening meetings a week.

“I am expected to teach a class once a week. So prep time for that and the two hours for the class.

“I am expected to visit ill congregants. Hospital visits, elder care facilities, home visits.

“I am expected to meet with the youth once a month.

“I am expected to have ‘open office hours’ for at least six hours each week. If I think I can use this to get work done, I will have a ton of people. If I plan for people, no one shows up.

“I also have to write a sermon, select the hymns and readings, and make sure all participants show up. I also have to write a monthly column for the newsletter. (Some of my colleagues do it weekly.)

“I also have to show up at justice events and keep up with local issues to make sure our congregation can show up if needed (pro BLM and pro LGBTQ events usually)

“I also have a family ... I think.”

5) kearlysue wrote, “The only way to have time to yourself, even on your day off, is to shut off the phone and leave town. People will call, stop by, email, and text all hours of the day and night. They mean well but are very intrusive.”

WgXcQ wrote, “I went hiking with someone I met through a Facebook group that’s set up for that. When we met he told me his actual name was different, but that he uses a different name and FB-account for this kind of thing because otherwise, there are people in his parish who would follow his plans and come along to all things he’s doing on his time off that are technically open to everyone. Not out of malice, but due to a lack of boundaries, and over-attachment. And that he needs to protect his private life, just like you describe.”

6) MrsMaiselsBrisket wrote, “Daughter of a bishop here. It can be very difficult to make friends (or even just casually interact with people) because everyone assumes things about you — like you’re going to be uptight or bigoted, or they can’t relax around you, etc. Clergy are people just like anyone else.”<sup>32</sup>

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32 Source: 34pointFive, “Clergy of Reddit, what are some aspects of your job that most people don’t think about?” Reddit. AskReddit. 11 September 2021 <

### 33. “Have You Ever Been Robbed? If So, What Happened?”

1) ImpossibleAd2129 wrote, “I went to a bank to open a savings account. Before I left, the bank people gave me an envelope full of information about my account and other services they offer. I left and began walking home. As I crossed the street, someone ran up behind me, grabbed the envelope out of my hand (I’m sure he thought it was stuffed with cash), and took off down a side street. I hope he put those pamphlets to good use.”

2) RamsesThePidgeon wrote:

“While this was technically a burglary, the production studio where I worked got broken into on Christmas Eve.

“I was the one who first discovered the break-in. It was the day after Christmas, and although nobody was supposed to be working, I had stopped by to make some last-minute edits to a couple of news reports. Originally, I had been planning to get the projects done, schedule everything for publication, then spend the rest of the day enjoying my time off ... but as I approached the door to the office, I saw that the wood had been splintered, the handle was at an odd angle, and the deadbolt had been knocked out of place.

“My first assumption – which was really more of a hope, if I’m honest — was that someone had accidentally slammed a piece of heavy equipment into the wall. That fantasy was quickly dashed as I walked into the office: All of the computers were gone, as was the majority of the recording equipment. The metal cabinet where we kept our cameras had also been broken into and picked clean. I started feeling oddly cold and detached from the situation (although there

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[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pm80zj/clergy\\_of\\_reddit\\_what\\_are\\_some\\_aspects\\_of\\_your/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pm80zj/clergy_of_reddit_what_are_some_aspects_of_your/) >.

was one thing that amused me, which I'll get to later), and that sensation only deepened as I called my boss.

“Suffice it to say that something of a damper was put on my seasonal cheer. The studio's president arrived, the police showed up, statements were given, and evidence was collected. I spent the afternoon putting together a list of everything that had been stolen, retrieving security camera footage, and delivering the collected material to the local precinct. The one detail that kept a smile on my face – and this is the amusing thing that I mentioned earlier – was that the thief had made off with roughly \$10,000 ... in prop money.

“I found out later that he did try to spend it, although he somehow got away before being arrested.

“I've thought back on the whole affair several times since it happened, and I eventually realized that I had actually been present when the studio had been cased: A fellow whom I hadn't recognized had come wandering in one day and had peered around with a vaguely sheepish smile on his face. When somebody had asked him if they could help with something, he had responded by asking ‘what kind of business’ we were. I don't think he even offered a reason for his curiosity; he just thanked us and left after receiving an answer.

“We may have even joked about ‘the weirdo’ who had ‘gotten lost.’

“Anyway, as far as I know, the burglars were never caught. Insurance paid for most of what was taken, but I had to cobble together a production setup (using a smartphone and a laptop) for the couple of days during which we were without our usual equipment. Also, strangely enough, that coldly detached feeling has never really left me, and I feel it creeping up in my chest whenever I think back on the crime.



“The fact that Christmas reminds me of those moments is a bit unfortunate.

**“TL;DR: My production studio was the victim of a real-life Grinch.”<sup>33</sup>**

### **34. “What Is The Fastest You Have Ever Seen A New Co-Worker Get Fired?”**

1) ThrillaDaGuerilla wrote:

“A new mechanic come in my shop right after orientation ... so about two hours as an employee.

“They sent him to me to show him some ropes in the shop.

“What he didn’t know is that I’m the owner / president / CEO of the dealership (heavy equipment and truck sales and service ... 380 employees). I spend two days a week in the shop because that’s what I like to do, and ... well, it’s my company, so I can.

“Within the first five minutes, he questioned my expertise. OK, no biggie: He doesn’t know I who am or anything about me, so I tell him, ‘Don’t worry yourself; there’s only one guy here who has more experience than I do.’ The next five minutes was him telling me I’m an idiot for doing something a specific way, and there’s shortcuts I can take. There is, but those shortcuts negate warranty payments, so I tell him it’s a requirement to do it this way.

“He rolls his eyes, then tells me, ‘No one will ever know about it, and it’ll help your flag hours.’ I reply, ‘It is 100% about doing the right thing ... and that’s how we operate her

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<sup>33</sup> Source: Sneakizzle, “Have you ever been robbed? If so, what happened?” Reddit. AskReddit. 12 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pmr040/have\\_you\\_ever\\_been\\_robbed\\_if\\_so\\_what\\_happened/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pmr040/have_you_ever_been_robbed_if_so_what_happened/) >.

... we do the right thing by the customer, the manufacturer, and the company.’

“Then he says, ‘I do right by me ... not the idiot CEO so he can buy a new truck every year.’

“So I said, ‘Well, my truck is 12 years old, and this is your last day of work. Hi, I’m the owner. That’s my name on the big sign. I nodded to the floor manager and told him to process him out of my company.

“Total time on job, 2.5 hours.

“Be careful out there, people ... not all bosses wear suits and hide in offices.”

2) BaconReceptacle wrote, “I worked in maintenance at a beach resort. One of the housekeepers managed to get her delinquent son a job as a ‘runner’ ... someone who would collect the dirty laundry after the housekeepers stripped the beds. She was actually worried when he started working because I guess he had a bad track record with other jobs. About three days after he started working, his mother confronted him about his new expensive-looking athletic shoes and a gold chain around his neck. He just shot back something about having a job now, which didn’t make sense because he hadn’t even been paid yet. Anyway, about the same time there were a couple of reports at the front desk by guests who were missing large sums of money. A police report was made and people were questioned. So after only about four days this kid was fired and went to jail for stealing from guest rooms.”

3) Makerbot2000 wrote:

“Our CEO rarely sent all-company messages unless there was great news or some major event / holiday / emergency, etc. One day he sends an email reminding everyone

something about an extra day off everyone earned hitting a major deadline and how and when to use it.

“New woman in accounting — looked like a nice 50-something Dallas church lady, hits the reply-all and writes, ‘I suppose we all should bow down to Mr. Generosity for the measly day off.’ Meanwhile, she never worked on the project or was affected by long hours.

“When she realized what she did, the other finance people in her area heard a gasp come from her desk and without saying a word to anyone, she picked up her purse, took a box, added her personal items, and walked out the door to her car never to be seen again.”

4) Jonny2284 wrote:

“Guy at a fish factory lasted half a shift before he was fired for refusing to adhere to any health and safety rules.

“Later got told it wasn’t uncommon for people like that, they had to be seen to be applying for jobs to keep their benefits, would lose them if they quit, but could get them back immediately if fired.”

MaryGoldflower commented:

“The most common way I’ve seen people get around applying for benefits is by applying for jobs they are extremely under-qualified for, like writing to a bank asking to become their CEO or something like that.

“This may not work depending on what is allowed, though.”

5) carton-heart wrote:

“I owned a construction business and we recently hired three new employees due to expansion. I didn’t get to meet them yet as my business partner was the one who interviewed them and watched them get started on the first day and would

check in on them most mornings. Along with the new hired, we promoted one of our best workers to manager to oversee them.

“So after a few days, I noticed that we were behind schedule on the job; this wasn’t all that surprising because we had the new hires, but I decided it’s best to go in and check it out to make sure everything was going well. So I call up my manager and tell him to go to a different site (we did multiple sites each day) and that I will take over at the place with the new guys.

“I arrive at the site half an hour late due to traffic and everyone is already hard at work, and in fact they are working efficiently and correctly on everything. I asked them a few questions about what they are doing and so on and get all the right answers. I figured the delay was just the first two days of learning and am very pleased that everything was picked up and seemed to go well. Now it is important that at this point I didn’t actually introduce myself and nobody asked who I was so it seems everyone just assumed that I was just another worker from the company they never met before.

“So two hours before we are supposed to finish for the day, a guy comes over and says, ‘Hey, just so you know, we’re all gonna head out now, but clock in that we worked the whole day. [Manager] allows it, and the owners never notice.’

“So that is the story of how I fired three new hires on the first day I met them ... and also how I had to fire our best worker.”<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Source: njaana, “What is the fastest you have ever seen a new co-worker get fired?” Reddit. AskReddit. 12 September 2021 <

### 35. “What’s Your ‘Dodged A Bullet’ Story?”

1) moldyjim wrote, “I stopped at a mall for lunch. Right after I left the parking lot, there was a mass shooting. I heard about it on the radio.”

moldyjim added, “I didn’t even know anything until I heard about it, figured out the timing and realized I could have passed the shooter in the parking lot.”

jysilentbob asked, “Westroads in Omaha?”

NWMSioux commented, “I was thinking Independence Center in Independence, MO (a Kansas City, MO suburb east on I-70), but Crossroads in Omaha is basically the same.”

moldyjim replied, “It was Portland, Oregon. Dude shot himself in the stairwell before the cops could get there.”

ClownfishSoup commented, “The fact that there were multiple guesses as to which mass shooting this was is terrifying.”

dbryan62 commented, “And nowhere near an exhaustive list. Aurora, Chattanooga, Toledo (just off the top of my head).”

fuqdisshite commented:

“My wife and I stopped at The Sandbar in Vail one day and decided to leave because we had just moved down valley and wanted to check out our new bar area.

“A guy whom I used to sit next to a few times a week shot the place a bit later. He executed a doctor in front of his wife, and my buddy got shot three times and survived.”

2) Haxxer wrote:

“My girlfriend at the time and I were traveling from New Zealand to my family back home in Sweden. We both decided to spend a bit more money to fly back through Paris instead of Amsterdam, just because we wanted to see the tower. It cost us maybe an extra \$50 and we got to see it on the landing and then take off, but never actually set foot in Paris proper because we were poor students.

“When we landed in Auckland, New Zealand, jetlagged to shit, we turn on our phones and notice that we have about 50 missed calls from our travel agent, which was odd. When we call her, she sounds super relieved and out of breath. She tells us the flight she originally suggested to us, the one from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, was shot down over Ukraine. My brain couldn’t process that information at the time, but once I woke up the next day it hit me like a ton of bricks. \$50 made the difference between seeing the big steel thingy that has so many photos of it and bring sent to Sweden in body bags piece by piece.

“Sometimes the absurdity of my existence comes over me, and this story always gives me goosebumps. One hell of a story to tell over beers, though.”

3) fl00fpanda wrote:

“I’d planned on doing some grocery shopping one afternoon after running other errands in the morning. By the time I got done with my morning errands, the weather looked quite gloomy so I decided to leave the groceries for another day.

“Just as I got home I got frantic texts from a friend of mine asking if I’m okay and to respond immediately. Apparently

around the time I decided last minute to forgo shopping, someone opened fire at that exact grocery store I planned on going to.

“If I remember correctly, fortunately nobody got hurt and the shooter got apprehended quite quickly.”

earbud\_smegma wrote, “You can tell which stories are American by the fact that it’s been multiple people dodging literal bullets. Top comment at this time is one that mentioned a shooting at a mall and several people chimed in to ask if it was the one near them. :(”

4) yeahdude4930 wrote, “I stayed out of the house overnight while in high school. My dad was pissed off and told me that I better be home that night. I didn’t listen and instead stayed at a friend’s house with my girlfriend. At around 2 am a kid from high school drove a Denali into my house. It ran directly into my room and destroyed my room, bed and anything else around. He was estimated to be going around 60mph. My dad is blind and thought that I may have been in the room. He was searching for me frantically my mother said. I remember getting a ton of phone calls from home, knowing that I was going to get into trouble for staying out against my parents’ wishes. The next day when my girlfriend dropped me off at home, I found a massive wood board and tarp covering my room. I would definitely not be here today if I had stayed home that night. Best case scenario is I’d be a paraplegic.”

Tru-Queer commented:

“My dad lived in a trailer house way out in the country surrounded by trees.

“When I was seven, a huge storm came through the area and a tree fell over on the trailer, and there was a branch that plowed right into my pillow. Had I been sleeping right there, I’d be dead today.

“But thankfully I lived with my mom so I was at her place that night.”

FartAttack911 wrote, “I know a lady who snuck out with a friend as a teenager and a tree crashed into her room while they were out. Her parents were conflicted on being ecstatic she was alive and wanting to ground her for life. Lol.”

Tooshortimus wrote:

“I actually have a similar story except I was there.

“My house has a T intersection directly in front of it, the single street is aimed at my room. I was sleeping and heard a big ass BOOM. Went outside to look and see a car that slammed into my house, it had just barely hit the corner of my house with the corner of the car which kept it from basically entering my room. My room was half underground and my bed is up against that wall in the same corner of the room. The car was basically like 10 inches from being on top of me.

“A young 16-year-old girl was driving, with her father in the passenger seat. Talked to him and she is mentally handicapped and this was her very first time driving. She put the gas to the floor instead of the brake and barreled over the curb, through my bushes and into my house. Had she moved to the right maybe 10-20 inches, that car could have been on top of me since it’s half underground.

“Literally almost crushed by a car, while sleeping in my bed, in my house.”

5) Hollywood899 wrote, “Partying in a dance club in Tijuana, Mexico. I went to the bathroom, on the way there was a group of people smoking pot, they offered, so I took a hit. I proceeded to go into the bathroom and pee. When I came out of the bathroom, the group of people smoking pot



were being arrested by federalis (Mexico police). I just kept on walking! Mexico jail is the last place I would want to be.”

FinestTreesInDaSeas wrote:

“As someone who has visited Mexico more than 15 times, if you get arrested, your best move is to ask: ‘Can I pay the fine directly to you right now?’ and immediately pull out cash (to make it obvious that they can easily pocket it, with no paperwork). This is the most polite way to offer a bribe. You won’t always be dealing with police who will allow this, but it’s worth a try.

“If they are offended at the idea of a bribe, just talk your way out by telling them that you wanted to pay the fine, not a bribe, and you aren’t familiar with the process, so you thought it was acceptable to pay it in person.

“My brother and I were almost arrested in Mexico once (public intoxication), and I was almost arrested alone once (buying weed).

“In both cases I offered to pay the fine right now and avoid needing to go to the police station. Cost me around 2000 pesos both times (around \$100 USD).

“In Mexico, I always keep around 2000 pesos in my wallet, and I keep the rest of my cash elsewhere. That way if I’m showing the police my money situation, they know [think?] that it’s all the money I have.”<sup>35</sup>

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35 Source: MentalMadness, “What’s your ‘dodged a bullet’ story?” Reddit. AskReddit. 13 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pngihl/whats\\_your\\_dodged\\_a\\_bullet\\_story/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pngihl/whats_your_dodged_a_bullet_story/) >.

### 36. “What Was The Best ‘I-Told-You-So Moment You’ve Experienced’?”

1) maid-for-hire wrote:

“We had a new director come into the daycare where I work. She made a bunch of little changes at first. But then she made one big one that I told her wasn’t going to work.

“Now I work with primarily 2- and 3-year-olds. So I do a lot of potty training. In recent years when it comes to potty training the message has shifted from ‘potty train as soon as possible’ to ‘wait until they’re ready.’ As such our class of 3-year-olds had a lot of kids who were in pull-ups, and most still in diapers actually. Which I don’t really mind.

“The new director made a big policy change. To graduate from the 2s class to the 3s preschool class, the kids had to be fully potty trained. This isn’t actually that weird of a policy and is popular in other daycares.

“In our daycare, though? It was going to destroy us. You see parents liked our daycare because we were very welcoming and weren’t super strict on milestones. We welcomed neurodivergent kids, kids who struggled with certain milestones, kids who weren’t perfect.

“Where some daycares had weirdly strict requirements for 2-year-olds ... I could proudly say we welcomed all.

I told the new director that this was going to hurt us. I told the assistant director. I told them a lot of parents are weary of the new policy.

“After what was essentially a warning to the parents, the director started to get very strict about her new policy. One little girl was dropped off in a pull-up. Which once again is totally normal for a 3-year-old. And the director told me to

send her home. I was so pissed I told the director she could call the parents if it meant that much to her.

“Imagine having to tell a 3-year-old she has to go home and can’t play with her friends because she has an accident occasionally? Broke my heart.

“Sure enough, the parents got mad. Get a group of angry toddler moms together without their Starbucks, and things get ugly.

“Reviews for our daycare tanked. We had state investigators called on us several times. The moms coordinated a strike on us and all pulled their kids out and didn’t renew within the same week. I’m not even joking: We lost 60% of our 2s and 3s in one week.

“We were now losing money with half our classes filled. I ended quitting as one of the parents hired me to be their nanny. The director had to go and explain to the owner why every other daycare in town had a waiting list and we can’t even half-fill our classes.

“Sure enough she was fired.”

2) jayk678 wrote, “I was at a set of lights and the man in the car beside me was on his phone. I rolled my windows down and waved my disapproval and he gave me the finger. Next set of lights, he’s looking down again at his phone. I tell him again, he gives me the finger again, sets off way too fast, and crashes into a fire hydrant.”

3) FulaniLovinCriminal wrote:

“Company gets taken over. Their IT come swooping in and decide to upgrade all our PCs to Windows 10, 64 bit. They’re even going to upgrade the older ones to 8GB RAM, all that lovely stuff.

“Thing is, we hadn’t done it because the core app the business used was written in-house, on a 16-bit platform. The newest version of Windows it would work on was Windows 7 in compatibility mode, and it absolutely, 100% had to be 32bit. No way it could work on a 64 bit OS.

“Their attitude was ‘This is the company standard now.’ We said, ‘You better upgrade \$CoreApp then.’

“So we get flooded with their techs for a week. By midday Tuesday users are complaining \$CoreApp doesn’t work on their new machines. By Wednesday there were ‘Crisis Meetings,’ and on Thursday they were told, ‘Roll back all changes.’”

4) illini02 wrote:

“I used to work at a theme park in Orlando.

“One of the attractions was one of those where little kids technically COULD do it, but it could be intense. I remember once telling a parent they might not want to take their three-year-old on it. The dad was like ‘No, he’ll be fine.’

“I see them coming out, the kid is fucking terrified and the dad just looks at me super-embarrassed. I just gave him a little shrug and went on.

“But tip to parents, if the staff at an amusement park tells you something might be too much for your kid, listen.”

5) CoolDadCody wrote, “I had a drink and I should have stopped at five. Looked myself in the mirror in between spewing and told myself that.”<sup>36</sup>

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36 Source: FeelingOdd4623, “What was the best ‘I told you so moment you’ve experienced?’” Reddit. AskReddit. 14. September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/po2e1w/what\\_was\\_the\\_best\\_I\\_told\\_you\\_so\\_moment\\_youve/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/po2e1w/what_was_the_best_I_told_you_so_moment_youve/) >.

### 37. “Which Product Would Improve Humanity Most If Its Cost Were Lowered To \$1?”

Couch\_Licker wrote, “Education.”

Blood-Lord wrote, “Agreed. At this rate, fewer people will be getting an education due to how expensive it is.”

OpheliaRainGalazy wrote:

“One of my elementary school teachers assigned a massive science project which required going to parks or out of town into nature on the weekends and after school to hunt for insects, catch them, freeze them to death, and then pin them to display boards. My mother *cried* when I showed her the assignment.

“Mom couldn’t afford the time to take me bug-hunting, the gas to get out of the city to places where bugs would be plentiful, the supplies, none of it! I wound up having to do the ‘punishment’ version of the assignment, like a 30-page research paper about insects with pictures too, which was designed to be no fun at all to encourage kids not to be ‘sissies’ about bugs.

“Personally, I think that asshole teacher just wanted to increase his personal collection of insects but was too old to catch his own bugs anymore.”<sup>37</sup>

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37 Source: PositivityCentral, “Which product would improve humanity most if it’s cost were lowered to \$1?” Reddit. AskReddit. 14 September 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/po2590/which\\_product\\_would\\_improve\\_humanity\\_most\\_if\\_its/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/po2590/which_product_would_improve_humanity_most_if_its/)>.

### 38. “What Was Your ‘I’m Not Paid Enough For This Shit’ Moment?”

1) mymindisoverheads wrote, “Telling a grown-ass man that he shouldn’t be shitting in a customers’ parking lot.”

ToastAbrikoos commented, “I told a man while he was pissing against our building, ‘Our toilet paper isn’t that expensive and you could ask to use our toilet if nature calls. Next time I’ll call somebody else.’”

8dogsinatrenchcoat commented:

“We had one of those, too. I was eating lunch in my car and saw him in the rearview mirror.

“I got out of my car and shouted as loud as I could, ‘SIR, YOU CANNOT PEE THERE,’ not to get his attention so much as to make him, you know, not piss on the side of my school building. And embarrass him out of doing it again.

“I was pissed off, too. There were two Porta Potties within sight of where he was.”

arcadesteveuk commented, “An extraordinary number of truck drivers think it’s ok to just whip out their dick and piss in our yard at work. Having to tell them to put their cock away and use the toilet like a big boy is not something I’m paid to do.”

2) ItsTylerBrensa wrote:

“So I’m working this register at a truck stop circa 2011. It’s by a door that gets very little traffic so I mostly just watch the gift shop area and try to deter people from stealing. It’s an overnight shift about 3 am. This man comes barreling in bleeding from his hand and yells, ‘IVE BEEN STABBED!’

“Immediately I call for security. My manager is nearby. Security calls 911 on their way and shows up a few moments

later. This guy is bleeding profusely, all over my freshly mopped floor, mind you.

“I’m off to the side, ‘Sir, where is the stabber?’

“My manager is asking for towels, so I bring a clean towel. Again I ask, ‘SIR, where is the stabber?’

“My manager and security are saying stuff like ‘Put pressure on it.’ And they tell me, ‘Go wave down the ambulance when they arrive!’

“So at this point I’m practically yelling, ‘There is a stabber on the loose in that parking lot somewhere, and I’m not going out there until I know where he is!’

“Finally the guy goes, ‘Oh, he was at the truck stop across the street. We got into an argument. It wasn’t random.’

“Relieved and now no longer fearing for my safety, I went out to wave down the ambulance.

“Unfortunately, \$8/hour is not enough to get stabbed over.”

Controller\_one1 commented, “Your character would do very well in a horror movie!”

ItsTylerBrenda commented:

“When I got hired, the lady doing my interview asked, ‘Is there anything that would keep you from being able to do your job.’ I said, ‘Yes, a few things actually.’

“It was obvious she was not expecting that response but asked me to elaborate.

“I don’t do fires, floods, or tornados. So if this building is in a disaster, you will not find me working. Also, I don’t do guns, knives, or other blunt weapons. And no nighttime power outages, I’m not afraid of the dark. I just don’t trust large crowds when they’re panicking. You’re hiring a

cashier, not a hero. Oh, and if my mom comes in I may hide in the cooler until she leaves.’

“The Human Resources lady just chuckled and said, ‘Fair enough.’

“I should have added naked people to that list. My favorite naked-person story was this time a lady and her very concerned-looking daughter comes up to me and the lady says in a very upset but hushed voice, ‘Excuse me, there is a woman in the restroom washing her ... penis ... in the sink. I have a lot of explaining to do with my 12-year-old now.’”

“I just looked at this little girl, and she looked like she had just seen a ghost.

“I told her I would take care of it, had environmental services mark the restroom as closed, and had security go in and check on her. Our security lady explained that washing one’s private parts in a public restroom sink was ‘unacceptable’ behavior.

“I have to give the lady props, though. As upset as she was, she never said anything transphobic. LOL.”

3) jaimystery wrote:

“When the boss said he was going to hire ‘Mary’ back.

“Mary, the woman who was fired for having her friends call me with death threats because I wouldn’t switch days off with her.

“Mary, the woman he told me he was never in a room alone with because she was ‘the type to claim sexual harassment.’

“He hired Mary back and gave her my job after I quit.

“He was fired six months later over the sexual harassment claim filed by ... Mary.”



4) enemyoftoast wrote, “So if you’re familiar with Build-a-Bear, you know the happy faces the employees are supposed to have. You might also be familiar with the bear-stuffing process. You pick a bear, bring it to me, pick a heart and you do a little dance (or whatever else I’d pick), I’d stuff the bear, you put the heart in and I stitch it up. A couple came in one night in January 2008. She was extremely pregnant. They came in and pick one of the little blue bears. I asked how they want it stuffed, the normal. And then when they pick the heart, Oh, they also pick one of the fancy hearts that has a heartbeat. Then tell me that their son, whom she is still pregnant with, is going to be stillborn. And they are making a bear together to give to him to be buried with. Obviously, I immediately tone down the happy-go-lucky bullshit. The store was empty, so it didn’t really matter. And no, I didn’t make them do the little dance and wish that you do for most people. I finished the bear myself, walked them through the clothing, checked them out myself and then closed the store. I got written up the next day for not showing the Build-A-Bear spirit. I was 16. I quit and got into a screaming match with that dumbass manager.”

5) clownmilk wrote, “When my boss laughed and bragged to my face about how much he was saving by having me do professional design work (in addition to my other duties) instead of a designer he’d have to pay 5-6x more. That didn’t last long.”

6) smughippie wrote, “Working for a nonprofit. At a fundraising dinner, a major donor touched my knee and then later my butt and flirted heavily. I am a woman and was 25 at the time. When I brought it to my supervisor, I was told that is just something you have to put up with when fundraising if you want to make the organization money. Stayed at that job a few months before I was fired for not being happy enough. Note that after that incident I refused to attend events where the creep would be there. Can’t say I

was sad. Got a job that paid twice as much and came without sexual harassment. An employment lawyer probably would have loved if I called them, but I lacked the confidence to take that big of a stand. Now I would absolutely take action. I would actually probably yell in the moment to get your forking hands off me. Which would have been awkward for him because his wife was present.”

7) poser-inaparka wrote, “My boss refused to evacuate for Hurricane Ida and somehow managed not to lose power or sustain damage. Everyone around her did. I evacuated with a large group and my complex lost power and water for days. The day after the hurricane hit, she demanded we all traverse flooded roads so I could come back and do some things she ‘just didn’t have time for.’ She threw a tantrum over the phone when I told her I wasn’t going back to an apartment without power or running water. I’m looking for another job right now.”

IDreamofLoki wrote:

“A neighbor of mine was 8+ months pregnant during Tropical Storm Debby, and her boss wanted her to drive over 20 miles to come to work in a drug store that had actual floodwater inside. Neighbor’s car was totaled anyways as the front end was under water, and the highway leading to her job was 6+ feet under water. Boss didn’t believe her so she was downloading my photos and videos and sending them to her and was still told that’s not an excuse.

“Yes, they were baffled when she quit.”

poser-inaoparka responded, “The number of grown adults I’ve met who are firmly in the camp of ‘if it isn’t happening to me, it must not be happening at all’ is mind-boggling. How can someone live their life that painfully unaware?”

IDreamofLoki responded, “Kicker is the town where the store was located was flooded badly in several areas, too.

And out of power. My friend was a regular store associate, so not a pharmacist or tech dispensing meds. I can't figure out why someone thought she should put herself in danger to go run a cash register."

8) S2JESSICA wrote:

"I worked at an Italian restaurant for years. So many nightmare scenarios, but the final straw was when I worked a double shift one Tuesday. While I served the lunch crowd, two teenage girls had come in and ordered a cold antipasto salad (salad with cold cut meat) and some pizza. I watched them pick at the salad but primarily eat the pizza.

"Hours later, in the evening, their mother came stomping down the long aisle, past the pizza counter leading to the phone/kitchen area where I was stationed. She threw the tin down and started yelling that we skimmed on the cold cuts and that the salad was so much money, etc. making a scene.

"I was trying to explain to her that I was watching the girls eat the salad (apparently the salad was for her), but my boss / the owner heard what was going on and came over. He was trying to butter her up and tell her don't worry about it we'll replace the whole thing ... so I pulled him to the side and I started trying to tell him what happened — that the girls were eating the salad. Instead of listening, he went into the kitchen yelled at the salad guys and had them make her a new one.

"When she left, I told him what happened and he was like 'OMG! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME! I LET HER WALK AWAY WITH A \$20 SALAD. WTF! ARE YOU STUPID?'

"So I walked away. I had been there for 12 hours at that point and just had enough. He followed me into the kitchen prep area and ended up calling me a cunt. All the kitchen guys had a look of 'WTF!' on their faces. I was working there

with him for four years and had enough of his steroid mood swings. I quit the next week.”

9) Gardengoddess83 wrote, “I worked at a high-end car dealership in the service department where the customers could be pretty demanding. One lady came in complaining that her car was making a noise. I asked what kind of noise and where it was coming from, since the car wasn’t currently making any unusual noises. She snapped that I should be able to figure it out. I told her very politely that since the car was not making the noise at the time and no codes had come up on the computer when we plugged it in, that knowing what kind of noise and generally where it seemed to be coming from would help the technicians figure out what was going on. She screamed, ‘JUST DO YOUR F-ING JOB AND FIGURE IT OUT!’ and threw her keys at my face. I caught them, threw them on the ground, and walked to my manager’s office to tell him what happened and to request that he deal with her because I was not going to. He told me that difficult customers come with the job. I’d been yelled at, talked down to, hit on, basically disrespected in so many ways at that job, but having someone chuck keys at my face and being told to accept it was the last straw.”

Gardengoddess83 added:

“My favorite story from working at that place was when this guy who was just a huge douche-canoe bought a \$75k convertible. He was the ‘Do you KNOW who I AM!’ guy who assumed since he was a fancy lawyer that everyone knew who he was and worshipped the ground he walked on. He was a huge pain in the ass and never made appointments — just showed up and expected us to work him into the schedule and threw adult tantrums if he had to wait.

“Anyways. He made a huge deal out of the new car and made everyone at the dealership take pictures of him with it,

revved the engine super loud on the way out of the lot, just obnoxious.

“Well, about three hours after he pulled out of the lot, I see him pull into the carport. He’s soaked and the second he gets out of the car he starts screaming about how he needs to return the car because ‘it’s ruined.’ Genius drove his new car downtown, parked it in front of his office so everyone could see it, and left the top down. Welp, there was a sudden downpour and since Genius had left the top down, the entire interior of the car was destroyed. The seats and floors were soaked and the electronics were super screwed up. Turns out his warranty didn’t cover acts of idiocy. He literally stood in the carport and screamed and shouted for like an hour because we wouldn’t let him return his destroyed car.

“I like to think about that sometimes when I need a warm fuzzy.”<sup>38</sup>

### **39. “Those Working With Customers: We Have All Heard Some Horror Customer Stories, But What Are Some Truly Wholesome Customer Stories?”**

1) festival-of-color wrote, “I told a customer I was a little hungry because I hadn’t eaten that day, and she brought me a handful of nuts about three minutes later. I couldn’t believe it.”

2) swanyMcswan wrote:

“A person witnessed me get yelled at by a Karen. I don’t mind getting yelled at: I honestly find it hilarious.

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<sup>38</sup> Source: UsefulComputer4476, “What was your ‘I’m not paid enough for this shit’ moment?” Reddit. AskReddit. 14 September 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/po1382/what\\_was\\_your\\_im\\_not\\_paid\\_enough\\_for\\_this\\_shit/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/po1382/what_was_your_im_not_paid_enough_for_this_shit/)>.

“Anyway, this person for the next six months would bring me a pizza every time she came in. Not a slice, like an entire pizza. I kept telling her she didn’t need to, but she kept doing it.

“My coworkers loved coming into the break room to find a magic pizza.”

3) twofeetcia wrote:

“Had someone who set up an Open Bar give me and the other bartender a generous tip because ‘people rarely tip when there is an open bar.’

“She’s right, and I was very grateful for the pre-tipping generosity.”

4) Actually\_Avery wrote:

“I overheard a kid from the next isle over telling his parents that I was beautiful.

“When they eventually came up to my register, they asked him if he had anything he wanted to tell me and of course he shyly said no.

“It’s been at least 5-6 years, and I still remember it.”

5) Satures wrote:

“I worked with homeless for a few years. One day, one of them was visibly excited and waved as soon as he saw me.

““Mr. Satures, look what I’ve got!”

““Uh, a key?”

“He looked at me like a grandfather looking at a toddler who just had spilled his (the grandfather’s) coffee. ‘You don’t understand. You can’t understand. These are the first keys to an apartment for me in 20 years. Mr. Satures, I have a home

now. A place I can return to every day. A place where I can leave my few belongings without having to fear they will get stolen.’

“He was right. Even though I worked with homeless, I always returned in my car to my home after beer o’clock. I forgot his name over the course of the past 10 years since it happened, but I’ll never forget his voice or his face. And neither I’m ever going to take my home for granted in my life. It has become a tradition since, that once or twice per week when returning from work after closing the door behind me I just look around my apartment. Just a few seconds to realize that everything I see and touch here is mine, I don’t even have a landlord or a bank interfering with it. I never forgot the lesson from that day.”

6) The-Despair-Factor wrote, “A customer wanted to return about eight different types of clothing and swap them all for a different size (fitting rooms are closed due to Covid so this happens a lot). None of the same eight clothes in the size she wanted in were in stock. She laughed it off, shrugged her shoulders, and instead of just getting a refund (or kicking off), she took the clothes she didn’t want and said she’ll donate them to a charity shop.”

7) urbanlulu wrote:

“I always love to tell this one, to be honest. It was 2015 and I worked in a music store; it was a seasonal position during Christmas so it was always busy which I enjoyed since I loved the environment of the job.

“Anyways, this one day I was tasked to be a floater (pretty much just helping customers find shit and keeping the store organized), and I see this little old lady with a list and you could tell she was struggling to find what was on it. I go up and ask her if she needs help, and she tells me she’s got no idea if the names on her list are bands, artists, or albums. I

take a look at her list and I recognize the genre and start telling her about the bands and artists her grandkids wrote out for her since I knew and listened to a few of them. I took her around the whole store and collected everything off her list for her and told her as much as I could about what she was picking out so she had some knowledge on what she'd be gifting. I helped her out for at least 45 minutes to an hour and once we were all done, I asked if there was anything else she needed a hand with and she went into her wallet. I assumed she had another list but instead she pulls out a \$5 bill and hands it to me, I tell her I can't take her money because I'm already getting paid and helping people is my job, but she insisted I buy myself a fancy latte for helping her with everything and for being so kind about it. She refused to walk away until I took her money as a tip, so I did and she put the bill in my hand and I told her how kind that was of her to do and we exchanged many thank-yous back and forth.

“I didn't see her again after that, but I never forgot her and how kind she was to me when helping her find all her stuff. People like her really made me enjoy working in retail.”<sup>39</sup>

#### **40. “What Is Your Worst ‘A Customer Tried To Hit On Me At Work’ Story?”**

1) melodyeverly wrote, “I was stocking shelves on my knees. A man walks up and says, ‘Mmm, I wish you'd get on your knees like that for me.’ I was 16. he was like 50.”

Illustrious-Baker193 commented, “This happened when I was 13 and working in a supermarket. An old, stinky man

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<sup>39</sup> Source: Shmodr, “Those working with customers. We have all heard some horror customer stories, but what are some truly wholesome customer stories?” Reddit. AskReddit. 15 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pos9wm/those\\_working\\_with\\_customers\\_we\\_have\\_all\\_heard/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pos9wm/those_working_with_customers_we_have_all_heard/) >.



said to me, ‘You like being on your knees, don’t you?’ I was too young to know even what he was talking about. A couple of weeks later he came in again and I followed him and squirted him with air freshener on purpose because he really did stink.”

ShitBritGit commented:

“Ha! Love it.

“The following-him-around with air freshener, not the first part.”

PurrPrinThom wrote:

“I was sixteen and working at a grocery store. I had to keep my hair tied back or up at all times. I was too lazy to do buns so I used to do ponytails / braids.

“I had to stop doing two braids on either side of my head because this elderly customer (looked to be in his 60s / 70s) used to grab one in each hand and pull me across the register to tell me how much he liked pulling hair, and how he wanted to take me home with him so I could make him dinner.”

PurrPrinThom added, “It was definitely creepy, and I wish he was the only creepy customer we had. I feel like each of the girls had at least one customer who was particularly fixated on them — which is so horrifying in retrospect.”

2) blondeperson wrote:

“When I was 18 and working as a waitress, an older man came in and sat in my section. He gave EXTREMELY creepy / unsafe vibes right off the bat. He was one of those customers who would continue talking to you even when you are obviously trying to do your job. The way he leered was nauseating; he didn’t try to hide it at all. He kept telling me how rich he was and to ‘go look out the window at his

car' and it cost \$30,000 and he had another one like it. He also made plenty of very inappropriate jokes / inferences and would stick out his tongue (which was covered in what looked like white fuzz ... nasty) when he cackled at my obvious discomfort. I was growing increasingly annoyed at this point because he had just sat there for around four hours straight, continuously trying to engage me in conversation while I was helping other customers & doing side work. Finally he left and I breathed a sigh of relief that such a grimy, objectifying presence had left.

“I had two jobs at this point and I went to my other shift working at Chipotle. Had a normal day until I shit you not, 10 minutes before close his car rolls up and he saunters in like he thinks he's John Wayne or something. He sidled up the window where you order, waved his hand dismissively at my coworker who asked him what he'd like to order, and just walked straight up to me with this arrogant grin on his face. I deadpan asked him what he'd like to order. He looked annoyed and said, 'I don't care, a Coke or something,' so I rang him up for a Coke, handed him the cup, and started helping the next customer. I didn't show any sign of recognition or interest because I was pissed off at this point. I think he actually expected me to react to his presence or something? Anyway, he walked away in an insulted manner, filled his cup with Coke, took a sip, and slowly poured it into the trash while staring directly at me.

“It took me about an hour to close the lobby, which — goody [sarcasm] — had an entire wall of just windows / two glass doors where the whole parking lot could see inside. He sat in the closest parking spot two feet away from the entrance, waiting behind his tinted windows, for the entire hour until I was done. By this point I had informed my manager of the situation, and everyone was creeped out. I would usually walk home, but my manager said HELL NO and told me to call someone to pick me up, and everyone stayed with me

until my brother arrived. When my brother pulled up and got out right next to his passenger door, I'm sure this crusty old man was confused why some six-foot-tall body-buildin'-looking dude was going into Chipotle after it was closed. Everyone stared him down (or where we imagined he would be behind the tinted windows) as I walked out and got into my brother's car. We started to pull out and suddenly his engine ROARS and he abruptly and carelessly swerves inches in front of our bumper. He 'faced us' with his car for a whole minute, revving his engine, before speeding away.

"I never ran into him again (thank GOD), but I swear I still shudder when I think about the way he made me feel that night.

"TL;DR: A very creepy old man found out about my (I was 18 at the time) second job and followed me there, presumably to try and corner me / snatch me up when I left work to walk home alone."

3) SmallTownMortician wrote:

"I was working at the funeral home as a director and embalmer. A young man, who from what I could tell lived a rough lifestyle, had died. His family and friends were gathered in the chapel and I was in the lobby, in my black suit buttoned up to my earlobes with my hair pulled back. (I feel it's necessary to say how unsexy I looked.)

One of the deceased's friends, a young man, approached me and started small talk. In the course of this conversation, he told me that for the last funeral he went to (which I also directed), he and his buddies had stolen several vehicles in order to make it in time. I politely nodded when he added, 'You gotta get where you're going, ya know?'

"He then proceeded to ask if I had a card, which I provided as it was on a stand right next to me. He then asked if the number on said card was my cell phone number. He was

disappointed when I said no, and again when I said no to giving him said number.”

improsada wrote:

“This it hits all the right notes:

- entirely inappropriate setting to be hitting on someone
- entirely inappropriate way to hit on someone
- completely mistaking professional politeness with reciprocity in his advances

“The holy trinity of hitting on women at work, bravo.”

4) Old-Necessary1400 wrote, “One time, while working at a bakery, I complimented a man on his shirt (just being friendly). He was signing a receipt, and he looked up at me and said, ‘Yeah ... my girlfriend is really going to enjoy this dessert.’ I wasn’t hitting on him (honestly, just a compliment), but he totally shut me down. That has nothing to do with this question. But wanted to share.”

DustOffTheDemons commented:

“Once I told a man on an elevator that he smelled nice. I thought he might tell me what he was wearing so I could get it for my fiancé.

“Same thing, he shut me down ruthlessly.”

msmurasaki commented, “I was once newly showered, put on perfume, and then used a closed telephone booth. The guy who went to use it after me, turned around and said, ‘This booth smells amazing — you smell great,’ or some shit. Took it as a compliment. :)”<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Source: blondeperson, “What is your worst ‘a customer tried to hit on me at work’ story?” Reddit. AskWomen. 18 September 2021 <

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[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/pqyots/what\\_is\\_your\\_worst\\_a\\_customer\\_tried\\_to\\_hit\\_on\\_me/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/pqyots/what_is_your_worst_a_customer_tried_to_hit_on_me/) >.

### Chapter 3: Questions 41-60

#### 41. “For Those Who Have Been Arrested, What Was Your Experience Like?”

1) [Imsorryidonthaveig](#) wrote:

“United Kingdom (Scotland). Very respectful. I’d stopped a guy choking on his tongue and called an ambulance and it turned out there was a warrant out for an unpaid fine that had been sent to my previous address.

“Paid the fine and got handshakes and a Starbucks (that the arresting officer went and got for me) after leaving.”

[Imsorryidonthaveig](#) added:

“It was a meaningless fine from years earlier. I think the circumstances and the fact I was understanding and polite and good natured it wasn’t what it might have been if someone took offense to them doing their job. They were pretty outright annoyed at having to take me into the station instead of in their words doing ‘proper police work.’

“One time after being assaulted, I had to go to the hospital and the person whose flat I was crashing at had gone home to sleep after making sure I was ok. The policeman who arrested the guy who did the assault stayed at the hospital with me for two hours while I got stitched up and then drove me the 20 miles home. Some policemen are amazing people.”

[pspoolevxsygs](#) commented, “Mario Balotteli [Italian soccer player] had it happen to him; when the police asked him why he’s carrying 50k in cash, he replied, ‘Because I am rich.’ They let him go.”

2) [Tecgeny3](#) wrote:

“I was arrested in my early 20s (in eastern Europe). I instigated a bad bar fight one night while drunk, and they showed up the next afternoon to question me.

“Ultimately the matter was resolved by me agreeing to be **‘Mucked’** instead of any further legal proceedings. This is a semi-formal form of justice we had where you were taken to a cowshed and tied up in a corner, 6-8 shovelfuls of manure were poured on you, and you were left until sundown and released.

“Officers showed up the following day to take me to the farm. I remember crying beforehand. But I learned a lesson.”

Tecgeny3 added:

“I really wasn’t able to get used to it. I’d never been to a commercial dairy before and it was all so greenish and goopy, and the smell was overpowering.

“Not to mention I turned into a fly breeding ground as it started to harden on me.”

Tecgeny3 added, “Handcuffed for transport — then once you’re in the barn and they sit you down, hands are cuffed and attached to a spot on the wall behind you, ankles are cuffed together and hooked into a spot on the floor, there was a restraint around my midsection, too. Shirt, shoes, socks had to be removed, and I was given goggles to wear. Then the pouring starts.”

3) falafely wrote:

“When I was in 10th grade, there was a grocery store a block away with a deli inside, and we could walk there for lunch. It was in the back of the store. One winter day some bullies were pushing me around after I had picked up some food, but I got away from them and made it to the front to pay.

“Once I had paid and got to the exit, an undercover officer stopped me and accused me of shoplifting, and the officer didn’t seem to care that I had a receipt. Little did I know the bullies had been shoplifting for a while, and the store had an officer there to catch the thieves. He saw them stuff something in the hood of my coat, and he concluded that I was in on it. Since I was the one who took stolen goods past the checkout, he cuffed me and paraded me out to his car in front of a bunch of my classmates.

“At the station I told my side of the story to the officers who interviewed me, and they ultimately didn’t charge me with anything, but the damage was done. People I respected thought I was a criminal, the bullies stopped stealing and never faced any consequences, and the store banned me from coming in ever again. Oh, and my mother had to pick me up at the police station and apparently thought I did it, and she has not really trusted me since.”

4) tvcky69 wrote:

“Someone in my high school told the administration that I was going to shoot up the school. (I would never do that. I actually loved my school and the people in it. They= people who said that were just bullies who used my mental issues to mess with me.) I was arrested in front of everyone at my school. While I was being taken out in handcuffs, all sorts of other people were bullying me, people whom I never would have expected to do that.

“I was then left in an interrogation room for 45 minutes to an hour. Then some plain-clothed police came in to talk to me about it. Obviously I had no idea what was going on, so I told them that. Then when they told me who called it in, I immediately pulled up all sorts of evidence of them bullying me, including bruises on my body that my bullies gave me the previous day. I showed them all the disgusting comments they left on my social media, how they harassed my family



even. They even vandalized my house a couple times, so I showed them pictures of it. At the end of this strange experience, the police apologized for all of it. They even brought me Taco Bell for me to eat while waiting for my parents to arrive. They handled the situation very well, and they actually busted my bully for assault / attempted murder the following week, unrelated to their abuse towards me. I haven't been bullied since. I also haven't been arrested since."

5) sitterules589 wrote:

"I was arrested for possession of marijuana when I was in college. I thought my life was over and I had no professional prospects anymore. (Not true.)

"The cops were generally assholes, which was their reputation in that college town, but the people I shared a cell with were amazing. Really nice people. The thing I remember the most was the shit food they served us in the morning. One guy said, 'White people say this is oatmeal, we (black people) call it grits.'

"In the end, I pleaded nolo contendere, which my lawyer described as 'I didn't do it, and I'll never do it again.'"

6) bikeseccually wrote:

"I was arrested loads of times merely for protesting. Get cuffed and taken to the nearest station. Taken to a conference room with all the chairs facing the wall, cuffed behind the back to the chair and monitored by two cops. Mostly it's just boring as hell. The cops are interested in removing you from the protest regardless of the legality of it. I've luckily never been seriously physically abused in these situations (beyond being kidnapped, of course), but multiple friends have been. I'd say at least 40% of the time my cuffs were intentionally put on way too tight. Every single time the arrest reports were just loaded with lies. We always had a pro-bono

lawyer. The cases were always dismissed after one hearing because there was no merit.

“This is how the system harasses and threatens protestors to dissuade them for standing up for their and others’ rights. You are made to worry about your safety, your job, your friends at the whim of heavily armed thugs who will face absolutely no repercussions for minor or major violations against you. Our system is fucked.”

7) peony27 wrote, “So I was arrested for assault a few years ago. I was breaking up a fight between my mother and her boyfriend that had turned violent. I smashed a glass over the back of his head. I’m in the United Kingdom and the police have a policy where whoever called the police during a domestic violence incident isn’t arrested. So as he called (he took my mum’s phone and my phone had been thrown somewhere so he was the only person who had one to hand), he got to stay home, and I was arrested along with my mum and spent the night in a cell. Honestly, the guys who arrested me were very polite, but I’m disabled and need medication, especially pain medication and doing without it was horrific. I took my meds with me but it needed to be okayed by a medical professional and because it was so late at night it was hours before someone was able to come and help. Spent the next 10 weeks on bail and wasn’t allowed to go home unless I had a police escort to collect my things.”

8) billydelicious wrote, “It was no big deal. Nobody made a fuss, which I assume is how most arrests go but those don’t make it on the news. I was driving on an expired license. I was handcuffed and brought to the police station. My friend’s mom picked me up. It was mostly just embarrassing.”<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Source: 1029Dash, “For those that have been arrested, what was your experience like ?” Reddit. AskReddit. 19 September 2021 <

## 42. “How Do You Handle Non-Automated Scam Callers?”

1) Okno-rose wrote, “Like someone on the line? I pretend I can’t hear them, and they get annoyed at me and hang up.”

MorganCheese commented, “I always start off with, “HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT MY VIEWING OF *THE CLEVELAND SHOW!*”

Okno-rose responded:

“I just straight up imitate my grandma on how she would do her ‘huh’? When she couldn’t hear them and they keep trying but ultimately hang up.

“My mom’s friend ended up giving them all her info but when they asked how much money she had in her bank and she said negative 18, they also hung up on her.”

2) slide\_into\_my\_BM wrote:

“I used to drive a lot for work and I would get tons of these. I actually wrote up a fake name, address, and credit card number, and I would talk with them until they’d eventually tell me to fuck off and hang up.

“The key was being able to repeat the same info and fake credit card number back to them a couple times and then getting indignant when it wouldn’t go through like it was their fault for entering my info in incorrectly.”

3) I-just-wanna-talk- wrote, “My parents constantly get those ‘Hi, I’m XY from Microsoft,. Your computer has a virus. Please login so we can help you’ calls. When I answer the phone and it’s one of those again, I keep telling them that

I don't have a computer until they get annoyed. It's pretty funny."

4) BurningSaints wrote, "I used to use a Vietnamese accent and complain that they were causing me to lose business in my restaurant, which used to have my family in hysterics and would actually work a treat."<sup>42</sup>

### **43. "Not To Sound Cold Hearted Or Anything, But Who Is Someone Who Died And Had It Coming To Them?"**

1) cwbones wrote, "My great-great-grandfather who was super abusive and cruel to just about everyone but especially his wife and kids. He was murdered by my great-great-grandmother, and everyone in the town definitely knew that but nothing was ever done about it

cthulhuite commented:

"Deputy Dave: 'Huh. Will you look at that? Old man asshole fell from the second story down the stairs. Broke both arms and legs looks like. Messed his face up real bad, too. What a tragedy.'

"Deputy Steve (new in the job): 'But Dave, this is a one-story house.'

"Deputy Dave: 'Yep, sure is a shame. If he had one of those baby gates at the top of the stairs, he might not have fallen. Probably drunk again.'

"Deputy Steve: 'Uh, Dave, there's not a second story. And he's lying on the back porch. What are you talking about?'

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<sup>42</sup> Source: Morgan Cheese, "How do you handle non-automated scam callers?" Reddit. AskReddit. 21 September 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/psfs0e/how\\_do\\_you\\_handle\\_nonautomated\\_scam\\_callers/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/psfs0e/how_do_you_handle_nonautomated_scam_callers/)>.

“Deputy Dave: ‘Well, Steve, it’s like this. Either the old man fell down a flight of stairs from the second floor and died, or that lovely, sweet old woman in the living room killed him. That sweet old woman is 63. If, and that’s a biiiiig if, she killed him, and got convicted, she would die in prison. On the other hand, if that old asshole who everybody knew was an abusive drunk fell down and got killed, well, then that sweet old lady can collect on the life insurance and draw his pension and go live with her daughter in Florida. Now tell me, Steve, which of those sounds like the happy ending to this story?’

“Deputy Steve: ‘Well, damn, Dave, I didn’t even notice those stairs over there! Boy, I must have been distracted looking at all the blood. Who do I call, the medical examiner?’

“Deputy Dave: ‘Nope, call Charlie at the funeral home. Tell him we’ve got a special case for him. He’ll know what you mean.’”

Tempehramental\_ commented:

“My grandpa is a similar story. Raped my then-16-year-old grandma and got her pregnant and ran away of course. Did that to several girls. Always targeting girls like my grandma who didn’t have much of a support network (indeed: her piece-of-shit parents prevented her from getting an abortion by locking her up, then kicked her out, pregnant at 16 from rape and too late to do anything but give birth).

“And well, one day he was mistaken about a girl’s supposed lack of support system. He then had a terrible tractor accident that involved the tractor of the girl’s uncle tragically driving over his body with the uncle at the wheel.

“Same, nothing happened.”

2) Sippinonjoy wrote:

“Victoriano Álvarez. There is an island off the coast of Mexico called Clipperton Island. In 1914, the island had a population of 100 with resupply ships coming every two months. When the Mexican Revolution and WW1 broke out, the ships stopped coming. By 1917 there were only 15 women and children and one man, Victoriano Álvarez, left alive. Many died from scurvy, while others drowned attempting to chase a passing ship for help.

“Being the only man left on the island, Victoriano Álvarez declared himself the king and seized all the remaining weapons on the island. He then began his tyrannical rule and would rape and murder the remaining survivors. Eventually he was killed by Tirza Rendón, who was one of his favorite victims. Shortly after this, an American ship passed by and rescued the remaining four women and seven children who survived and who told their story. When asked about Álvarez, the survivors claimed he had died from scurvy like the others.

“Two sailors took interest to their story and investigated the island. They witnessed the horrors, making the connections to their story as they went. When they came across Álvarez’s body lying in a pool of his own blood, they exchanged no words, gave each other a nod, and moved on.”

Source: [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clipperton\\_Island](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clipperton_Island)

Note by David Bruce: Some of the above is taken word for word from the Wikipedia article.

The below is quoted word for word from the Wikipedia article:

“It was visited by ornithologist Ken Stager of the Los Angeles County Museum in 1958. Appalled at the depredations visited by feral pigs upon the island’s brown booby and masked booby colonies (reduced to 500 and 150

birds, respectively), Stager procured a shotgun and killed all 58 pigs.”

See also this YouTube video: “Clipperton Island: Mexico’s Forgotten Murder Colony”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsJqZt9439E&t=33s>

3) wzbrush wrote, “The guy who bullied the whole town to the point where he was killed in the middle of the town in broad daylight. His murder has gone unsolved.”

Note by David Bruce: See the Wikipedia article on Ken McElroy:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken\\_McElroy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_McElroy)

4) MrsJaneSmith wrote, “My uncle molested a young boy, and the boy’s father shot him dead. My uncle also molested me as a child so when I found out I wrote the father in prison and told him thank you. I had a daughter on the way, and I couldn’t imagine a world with my uncle still in it.”<sup>43</sup>

#### **44. “What Was The Biggest Scandal In Your Small Town?”**

1) Dudeee07 wrote, “I live in a small Russian city named Nalchik. In 2005, we were attacked by terrorists. Mobile groups of terrorists of 5-6 people, with a total number of about 200 people, armed with various small arms, including RPG-7 and RPD, enter Nalchik in cars from two directions. There are the first shootings between police officers and militants on the outskirts of the city. Fourteen civilians and 35 police officers and other members of law enforcement

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43 Source: Hopeful\_Drummer965, “Not to sound cold hearted or anything but, who is someone who died and had it coming to them?” Reddit. AskReddit. 21 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/psfws2/not\\_to\\_sound\\_cold\\_hearted\\_or\\_anything\\_but\\_who\\_is/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/psfws2/not_to_sound_cold_hearted_or_anything_but_who_is/) >.

agencies were killed. More than 240 people were injured, including 129 law enforcement officers. I was five months old then and the stories of my parents are very surprising because now our city is very quiet and almost nothing happens.”

Note by David Bruce: See the Wikipedia article “2005 raid on Nalchik”:

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2005\\_raid\\_on\\_Nalchik](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2005_raid_on_Nalchik)

2) RandomStranger18 wrote:

“Not my town, but my synagogue. A while ago there were some debates townwide around gay marriage, but while everyone was worried, no one cared. The synagogue remained as welcoming as ever, no scandal. A month or two ago, they decided to replace the chairs in the sanctuary. Chaos erupted everywhere. It was all the rabbi has heard about since.

“Tl;dr from my rabbi: Gay marriage? No problem. Move the chairs two inches? You’ll be hearing about it for years.”

3) Sleeplesshelley wrote, “I lived in Springfield, Missouri, for four years. There were gas station or liquor store or restaurant hold-ups nearly every single day, but home break-ins were rare because their castle doctrine [A man’s home is his castle, and he can defend it] is pretty fierce and everyone is armed. If you try to break into someone’s house, they can shoot you dead. If you have a friend over and someone tries to break into your house, your friend can shoot them dead. Three junkies broke into an old lady’s house. She killed one in the house and shot the other two as they were running away. Home invasion there is beyond risky.”

4) figslife wrote, “Worst my town had was someone breaking into a garden shed and then feeling bad when they



realised an elderly couple lived there. The thieves put everything back the next day. Lol.”

5) Opeseek5 wrote:

“Remember that **ALS Ice bucket challenge** thing? There was a bit of an incident in my small town where two high school seniors ‘pranked’ a mentally disabled student by asking him to participate in the ice bucket challenge, but instead dumped a bucket full of tobacco spit / human waste / etc. onto him.

“Needless to say there was some outrage and the two seniors were eventually arrested. I only heard about the case through the grapevine, but it was a pretty big deal at the time.

“I thought their sentence was very light when I heard it — they accepted a plea deal for straight probation for a short duration. The only caveat was that they’d have to voluntarily receive a similar treatment that they subjected the disabled student to — *at a local farm.*

“(I was surprised how common ‘unusual’ sentences are when I looked into it — there are dozens of stories about them happening in plea deals, and those are just the ones that made the news.)

“Again, I thought the sentence was super light — surely they’d just laugh it off, wipe it off and shower afterwards?

“But then, I was shown a video of it at one point (not sure how the video got leaked, but it was sent to me from a friend who got it from a friend who got it from a friend ... ) — and I was rather disturbed (but also somewhat happy) to find that I was mistaken.

“It was AWFUL! I saw only one of them, in one of those inmate restraint chairs on the farm, and I thought it’d just be

a little manure poured onto him and he'd just wipe it off — nope!

**“This stuff heavily poured onto him for at least 45 seconds straight.** And it didn't look at all like dog or human waste. This stuff was thick, oozing, brownish-greenish sludge, falling right on his head, smearing all over his hair / face and pooling up on his shirt / lap as it oozed all over the place and ran down his body.

“And it must have smelled bad, because he was retching the whole time and puked a couple times, and it just didn't stop. By the end he wasn't even recognizable. Even when they released him from the chair, he was trying to wipe it away but it was all stringy and oozing and smearing everywhere ... man, it looked rough.

“Perhaps an appropriate punishment after all, and more effective than jail! I'm glad he experienced a fair consequence for his actions.”

6) Rikki-Tikki-Tavi-12 wrote, “The last time my town was in the news, it was because a woman had started a business raising mammals that only made losses. When investigated, it turned out she tax-deducting the cost of raising her kids.”<sup>44</sup>

#### **45. “What Are Some Of The Darker Effects Covid-19 Has Had That We Don't Talk About?”**

1) SeanShreads wrote:

“People that didn't get COVID but do have ongoing health problems were less able and less likely to get the ongoing care that they would normally get. What you're seeing now

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<sup>44</sup> Source: meepmeep\_4, “What was the biggest scandal in your small town?” Reddit. AskReddit. 21 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/psodpw/what\\_was\\_the\\_biggest\\_scandal\\_in\\_your\\_small\\_town/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/psodpw/what_was_the_biggest_scandal_in_your_small_town/) >.

is an uptick in 911 calls and ER visits because their conditions worsened and now have become medical emergencies. The health crisis that this pandemic caused is much farther reaching than just the people who got COVID.

“Source: I’m a firefighter.”

Shaarp\_Cut7203 commented, “I have Lupus (an autoimmune disease). I was unable to see my doctor at all the last 18 months ... while he still fills my Rx, I have gone from 1-2 flare-ups every couple months to 1-2 every other week ... it’s awful, and there isn’t really an end in sight for my location.”

2) cobra1927 wrote:

“As a dental student, I see lots of people who neglected their teeth who otherwise might not have (regular cleanings, checkups, not returning for definitive treatment and having a temp crown on for 18 months, etc.). This is partly the fault of dental offices canceling appointments indefinitely and never rescheduling the patients, but also partly patient fear of catching COVID from other patients, etc.

“TL;DR: More people’s teeth are more fucked up.”

Aol\_awaymessage commented, “My dentist said people have been grinding their teeth [due to stress] a lot more, too.”

3) The\_Gentle\_Viking wrote, “In my opinion the darker effect is definitely the people with other illnesses who couldn’t get treatment because of the lockdown rules. Many people couldn’t get life-extending radiation treatment and are no longer around. Somehow I feel there could have been a better alternative to no treatment.”

wiltedletus wrote, “Absolutely this! When they say ‘elective’ surgeries are being canceled, they don’t mean cosmetic surgeries. People aren’t getting mitral valve

replacements, and other VERY SERIOUS surgeries. I've lost one friend to a stroke because his surgery was postponed (M42), and another to cardiac arrest because he couldn't get his old pacemaker swapped out (M35)."

4) Cosmobeast88 wrote, "More depression and self-medication."

Electronic\_Camera839 commented, "Spent two months over four stays in a mental hospital for the first time in my life at 32. Living alone (social isolation) and long cold dark winters in Ohio can do a number on someone."

5) Femveratu wrote, "People have become NASTY as fuck, for a variety of reasons."

MyDogIsaGargoyle commented, "And more aggressive drivers, too."

Heykitty1991 commented, "I work a call centre job for restaurants and a man threatened my life over not being able to call the restaurant to ask for Sriracha and soy sauce to be added to his order. Coworker was told by a customer that unless we refunded him, he'd shoot up the restaurant (it was a refund that required the delivery platform, not us). People are absolutely evil lately. I've been harassed with all sorts of things."

pippyLONGsocking commented:

"My neighborhood has just been littered with dog shit since 2020. No one picks up after their goddamn dog anymore.

"I can't even talk, though, because I'm Work From Home, and while I practice personal hygiene, I don't dress up to go put the same way I used to unless it's out with friends. I go to the store in sweats and an old t-shirt or just the schlubbiest clothes now."

6) Leemour wrote, “This is a bit embarrassing because I’m in my 20s, but lockdown made me develop hemorrhoids. It’s common among people who sit a lot for their work and because of lockdown I get less exercise, and here I am with fucking hemorrhoids on top of all the stress and chaos of the pandemic.”

vanillabeanddeath commented, “Early 20s and it’s just happened to me, too. I can’t believe it.”

7) Disastrpus-Lime-2089 wrote, “The number of deaths in general not directly Covid-related. And pretty soon there will be more cancer deaths from not having regular screenings and checkups.”

8) EreeB2017 wrote:

“911 dispatcher for a small town here.

“The number of domestic violence calls I have taken has skyrocketed. It’s beginning to seriously dragged me down and exhaust me.

“I also helped the local programs try to get food to families with kids. I broke down when I realized some kids get food only at school.”

World\_of\_Blanks wrote:

“I work as a school bus driver, and it has been an interesting experience thus far.

“The pandemic closed things down in March, and lasted into summer, when a lot of kids would usually have summer school. I had been out of work since March when schools had closed their doors and was eager for some kind of work to do.

“Over the summer, many drivers, including myself, would come to work, get our bus ready, head to a school and pick

up numerous coolers full of school grade lunches, and head into various neighborhoods, church parking lots, and apartment complexes to hand out these lunch kits to kids who were not able to get their meals from school because of the pandemic.

“It pained me more than I had ever felt being a school bus driver when many of these kids would come up to the bus alone and thank me for bringing them the one meal they would have for the day, before walking back home and often sharing what they had with siblings who were too young to come out.

“I gave out extras to the kids I knew were taking care of others, and thankfully we never had a day where we ran out of lunches to give to them, but I will never forget the hardships I observed of these kids and how much extra perspective the pandemic gave me into their day-to-day lives.”

ReverseThreadWingNut commented, “As a teacher, yes, many students eat only at school. Thankfully, many districts understand this and have provided meals for students throughout the pandemic. My district ran the bus routes around lunch time with a meal delivery for our students on off days and during the summer.”

9) Oh-Oh-Ophelia wrote, “Cognitive decline, even in those who aren’t infected. Lack of stimulation, excessive stress, etc. People’s attention spans and memories are shot. Their reasoning ability is dimmed. Self included.”

savethewallpaper wrote, “I was literally just having this conversation with my partner. My ability to self-start at anything is completely destroyed after almost two years of stress, worry, and lack of meaningful social interactions. I’m immediately paralyzed by my to-do list at work. My hobbies feel like chores. I can’t focus long enough to get through two

pages of the book I desperately want to read. I feel like I'm living in my own personal Groundhog Day hell."

whosthemotherflippin commented, 'I feel as though half of my existence in the past SIX months has been trying to remember the word I was just about to say. Today a co-worker asked, 'Is it Monday?' Someone else flatly answered, 'It's Tuesday.' Pre-Covid, we would have made fun of him at least a little bit, but now we're so used to wading through brain soup that we know it could be any of us forgetting what day of the week it is.'

10) SnooDoodles8742 wrote:

"Mental health.

"I work in mental health. It's rough out there."

fakebasil commented, "I have a family friend who specializes in agoraphobia. All of the work she had done pre-Covid with her patients just went right out the window."

11) Fishmayne wrote, "Parts are harder to come by, and everything is more expensive."

masterelmo commented, "Some things are silly expensive. I finally came around to the idea of building a desktop earlier this year and didn't realize how bad the PC parts market was."

12) Joecus90 wrote:

"I haven't heard a lot of people talk about it, but I had / still have survivors' guilt. The guy in recovery next to me passed away in the middle of the night. We had our Hospital dinner hours before, and we had a great conversation. Just before we went to sleep, he said, 'Hey, I really like you, man, once we get outta here let's get actual dinner.' I said, 'Absolutely, anything would be better than this stuff!'

“Later that night, I heard his machine go off (we were blocked by curtains) and heard the nurses and doctors come in and wheel him out while saying, ‘Get the defibrillator.’ I don’t remember much, but that has stuck with me mainly because I thought I was next. I figured I’d never see my wife, family, or friends ever again, so I was trying my best to come to terms. I didn’t find the peace everyone says you find near death. Anyways, after 47 days, including 10 in the ICU, I was able to leave.

“Year and a half later, I’m here telling you all about my experience. I do still think of that man often, I don’t remember his name, I don’t know what he looked like, I just know our conversations helped us through.”

FewGarden3063 commented, “Glad he was able to have that nice experience with you before moving on. Life’s just about moments, and you gave him hope before rest.”

Jeanes223 commented:

“Survivors’ guilt is a hell of a thing. It’s hard on the outside looking in to really deep down understand why someone feels bad for surviving, especially when it’s a toss of the dice with no input from the survivor.

“Best thing I can tell you is you did not take his spot on some checklist. It wasn’t a situation of him versus you. He didn’t jump in front of some cosmic bullet and take one for you. His luck ran out, yours did not. If you feel the need, take this person’s memory with you, and think of him when you’re doing happy stuff, and lean on his memory when the world is grim. You both shared an experience together and supported each other as best you could. You did everything you were able to do, which is above and beyond the call of what was required of you. There is no shame in living, friend. Live your life, and let him rest.



“I’m not a survivor, but I am a veteran — I was a medic. Reach out if you ever need support.”

13) muffinslinger wrote:

“How much hearing-impaired people were affected. My mother, who wears hearing aids, also depends on reading lips especially in louder, busier areas. (Hearing aids can have trouble sorting through complex noise situations.)

“You can imagine what happened when everyone covered their mouths. Now she’s more isolated than ever.

“Since then, I’ve ran into a co-worker who is also hearing impaired but doesn’t want to return to office because while she can read lips on Zoom, she won’t be able to if we mask-up in person.

“They were an invisible casualty of this pandemic.”<sup>45</sup>

#### **46. “What’s The Funniest Insult You’ve Ever Heard?”**

1) bapehah wrote, “I once told my buddy that my dad is half-Mexican, half-Navajo. Immediately he said, ‘Oh, so your dad can put his ear to the ground and hear Border Patrol?’”

2) bandsawbill wrote:

“‘Are your eyes painted on?’

“That question was asked of me when I failed to see something that my boss wanted me to look for! Hahahaha.

3) witecob2 wrote:

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45 Source: dis\_2much, “What are some of the darker effects Covid-19 has had that we don’t talk about?” Reddit. AskReddit. 21 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/psin9a/what\\_are\\_some\\_of\\_the\\_darker\\_effects\\_covid19\\_has/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/psin9a/what_are_some_of_the_darker_effects_covid19_has/) >.

“Met my friend’s fiancé — very intense chap. Starts going on about his whole life philosophy; how important it is to be able to laugh at yourself, etc.

“Later in the meal, I decided to test this philosophy when he mentioned that he was part-Italian, part-Jewish.

“‘Ah, I see. So the work doesn’t get done but you still get billed.’

“He laughed and passed the test.”

4) Dickcheese\_McDoogles wrote:

“I was watching a YouTube clip of a trial in Wisconsin that was taking place over Zoom during the height of the pandemic.

“The defendant logs into the Zoom meeting still using a gag-name that he must’ve made for shits and giggles with his buddies, and the judge says out loud to the whole ‘courtroom’:

“‘Your name is not ButtFucker3000, you yoho.’

“So I’m gonna go with ‘yoho.’”

5) Psychological\_Bar870 wrote, “‘You look like 10 pounds of shite in a five-pound bag’ — my friend to me in Ireland.”<sup>46</sup>

#### **47. “What Are The Major Unsolved Problems In Philosophy?”**

joelthomast wrote:

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<sup>46</sup> Source: ninicatry, “what’s the funniest insult you’ve ever heard?” Reddit. AskReddit. 23 September 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/ptt3s4/whats\\_the\\_funniest\\_insult\\_youve\\_ever\\_heard/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/ptt3s4/whats_the_funniest_insult_youve_ever_heard/)>.

“Consciousness.

“You know that you are conscious, obviously.

“But what is it in the specific combination and arrangement of atoms in your body that makes you conscious?

“Is consciousness a function of complexity, in other words if a clump of atoms can think complicated thoughts, is that when it becomes a conscious being?

“OK, so how complicated do the thoughts need to be? A pocket calculator isn’t conscious, a mobile phone isn’t conscious. Even Google Translate isn’t conscious. Machine learning AI [Artificial Intelligence] might be able to fool you into thinking that you’re communicating with a conscious human, but it isn’t really. It’s just following very very complicated instructions.

“So is complexity really the key? Or is it configuration? What thoughts does a clump of atoms need to think, or how does it need to think them, to become conscious?

“How do we know about consciousness again? Well, we’re conscious, right? Sure, you know you’re conscious, but why are you so sure that anyone else is? What if they just appear to be conscious to you when in fact they only act like it, like the machine learning AI?

“Could you be the only conscious being in the universe?

“Or are pocket calculators conscious after all?”<sup>47</sup>

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47 Source: LefkovitchShemica, “What are the major unsolved problems in philosophy?” Reddit. AskReddit. 23 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/ptqse4/what\\_are\\_the\\_major\\_unsolved\\_problems\\_in\\_philosophy/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/ptqse4/what_are_the_major_unsolved_problems_in_philosophy/) >.

#### 48. “When Did You Go ‘Fuck This Job’ And Quit?”

1) Arperiod\_Io wrote:

“I was a supervisor at a Dollar General Market (little different from a traditional Dollar General in that it’s more like a K-Mart, has departments, etc.). I walked out this past May. I was making \$9.75 an hour ... worked there for two years, got promoted, came in on days off, worked all the holidays, moved around departments as needed. I worked there through the ‘toilet paper wars’ and ensuing year of the Coronavirus. EVERYONE began walking out ... we lost eight people in two weeks. I asked for a raise. I then begged for a raise. I just wanted \$11/hr. They wouldn’t give it to me. So I walked in one evening, asked who my cashiers and crew were for the shift and was told it was just me and a manager.

“I didn’t make a scene. I just quietly took off my name tag, set down my keys, and walked out of the store.”

2) tactics14 wrote:

“Literally today.

“Manage a Chipotle. Which has a great business model but relies on being staffed. Which pre-pandemic it did well as it had competitive wages and offered benefits.

“But staffing crisis happened. We have a skeleton crew.

“You can’t run the restaurant with a skeleton crew. There are not enough hours in the day to get everything done.

“So tonight I’d have had to run my restaurant then close solo when the two other crew members left at 11.

“I’d have been there till 5am. Wouldn’t be the first time.

“I’m just over it. I quit today. No notice. I’m not staying out till sunrise cleaning a restaurant and washing a mountain of dishes without an end in sight. Like if we knew the staffing

crisis would end in six months, I'd tough it out. But there is no set date and no end in the foreseeable future."

3) MschfMngd wrote:

"My last job working customer service. I was working for a major rental car company. Guy calls in in full meltdown mode because the car that he picked up didn't have a push button start.

"That's right. The car he was given was a key start. Apparently, this was the end of the world for him.

"Quit after that call and have never worked customer service since. Now in a quiet little data-entry role for an insurance company and couldn't be happier."

4) sternocleidomastoid-d wrote:

"I had a job at a cafe, and one time a customer asked to purchase a gift card. They happened to pay for a coffee and a portion of their new gift card with a gift card they'd already had. I mixed up the cards and accidentally gave them back the empty one instead of the one they'd just purchased. When they came in a few weeks later and realized, I apologized and found the card I'd accidentally mixed up with the full balance on it. I'd just thrown it in the junk drawer under my till.

"My boss, who was an asshole to begin with, cut my hours from full-time to three hours a week even though we were understaffed. He regularly did this to employees to punish them if they did anything wrong, I guess he assumed I meant to steal it. I gave my quitting notice the day after he posted the new schedule, and he had the balls to ask me why I was quitting when I was one of his best employees. I laughed in his face and never looked back."

5) Quail40 wrote, “Worked at a furniture store after moving to a bigger city. They told me it was \$10 / hour, which wasn’t great but it was something. Worked about 47 hours my first week and 45 the next week and I was pretty excited to be getting some overtime pay. But when I got my pay stub there was no overtime on there. I asked the manager and he said, ‘It’s a salary position. You don’t get overtime pay.’ Told him this was never discussed in the hiring process, and he said it should’ve been and if I don’t like it I can leave. So I took off my work shirt and walked out of there shirtless. Fuck that job.”

topKitty-c commented, “Below a certain pay level, isn’t overtime mandatory? You could have sued them or at least reported them. I’m not a US citizen, but I think there’s a government organisation that you report such companies to.”

EnnuideBlase responded:

“Salary-level test. Effective January 1, 2020, employers must pay employees a salary of at least \$684 per week. The FLSA’s minimum salary requirement is set to remain the same in 2021.”

“So ... yes. You report them to the Department of Labor, which does not mess around when actually called in.”

6) SpaceCowboy58 wrote:

“Super relevant (as in one week ago). It’s long, but I really need to type this out for my own mental health.

“I have a decent engineering job that I consistently excel at; like, I rarely brag but I’m a go-to guy for a lot of technical knowhow despite having fewer years than a lot of my colleagues. COVID hit right before the annual raise period, and they immediately decided they couldn’t pay us more (in anticipation of losing a bunch of work). This was totally fair,

and most of us were more concerned with keeping our jobs. Six months and many layoffs and furloughs later, we get the news that we're losing 10% of our pay. We really pulled together anyway, since many of us had shifted our efforts to do [elaborate thing I won't bore you with], which was building customer relationships and posturing us to pull in a ton of work once our customers had it. Well, that elaborate thing paid off and we were seeing tons of new work by the end of last spring. The company held a large online 'state of the union' type meeting, talked for 45 minutes about how great we were doing, then inevitably addressed the pay cuts.

"It had been six months since the pay-cut announcement, and they had no plan moving forward. A lot of industries our company deals in never even had a pay cut, and our competitors in those industries had already bounced back. It seemed like we were on a huge upswing (if not already doing very well), but they played it off as 'We're not really sure how we're doing yet, but things are looking really good.' They're heavily implying that if we keep it up, we'll get our fair pay back. It's worth noting that it's about time for our yearly pay increase, and raises are still on hold.

"Six more months passed, and we are absolutely crushing it. We brought back everyone we could, hired a bunch of new people (close to pre-COVID staff), and thanks to that elaborate thing, have more work than we know what to do with. Last Thursday, we have another meeting. This time, they casually skirt around how obviously well we're doing. Our massive accomplishments were ominously underhyped. With like two minutes left, they answer some pre-approved questions. Obviously, everyone wants to know about the pay cuts, but they avoid them and the Zoom chat starts demanding answers. The big business boss dude says to the host, 'Err ... any more questions. *We've got like a minute left*' but she doesn't catch the hint and asks the obvious pay cut question. He cobbles together a 30-second non-answer

of ‘We have no plans of paying you more.’ At this point, we’re looking at a minimum of six months before they even consider this again. At best, we might get our ten percent back, and I’d be making the same salary as I was three years prior (moving backwards due to three years’ inflation despite a ton of value added).

“I turned in my two weeks’ notice the same day. This sounds incredibly petty, but it just seemed like the company is looking for any excuse to pass on the burden of the pandemic onto the people who are doing actual work in order to stay fashionable for the shareholders. The fact that they refuse to even come up with a plan to *eventually* pay us our fair rate makes me think that it’s not even an option; like, there may be a clear path, but corporate won’t even entertain the idea because riding the pay cut is just too damn profitable. Unless they’re going to come down here and put a new roof on my house, I don’t give a sad and lonely fuck what the shareholders think. No number of complaints really matters, and threats of people maybe leaving don’t have teeth unless someone actually commits. I withdrew my service, leaving them in even more of a manpower bind.

“I want to point out that I was *very* strategic in minimizing the negative impact on my supervisors and team and ensuring that any consequences were appropriately passed on to the higher levels of our corporate architecture. I didn’t want to fuck over the other hard-working engineers at my company, but I couldn’t deal with the feeling of being taken advantage of anymore. Job prospects look great, with basically nobody paying less than what I was making for similar positions. I’m even thinking of taking a month off as a bit of a sabbatical.”

7) Arekai4098 wrote:

“The day was already hard enough, we had two call-offs with nobody available to fill in, and it seemed that half the



equipment in the kitchen was broken (fast-food job). So it was already stressful right from the start. My break time comes around, and just before then, a redneck cousin of a coworker came in with her toddlers, one of whom she let smear ketchup and mustard all over the table, the other she let spill a drink and then run around screaming with his shirt off, she herself made a huge mess, and as I was going on my break she walked past me and said with this sarcastic / devious tone, ‘I feel bad for whoever has to clean THAT up!’ knowing damn well 1) it was me, and 2) she didn’t feel bad about it at all, that was clearly sarcasm. I walk past the table with my own food, and ... oh, goddammit, it’s a total wreck, and that’s what awaits me after my break?

“I go on my break and I sit down with my food at a booth. I begin eating and some middle-aged lady (the type we now call ‘Karen’) in the next booth immediately starts chastising me, asking where her order is. I’m a few minutes into my break at this point, someone else has taken over the counter, I know nothing about her order, and even if I did, *I’m on break, lady, it’s literally not my job right now*. I tell her I’m on break, as if it wasn’t obvious already, and that I know nothing of her order. I tell her to go to the counter and ask. That doesn’t satisfy her. She will not let me rest.

“I get up and move away from her. I sit down at a table, and resume. But now my back hurts because of the damned chair, I need a booth to sit at, the metal chairs are unbearable. I pick up my tray *once again* and go to move to a booth opposite the store from the annoying entitled lady, and ... my soda topples off my tray, and the weight imbalance it creates on the way down takes the rest of my tray with it, too. My drink splatters all over the floor, and my food goes with it.

“At that point, I did the only thing any human being could do: I fucking cried. I broke down and cried my goddamned eyes out. I couldn’t take it anymore. Took off my cap and

apron, tossed them on the counter, told my coworker to clean up after her trashy cousin, let a manager know I'm gone, and then I just left. I just couldn't deal with all that shit."

8) NewStart793 wrote:

"Worked for four years in a job and realized that no matter what and how much I did, the company did not give two shits about me.

"The recognition for the work I did was stolen by others as theirs, and I was surprised [suppressed] from speaking up by threats of demotion and lack of a raise. I was refused vacation days and even when I was extremely sick and had a doctor's note, I was asked to come in to work with the words that 'it's not that bad.'

"I finally quit and decided to pursue a master's degree. Never looked back and am about to finish my master's now and will pursue a better career at a much better organization after this."

ragingbull955 commented, "Congratulations on finishing your masters. Did you used to work an engineering position?"

NewStart793 responded, "Yup."

9) Neat\_Consequences8289 wrote:

"I was working at a fast-casual restaurant, cafeteria-style where customers go down a line to choose foods and toppings and such. I (female) was 19 and it was a summer job between freshman and sophomore year of college. We had orientation one day where we went through policies and rules and stuff, then the following day was my first on the line. I showed up to work, and though it was scheduled, no one there knew what to do with me. There were other new hires, it wasn't like I was the only one, but no one wanted to

show me how to work the register or do any other training. No one would even show me where anything (bathrooms, cleaning supplies, etc.) was.

“They decided to go trial by fire and threw me on the line during the lunch rush. It went terribly. Customers and employees alike were getting mad that I was going slow. At one point I started pitifully telling customers it was my first day to hopefully get them a little less mad. I was near tears.

“I could’ve possibly gotten through this with time, but later in that shift the manager (male) showed up and asked me to come talk to him in his office. He shut the door, and I expected criticisms on my job performance, however unfair that may be for day one. Nope. He asked which employees I wanted to sleep with. Started naming names and waited for my answer. He seemed annoyed that I wasn’t answering. I was so scared that I froze. I didn’t know what to say to get out of the situation. I didn’t want to humor him, but I also feared what would happen if I angered him.

“I think I laughed a little in an attempt to diffuse the situation. I don’t remember; I was in fight-or-flight. Whatever I did worked because he let me out of his office a minute later without doing any of the many things I feared he’d do next. I walked out of that office and then straight out of the restaurant and never went back.”

10) Hereatrandom wrote, “I was in an interview and we got to talking about availability. I let them know I was in college so I would give them a copy of my class schedule so they knew my availability. They said I needed to be available 24/7 for this minimum wage call center; I said that I’m not dropping out of school for a minimum wage job and left.”<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> Source: ragingbull955, “When did you go ‘fuck this job’ and quit?” Reddit. AskReddit. 24 September 2021 <

#### 49. “Teachers Of Reddit, Who’s Your Most Unforgettable Student?”

1) DTownForever wrote:

“I taught high school English and Social Studies. In my Government class, there was a girl who I’ll call Emily. Emily was special ed, she was like 19 and still a senior, and she had a baby at home. She definitely had a learning disability but tried so hard, she always turned in homework where most of the class couldn’t have cared less.

“The class was chock full of assholes, these kids who seemed to just live to make my life difficult. During lunch or after school, she’d sometimes slip notes under my door like ‘Don’t worry, those guys are just jerks. You’re a great teacher.’

“A year after she graduated, she was murdered by her boyfriend while their baby slept in the other room. I’ll never forget her face, and I still have the notes she left me.”

DTownForever added:

“[Her boyfriend] shot himself not long after, to make the story even worse.

“Honestly I did not mean to bring people down by talking about her, but she really is / was my most unforgettable student.”

DTownForever added, “I believe Emily’s mother took the child — so, the grandma — and I’m sure she’s okay. There was a lot of response to the fundraising for the child.”

2) salinixation\_nation wrote:

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[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/puyc7t/when\\_did\\_you\\_go\\_fuck\\_this\\_job\\_and\\_quit/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/puyc7t/when_did_you_go_fuck_this_job_and_quit/) >.

“I taught English in China for a few years. There was one kid who was absolutely brilliant. He knew way more words than the other kids, and if he didn’t know a word, he was sharp enough to be able to express himself on the fly regardless. One time, he brought in his own PowerPoint and talked about the solar system (none of this being required), using proper terminology and everything for what was supposed to be a simple assignment.

“However, more often than not he used his intellect for other purposes. We had him in class for over a week before we found out that he’d been pinching and otherwise touching the girls in the classroom as well as coming up with elaborate threats to keep them from coming to me or any of the assistant teachers. When I brought him to my office after class to discipline him, he told me that he was going to report me to the police and get me deported (all of this in English, though he didn’t actually use the word ‘deport’). His mom ended up enrolling him in another school because she wasn’t willing to reel him in, apologize to the other parents, or even acknowledge his bad behavior in any way.

“He was six years old. I still occasionally wonder how he’s going to turn out.”

3) ankyfire wrote:

“ESL [English as a Second Language] teacher in China.

The student ... Many, many lovely students, but the best story is definitely Bill.

“Bill was not the best in the group. In fact, he was usually getting low marks on the quizzes and doing quite poorly. He was, however, always very well behaved, and followed my suggestions EXACTLY. So every class he would write a bunch of sentences with no grammar, I would spent some time explaining how and why they should be worded, and he would correct them. And like this every time. I did not expect

quick progress because it looked like he was making similar mistakes all the time, but I kept helping him, and he kept rewriting the sentences.

“And one day the mistakes stopped.

“Just like that. From making every possible mistake and correcting them with me, seemingly overnight he just started writing using proper grammar and good vocabulary. He became the best student in that group literally overnight.

“I like to think that he just needed to make all the mistakes first so he could start writing without them.”

4) GulfEraVet71 wrote:

“I was a Little League umpire for a number of years. There was one pitcher who was 12 who was the only one I ever knew who could pitch two ways. On one pitch he could throw overhand like everyone else, then the very next pitch could come from so low side are that his knuckles would nearly scrape the ground.

“After a while I figured out his little hitch that told me he was going side arm. At that moment I would change my stance to better see the pitch come in. Well, my movement then told the batter what was coming.

“One night, about halfway through the game, he yelled at me for telegraphing his pitches. Nothing quite like getting called out by a 12-year-old. Lol.”

5) valaranias wrote:

“The freshman girl who tried to convince me her fake ID was real when she ended up at the bar I was working at for extra money. She got mad I wouldn’t serve her because she kept insisting she was 22 as it stated on her fake ID.

“I reminded her that I had just had a parent-teacher conference with her mom. The man who was with her was just insisting I was being jealous of how hot his girl looked. (He was like 30, so it was extra gross.) I ended up calling the cops, her mom, and my principal to explain the situation. She ended up getting expelled (private school) and no idea what happened to the creep who was with her.”

6) nmatthelibrary wrote:

“Taught English at a hagwon in South Korea for a year after undergrad. This one girl, ‘Lisa,’ was about nine or 10 years old. Hated me at first. Ran with a little clique of troublemakers who used to bully the other kids. Ended up in a separate class from them one term and seemed to suddenly realize that actually I wasn’t Satan. Super sweet, funny, smart kid.

“One day the kids were working on a group project together. I was moving around the room and looked up just in time to see Lisa, smiling her sweet little smile, smack a boy across the face. To this day I have no idea what he said, although he seemed kind of embarrassed and guilty about it. Sent them to sort things out with the Korean staff, and there was never an issue. But I’ll never forget the look on that kid’s face when she slapped him! I don’t know which one of us was more surprised.”<sup>49</sup>

## **50. “What Is One Job That Doesn’t Get The Respect It Deserves?”**

1) InternalIce9141 wrote, “Sewer Workers. Imagine going through literal shit to deal with people’s shit.”

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<sup>49</sup> Source: starsailor11, “Teachers of Reddit, who’s your most unforgettable student?” Reddit. AskReddit. 25 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pvi8h5/teachers\\_of\\_reddit\\_whos\\_your\\_most\\_unforgettable/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pvi8h5/teachers_of_reddit_whos_your_most_unforgettable/) >.

2) Mysterious-Tea-7218 wrote, “Maintenance / janitorial services.”

Billbapaparazzi commented, “Janitors in my high school were honored guests at the assemblies, and they were routinely and publicly thanked. It made them visible to the students, and I think helped make a culture where they weren’t taken for granted. It was one of the nicest things I can remember about high school.”

Commander\_Shepard wrote:

“Same thing with the maids and cleaners of a hotel chain. My father taught me that lesson the hard way.

“We were in the room and I was being a snotty 11-year-old little shit, making fun of the maid. Eventually, I said something and father had had enough — my mother’s scolding was evidently not sufficient. He took the entire \$200 USD allowance I had been allotted for the two-week trip and handed it to me. I was confused. That was supposed to be doled out.

“‘You are going to apologize and hand her that money as a tip. You do not ever, EVER, make fun of somebody who is below your station, or has not had the same advantages or privileges as you.’

“I begged, begged, then eventually protested.

“‘What if I refuse?’

“‘You will not walk out of the house for the rest of the summer, and I will sell that N64 and PS2 of yours to pay the tip.’

“I could see the fury in his eyes, and I walked over and apologized, she initially refused, thinking it was a trick, until my dad told her what I had said and why he was giving it to me. I never forgot that lesson, hard one, cruelly learned. But



it fucking left an impression. My father then told me about his early life, and then read me the *Great Gatsby* quote that he always would quote: ‘Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven’t had the advantages that you’ve had.’”

3) 7CatsInTrenchCoat wrote:

“Caregiver.

“My mother works as a caregiver in a nursing home. She spends her days showering the elderly, changing their diapers, feeding them, and cleaning bodily fluids. Not only is it a physical job (you often have to lift people and carry heavy things) but it’s also psychologically hard. She sees many people suffering, dying, often alone and abandoned by their families.”

PrudentFlamingo commented:

“My brother spent the last weeks of his life in hospital and eventually Hospice care. The kindness, care, and attention that the staff showed to not only him, but us when we visited, makes me feel very humble.

“Those people are living saints; they should be putting up statues to them.”<sup>50</sup>

## **51. “What’s Something Other People Find Cute But You Cannot Stand?”**

basic-fatale wrote, “Live, laugh, love décor.”

rebrelliouslyell commented, “Closely related: family shit. E.g. ‘Family, Where Love Begins and Never Ends.’ I saw

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<sup>50</sup> Source: robinscott3, “What is one job that doesn’t get the respect it deserves?” Reddit. AskReddit. 27 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pwn0ro/what\\_is\\_one\\_job\\_that\\_doesnt\\_get\\_the\\_respect\\_it/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pwn0ro/what_is_one_job_that_doesnt_get_the_respect_it/) >.

this hanging in a nonprofit that deals with family violence and child neglect.”

Alara-Ni responded, “Someone has a dark sense of humor.”

sherlock----75 wrote, “I have a ‘live laugh poop’ sign hanging in my bathroom. It’s a little f-u to those signs.”

MuppetusMaximus commented:

“I have a friend who does dirty cross-stitching. She made us one that’s a beautiful floral pattern surrounding the words ‘*Ede Faecam,*’ which is Latin for ‘Eat Shit.’

“It’s hanging over the bed in our guest room.”

Note by David Bruce: “In response to a comment about a major lack of privacy in relationships, someone wrote:

“I share some passwords with my wife; usually it’s for bills and Netflix and stuff.

“We have a book of important shit, so if something happens to one of us, the other isn’t fucked.”<sup>51</sup>

## **52. “Kindergarten Teachers, What Is The Most Hilariously Inappropriate Thing A Kid You Were Teaching Has Asked / Told You?”**

1) badericbad wrote, “In kindergarten I once took my mom’s tampon for show and tell and told the class it was dynamite. I can only imagine the conversation that occurred.”

blissandkittends commented, “Hahaha! I did the same thing! Thought it was a firecracker.”

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51 Source: Freudian-slurpee, “What’s something other people find cute but you cannot stand?” Reddit. AskReddit. 28 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pwysls/whats\\_something\\_other\\_people\\_find\\_cute\\_but\\_you/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pwysls/whats_something_other_people_find_cute_but_you/) >.

2) BootySniffer26 wrote:

“I said something cheekily that was like ‘Aren’t I the coolest thing ever?’ and a student piped up and said, ‘No, the coolest things ever are face tattoos.’

“Not that inappropriate but really unexpected.”

3) Pette\_Davis wrote:

“Pre-K, a kid interrupted story time to ask: ‘Ms. Davis, why are you so fat?’

“‘I don’t know, buddy. Some people are just fat. Was that a question about our lesson? Why don’t you sit back down, please.’

“This kid liked to say things for laughs & shock-value. Luckily I’m good at not reacting because DAMN, DUDE! I’m not SO FAT.

North\_Refrigerator21 commented, “When my son was about three years old. We were at a safari park and standing in line for something. The guy in front of us was very large (not that common here). My son look at him then turn to me to loudly ask, ‘Dad, why is that man so fat?’ Painfully embarrassing to remember even now.”

Turicus commented, “When I was a kid, we travelled to the US. This was in the mid-80s, and obesity wasn’t as widespread in Europe, especially really huge people. There was a woman in leggings or joggers or something with rolls of fat on her hips and legs. I turned to my mum and asked, ‘Mum, what does that lady have in her pockets?’”

4) AlanaMcEvoy wrote, “K-6 PE teacher here. I have too many of these stories, but I’ll never forget ‘Tinkle T,’ whom I met during my master’s internship. He peed. Often. One day he comes into class after recess covered in something wet. I thought he jumped in a puddle at recess. He said,

‘Teacher, I got something nasty on me.’ I asked what happened, and he said, ‘I went to the bathroom and my dingy didn’t work right.’ He was literally soaked. Like, hair dripping wet into his eyes. Turns out he tried to pee with a tiny boner, looked right into it, and sprayed his whole body.”

5) eldonhughes wrote:

“I was doing story time in the library. It was the first week of December. Kids were sitting on the floor in front of me, and a number of parents were standing back behind them. We had some time to kill, so I started talking with kids about what they wanted for Christmas. Just trying to feed info to parents.

“A little girl said she wanted a remote-control butterfly. Another kid said, “There’s no such thing.”

“The first girl said, ‘Sure there is. They’re purple. But I want a pink one.’ Mom, in the back, looked exasperated and turned her head.

“Well, I thought it was exasperation. Turns out, probably not. Found out, later, that purple butterfly is a sex toy.”

Daylar17 commented, “It’s a clit stimulator. The ‘body’ of the butterfly vibrates and the ‘wings’ press on either side. They’re usually worn with underwear on and are remote controlled so the owner / partner can control the level of vibrations. Fun to wear outside, sort of like a love egg.”

6) follow\_your\_lines wrote, “Not a teacher, but when I was in second grade (about seven years old) we were creating little towns with a few different stores in them. In my town, I had a ‘kids bookstore’ and an ‘adult bookstore.’ The teacher came by and looked over my assignment as I was showing it off and she was like, ‘Hmm, let’s change that to *grown-up bookstore*.’ I asked why and she was like, ‘Oh, I don’t know, it just sounds kind of weird.’”

i-hope-it-lands commented:

“When I was in second grade, for Father’s Day we had to create newspapers all about our dads, their occupations and what we loved about them, etc. My best friend’s dad was a volunteer firefighter and also drove a tow truck, which I thought was the coolest — and it was also much less abstract to a seven-year-old than my father’s occupation — a lawyer.

‘I kept asking my mom, ‘What does dad do?’ but she couldn’t explain it in terms that a seven-year-old would understand. Finally I asked, ‘What does he *sell* to people?’ and she said, ‘Well, he sells ... services, I guess?’

“And so, my newspaper got printed proudly stating that my dad ‘sells services.’ Good lord.”

7) swamptheyard wrote, “At the daycare I worked at one of the little boys said, ‘My mom always farts when she drinks beer.’ It was hilarious, and it taught me that kids have absolutely no filter when it comes to sharing things. So just a little tip to all you parents here, make sure you watch what you say and do at home ... because if it’s funny enough to them, they definitely want to share it with their classmates. Lol.”

8) BachelorTrainwreck wrote:

“I’m not a kindergarten teacher, but I know someone who is, and she told me the funniest story about a boy and girl in her class. Keep in mind these kids are five or six years old.

“Girl comes up to teacher, crying and saying the boy called her ‘the s word.’

“Teacher is taken aback and asks girl, ‘What is the s word?’

“Little girl begins crying harder, appears horrified and yells, ‘I CANT SAY THAT WORD!’

“Teacher calmly explains that she needs to know what the boy said and promises the girl she will not be in trouble for saying it this one time’

“Little girl (still crying hysterically) exclaims, ‘IM NOT SAYING IT BUT IT RHYMES WITH ‘FUCK’!’”

Portabellamush commented, “I remember when my daughter was five, I was venting to her dad about work or something and said, ‘I’m not fucking stupid.’ Daughter looked me dead in the eyes and said, ‘Mama, we do NOT say *stupid*.’”

qssung commented, “A kid once told me that another one said the n word. Thinking oh shit to myself, I pulled him aside and asked him to tell me what he said. He was hesitant, but I assured him he wasn’t going to be in trouble. He finally told me. He said, ‘Nuts.’ I reminded him that he needed to use words appropriate for school and to not repeat what his sixth-grade brother said.”

biscuitboi967 wrote, “My friend is an elementary school teacher. A little girl came over crying saying a boy called her the ‘F’ word. Friend asked what that was, thinking it had to do with *Fart*, and the girl responded, ‘He called me a fat ass.’ Boy’s father swore he had no idea where his son learned the term.”

9) madcosmic wrote:

“Once while I was a lifeguard, I noticed these kindergarten-aged siblings belly laughing hard while hanging onto the wall in the pool. Their laughter was super contagious. They were swimming away from the wall when the sister yelled, ‘Let’s get another water massage!’ They swam back to the wall, got into a Spider-Man position and immediately started laughing again. The brother yelled, ‘My turn!’ So they scooted over along the wall. It was in that moment when I

realized they were massaging their hoo-haa's with the pool's water jets.

“I couldn't find the parents to let them know what they were doing. Lol. Luckily, they got distracted by something else and stopped doing it.”

10) Laurax-1994 wrote, “My mom was a kindergarten teacher. The kids dressed up for Halloween. One little girl was a cop, handcuffs and everything. Another kid raised their hand and said, ‘My mommy has handcuffs, too, but hers are pink.’”

11) Fluteless wrote, “Technically first grade, but still itty bitty kids. One of the activities was to draw the teacher for the all-about-me book. I heard giggling. He drew me naked and then put clothes on after ... you could see the nipples. He also gave me a penis, which is something I do not have.”

DongusMaxamus commented, “Username checks out. You have no penis hence you're fluteless. Lol.”

12) The Brontosaurus wrote:

“I saw a kiddo very intent on her drawing. She was being very particular that she had to have That specific grey or black or red crayon. When I asked her what she was drawing, she said, ‘My mommy's bagina.’

“I've also probably had a dozen kids tell me that ‘mommy has a baby in her tummy.’ Don't tell your first kid until you're ready for the world to know you're pregnant.”

Briggsnotmyers wrote, “I had a first grader announce loudly and frequently that his mom was going to have another baby and it was a girl and her name was going to be Pixel. She was not pregnant. He was, I think, trying to manifest a sister. Named Pixel.”

anabanabread commented, “I did that when I was little. Lol. My mom was very confused when the teacher congratulated her when she went to pick me up.”

LurkForYourLoves commented, “My daughter’s daycare buddy was excitedly telling us about her new baby that was coming soon. Not to be out done, their other little friend announced that her mummy was having 22 babies.”<sup>52</sup>

### **53. “What Are Some Interesting Coincidences In History?”**

1) MrKotoulas quoted this (it’s all over the WWW):

“The British actor Anthony Hopkins [who shot to fame as Hannibal Lecter] was delighted to hear that he had landed a leading role in a film based on the book *The Girl From Petrovka* by George Feifer. A few days after signing the contract, Hopkins travelled to London to buy a copy of the book. He tried several bookshops, but there wasn’t one to be had. Waiting at Leicester Square underground for his train home, he noticed a book apparently discarded on a bench. Incredibly, it was *The Girl From Petrovka*. That in itself would have been coincidence enough but in fact it was merely the beginning of an extraordinary chain of events. Two years later, in the middle of filming in Vienna, Hopkins was visited by George Feifer, the author. Feifer mentioned that he did not have a copy of his own book. He had lent the last one — containing his own annotations — to a friend who had lost it somewhere in London. With mounting astonishment, Hopkins handed Feifer the book he had found.

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52 Source: XxClxudyxX, “Kindergarten teachers, what is the most hilariously inappropriate thing a kid you were teaching has asked/told you?” Reddit. AskReddit. 27 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pwph5k/kindergarten\\_teachers\\_what\\_is\\_the\\_most/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pwph5k/kindergarten_teachers_what_is_the_most/) >.



‘Is this the one?’ he asked, ‘with the notes scribbled in the margins?’ It was the same book.”

2) babexe2 wrote:

“When they shot *The Wizard of Oz*, the actor who played the Wizard, Frank Morgan, wanted to have a coat that looked elegant but had ‘gone to seed.’ The wardrobe department visited a secondhand store and purchased an entire rack of coats for him to choose from. One day while wearing the coat he chose on set, he turned one of the pockets to discover a label indicating that the coat had been made for L. Frank Baum. Or in other words, the AUTHOR of *The Wizard of Oz*.

“They contacted his wife, who was still alive, and it was verified that the coat once belonged to him. After filming was finished, the coat was returned to Ms. Baum.”

Substantial\_Wave2557 commented, “Why would they give it back to her? She’d already got rid of it once.”

Unsupported Device wrote:

“I am a frequent former Goodwill shopper at the one in our small hometown.

“For a few months straight, I kept finding my friend’s shirt his mom had donated — and I kept buying it and giving it to him in a fancy bag ‘as a gift’ just to be a Dick.”<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Source: dudebrostein, “What are the most suspicious coincidences in history?” Reddit. AskReddit. 27 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pwonja/what\\_are\\_the\\_most\\_suspicious\\_coincidences\\_in/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pwonja/what_are_the_most_suspicious_coincidences_in/) >.

## 54. “What’s A Good Experience You Had With A Celebrity?”

1) Chillin1066 wrote: “I’ve heard the tales [about Steven Seagal’s ego], but the only actual experience I’ve had with him was a good one. Decades ago at the tender age of 13, I was somewhere back East (in New York, I think) and my Boy Scout troop that I was with saw him at a restaurant. He agreed to let me snap a picture with him, so I handed my camera to a friend and posed with Seagal. Afterwards, as Seagal was walking away, my friend told me that he hadn’t been able to figure out how to make the camera work. Segal overheard, came back, and said, ‘Let’s try it again then.’”

2) unoriginalshite wrote, “When working at a bar years ago, I was in charge of letting in the film crew for the day and hanging around until they were done. Zachary Quinto was part of the cast and was very nice to everyone including me. Once he figured out I was ‘in charge’ of the venue, he asked if he could bring his dogs to hang in the little outdoor area outside of the bar since they were in his trailer. I said, ‘Fuck yes,’ and then got to hang out and pet his dogs.”

3) csace7 wrote, “Heidi Klum visited the park [a famous theme park in California with a rodent as its mascot] with her family and she was very polite. She came in really early because it was the only time she could shop without people bothering her too much. Her kids actually came up to the register and I rung up their purchases and said ‘please’ and ‘thank you.’ Another family was in the store and asked Heidi for a picture and she said yes, which was really cool. And yes, Heidi is as pretty in real life as she is on TV.”

4) sheepgirl111 wrote, “I served Jimmy Fallon once and he tipped me 100% on the check. Lovely guy with a beautiful, polite family.”

5) BB-88 wrote, “I had a friend who spent a summer as a nanny on the east coast. Her family was awful — terribly abusive, rude. She would take the kids to the beach, where Chevy Chase was frequently hanging out in Bermuda shorts with sailboats. She said he was always very kind and it was the highlight of an otherwise terrible summer. So, there’s one nice thing about Chevy Chase.”<sup>54</sup>

### **55. “What Is A Good Interaction You Had With The Police?”**

1) tellmetheworld wrote, “Once my apartment was flooding from above and I didn’t know who to call because my landlord lived a hundred miles away and the neighbor upstairs wasn’t home. So I called the police and they came along with firemen. The fireman shut off the water and the policeman stayed with me in my apartment and helped move all my stuff out of the way with me since it was a TON of water coming through the ceiling. He didn’t need to do that.”

2) atlienk wrote, “Many years ago I took my car for an early-morning joy ride. I was driving at a very high rate of speed on a mostly empty interstate. I was a few miles from home when I got pulled over. I expected the cop to be an ass as new super-speeder laws had just gone into effect in my state. Instead, the cop complemented me on my car, asked me to be more responsible, reminded me of the new law, and then marked my rate of speed just under the new limit. Had he not done that my car would have been impounded on the spot, license suspended, and I would have faced a low-class felony charge. (Fine was still pretty large and insurance rates skyrocketed for a while.) The cop was just a nice guy who

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<sup>54</sup> Source: AmericanOnTheRight, “What celebrities are actually assholes irl?” Reddit. AskReddit. 28 September 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pxi64i/what\\_celebrities\\_are\\_actually\\_assholes\\_irl/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pxi64i/what_celebrities_are_actually_assholes_irl/) >.

made me realize that I needed to be more responsible behind the wheel.”

3) WeddingElly wrote:

“When I moved to a small Midwest city for grad school, I had just gotten my driver’s license. I went to the city / state administrative building that was attached to the main police station next door. When I was leaving, I turned the wrong way, pulling out of the city parking lot into a one-way road and oncoming traffic. Immediately panicked and swerved into one of the many parked police cars along the side of the police station. Several officers came out, made sure I was ok, and then they talked to me very gently and calmed me down. (I was very flustered.) I had run into an outturned wheel so they took my info in case there was any lasting damage to the wheel well, and then blocked off traffic so I could turn around.

“Another experience was a few years ago when I got totally lost in a small town an hour from home late at night. I had left my purse / phone at the bar earlier that evening (car keys were in my pocket) and drove back there in hopes of getting my stuff back before bar close. The bar had closed, I had no ID, no phone (so no GPS) and I couldn’t figure out how to get back on the highway back home, and the town was dark, no streetlights, no one out. I was driving around quite slowly, trying to make out the street signs, when I noticed a dark suspicious SUV following me with its lights off. I panicked because it was creepy, so blew a couple of stop signs, and then the flashing lights came on and it turned out it was a cop who thought *I* was the suspicious vehicle. I explained my situation (and how I was blowing stop signs because I was creeped out by *him*, not because I didn’t know how to drive or was drunk) and he thought it was pretty funny and had me follow his car and led me back to the highway.”

4) whiddlekitty wrote, ‘My brother’s family, our little brother, and I were hanging out one evening. I was 30, my brothers were 26 and 32. We asked our wives if they could watch the kids for a bit while the guys took a walk. It was late and dark, and for some reason we decided to walk through this wooded area in the middle of the neighborhood instead of just staying on the road. After a bit, we saw a cop car driving around pointing a spotlight different places around us. We shrugged it off since we weren’t trespassing and we had nothing to worry about. When we were heading back, as soon as we stepped back onto paved road, a cop pulls up with lights on. He got out of his car and walked up to us, but as soon as he was close enough to see our faces he got a really confused expression. He started questioning us about what we were up to, and with every respectful answer we gave him he seemed more confused and disarmed. Apparently, some Karen had seen us enter the woods and immediately assumed it was a bunch of teenagers doing drugs and vandalism; so that’s exactly what she told the police was happening when she called to report it. So when this cop finally found us, and we were, instead, three well-mannered responsible adults, it had really thrown him off. We had a good laugh and a chat with him before heading back.’”

5) moregooderer1 wrote:

“I’m a young-ish white woman in the US. One time I was pulled over for a taillight that was out. I’m terrified of police and rarely drive. I didn’t have an active driver’s license (it was very expired, but not suspended or anything). I was shaking but trying my best to be honest and polite. The officer initially thought I had a warrant because I was freaking out so much. I kept telling him that I was just nervous around authorities and I was driving without a license so I thought I was in trouble.

“He told me to pull off the main road, ‘but you are not free to go.’ After we were off the main road and he ran my information he found that I did in fact have a warrant that I was completely unaware of (unpaid toll bill from my ex). I freaked out and started sobbing. He instantly turned his attitude around and was super understanding and helped me through the situation. He told me I just needed to call into the station and pay my \$250 or something bill (it was legit, I made sure after). He stayed with me while I called my parents to have them send me money to pay it off because I didn’t even have my purse or credit cards on me. It took a long time for me to get it taken care of. He could have just arrested me and had my car towed. He talked and joked with me the whole time to try and make me feel better.

“After everything was taken care of, he said, ‘Oh, I forgot to give you your license back!’ I was like ‘Ummm,’ and he started cracking up, thinking he was sooo funny. ‘Just get your license renewed ASAP,’ he said as he drove away.

“I am well aware of my privilege, and I wish everyone could have semi-pleasant experiences with police. It could easily have been different for someone else.”

6) Lanky\_Departure7401 wrote, “One time I dropped my bag of Wendy’s and my meal went flying onto the streets. A cop helped me clean up the mess and told me to come with him. He took me back to Wendy’s and bought me the same meal. Didn’t ask for repayment and simply told me to know not all cops are bad.”<sup>55</sup>

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55 Source: DeterministicSociety, “What is a good interaction you had with the police?” Reddit. AskReddit. 2 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pztaz6/what\\_is\\_a\\_good\\_interaction\\_you\\_had\\_with\\_the\\_police/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/pztaz6/what_is_a_good_interaction_you_had_with_the_police/) >.

## 56. “What Is The Nicest Thing You’ve Ever Done That No One Knows About?”

1) strangedeterrent wrote, “I was looking around in a classic car dealership. It was a small joint, mainly sold online, but they liked having a lot open to people. My husband and the owner were talking shop, and I decided to look around, doing my best to avoid scratching things. Got to talking to the assistant, sweet lady, learned she was new to town, took care of her father. We got om the subject of eye surgery (I had just had one), and she told me she was needing cataract surgery but couldn’t get it. The surgery center required her to have someone bring her in and pick her up after surgery, but she only had her dad around and he was too old to drive. So I offered. It took her a little convincing to believe I was serious, but she agreed. I picked her up a few days later in the sweet ride her boss sold us. When I got her home, I checked to make sure she was okay, got her food, and locked up after myself. I checked in via the phone later to see if she needed any more help, and she was good. Never shared that with anyone.”

2) A\_Miss\_Amiss wrote:

“I had a childhood bully. Things weren’t great at his home, and his little brother wound up with leukemia. Sometimes he’d come to school looking haggard and miserable. A lot of times he would show up without food (he wasn’t in a free lunch plan at school so he couldn’t get anything) or writing utensils. I don’t know if his family couldn’t afford them while they tried paying for the little brother’s medical bills or if they just forgot.

“Anyway I started leaving him extra pencils and some of my snacks at his locker, so he wasn’t embarrassed in class and he had something to eat.

“He never knew it was me and he still bullied me during that time and until the day we graduated, but I don’t have any hard feelings toward him.”

3) YungBiz95 wrote, “Everyday on my way to work, I would drive by the same homeless man standing on the corner. His clothes were always in rough shape ,and he never looked like he had enough to eat. I would always give whatever spare change I had to him. One day, I wanted to do more so I bought him lunch and brought clothes and a winter jacket for him. I’ll never forget the way his eyes lit up and that maybe just for that split second in time he wasn’t concerned about where he would get his next meal.”

4) Ghost-George wrote, “Paid for a coworker’s groceries. I found it ridiculous that she couldn’t afford like \$10 worth of stuff despite working there as close to full-time as they would let us. Good old corporate America has got to keep those wages low and rent high because the shareholders need a second beachfront home.”

recklesslyendangered wrote, “Bought my best friend a car seat when her son outgrew his infant carrier. She’s a single mom. She’s adopted. No one really helps her with her son. And she once confided in me that she felt like I was the only one there for her. I didn’t want her to know it was me who bought it. So I dropped it off on the stoop of her apartment still in the box with an obnoxious bow on it. No note. This was several years ago. I’ll never tell.”

5) RecycledNea wrote, “Woke up really early a winter morning and saw that there was a homeless guy sleeping outside my flat so I made muffins, tea, packed a blanket, scarf and warm socks and put it all in a bag and put it next to him while he was still sleeping. Saw him later in the day wrapped in the blanket which made it all worth it.”



6) Deviant-Machine wrote, “I do not have the best memory, but one of my favorite things I’ve done for someone besides buying them something they really wanted for Christmas, making them their favorite meal for dinner, or donating clothes and toys for children was when I was a senior in high school. I really enjoyed making origami cranes, and I gave one to one of my teachers. For some reason, that little bird made that man so happy. I don’t know why. He kept it on his desk all year long and every time I’d look at it, I would smile because he kept it there. I truly did hate school. Sure I made good grades but the other students weren’t very welcoming to me. I didn’t have any friends. When I walked into that classroom and saw that paper bird on his desk every day, it made me happy. I think about it every once in a while, and I wonder if he still has that little bird. So this was about my teacher. By my teacher keeping that crane on his desk, he was doing something nice for me every day that made me more happy than he will ever know. That little bird.”

7) fools\_gambler wrote:

“Found a wallet on the street with a (for me at the time) very large amount of money. In the ballpark of three or four of my month’s earnings. Took out a credit card from it, went to that bank, and left it with the manager to call their client about it, as they had the contact info. If I took it to the police, or tried tracing the owner directly, they would have met me or learned my name, and I wasn’t really interested in that.

“So there’s a life pro tip, if you want to return a wallet anonymously, look at the credit cards and take it to the bank.”

8) Lagueramedrano wrote, “Found a bank bag in the parking lot where I worked. No one around and it was definitely full. Turned it in to security, never even peeked inside.”

9) McQuackers49 wrote, “A friend I work with and I were trying to find a parking spot by her apartment and we came across two middle-aged black women and they looked troubled. So we stopped to ask if they’re all right and they said they’d run out of gas. We didn’t want to just leave them there. (This was in a rough area of a major city.)= We took a gas can from their car that they had and went to the nearest gas station and brought back full of gas. They were very thankful and said, ‘God bless you,’ and we left. I felt nice the entire night.”

10) l3v3ric wrote, “I was stationed in Burma for one year and the exchange rate is 1,000 Kyat was roughly \$0.50 USD. As I was on my way to the airport to leave I gave a homeless lady with one leg \$100 USD worth of Kyat. She practically fainted, and I just drove off and said nothing. I love Burma.”

11) yaoilover15 wrote, “I once created a TikTok account just so I could leave positive comments on my now ex-girlfriend’s TikTok account. To this day she STILL has no idea that it’s me.”<sup>56</sup>

### **57. “Haunted House Workers, What Instance Made You Break Character On The Job?”**

1) ChuckNorrisAteMySocks wrote, “I worked in one for only one day (it was a volunteer gig at a corn maze). There was a younger kid who got lost in the maze; I could tell he was doing his best to be brave, but I remember him saying something like ‘I know you’re there, but please don’t scare me,’ as he walked past. So I took my mask off and showed him towards the exit.”

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<sup>56</sup> Source: WholeKievmarken, “What is the nicest thing you’ve ever done that no one knows about??” Reddit. AskReddit. 3 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q0bgbv/what\\_is\\_the\\_nicest\\_thing\\_youve\\_ever\\_done\\_that\\_no/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q0bgbv/what_is_the_nicest_thing_youve_ever_done_that_no/) >.

2) ConneryFTW wrote:

“I wanted to break character only once, but I was able to maintain.

“In college, I volunteered at a Big Haunted House near Pittsburgh. I was a bigger dude, so they dressed me up as kind of Great Value [budget] Jason, and it was my job to stand in this small dip in the wall and then jump out as people when by. Once I jumped out in front of a few high schoolers, and one of the guys takes a few steps towards me and decks me in the chin. Now, I was considerable bigger than this guy, and he was probably drunk, and obviously very scared. So, really slow, I just stand up straight, so I’m now standing about a foot taller than him and scream. He and his friends very quickly sidestep away and continue on.

“But fuck, my chin and teeth ached for the rest of the night.”

3) Downtown\_Ad3986 wrote, “I was working at a haunted house in downtown San Diego, California. I played the role of a zombie bride. A couple came through the haunted house and did not expect me to jump out from my hiding spot. When I scared them, the dude threw his girlfriend at me and ran like a wimp. I felt so bad for the girl that I broke character, took a smoke break, and walked her outside. They ended up breaking up in the parking lot. That poor girl was scared out her mind, and I’ll never forget her terrified face when I jumped out at them.”

pixy0stix commented, “This happens a lot. Girls wrap their boyfriend around them to be ‘protected’ and often get shoved at the actors. I’ve always thought a Haunted House is a good way to see where you are in a relationship.”

4) pixy0stix wrote, “I, twice, had people do the fainting goat syndrome after I scared them. (Aka, they just stopped functioning and sat on the floor. The brain disconnected for a bit.) Both times I had to stop their friends from dragging

them away and give the person time to recover and decide if they wanted to go further.”

5) Queen-of-Dragons001 wrote, “Not a worker but once when I was really little I went to Wompus Woods Haunted and Family Haunted Hayride with my dad. There was one part where this large group of people came at us, and I ran off. One of the guys in the group who looked like the Creature from the Black Lagoon came to get me. He took his mask off and said he was a normal person like me and that he would protect me from the monsters and get me back to my dad. And he was true to his word. He put his mask back on and didn’t let anyone scare me again until we found my dad and the rest of the group.”

6) Poorly-Drawn-Beagle wrote, “I once made one of the workers, whose job was to dress up in a straitjacket and mumble insanely at you, crack up by asking her, ‘Soooo ... what time you get off?’”<sup>57</sup>

## **58. “What’s Something Good That Ryan Reynolds And Blake Lively Do?”**

rugbycanuck6 wrote, “I work at a children’s hospital Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively visited while filming close by without invitation so no media or publicity at all. We had one kid in isolation and Ryan geared up full PPE [Personal Protective Equipment] and sat with kid, played games, and engaged with him for almost two hours. This little guy had few social interactions. Blake visited others. Checked in with Ryan and left while he stayed and played. He later sent some gifts to the kid and checked in with family while filming the

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<sup>57</sup> Source: Bouksie, “Haunted House workers, what instance made you break character on the job?” Reddit. AskReddit. 3 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q0jc6z/haunted\\_house\\_workers\\_what\\_instance\\_made\\_you/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q0jc6z/haunted_house_workers_what_instance_made_you/) >.

movie. Pretty solid compared to other celebrities and athletes we've seen stop in for a photo op!"

goblin\_princess commented, "I also work at a children's hospital, and he does regular virtual visits with the kids during these Covid times. He also always remembers their names and their interests. He's a kind guy."<sup>58</sup>

### **59. "What's The Easiest Way To Ruin Your Life In Your Opinion?"**

HandholdingClub wrote:

"Gambling addiction.

"I'm a sober alcoholic, and I think drug and alcohol addictions are incredibly serious and can be devastating. Gambling is a whole different beast where you won't lose your life or physical health (directly at least), but you can seriously ruin your life. I've seen families with kids get torn apart by it.

"The chase never stops. If you make \$25k, you'll bet everything you can and most likely get destroyed. If you work your way up to a \$100k+ job you'll most likely just increase your bet size and still ruin your life. The high is about winning an exciting amount of money, which usually means you have to wager a significant amount of money."

duffusmcfrewfus commented, "I've worked at a casino for 12 years and not very often do you witness someone betting money they can't afford. It's heartbreaking to watch, we had one player who was the head of his IT dept making well into

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<sup>58</sup> Source: blondeperson, "Which celebrity that everyone seems to think is gorgeous just doesn't appeal to you?" Reddit. AskWomen. 2 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/q01t81/which\\_celebrity\\_that\\_everyone\\_seems\\_to\\_think\\_is/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/q01t81/which_celebrity_that_everyone_seems_to_think_is/) >.

six figures a year lose everything, get fired from his job because he was getting money out of the business, and somehow then got hired by his family in their restaurant and he stole from them so he could gamble. Terrible thing to witness. Had a dentist lose his practice because he couldn't pay his bill or staff because he gambled it all away.”

duffusmcfrewfus also commented, “I opened a private blackjack table for a guy once who bought in for \$110k and lost it all in about 15 minutes. He got there with his date at 7:30, bought in and proceeded to lose about 90% of the hands playing \$9k across three spots. After he lost his money he looked at his watch and said, ‘Our reservation at 8:30. ‘Let’s go,’ and he never came back that night and I haven’t seen him since.”

kitjen commented:

“I used to work in the complaints department for a bank and one guy wrote a long letter about how we ‘bombarded’ him with invitations to apply for a £15k loan until he ‘just couldn’t take it anymore and caved in to our pressure and just took the loan.’ [...]

“I checked the account to which the funds were credited and it wasn’t there. I went through the last ten days’ transactions and what a sorry story it told.

As soon as the £15k went in, he was spending £100 or £200, sometimes £300 a day through online gambling sites. Then he was getting more desperate: £500 or £700 and it wasn’t long before it was £1,000 or £1,500 a day. Within ten days he had lost it all and now had a five-year £15,000 debt to deal with.”

reptilian\_Freemason wrote, “When I was dealing, we had a guy who had been on a recent roll come in with a suitcase of £70k (obviously dirty money) Within one hour he had lost all of it on roulette. By the end of it, he was visibly shaking

and sweating. Fuck knows who he owed that money to, but he was never seen there again.”

trixter21992251 commented:

“Now I wonder what the number of people is who go into casino as their last resort. Desperate. But then they actually win big. They cash out, get their life on track, and never set foot in a casino again.

“There must be some.

“It’s obviously not a great story to tell children or poor people. ‘Casino saved my life’ has a bad ring to it. But it must have happened at least once.”

thedalmuti commented:

“Happened to me once. It wasn’t exactly a win-big scenario, and it wasn’t my proudest moment.

“I was down on my luck, work was shit, and I was really low on cash. Rent was due in three days, and I didn’t have enough to cover it. Rent was ~\$900, and I had something like \$650.

“It was a night where a few of my friends were going out, and I was invited to go gamble with them. Not something I did regularly, but I figured, I don’t have enough for rent, I won’t have enough, and the rest of my bills are paid. This money sits in my account doing nothing until I get paid. If I lose it, I’ll still be able to pay rent late when I get my check. If I win, I won’t be late.

“Not my brightest hour, but I decided fuck it. Played slots for a while, not winning anything meaningful, still deciding if I should actually bet all of my cash. Drinking with friends, having a good time. A few drinks in we decide on roulette. I had never played roulette, and I never have since. In fact I’m

not entirely sure how to play, nor did I learn very much that night, but I digress.

“My friend drunkenly explained that if I put my money somewhere, I could get an 8-1 return on my money. I put \$400 down and won \$3200. I set aside \$2800, gambled (and lost) the rest, bought my friends two rounds of shots and went home.

“Rent was paid on time in full.”

ME\_2017 commented:

“I had a filler job at a restaurant when I moved to a different state before getting back into my field, and the manager was telling me about how he blew it all gambling. Supposedly he burned through \$7 million at the casinos, and somehow didn’t lose his wife but almost did. Also lost the multiple businesses he owned. He told me all this himself one night when drunk while we were cleaning the place up (a daily occurrence).

“Now he ‘owns’ a restaurant that’s really his brother’s (he owns 12), and it’s just in the brother’s name because this guy has shit credit. Of course he could be BS’ing me but I did look him up on Facebook and like 10 years ago he had a Ferrari and a mansion and now I know for a fact he does not have a nice car or live in a mansion.”<sup>59</sup>

## **60. “What Would You Do If Coffee Were Against The Rules Or Illegal?”**

starsandmath wrote, “My workplace had free coffee years and years ago (before my time). It was cut in one of the

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<sup>59</sup> Source: sdijcf, “What’s the easiest way to ruin your life in your opinion?” Reddit. AskReddit. 4 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q0y47l/whats\\_the\\_easiest\\_way\\_to\\_ruin\\_your\\_life\\_in\\_your/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q0y47l/whats_the_easiest_way_to_ruin_your_life_in_your/) >.



rounds of budget cuts leading up to bankruptcy and never brought back. But the employees weren't allowed to have coffee funds either — the industrial coffee machine was removed and consumer ones at people's desks were considered a 'fire hazard.' So the employees weren't given coffee, couldn't bring their own, and couldn't buy coffee anywhere within a five-minute drive. This led to the creation of underground coffee collectives with names like 'The Coffee Mafia' operating discreetly out of empty cubicles in dark corners of the building. They were eventually legalized, but the guerilla attitude and aesthetics never changed."

Note by David Bruce: If coffee were made illegal, I would go to the bad part of town and ask, "Does anyone have any Columbian?"<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> Source: junimobuddy, "What's the smallest amount of power you've seen someone drunk on?" Reddit. AskReddit. 5 October 2021 <[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q1nqco/whats\\_the\\_smallest\\_amount\\_of\\_power\\_youve\\_seen/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q1nqco/whats_the_smallest_amount_of_power_youve_seen/)>.

**Chapter 4: Questions 61-80****61. “What’s The Smallest Amount Of Power You’ve Seen Someone Drunk On?”**

1) Scratch\_golfer85 wrote, “Classroom monitor in grade school.”

okroegervxzvzdb commented, “Once I was given the honorary title of drill sergeant in middle school. I started yelling at kids and made up my own drill songs. This girl I liked told me later that I was being lame. I told her to give me 20.”

okroegervxzvzdb added, “There is a button in my car that makes the headrests in the back fall down. I use it to smack people in the head if they try to be cute.”

VR6SLC commented, “Volvo? I use that button to bonk my kid on the top of his head randomly.”

2) Yingthings wrote, “Sadly, me as a fourth-grade volunteer crosswalk guard. I would literally make the kids wait until there was a car I could stop. I really thought I had legal authority when I put that vest on.”

hymie0 commented, “I love the vision of you preventing kids from crossing the street because it’s too safe.”

REpealMCAandDTA commented, “I don’t see any cars, which means they could be *anywhere!*”

3) REalHot\_RealSteek wrote:

“I forget the circumstances, but once my wife and I ended up at a busy theme park during their Halloween festival with an entire booklet of front-of-the-line passes. I’m talking 150 of the suckers. Effectively infinite rides on a packed weekend.

“We rode so many roller coasters in a row that I was sick as a dog mid-way through the night. We still planned to enjoy

the park (scare zones and food and such), but no longer had need of the blessed booklet.

“So we strolled through the festivities, arm in arm like amusement park gods, judging couples based on their costumes and demeanor, carefully deciding to whom we should bestow a night of infinite rides.”

penny\_can commented:

“How about that couple?”

“NO, are you kidding? LOOK at those shoes!”

4) thatindecisiveloser wrote, “Social media influencers.”

illogicalfuturity commented, “I frequent a milk tea place that is popular with young people. There’s this so-called influencer who’d try to get free stuff at businesses in exchange for her giving them a shout-out. Tea place refused and she blew a gasket, like she talked about how much money she has and how she’s gonna be famous. The cashier told her to not be so cheap then as their most expensive item is around two dollars.”

5) donottouchwillie1 wrote, “College RA’s [Resident Assistants]. Some are good, but others can be too uptight.”

boiling\_my\_piss wrote:

“I was an RA [Resident Assistant] and extremely uptight for my first year. I think I was such an asshole they put me into a legendary freshman party dorm (legendary as in, a lot of the students wanted to live there because their *parents* had lived there 30 years earlier and told them all about the wild parties), hoping I could bring some order to the chaos.

“Joke’s on them, because the very first weekend, I heard noise and loud music in the hall. I opened my door to see literal mosh-pit levels of crowding as all the freshmen tried

desperately to find alcohol, closed my door, and decided that the dorm would break me before I broke it.

“I went from ‘Excuse me, it’s 11:01, and quiet hours start at 11:00’ to ‘Please put those 40s back inside your jacket so I can pretend I didn’t see them’ in about 15 seconds.”

6) macaronsforeveryone wrote, “People who yell at and make ridiculous demands of restaurant servers because they know the servers can’t yell back and are dependent on tips.”

Helpful\_Cat0808 commented, “Oh man, I have related to this so many times. When I worked at a beer garden, I stopped giving a shit and gave people who treated me like crap a lot of obvious ‘nice attitude.’ Like give them a fake smile and stare at them dead in the eyes the whole time, and then talk to them like they were a five-year-old. But then I would be genuinely nice to everyone around them because it’s not their fault they’re with the asshole. Most of the time they would change their behavior by the end of the meal because it wouldn’t be fun for them. Sometimes assholes need to be, uh, assholed back!”

7) ZOMBGiEF wrote:

“When I was in my late teens, I got a job at the arcade inside my local mall. At first, I was so stoked because I was an avid arcade junkie and I thought it would end up being the most awesome place to work, but sadly it was absolute misery due to the horrible human being who was the store manager. This woman was so absolutely bitter with her life that she made up for it by making life miserable for the young people who worked there.

“She was mean, cranky, and condescending, and she would do anything to make sure you understood it was her way or the highway. She’d worked for the arcade company for over 15 years and I guess that is all she had.

“One of the things she did was assign every worker a set of chores which she called her ‘little chore list’ as if we were her kids. These chores often consisted of busy work, usually things that didn’t need to be done but would take up the entire shift so that you couldn’t, ever just chill if it got slow. Her philosophy was if you’re on the clock, you have to be working even if the work is pointless.

“The straw that broke the camel’s back with me was when one of my chores on the chore list was cleaning the very top of the 15-foot-high glass windows. I remember asking her why she felt I should get on a ladder and risk falling just to clean windows that literally never get dirty because nobody is tall enough to reach that height.

“She assured me it was dirty and she would know if I didn’t do the chore. She always accused us of not doing the chores she’d assigned or half-assing them. It was absolute insanity: We all did our shit pretty much without fail. Anyway, that night I pulled the 15-foot ladder out of the storage room and started cleaning the very top of those windows. When I got to the very back corner of the store, there were two sets of small handprints planted there. This crazy psycho had taken the ladder out at some point during the day and literally climbed up 15 feet to leave handprints so that she could 100% confirm if the windows had been cleaned. I could not believe that level of power hunger pettiness. I called her ass out on it over the phone immediately. At first she tried to deny it, and then she said, ‘Well, I guess you actually do all your chores after all and gave me a snark little chuckle over the phone.’ To which I replied, ‘Well, I guess I’m just gonna quit then. Have a nice life,’ and I just left. There was nobody at the store but me, so I’m sure she had to leave whatever she was doing at home to close that night.

“I remember going to that arcade a few years later, and she was still there.”

Staggeringpage8 commented, “The owner of a small bait shop I worked at in high school did something similar to the employees he had working there. One of our nightly duties was sweeping the room that had the minnow tanks. Well, the other two stock boys who worked there didn’t do it, so he’d hide a dead fish under the tanks so he’d know for certain that you did it. I understood why and I knew it wouldn’t affect me so it didn’t bother me, but I can see your wanting to quit if you always do all of your chores and the bitch has the audacity to pull a stunt like that.”

8) chiree wrote:

“I once delivered a pizza in the middle of a snowstorm. House was at the edge of the delivery zone up these winding road, and I barely made my car up there in the ice. When I got there the lady proceeded to yell at me for taking so long and gleefully announced there would be no tip. She asked me how I could be so slow and I just looked at her and pointed broadly to the blizzard outside.

“Told my boss what happened and he said, ‘Yeah, sorry, that’s the police chief’s wife. She is the *worst*.’ He then comped a tip for me, so I’m assuming it was hardly the first time.”<sup>61</sup>

## **62. “What’s An Example Where You Used The Placebo Effect?”**

1) IlanaBess wrote:

“My kid was having trouble sleeping and asked if I had anything that could help her. I told her about Melatonin and

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<sup>61</sup> Source: junimobuddy, “What’s the smallest amount of power you’ve seen someone drunk on?” Reddit. AskReddit. 5 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q1nqco/whats\\_the\\_smallest\\_amount\\_of\\_power\\_youve\\_seen/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q1nqco/whats_the_smallest_amount_of_power_youve_seen/) >.

went to my CAR to get her some (surprise, surprise). I returned and handed her a Tic-Tac.

“The next day, she yelled at me because she went asleep right away after taking it and couldn’t wake up the next day — she was drowsy all day.

“I had a good laugh at my own expense.”

2) Sprinkles\_raedres wrote, “When I deliver commissioned creative work the same or next day, folks assume I didn’t spend enough time on it. People are thrilled if I wait three days to deliver because they feel I worked on their assignment nonstop even if I was finished a day or two before.”

3) WilliaSwisher wrote:

“In high school, I worked at a children’s birthday party venue for a number of years. Many children would weep because they had fallen over, bumped their arm, and so on. Nothing ever goes wrong. ‘Are you able to shake your foot around?’ I’d ask. ‘Do you think it’s getting better?’ ‘How about jumping in a circle?’ ‘All right, I’ll blow on your hand to make it feel better,’ I’d say, before asking whether they’re ready to play again. It works perfectly.

“Bandages for minor abrasions are also available. They believe they have recovered and go back to being joyful little kids. :)”

Medium\_Temperature\_4 commented, “My mom is a teaching assistant for reception kids and when they go on trips, some of the kids feel car sick. She always bring a ‘magic carpet,’ which is just a newspaper for them to sit on. Works 99% of the time, and usually the travel sickness is brought on by parents telling them about travel sickness.”

FledAcrossTheDesert commented, “When my nephew trips and makes a bit of a scene crying, his dad says, ‘Come over here and I’ll pick you up.’ Kid gets up, goes to dad, and stops crying.”

4) Opposite\_Iron454 wrote, “When I worked / trained tech support, we would constantly get pushback from customers when we requested them to power cycle their phone, which would solve their problem nine times out of ten. So I told them to have the customer read certain numbers off the back of the battery (while it was still removable!) that we didn’t require. After that, we told them we had refreshed a few systems, and they replaced their battery, and everything was fine! When batteries couldn’t be removed, we’d warn them that if the phone was turned on while the update was being performed, it could damage their SIM card. As a result, they’d make sure to turn off their phones. I wouldn’t do anything. They’d switch it back on, and everything was fine. But what if I’d told them to reboot their phones? There’s no way.”

firelock\_ny commented:

“IT here. I don’t get any pushback from telling my users to power cycle their devices; they’re used to it being a standard ‘Let’s let it do some memory / software / browser / update cleanups and get things back to normal’ step in the process.

“I also use a ‘Thanks for restarting it before you called me, I’d like to do another restart so I can see if any important messages pop up during the start process’ bit when I’ve got a user who swears they restarted it, but I’m pretty sure they didn’t.”

datumerrata commented, “When I did computer tech support and their computer wouldn’t turn on, I would ask them to unplug the power and plug it back in. ‘Oh, it wasn’t plugged



in.’ If I would have asked them to check, they would usually insist it was plugged in.”

HeyHoLetsGo615 commented:

“Ahhh, tech support memories. I used to work for Verizon’s tech support and got sick of people getting pissy about having to power cycle their phones or straight up lying to me about it already being done. So, I invented my own little placebo on Androids (Ninety percent of my day was spent troubleshooting Androids.)

“I’d navigate them through their settings and apps to find an app called Google Services Framework. I’d tell them some bullshit like ‘Oi, temporary files from updates can conflict’ or some shit. I’d have them clear all the data from that app and then restart their phone to ‘resync their service with Google.’

“Clearing the data from that app does nothing. Literally nothing. It helps in no way. But that reset does the trick. But the caller always thought it was clearing the data from the background app that did it.

“It was so effective a process my supervisor asked me to write up a knowledge base article on how to do the process and guide other reps on when to do it. I just laughed and told her why I was doing what I was doing.”<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> Source: vxishnxv, “What’s a product sold on just Placebo Effect?” Reddit. AskReddit. 7 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q34lh6/whats\\_a\\_product\\_sold\\_on\\_just\\_placebo\\_effect/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q34lh6/whats_a_product_sold_on_just_placebo_effect/) >.

**63. “How Would You Want A Stranger To React If You Had Bled Through Your Pants During A Period And It Was Very Visible And You Didn’t Know About It?”**

The Original Poster added, “I think I’d be very embarrassed if it happened to me, but I’d want to know it in a kind way. Or would you want them to pretend they didn’t see it?”

1) nevertruly wrote, “This isn’t really a very complex or difficult question. You do it exactly the same as if anyone else had sat in something and had something on the back of their pants. Privately, quietly, and politely say something like, ‘Excuse me, just wanted to let you know that there’s something on the back of your pants.’ The person can then deal with the situation in whatever way that they want.”

LegitimateUse\_666 commented:

“Exactly! I was actually in a situation like this recently when my client stood up from my chair and I noticed there was a stain on her pants. I stood directly behind her as I cut her hair and quietly told her that she has a stain and should pull her shirt down if she can.

“She may have been a little embarrassed at first, but it’s better that I told her initially than have her walk through the whole building and elsewhere without knowing.”

2) gemrisen111 wrote, “I would just want them to take me to the side and say, ‘I just wanted to let you know you have a bit of leakage showing in the back. Here, wrap my sweater around you.’”

KinkyKitty24 commented:

“Annnnd this is exactly how I gave away my favorite sweatshirt.

“But was totally worth it as it was in a mall and the girl was probably about 14.”

3) Meretneith wrote:

“I would quietly let them know in a private moment and in a situation where they can do something about it (aka a bathroom or opportunity to change or cover the stain is available).

“If it is a situation where they can’t do anything about it, I would politely ignore it. They most likely already know and are embarrassed enough already.”

4) Niedzwetzkyana wrote, “I think just a simple ‘you have something on your pants’ or ‘I think you might have sat in something’ is the best way to handle it.”

\_orchids commented, “Yeah this seems like the best option, since it gives the person the benefit of the doubt that maybe no one noticed it was actually period-related.”

5) epicpillowcase wrote, “I would want them to discreetly tell me. Regardless of their gender.”

6) jazzfairy wrote, “I would want her to come up to me and tell me quietly and kindly basically what you said. I would prefer a woman do this over a man.”<sup>63</sup>

#### **64. “(Serious) People Who Walked Out Of A Job Interview, Why Did You Do It?”**

1) wonderbrawl wrote:

“Pyramid scheme advertised as ‘sales and marketing.’

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63 Source: Mtmysushi, “How would you want a stranger to react if you had bleed through your pants during period and it was very visible? And you didn’t know about it.” Reddit. AskWomen. 7 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/q37vwo/how\\_would\\_you\\_want\\_a\\_stranger\\_to\\_react\\_if\\_you\\_had/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/q37vwo/how_would_you_want_a_stranger_to_react_if_you_had/) >.

“It was a group interview. They served wine for fuck’s sake! They had obvious stooges initiating conversation about how great this opportunity was.

“I got very drunk and stopped being polite about it.”

2) lookssharp wrote, “Sat down with the owner and the first thing he said was, ‘I don’t hire people with beards.’ I said, ‘Okay,’ got up and walked out.”

PM\_MeYourSmilingFace commented, “I remember hearing a story about an engineer who went to a headhunter for help in finding a job. He was told first thing that he needed to shave off his beard. The headhunter lands him a group interview with an engineering firm. He walks into the room having noticeable tan lines on his face because he’d just shaved his beard, and each one of the male engineers who were interviewing him had a beard!”

3) EmbalmMeDaddy wrote:

“Happened fairly recently. Made it to the third interview for a large company. The first two they told me what my role would be, base pay + commission, told me they were so excited to have me on board because of my experience.

“So I sit down for the third interview. They again go over my role, my pay, etc. They say they’re prepared to offer me that job right now and had the paperwork ready since this morning. BUT THEN. They say, ‘But we already hired someone for that. So instead what we’d like you to do is ...’ and proceeded to tell me the pay was less than half what they were already offering me prior for a lot more work. Basically I went from being offered a management job to just being asked to train all the new employees they just hired then step down to cashier for \$10 per hour. And no guaranteed hours.

“I stood up and told them I was worried I was wasting their time prior to this interview because I wasn’t entirely sold on

the job yet. But after today, it's become pretty apparent you guys were the ones wasting my time instead. No, thank you. And I left.

“About an hour later I got a phone call asking for a fourth interview. They called almost every day for two weeks asking me to come back and talk to the owner.”

4) neolabaque wrote:

“Applied for a software developer position for an online retailer. First round of interviews was a traditional technical skills and whiteboard coding session, second round was a cultural fit interview with HR.

“I assumed it would be a one-on-one interview with HR, it was a room with 20 something people applying for anything from legal to finance.

“They asked us to stand up, then crawl into a ball and pretend we were flowers opening.

“At this point I honestly thought it was some kind of prank, then I saw everybody around me doing it.

“I just said thanks for the opportunity and left.”

5) Balrog229 wrote:

“Showed up and the manager practically bragged about how the job offered no breaks for an 8-10 hour shift, and if there was a food break it would be five minutes max at a hip-height table with no chairs. She said that you'd be fired if you sat down even for 30 seconds.

“I'm more than capable of doing that. I did that every day at my last job. But when you brag about how your employees are so over-worked that they don't get breaks or an option to rest their legs, it tells me all I need to know about how little you value your employees.

“I should also note that this job wasn’t paying exceptionally well. Above minimum wage, but not at a level that was even enough to live on.”

6) Turnbob73 wrote, “I applied for a register position at Pizza Hut. I specifically told them during my two interviews that I cannot be a delivery driver due to my car being unreliable; they even acknowledged that and told me okay. Got the job, came in for training on the first day, the very first thing they do is sit me down in a chair and started up a training video on delivery driving. I asked them if I could skip it since I’m only working the register / in the kitchen, and the manager tells me that every position is a delivery driver. Walked out right then and there and got paid for one hour of training.”

7) Karbar049 wrote:

“I’m a vet tech. Interviewed at a primary-care, single-doctor practice. The manager was over 25 minutes late to my interview. While I waited for her, the front desk staff ignored me while they talked crap about the techs, manager, and clients. The manager said they did not believe in referring to any specialists, because ‘Dr. A is a specialist in everything from grizzly bears to canaries.’ He was not, he hadn’t even done a rotating internship and definitely had not done any type of residency program.

“I had already worked in a toxic clinic, but at least the doctors were competent. When she asked if I had any questions, I just asked if I could have my resume back, so I didn’t waste the paper.”

8) Oudeis16 wrote:

“I should have; I stayed there out of morbid curiosity to see how low they would go, but I had made the decision I wasn’t gonna work there early in the process.

“I’m glad I stayed. The last thing that happened in the interview was the CEO personally asking us all to promise that, if we ever make a mistake, the company will calculate how much that mistake cost us, and we will voluntarily pay the company that amount.”

Nurum commented, “So by that logic if you do something extra does the company promise to pay you the benefits from it?”

9) weirdkid71 wrote:

“Third and final interview (all same day) at a tech company. First two went well and I was told this last one just was a formality — they wanted me to join.

“Interview with the head of the office guy seemed to start well. We walked to the cafeteria, grabbed a couple coffees, and with some small talk we learned we knew some of the same people. We get back to his office and sit down. He looked at my file, ‘It says here you’re looking for [certain salary].’ I said yes, and explained it’s really close to market for someone with my skills and experience. He looked at me and says, ‘I don’t think you’re worth it.’ I said, ‘Excuse me?’ He repeated it. I laughed, grabbed my bag, stood up, thanked him for his time and walked out.

“The company went out of business like a year later, so I feel I dodged a bullet there.”

10) ThomasLipnip wrote, “I had been told it was a marketing job. The first interview was about marketing and took place in an office. I got a call back and was very happy as it meant I’d be able to get out of a call center and do something I liked. I took my last day off I was allowed to go to the next interview, and when I got there they said they wanted me to go to the local Home Depot with them. I got there and found out it was an MLM. I was so stunned that I let them take me out on the floor and show off the aggressive sales technique

they wanted me to use on random customers. I walked out crying because now I had no days off to interview and I was ashamed to have been tricked by the first interview.”<sup>64</sup>

### **65. “What Was The Worst Experience You’ve Had During Halloween?”**

1) KimJongsBrotherCraig wrote, “Getting so excited with all the candy I had and puking into the bucket of candy.”

KimJongsBrotherCraig added, “I puked out of excitement. I was five.”

2) Godhelpmeplease12 wrote, “I was like seven or eight and dressed like an angel. My parents took me to the science museum where they set up little houses for the kids to trick or treat in. I got so much candy and was so proud of myself. But when we left, all my candy was gone. The little boy behind me had been taking scoops of my candy and putting it in his basket. I cried.”

Godhelpmeplease12 added, “My mom saw him take the last scoop and run away. Tried to chase him down but there was like 100 and something kids in that museum.”

1982throwaway1 commented:

“The day after Halloween, my sister had a friend stay the night. Those fuckin’ bitches ate their bag of candy along with mine and then told my parents I was involved, too.

My sister and I were both grounded, but I didn’t do anything and I lost all my god-damned candy.”

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<sup>64</sup> Source: JimmySaulGene, “(Serious) People who walked out of a job interview, why did you do it?” Reddit. AskReddit. 12 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q6rvt1/serious\\_people\\_who\\_walked\\_out\\_of\\_a\\_job\\_interview/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q6rvt1/serious_people_who_walked_out_of_a_job_interview/) >.



Hrhett101 commented:

“At Easter, I went egg hunting, and I filled my basket to the brim. I was ecstatic.

“Then I tripped and everyone stole the eggs that fell out of my basket.”

3) Purple\_Dorito wrote, “I was walking home with my friend when I was like nine and a car of high school kids or around that age stole all our candy. Three hours of work, gone.”

monola19 commented, “Had a similar thing happen as a kid. I was probably about five or six. Some older kids, one with a bat, approached me and my two older brothers while we were trick or treating. They threatened my brothers and then stole my two brothers’ bags. They let me keep my bag. I shared my candy with them both when we got home. Very vivid memory.”

4) bathofknives wrote:

“My mom was pretty strict with how much candy I was allowed to eat on Halloween. One year, after some annoying begging, I finally got my mom to say, ‘Eat as much as you want.’

“Heh, spent about an hour barfing up peanut butter cups and warheads.”

espect4All\_512 commented, “I’ve heard of parents paying the kids for the candy (like a certain amount per item) and then the kids can use the money to buy a toy or video game. Seemed like a good way to prevent them getting sick while still making Halloween fun.”

Entitled2Compens8ion commented, “Ugh, as an aging parent, the sickly sweet, mostly low-quality dreck that gets

handed out on Halloween doesn't appeal to me. I dump that shit in the break room at work and it's gone in an hour.”<sup>65</sup>

### **66. “What Is Something Simple That Makes You Happy?”**

lorthemartheron wrote, “When someone's visibly excited to see me.”

chiggum-leg commented, “Oh, man, I can't wait to tell you about this thing called DOGS!”<sup>66</sup>

### **67. “They Say, ‘It Never Hurts To Ask,’ But What Are Some Examples Where ‘It Hurts To Ask’?”**

1) Lambert\_Sea\_Princess wrote, “So ... uhhhh ... do you guys do random drug tests?”

2) rapsjk33 wrote, “As a teenager I worked in a grocery store, I saw a customer whose back was to me struggling with all his items, so I asked, ‘Do you need a hand?’ The man turned around and I could see he was missing a hand, there was just a stub there, and that is why he was struggling. He was a good sport and said, ‘Yes, it seems I do!’ lifting his arm missing the hand in the air.

Chozo\_Hybrid commented, “That's not so bad, dude knew you couldn't see that they were missing it and it's just a common phrase. I know two people with that same disability and they've told me it never bothers them because someone

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65 Source: puggypughalo, “What was the worst experience you've had during Halloween?” Reddit. AskReddit. 12 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q6m28s/what\\_was\\_the\\_worst\\_experience\\_youve\\_had\\_during/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q6m28s/what_was_the_worst_experience_youve_had_during/) >.

66 Source: FreeMathematician533, “What is something simple that makes you happy?” Reddit. AskWomen. 12 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/q6b4hj/what\\_is\\_some\\_thing\\_simple\\_that\\_makes\\_you\\_happy/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/q6b4hj/what_is_some_thing_simple_that_makes_you_happy/) >.

is asking if you need help. :) That said, they don't speak for everyone."

3) TheOrangeTickler wrote, "One of my friends has a sister who is battling cancer. I always want to ask how she's doing, but I fear the worst. Also, I would feel bad if I didn't ask."

vengefulbevergod wrote, "Just say you've been thinking about her. Your friend will tell you what they are comfortable sharing."

4) Joshawott27 wrote:

"One day back when I was at school, I didn't have my phone on silent, and it went off during class. The teacher thought he'd make an example out of me and ask who the text was from. I replied, 'My mum. She's in hospital with cancer.' He shut right up and went back to the lesson.

"(She was being treated for Stage 4 bowel cancer. She had a 25% prognosis, so naturally everyone was on edge. That was almost 15 years ago, and fortunately she's still with us, and got the all-clear some time ago.)"

5) leewoodlegend wrote:

"In college some friends and I got caught smoking weed in a park by a park ranger.

"He was pretty cool and it seemed like we were going to get away with a warning until my one friend piped up and said, 'You're not going to call the **real cops**, are you?'

"Dude's attitude towards us did a 180 real quick: 'You see this gun? You see this badge? I am the real cops.'"

Throwaway7219017 commented, "I learned that the individual with the most 'power' is the Health Inspector. They can shut down a business on their day off while out shopping for vibrator batteries, if they see sufficient cause."

6) wuapinmon wrote, “My youngest daughter told her kindergarten teacher, ‘My dad’s a doctor, but not the kind who helps people.’ (I’m a professor).”

StGirl commented:

“My kindergartener, Mary Anne, did the same thing. She told her new friend that my boyfriend was ‘Dr. Lastname,’ and that I would be ‘Dr. Lastname’ soon as well. (Her five-year-old sense of ‘soon’ to get my Ph.D. is optimistic as fuck, but I digress.) And so her friend said to another kid, ‘Mary Anne’s folks help sick people.’”

“And my kid pipes right up and says, ‘Oh, no, they’re not like REAL doctors. They don’t help anybody.’”

7) audiate wrote, “As a server, ‘Where’s that other woman you always come in with?’”

tylerr147 commented:

“Retail, too.

“I’ve got a regular who would always come in to get his cigarettes. Marlboro red black shorts, and Marlboro special lite shorts. Every time I see him walk in the doors, I’ll get his cigarettes ready at the counter for him.

“One day I hear that his wife died, and I didn’t see him for a week. Once I do see him, I get them out of the case and ready for him. Once he’s at the counter and sees them, he just sadly says, ‘No lites this time.’

“I felt terrible.”

DrSenpai\_PHD commented:

“I work at BestBuy, primarily computer sales. You’d be amazed how many people are at their worst point in life when buying a computer. Had one lady who was planning for a funeral, she needed a PC for that. Had another lady,

breaking into tears, needing a computer to handle divorce paperwork. Had yet another who was unemployed, about to go homeless, needing a computer for a job she was just hired for. We could barely get one within her budget.

One guy who really stuck with me had a deep but barely visible indent on his left frontal lobe. He was speaking jibberish. My coworkers assumed he was on drugs; turned out, he could understand what we said, but he couldn't properly convey his thoughts. Wernickes Aphasia. He had been in a serious motorcycle accident seven years prior, and we almost dismissed him as another druggie. He ended up buying a Macbook Pro. But it was rough stuff. Reading between the jibberish, I learned that he had prior given up on life, and getting into photography was his way back in

“Selling computers is a surprisingly wild ride. You know what’s not? Air fryers. Every motherfucker who comes in looking for an air fryer is beaming with joy. I would strictly work selling air fryers if I could. But you learn a lot selling computers. And you learn to read people’s moods.”

8) shunkw wrote:

“There’s this amazing Chinese place I used to go to every Sunday with my ex. I didn’t go for a while after we broke up. I finally was ready to go back and the woman who runs the place said, ‘Hey, where’s Mary?’

“I think she noticed the look on my face, I guess, or something. She apologized and gave me my dinner for free.”

9) CharlieTuna\_ wrote, “I once had a friend in college that it took nearly six months to figure out his name even after going out for drinks after our evening class every week. I think both of us didn’t want to admit we didn’t know each other’s name so we just went with ‘buddy’ for months until we recognized another student at the bar and we introduced

ourselves and realized we were finally going to learn each other's name.”

SuspiciouslyNoisySubs commented, “That’s a great game of chicken; too bad it ended so evenly.”<sup>67</sup>

### **68. “What Are Some Awful Things From The 1980s, 1990s, And 2000s Everyone Seems To Not Talk About?”**

Moni3 wrote:

“The way people with AIDS were treated. I lived in a very small town in Central Florida in 1992. My Significant Other at the time had a best friend who also lived in town. This friend’s mother died of AIDS complications after she got HIV through a blood transfusion during surgery. She died two years or so before I moved there, I never met her. But I was *sworn* to secrecy that absolutely no one could know how she died. Her own son refused to see her on her deathbed.

“Another friend counseled people with AIDS in a larger city. One of her clients lived in a trailer with a rotting roof and floor. He kept his cereal in the fridge because the trailer was crawling with roaches. His family kicked him out because he had AIDS and they never saw him again.

“That’s how strong the stigma was against people with AIDS.”

squireelfoot commented, “Old person here. You are right. People went around saying it was a plague sent by God to punish sinners. This is why Princess Diana visited AIDS patients in hospital. It made a difference, at least in the UK.”

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67 Source: Rockin\_N, “They say ‘It never hurts to ask’, but what are some examples where ‘It hurts to ask’?” Reddit. AskReddit. 13 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q7ccqw/they\\_say\\_it\\_never\\_hurts\\_to\\_ask\\_but\\_what\\_are\\_some/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q7ccqw/they_say_it_never_hurts_to_ask_but_what_are_some/) >.

Throwawaycarstore wrote, “And she hugged them and held their hands ... which was a huge deal.”

caine2003 commented, “She did it without gloves, which made it a huge deal.”

Nessquixx commented, “She saw past the stigma and saw them as people ... what a queen.”

ThroatSecretary commented, “Isaac Asimov contracted HIV from a blood transfusion during bypass surgery. His family kept it quiet until years after his death.”

notthesedays commented, “He actually died the same day as Arthur Ashe, who also got it the same way but he did go public about it.”

imnotacrazyperson wrote:

“My family attended a small-town Baptist church when I was growing up. One of the sermons was about Ryan White, a boy from Kokomo who contracted HIV through a blood transfusion and was expelled from his school and treated horribly. In the sermon, the preacher mused that God knew who deserved AIDS, and God gave it to Ryan for a reason. Maybe he'd grow up to be a murderer or criminal — who is to question God's infinite wisdom?

“We stopped attending not long after that, but I've never forgotten that preacher and the way the congregation reacted to what he was saying. They were all just looking for an excuse to hate.”

BenjaminTheBadArtist commented, “You know for a second I thought this was gonna transition into a wholesome story about a church pastor teaching his congregation not to hate but of course that's not what it was.”

SomniferousSleep wrote:

“My best friend is a lesbian. One time in high school, we went to an amusement park. We bought a souvenir cup for soda that could be refilled for \$1 and we shared it all day.

“When my mother found out my friend is a lesbian, she freaked out, especially about sharing the cup. She told me that I could have gotten AIDS.

“This happened in 2003! By then, the medical community knew that HIV isn’t passed through saliva, not to mention the fact that we also knew that of all the demographics, lesbians have the least incidence of HIV.”

doublestitch commented:

“Taking a moment so salute Ryan White. He was a teen with hemophilia who caught HIV from a blood transfusion. He literally had to file suit in court to be allowed to attend public school after his diagnosis.

“Ryan White endured numerous death threats. Someone shot a bullet through the living room of his family home. Despite that, Ryan became a spokesperson advocating for the rights of people with AIDS — all before he reached adulthood.

“There’s now a federal law in his honor that provides assistance for people with HIV / AIDS.

“He would have been turning 50 later this year if he had lived. He made it to only 18. He didn’t quite last long enough to see effective AIDS treatments or to see the ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] pass.

“In response to criticism:

- Ryan White’s hemophilia absolutely played a role in why he became a national spokesperson for AIDS awareness: televangelist Jerry Falwell and other ‘moral guardians’ had called AIDS a punishment sent by God. We could have a whole conversation about how religious demagogues shaped



the early years of the AIDS conversation and how they weaponized bias against homosexuality after overt racial bias stopped being socially acceptable. Ryan's willingness to speak out about his own life story was one of the things which punctured that narrative.

- Ryan White was not a homophobe. Ryan's advocacy benefited the LGBTQ+ community and he coordinated with celebrities such as Elton John (who had come out as bi in the 1970s). It's certainly possible to admire Ryan White without being a homophobe, and it isn't helpful to construe a mention of Ryan's disability as 'evidence' of anti-gay bias. The question we've all been asked was what sucked about that era, and one of the thoughts that sprung to mind was how much harder Ryan's legal battles were without robust civil rights legislation to safeguard disability rights."

BlackWidow1414 wrote, "He was only a few months older than I was. I never met him, but when the AIDS quilt came to my college a few years after his death, and I found his panel, I started crying. I still think about him sometimes."

SuzQP commented, "That kid changed the world. I was terrified of AIDS — we all were. At first the media was hyping it as so contagious you could get it just by being in the same room with someone. Ryan White changed the entire narrative about AIDS. He awakened our compassion."

oliebolen commented, "Elton John heard about the discrimination that Ryan White was facing and became friends with the family, helping them financially but more importantly, bringing Ryan's story to millions of people. By doing so he helped to begin the process of removing the stigma surrounding AIDS victims."

NoneYa1991 commented, "Back in the 1980's when I was a kid, a boy at my school got AIDS. I don't remember why he needed blood, but that's how he got it, too. They wouldn't

let him go inside the actual school for class. They just put a trailer outside and he had to go to school in there. I'm pretty sure the parents freaked out about him being that close even. He was basically ran out of town."

Throwawaycarstore commended:

"In Australia a little girl was run out of the country because of how nasty everyone was about her having HIV — her family had to move to New Zealand because of the harassment.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-18/remembering-eve-van-grafhorst-after-hiv-diagnosis/10491934>

GlitterMyPumpkins commented:

"And here in New Zealand people around my generation (I was born in 1978) got to watch her live and die in the public eye, while we were young ourselves.

"There were a lot of HIV awareness, personal interest, and fundraising media items about her and her family. I can't remember if the Eve Van Grafhorst Trust was founded (by her mum and a few others) before or after she died but it helped terminally ill kids and their families.

"For most of us, she was the main reason that the othering that is part of bigotry against HIV-infected people couldn't get much of a foothold. She was definitely the reason that medical / scientific facts about HIV and how it spreads were spread reasonably widely to the general public.

"She was just a little kid like any other. Therefore she didn't deserve to die like that ... lightbulb goes off (somewhat dimly in some cases, but at least it goes off) ... maybe the others living with and (since this was still the early 1990s) dying early of HIV/AIDS didn't deserve it either."

KallistiEngel commented, “Learning about HIV in elementary school had me thinking I’d be dealing with pools of other people’s blood on the regular. I’m in my 30s and haven’t even had to deal with one.”<sup>68</sup>

### **69. “What’s Your Most Expensive Work Mistake That You Did NOT Get Fired Over?”**

1) Giannandco wrote:

“I used to work as a PA [Personal Assistant] for a man and his wife. He was a car enthusiast and had a beautiful collection of very expensive cars. A couple days after he had taken delivery of a brand-new Audi R8 Spyder V10 Quattro, he tossed the keys at me and said to run their errands in it. I hesitated because the car was worth more than I could wrap my head around, but he insisted because he knew it was my fav of his collection, and he was a nice guy.

“Long story short, I wrecked the car. I was not at fault, thankfully, but making that call to tell him what had happened I just knew I would be fired. Nope ... he just wanted to know if I was okay and if there was anything he could do for me besides send someone to pick me up and take me home — he gave me the rest of the day off. His attitude was ‘shit happens’ and I was more important than the car.”

2) MostlyALurkerBefore wrote:

“I used to work at a large retail chain as a cashier. We were supposed to be constantly pushing for customers to sign up

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<sup>68</sup> Source: SaturnH1999, “What are some awful things from the 80s,90s and 2000s everyone seems to not talk about?” Reddit. AskReddit. 14 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q84j2t/what\\_are\\_some\\_awesome\\_things\\_from\\_the\\_80s90s\\_and/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q84j2t/what_are_some_awesome_things_from_the_80s90s_and/) >.

for the store credit card. It can be stressful especially if you don't have sales experience and hate talking to people.

“About two weeks into my employment, I was ringing this woman up and going on about the card as I was instructed to while I was ringing up all of her items. She's asking about the card and I'm telling her the whole deal with it. Her total was something like \$160, maybe?”

“So she says she'll bring in the stuff to sign up for the debit version the next time she's in the store and I thank her and she leaves.

“Without paying.

“I didn't take payment.

“If she was doing it intentionally, she should get an Oscar. We were chatting about other things, mostly the card, and I somehow just didn't realize I hadn't taken any payment from her.”

MostlyALurkerBefore asked, “She come back?”

HarveyThaWabbit answered:

“Nope!

“But I was so terrified of being ‘caught’ that I immediately told my boss and she was pissed and at the next morning meeting she said we didn't need to focus quite so much on the cards and that she was sorry if she was being so strict about it that people were struggling to do the rest of the job duties well.”

Jenny441980 commented, “Wow, what a good boss. She actually blamed herself instead of blaming you.”<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> Source: misty\_throwaway, “What's your most expensive work mistake that you did NOT get fired over?” Reddit. AskWomen. 15

## 70. “What’s Your Roommate Horror Story?”

1) Fisto-the-sex-robot wrote:

“Once a guy who lives with me glued my electric toothbrush to the ceiling, it took me two weeks to find it.

“That guy was me, but drunk.

“Alcoholism is a bad habit, kids.”

2) No7an wrote:

“I traveled a lot as a college student and I got home after a weekend and my roommates had thrown a party, which was somewhat normal.

“I went to my bed and they’d let some chick sleep in it and she pissed herself.

“I immediately walked out the front door and found an apartment for myself.”

3) 1980pzx wrote, “My roommate has no skill at all when it comes to cooking. I came home one night and he was trying to cook French fries and it wasn’t going so well for him. He was boiling these fuckers in water. Lol. He didn’t know that you fry shit in cooking oil. We’re talking about a 25-year-old guy. It’s been years since I’ve thought of this and it still cracks me up.”<sup>70</sup>

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October 2021 <

[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/q8urxa/whats\\_your\\_most\\_expensive\\_work\\_mistake\\_that\\_you/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/q8urxa/whats_your_most_expensive_work_mistake_that_you/) >.

70 Source: Out-of-Stimpacks, “What’s your roommate horror story?”

Reddit. AskReddit. 17 October 2021 <

[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q9w8ew/whats\\_your\\_roommate\\_horror\\_story/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/q9w8ew/whats_your_roommate_horror_story/) >.

## 71. “People Who Had Rich Parents Growing Up, When Did You Realize You Were Rich?”

1) smugmisswoodhouse wrote:

“My parents were wealthy, but since they were good ol’ Midwestern folks, they also wanted my siblings and me to work early and work hard. I got a job at 14 at a local sandwich shop and had a co-worker who was around the same age. I just assumed that she didn’t need to work and was only doing it for the character-building aspect like I was. I asked her what she was going to do with her first paycheck, assuming it would be something fun, and she told me she was going to give it to her parents because they were really struggling and needed help with the bills. I was shocked. I had never met someone who needed to help their parents with bills at only 14-15.

“She was a really sweet girl. I hope she and her family are OK.”

2) user08888 wrote, “My cousins are rich, and I remember being a kid and genuinely wondering why Santa and the Easter bunny cared so much more about them than my brother and me.”

3) mistygreysky wrote, “Apparently it wasn’t normal to go on holiday once a month.”

4) ZuckerbergEugene joked:

“When I sat down during Lunchbreak in my 2nd grade class and had lobster tail, caviar, and a sippy cup full of Don Perignon.

“All the other kids had vegetable sticks and sandwiches with the crust cut off.”

5) inkseep1 wrote:

“My street is invaded every Halloween by outsiders. They come packed in minivans. The minivans cruise down the street and stop at the end of the block. Both side doors slide open and kids roll out like they are on a hot LZ. The moms yell, ‘Pick you up in two clicks,’ and zoom away to a parking lot nearby. The kids send out scouts and you might hear one yell, ‘We got tee-tee small Snickers coming from the house with the skeleton. Bring up the baby in the Spider-Man costume. Don’t bunch up.’

“These are poor kids. The costumes are often bullshit things like a kid will have a leaf taped on his nose and he is a leaf blower. Sometimes they swap costumes or parts and try for a second round of the street. I had a Super-Spider-Frozen-Batman last year on a kid tall enough to be 15.”<sup>71</sup>

## **72. “Therapists Of Reddit, What’s A Thought That People Don’t Realize Is Really Common?”**

xkiersterx wrote, “Social worker (intern) here. Ever had those weird thoughts? Questions like: ‘What would happen if I just crashed this car?’ ‘What would happen if I pulled that lady’s hair?’ ‘What would happen if I just ...?’ or ‘I need to move past that tree before the car does.’ As long as you don’t really consider doing anything dangerous, or it isn’t obsession, those thoughts seem to be normal.”

lemuroosity wrote, “Entirely normal. They’re called intrusive thoughts. They’re thought to be an instinctive mechanism of background thought exercise that helps you prepare for the unexpected: ‘What if a predator is behind that fern?’ etc. but in modern times, we’re exposed to so much media the

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71 Source: itsosodemi, “People that had rich parents growing up. When did you realize you were rich?” Reddit. AskReddit. 17 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qabf4m/people\\_that\\_had\\_rich\\_parents\\_growing\\_up\\_when\\_did/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qabf4m/people_that_had_rich_parents_growing_up_when_did/) >.

spectrum of possible outlandish and harmful scenarios is much wider: ‘What would happen if I drowned my kid?’ so it makes you feel like a crazy person sometimes.”<sup>72</sup>

### **73. “What Was The Most Expensive Thing You Broke As A Kid?”**

1) Zhouaibredo675 wrote, “My parents informed me that when I was three, I wanted to assist my father wash our car but couldn’t find a sponge, so I grabbed a brick off the street and ‘washed’ the car with it.”

2) AutomatcGuava898 wrote, “A week before the Berlin Wall was torn down, my mum had one photograph shot in front of it. When I was ten, I brought it to a Show & Tell and promptly forgot about it. I’m still hearing about it 21 years later.”

3) PlasticVariety565 wrote, “My son was about eight years old when he was waiting in the car for me. He removed a little lump of dried mud from the sole of his shoe and inserted it into the ignition of my car because ... well, no one knows why, including himself. I happened to glance at him after an hour of the car not starting, and I noticed the look on his face that said, ‘I am guilty as fuck.’ I don’t recall how much it cost to dismantle and clean the ignition, but I do recall the lesson I learnt that day.”

4) Capital\_imrano wrote:

“In the late 1990s, I ruined the VCR by feeding it a PB&J [peanut butter and jelly] sandwich.

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<sup>72</sup> Source: JewJewKinks, “Therapists of Reddit, what’s a thought that people don’t realize is really common?” Reddit. AskReddit. 20 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qbw7zt/therapists\\_of\\_reddit\\_whats\\_a\\_thought\\_that\\_people/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qbw7zt/therapists_of_reddit_whats_a_thought_that_people/) >.



“My iPad was broken when my kids used it as a frisbee.”

5) Regular\_Logical343 wrote:

“My mother-in-law told me that they had an old piano with ivory keys, and when my husband was a kid, he found something to wedge under them and snapped off more than half of them because he enjoyed the sound they made when they shattered.

“When I told my spouse that I had posted this, he laughed and said he remembered the sound. We don’t have a piano, and we don’t have children.”

6) Spicy\_Toe\_Jam wrote, “When I was like six, my family took me to a family friend’s farm. There were two girls there who were a little older than me and one of them came up with this grand idea to see who could get the biggest rock over this jeep Grand Cherokee parked by a barn. Long story short, one of the girls took a massive rock and put it right through the rear window. I still get anxiety to this day when it replays in my head.”<sup>73</sup>

#### **74. “What’s The Most Satisfying Way Someone Quit Their Job?”**

1) Bleed\_Luck wrote, “I worked for an electrical company. Family owned. The owner’s brother was calling me an idiot all day, saying I can’t do anything right. Tells me to go to Dunkin Donuts to get breakfast. He says to me, ‘Can you at least get donuts for us without fucking it up?’ I took his van to Dunks, bought myself a nice sausage egg and cheese, called my girlfriend to pick me up, and left his van right there. He calls me at 11 flipping out. ‘Where the fuck is my

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<sup>73</sup> Source: whiteroger22, “What was the most expensive thing you broke as kid ?” Reddit. AskReddit. 20 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qby512/what\\_was\\_the\\_most\\_expensive\\_thing\\_you\\_broke\\_as\\_kid/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qby512/what_was_the_most_expensive_thing_you_broke_as_kid/) >.

van? Where are you?’ Told him I went and got breakfast but he never told me to come back. So I went home. Fuck entitled brothers.”

2) Zeditha wrote, “I gave them a ‘sorry for your loss’ card.”

3) Gauntlets28 wrote, “I’m going to be controversial and say on good terms with a free month’s salary in lieu of working out your period of notice.”

4) gozba wrote, “I was working for this huge American company that had a lot of trouble making decent plans and keeping promises. I work in IT projects, but due to a vacancy I was asked to pick up a commercial role. I refused. Then it turned out it wasn’t a question, it was a demand. I had until Tuesday to give the wanted answer. What they didn’t know was that I already working out contract details with another employer, which got sorted out by that Monday. Come Tuesday morning an angry manager called me into his office, stating I didn’t reply to the request and I was in serious trouble. I had my Hollywood moment by being able to slide my resignation towards him as an answer. This only pissed him off more, but alas.”<sup>74</sup>

## **75. “What’s That One Sleepover Incident That You’ll Never Forget?”**

1) Jebediah\_Johnson wrote, “When I was a kid, I used to eat raw hotdogs, because microwaving them for 30 seconds took up too much of my precious time. I really loved hotdogs though. I threw up a whole pack of raw hotdogs on my friend in the middle of the night. His parents were like, you should really chew those more.”

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<sup>74</sup> Source: WistfulNightSky, “What’s the most satisfying way someone quit their job?” Reddit. AskReddit. 20 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qbyxtu/whats\\_the\\_most\\_satisfying\\_way\\_someone\\_quit\\_their/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qbyxtu/whats_the_most_satisfying_way_someone_quit_their/) >.

CyptidProductions commented:

“Raw hot dogs aren’t really a thing.

“They’re precooked and the cooking process is just warming them up, and if boiled absorbing water to make them juicer.”

2) carbonmonoxide5 wrote:

“At the end of eighth grade, one of our beloved classmates was moving away, so on the last day of school all of the girls in our ENTIRE GRADE (16 girls) stayed over at one girl’s house to send her off. Turns out all of the boys (10 boys) stayed over at one boy’s house. Yes. Tiny school. Small town.

“Well, around 10 or 11 o’clock the girls started gushing and crying about how much we were gonna miss her. And after we calmed down a little someone looked out the window and realized we had been TP’ed. Geez. I wonder who did that. So then we called in a few other minivans from nearby families and all drove out to the boys’ house with the headlights off to try and sneak up and TP them. There was a really long driveway, and they ended up flanking us and throwing eggs at us while we were trying to sneak up on the house. Not many of the eggs ended up landing, so we couldn’t be too mad. Eventually we stopped the games and all just got to talking in the dark under the stars and reminiscing over middle school. And the boys confessed that they while they were TP’ing us they saw in the windows that we were all sobbing and crying and they thought about stopping but decided nah and kept TP’ing us.

“Then we went back to the girl host’s house and had a good time. And I woke up and ‘became a woman’ during breakfast.”

Note by David Bruce: TP'ing means using toilet paper to “decorate” the trees and bushes near the home of a friend or “enemy.”

3) runawaytardis wrote, “I was on my time of the month and the person whose house I was staying at didn't have a little trash can in their bathroom. I ended up with a tampon wrapped in toilet paper in my sweater pocket for the rest of the night. Keep in mind I was about 13.”

4) lockerpunch wrote, “My friend's mum told us to make sure we shut the door leading to the backyard from the den if we went out, not just the screen door. We forgot. We came back to my friends place and there was like four wolf spiders all over the den where we were supposed to be sleeping.”

CyptidProductions commented:

“Wolf Spiders are a paradox because they're simultaneously completely harmless to humans while also being one of the most terrifying spiders you will ever encounter in many parts of the US

“Big, mean looking, and lightning fast.”<sup>75</sup>

### **76. “Lady Lawyers Of Reddit, Have You Ever Defended A Client That You Know Was Guilty / An Absolute Scumbag? How Did You Cope With It, Especially If It Was A Crime Against A Woman?”**

Semiramis6 wrote:

“This is a good question because I listen to a lot of true crime podcasts, and it always bothers me when the podcast host

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<sup>75</sup> Source: memefier, “What's that one sleepover incident that you'll never forget?” Reddit. AskReddit. 20 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qbu3jk/whats\\_that\\_one\\_sleepover\\_incident\\_that\\_youll/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qbu3jk/whats_that_one_sleepover_incident_that_youll/) >.

says something like ‘I can’t believe this lawyer took the case’ of the defendant.

“Your job (in criminal cases) is to keep the state honest. Make them prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt so that (a) the state doesn’t use shitty tactics against innocent people later, and (b) said scumbag client goes to jail with no meritorious appeal chances.

“In civil, insurance defence work (which I practice) there are definitely scumbag insureds but in that case you report back to the insurance company and say our guy is at fault and we should pay the plaintiff. If I am instructed to do something unethical, I will not do it, but fortunately I have come into that situation only once and it was resolved with a long letter to my client.

“Your first duty is to yourself and your reputation. Your second duty is to the legal system as a whole, and to not act in such a way that brings the administration of justice into disrepute. Your third duty is to your client. Bad lawyers forget that the client comes third.

“Interestingly, in my jurisdiction, one of the Rules of Professional Conduct is that you are not allowed to turn away a client seeking representation unless you have a good excuse (e.g., no experience in that area of the law). Obviously lawyers do turn away prospective clients because they are busy, or the claim has no merit, etc. Yet the default is that we as lawyers are expected to represent whoever walks through our office door.

“One philosophy is that in an adversarial system (like the US, UK, Canada) a lawyer is the person’s morally neutral conduit into the justice system. The job is not to judge (that is for the trier of fact) but to present the case in the best light possible, with your adversary doing the same for the other

side, so that the trier of fact can make the best possible decision.

“I will stop there, but I have many thoughts about this topic. The role of lawyers is really misunderstood, and there are definitely scumbag lawyers and scumbag clients out there. But I am happy with my practice and my ethics.”<sup>76</sup>

### **77. “What’s A Toxic Behavior That’s Considered Socially Acceptable?”**

1) krotosniko wrote, “Pranking people disrespectfully.”

cxnx\_yt commented, “I remember a video where one guy bumps into a girl in a train, thus pushing her out of the door as it closes, resulting in her missing the train. Completely scum behaviour.”

craftasaurus commented, “My dad was inventing automatic sprinklers to come on when the soil got dry enough. In the meantime, he had the front yard on a timer, and he set it to come on one minute after I was supposed to be home. And yes, one night he got me all wet! I was walking across the lawn and they came on right on schedule! Dad was in bed of course, so I couldn’t blame him.”

TheRealJulesAMJ commented:

“My son was really into pranking shows for a while so we spent a day on Minecraft pulling escalating pranks on each other; after a while he started to realize pranks are fun, but it kinda really sucks when people disrespectfully screw with

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<sup>76</sup> Source: raea-thedemon, “lady lawyers of reddit, have you ever defended a client that you know was guilty/an absolute scumbag? how did you cope with it, especially if it was a crime against a woman?” Reddit. AskWomen. 20 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/qcea93/lady\\_lawyers\\_of\\_reddit\\_have\\_you\\_ever\\_defended\\_a/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/qcea93/lady_lawyers_of_reddit_have_you_ever_defended_a/) >.

you and things you've been / are working on without consent. So now we respect each other's goals until the end of the day when we can save our progress and then prank each other while destroying everything

"I'm a big advocate of using videogames to help teach/learn life lessons and cultivate self-control and understanding in a safe environment and highly recommend it."

notyourcoloring book commented, "The biggest prank I've ever pulled was wearing all back clasp bras, then putting on a front clasp. He didn't know what was going on. I thought it was great. Then once the person gets used to the front clasp, switch to something that doesn't have a clasp and gets pulled on like a shirt."

2) AssignmentOpen6112 wrote, "Trying to make people drink / smoke, or drink / smoke more, when they have firmly declined the offer."

SFDessert commented:

"I remember after a particularly crazy week at work my boss decided to take us all to the local bar since he knew that was our favorite spot to go after work. He bought us all our drinks, but said he wasn't gonna drink anything that night.

"By the time the rest of us were good and drunk, we were insisting that our boss have at least one drink since we were so grateful for his generosity. He was so eager to keep morale up after the shit week that he eventually caved and had a beer with us. Of course, this made us all cheer.

"I later found out he was an alcoholic and had been sober for like 20 years and he had that one beer with us and broke his sobriety for the sake of the team's morale.

"I am an alcoholic and have since learned much more about sobriety and the disease so this keeps me up at night

sometimes. Admittedly he could have refused, but I still feel like shit for pressuring an alcoholic to have a drink with us.

“He was honestly the best boss I’ve ever had. He didn’t return to drinking or anything, but I still feel bad about it.”

jerseygirl1105 wrote, “When people are really insisting that I drink, my final say on the subject is ‘buying me a drink will cost you approximately \$43,000, considering the return to rehab.’ Trust me, they never ask again.”

3) Katt1922 wrote, “The ‘customer is always right’ attitude.”

ThrowAway16940 commented, “Yes, I fucking hate that because most of the time *they are definitely not right.*”

esquiteconchile wrote:

“It’s not even the full saying! It’s supposed to be like ‘the customer is always right, in matter of taste.’

“Like if they want a WEIRD combination on their Subway sandwich, or ice cream Sunday, or are buying a ridiculous outfit, who cares?? Don’t shame them. They’re paying for it so let them get things to their TASTE.

“But if some fucking Becky or Karen or whatever ducking name people are using these days is demanding something stupid like that I have to remake their drink that they ordered A WEEK AGO and ‘tastes funny’ — fucking no. You’re wrong.”

what\_the\_a provided another interpretation:

“It was initially a philosophy on demand and trends. It meant the customer is an accurate predictor of the market / trends, so retailers should pay attention to what the customers are buying / asking for, not what the store thinks they should have.



“Edit: Just to clarify, ‘the customer’ means in the general sense / the customer base. Not necessarily individuals.”

EVoG wrote, “In the Netherlands we use the phrase ‘*De klant is koning*,’ meaning ‘The customer is king.’ But after a while my mom and me changed it to ‘*De klant is koning, maar ik ben keizer*,’ meaning ‘The customer is king, but I’m the emperor.’”

ShapeMKR commented, “In France my response to ‘the customer is king’ is ‘do you know what happened to the last king we had?’”<sup>77</sup>

## **78. “What’s The Stupidest Thing You Ever Seen A Religious Person Call ‘Satanic’?”**

1) DirtyFuckenDangles wrote, “Dungeons and Dragons.”

KNHaw commented:

“I had a buddy who got in a lot of trouble with drugs and the cops in the 1980s. He came home one day to find his mostly non-religious mother had been talked into burning his D&D stuff and heavy metal albums by a Bible-thumping neighbor.

“Yes, your son has no positive role models, your discipline swings from non-existent to draconian on a whim, you have trouble holding down a job, and you’re an alcoholic ... but let’s blame D&D and Ozzy Osborne for your kid’s issues.”

thephotoman wrote:

“My favorite bit about D&D [Dungeons and Dragons] came from the arc of Something Positive [the web comic Something\*Positive?] where the main character’s father

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<sup>77</sup> Source: Enough\_Sandwich\_7057, “What’s a toxic behavior that’s considered socially acceptable?” Reddit. AskReddit. 20 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qck4t6/whats\\_a\\_toxic\\_behavior\\_thats\\_considered\\_socially/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qck4t6/whats_a_toxic_behavior_thats_considered_socially/) >.

goes to a hell house because it was something to do during Halloween, and he thought it'd be more like a traditional horror project.

“In one room, they were railing against teen sex, and he pointed out that teenagers make better decisions when they have all the relevant information. The next room had them complaining about D&D, and that’s when he lost it: ‘You don’t want teen sex, but you also hate the things that prevent it? What’s wrong with you people?’”

“IwantAnIGuana commented, “In eighth and ninth grade, a friend and I were kind of getting into the supernatural and the Nostradamus, etc. We just liked weird ... which I think most kids go through. An older kid from our school heard us talking about witches, and witchcraft and said he had some books we could borrow if we were into that sort of thing. He brought us a stack of D&D books — *Monster Manual*, *Player’s Handbook* .... I still laugh about it and that was a lifetime ago.”

Uriel-238 commented:

“D&D is how Satan got me when I was twelve. But despite years of playing and becoming an adept tactical master of monster-cursing, after reading the *Player’s Handbook*, the *Monster Manual*, and the *Dungeon Master’s Guide*, the local Satanic chapter never contacted me, never gave me robes, never taught me *the real magic*. I guess I didn’t possess the gift.

“But Satan also gave me Rock & Roll, so I’m thankful for that as well. (He also gave us Classical Romanticism, but I didn’t appreciate that until my adulthood.)”

2) Suspicious\_Corgi5854 wrote, “So my mom’s friend is a bit overweight and likes to go to church a lot. She enjoys wearing the color black because it’s slimming. Her pastor told her that wearing black all the time was of the devil. Lol.”

hippiechick725 wrote, “What about priests? Do they count?”

3) Kmartomuss wrote, “Jazz.”

lostonpolk wrote, “For those asking why, lest we forget that Jazz was invented by black people and was therefore deemed immoral. They said the exact thing about Rock & Roll in the 1950s.”

Psychobillycadillac1 commented, “If jazz is the devil, then call me Beelzebub.”

WiseauIsAuteurAF commented, “What I’m learning is that if it scares old people, it’s probably satanic.”

puella\_ commented, “It’s a tie between black or dark nail polish, Pokemon, and tattoos.”

Brendanthebomber commented, “Ah, yes, the famous satanic practice of dark nail polish.”

Sagemasterba commented, “My cordless drill is totally worshipping Satan. Even the light on the charger is glowing red.”

4) TigerTownTerror wrote, “Meatloaf.”

mattcruise asked:

“The singer or the food?”

“Not surprised by either.”

Istoppedsleeping wrote:

“An older lady my wife worked with went to a show with her son. She described it as a bunch of songs about Satan with fire and symbols on the stage.

“We made her ask her son who it was. It was Eddie Money.”

5) Murky-Dor7331 wrote:

“SpongeBob SquarePants.

“‘Don’t you know it’s based off the seven deadly sins?’ the fanatic said as she turned the TV channel to a different cartoon, one with this talking dog and toddler, at a six-year-old’s birthday party. The fact that those ‘sins’ are the character flaws that create the conflict as an example of not becoming too lazy or too greedy was lost on her when I pointed it out. She was told it was satanic by random religious authority so satanic it absolutely was to her.

“Yes, I left it on *Family Guy* until another parent came in and freaked out when she saw her daughter laughing at Quagmire. ‘Oh,’ I said loudly enough for everyone to hear, but with an innocent tone as if I didn’t know *Family Guy*, ‘The mom over there turned it to this about an hour ago because SpongeBob is satanic. She saw the opening song and said to leave it here.’ The fight that came next was awesome.”

PoissonsREvenge commented:

“Seven Deadly Sins?

- Wrath (hatred of everything) is obviously Squidward.
- Greed is obviously Krabs.
- Envy is obviously Plankton.
- Sloth (laziness) is obviously Patrick.

“Those make a lot of sense for the characters, as being the defining traits of those characters.”

6) Taint\_Washer wrote:

“I had a coworker who switched vets because one of the employees had a zombie sticker on their car. She didn’t trust Satan worshipers with taking care of her dog.

“She’s also the person who informed me gay marriage had been legalized. I came into work and heard her crying loudly, so I figured her dog must have died and went in her office to try to console her. I asked her what was wrong and she blurted out, ‘They legalized gay marriage, God is going to send hurricanes and wildfires to cleanse our country.’ I said, ‘Oh,’ and walked out. The saddest thing is she probably thinks she’s right with all the hurricanes and wildfires, considering she didn’t believe in climate change.”

MUSTARDUNAVAILABLE wrote:

“I have an aunt who believes gay marriage will be the end of the world. Every time something bad happens she blames it on gay marriage, not gay people, but gay marriage. She believes marriage should be between man and woman and it’s a scared bond that shouldn’t be sullied.

“She’s been married and divorced six times, yet she still doesn’t see the irony or hypocrisy.”

ChampChains wrote:

“Oh god, this reminds me of my wife’s sister-in-law’s mother.

“I was the best man in their wedding and my wife was the maid of honor. We also paid for like 1/3 of their wedding and did a lot of the work for them because her family didn’t really want to help much. We also paid for the bachelorette party, found their venue, etc. (My wife was SUPER excited to help.)

“Anyway, at the wedding, the bride’s mother told her youngest daughter (she’s maybe seven) that she couldn’t play with our daughters or be around our family because we’re devil worshipers. Her proof? I have a little Danzig sticker on the back window of my car.”

7) cocobellahome wrote, “Harry Potter movies and Halloween.”

ashamedprotein commented:

“‘Voodoo Mama Juju, explain your dalliance with the Dark Arts.’”

“‘It’s not my fault, I was exposed to Harry Potter.’”

OhMyCutucles commented, “I found (and obviously bought) a tape at a thrift store that explains why Harry Potter is satanic. Tragically, shortly after starting it, my VCR decided to die and murder the tape in the process. Obviously Satan working to prevent me from the righteous truth.”

8) TheHungryHeathen wrote, “When I was younger and I’d wear shirts with skulls on them my mom would say that it was satanic. My reply was, ‘You have a skull in your head. Is your head satanic?’”

9) AtomikSamurai310 wrote, “I went to the gas station the other day in a rush to grab a refreshment, I had on a Misfits Shirt. I went in respectfully and when I got to the cashier, she glared at me and then she proceeded to call me an ugly demon and that I was going to hell for wearing that shirt. It really fucked with my day.”

mike\_b\_nimble wrote, “I went to a gas station once wearing a T-shirt with the word ‘coexist’ spelled out in Religious symbols. The clerk looked at it and said, ‘The Cross is the only one that matters.’ I replied, ‘You completely missed the point, didn’t you?’”

10) krumplisteszta2100 wrote, “I remember one time I was walking around somewhere and some random lady who was acting seemingly normal, suddenly started screaming as soon as she saw me and my brother, she started acting erratic

and shouting that me and my brother were ‘the anti-Christ,’ and that has to be the stupidest one.”

Tgunner192 commented, “Had a woman do that to me and my sister once. But I corrected her by pointing to my sister & saying, ‘She’s the anti-Christ. I’m the uncle-Christ. Get it right.’”

sqwrlydoom commented, “My name is Damien. The number of times someone has crossed themselves when I tell them my name and say something about me being the anti-Christ is comical. Hollywood made all of that up, yet so many people act like a boy named Damien being the anti-Christ is from the Bible and not a 1970s horror movie. It’s ridiculous.”<sup>78</sup>

### **79. “What Villain Is 10 Times More Interesting Than The Hero?”**

1) GunnerForeman wrote, “All of the Decepticons [in the Transformers universe]. Psychologists were deeply concerned that the kids watching the original cartoons liked the bad guys. Turns out they were more interesting and more realistic. They failed and tried again. Unlike the Autobots that were always winning.”

BasoroilIII commented, “That and they had the cooler transformations. Do I want a VW beetle, or a fighter jet? Hmm ....”

2) FinestTreesInDa7Seas wrote, “HAL 9000. He was basically given conflicting instructions.”

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<sup>78</sup> Source: aume3, “What’s the stupidest thing you ever seen a religious person call ‘Satanic’?” Reddit. AskReddit. 23 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qe7468/whats\\_the\\_stupidest\\_thing\\_you\\_ever\\_seen\\_a/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qe7468/whats_the_stupidest_thing_you_ever_seen_a/) >.

L1P0D commented, “It’s important to remember that when you’re fighting a machine, you’re really fighting the person who designed and controls that machine. HAL is the cold, clinical manifestation of an anonymous committee who decided that the mission objective was more important than human life.”

3) BaconLover 5000 wrote, “Ninety percent of all horror movie antagonists. Seriously, why would I want to know about some entitled kid who serves no purpose other than to scream?”<sup>79</sup>

### **80. “What Was Your ‘Went Mining For Iron And Found Diamonds’ Moment?”**

AndyVale wrote:

“Someone once parked in my driveway while I was out.

“I came back, and instead of scratching the car, calling the police, or whatever, I just washed it. Got it nice and clean.

“It was Summer, a nice day, I had just finished university two days before and had little to do.

“I left a polite note (which now reads more passive aggressive than I intended) explaining the situation and went off to go pick some strawberries with my son.

“I put a few pics up on my Facebook and Twitter, in this time a friend posts the letter to Reddit, it hits the top of the front page and goes viral.

“The owner of a music news website I had unsuccessfully applied to for an internship at saw it and liked it. I took my

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<sup>79</sup> Source: sodibit, “What villain is 10x more interesting than the hero?” Reddit. AskReddit. 24 October 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qf0yt0/what\\_villain\\_is\\_10x\\_more\\_interesting\\_than\\_the\\_hero/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qf0yt0/what_villain_is_10x_more_interesting_than_the_hero/)>.



shot and said if you like that, I have other dumb ideas, so how about rethinking that internship?

“He did. And my work there over the Summer led to more work, which ended up leading to a full-time role in copywriting in the tech space, which has been where I’ve stably worked ever since. It’s helped pay for a house, a wedding, and generally whatever else I’ve needed to keep me alive and kicking.

TL;DR:

“I was looking for something that would get a chuckle from some friends.

“I found full-time work and a career for the next 9+ years.”<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> Source: jamielynch06, “What was your ‘went mining for iron and found diamonds’ moment?” Reddit. AskReddit. 26 October 2021 <[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qge9z4/what\\_was\\_you\\_r\\_went\\_mining\\_for\\_iron\\_and\\_found/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qge9z4/what_was_you_r_went_mining_for_iron_and_found/)>.

## Chapter 5: Questions 81-100

### 81. "If A Person Tells You Angrily To Go Back To Your Country, How Would You Respond?"

1) BlitzBaseKyle wrote, "My country sent me here as punishment."

\_JustAMiner commented, "Aussie! Aussie! Aussie! Oi! Oi! Oi!"

Confident\_Elephant commented, "Not my fault my great-great-great-great grandmother stole bread, got caught, and got sent here (Australia)."

2) LuluBello wrote, "Ask them to pay for my fare."

3) Shadobou07 wrote, "Walk in a circle and say I'M HERE!"

4) Trolling\_For\_Peace wrote, "My country doesn't exist anymore!"

ILikeLenexa asked, "Yugoslavia?"

powerkerb asked, "Are you my fellow Asgardian?"

5) Jikal wrote, "Sorry, no English."

veovis523, "I did this to someone in Spain once. He was telling some bullshit and I said, 'Sorry, I don't speak Spanish.' Then he switched to English and I said, '*Inglés tampoco.*'"

Note by David Bruce: *Inglés tampoco* means, basically, "I also don't speak English."

6) Similar\_Craft\_9530 wrote, "Patient was being an asshole and screamed at my charge nurse, 'I'm going to have you deported!' I know the hospital that nurse was born at because of a conversation we'd had a couple weeks prior. I snapped

back, ‘To where? (Next town over)? She was born here, so knock it off!’”

Torvaun commented, “Bold move, pissing off the person who decides what size of catheter you get.”

7) Ashi4Days wrote:

“I tell them, ‘Where to, New Jersey?’ And they always go, ‘Yeah, back to New Jersey. We don’t want you here.’”

“I’ll admit that one kind of backfired on me.”

8) Refugee\_center\_guy wrote, “I’ve heard one of our residents answer: ‘Ma’am, I’d love to. Unfortunately, there’s a war going on that has already pretty much destroyed everything I hold dear and they were coming for me, too. Would you have stayed?’”

9) hoopKid30 wrote:

“In my mind I say something really clever and hurtful back! Especially since my family has been here for four generations!

“In reality, every time this happens my face gets hot, and all I can muster is to roll my eyes and fight back angry tears. It sucks.”

10) MemerMafia wrote, “I’m Native American (Oneida Nation), soooooo you go back to your country. Checkmate, biyatch.”

Kathy578 commented:

“I remember my white boss saying ‘they’ should be sent back to their country. I turned to my white coworker next to me and said, ‘Can you imagine all the white people returning to Europe? People at the local reservation would be ecstatic to get their land back.’ Coworker laughed with me and boss remained silent.

“I’ve gotten a DNA test and genealogy research to show that I have over 30% DNA of the Chichimeca and possibly Aztec people who had migrated from New Mexico about a thousand years ago. My shower thought is wondering if that is enough for me to stay if ‘everyone returned to their country.’”

PM\_ME\_UR\_CIRCUIT commented:

“I’m very olive-colored, but I get very dark if I stay outside for more than a few hours in a week. I get confused for a Latino often enough in my area by either Latinos assuming I know Spanish, or white people telling me to go back to my country.

“For the latter, I like to respond, ‘You first.’”

elchiguire commented, “I know it’s not right, but I’ve done this although I’m not Native American. I’m a mix of Indian (from India), Spaniard, native Venezuelan, and who knows what else, but because of it I can pass as native when I don’t have a beard, Muslim when I grow it out, and Mexican when my hair is short, so making racists squirm is one of my pastimes. I often joke that I’m twice as American as them because I’m South American and North American.”

11) penny\_can wrote, “Your people dragged me over here, so now I’m staying. Deal with it.”

12) DangerousVirus3814 wrote, “So this actually happened to me in college and I responded to the person that I would happily do it but as an immigrant I enjoy stealing jobs from the Americans.”

13) Ashi\_Woof wrote, “Honestly? I’d give them a shake of my head and move on. Anybody who speaks to me like that is just wrong. The fact that they say such things is a reflection of their character, not yours. The freedom of speech allows you to speak freely, but it doesn’t mean you need to be heard.

And nothing drives these people more insane than not being heard.”<sup>81</sup>

## 82. “What Screams ‘I’m An Asshole’ Without Saying It?”

1) uYarnOver wrote, “Littering.”

theRealAriel666 commented, “Also the kind of people who litter **around** the dustbin. Like literally just pick it up again if you missed and throw it back in. How hard is it?”

i-cant-adult-today commented, “Watched a guy at a baseball game standing right next to the trash can, throwing peanut shells on the ground.”

Poem\_for\_your\_sprog commented:

“‘Littering’

“I looked beyond the fields of dreams

“To shining stars and silver streams —

“To chances new

“and journeys old,

“And trees of red and green and gold.

“I saw the birds, the bears, the bees,

“The rolling hills, the homely breeze —

“I saw it all, till every part

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<sup>81</sup> Source: godfatherdoh, “If a person tells you angrily to go back to your country , how would you respond ?” Reddit. AskReddit. 28 October 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qhkq76/if\\_a\\_person\\_tells\\_you\\_angrily\\_to\\_go\\_back\\_to\\_your/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qhkq76/if_a_person_tells_you_angrily_to_go_back_to_your/) >.

“Had fixed and filled my empty heart.

“And when I’d seen this perfect place,

“And wiped the tears from off my face,

“And thanked the gods who made it so —

“I left my trash behind me, bro.”

uopthewatwo commented, “Littering for me is a really bizarre act, because you are just making your immediate environment uglier. Whether you care about Mother Earth or not, do you really want to wade through trash in your own hometown, that you’re supposedly proud of?”

justakuiskwis commented, “It’s like pissing on the toilet seat in your workplace.”

HoweverFutile wrote, “One time my boyfriend and I were walking to McDonald’s and I had been having a really shitty day, so I was in a really irritable mood. As I get to the edge of the parking lot, I watch this asshole in a big, lifted truck drop a coffee cup out his window. Literally five feet away from a garbage can. I don’t know what came over me, I’m usually a very shy and polite person, but I grabbed that coffee cup and just freaking yeeted it into this guy’s window and yelled, ‘DON’T F\*\*\*ING LITTER!’ The guy was so shocked and angry, he opened up his door and looked like he was about to murder me, but my boyfriend shot him a death glare that must have been really scary because he got back in his truck and did his window up. To this day I don’t know why the hell I reacted like that, but I will admit it gave me some catharsis and I sort of chuckle whenever I remember it.”

2) PixelSpecter wrote:

““Do you know who I am?”

“No and if you were important enough, then I would know who you are.”

TacticalLeemur commented, “Does anybody know this man? He has forgotten who he is.”

Another comment reminded Rufus\_Everard of a story: “My grandmother worked for an airport car rental company in the 60s and the Monkees walked in. When they came to the desk to collect their car she handed over the keys and went, ‘Hey Hey Here’s Your Car Keys!’ :)”

3) Direct\_Sarcasm wrote, “Insulting the waiter / waitress for minor things.”

mhTGBY asked, “Fellow server?”

Direct\_Sarcasm answered, “Lol. No, just a person with manners.”

4) Johndoe448 commented, “Not using your damn turn signal.”

hockeybag7 commented, “My aunt used to always yell at my uncle because he never used his turn signal. He’d always say, ‘It’s no one’s business where I’m going,’ and when I was younger I thought he was funny but now I’m wondering if maybe he was just an asshole.”<sup>82</sup>

### **83. “What’s The Worst Plot Hole You’ve Seen In A Well-Regarded Movie?”**

In a thread about horror movies, CartographerOdd148 wrote, “If Covid showed us anything, it’s that we all owe an apology to horror movie writers for telling them their

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<sup>82</sup> Source: PinkyAmethyst, “What screams ‘I’m an asshole’ without saying it?” Reddit. AskReddit. 31 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qji3mq/what\\_screams\\_im\\_an\\_asshole\\_without\\_saying\\_it/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qji3mq/what_screams_im_an_asshole_without_saying_it/) >.

characters were unbelievably stupid. They were apparently really giving humanity the benefit of the doubt in many cases.”

DeadFireFight wrote, “Yeah, Zombie films used to be a real struggle for me. I couldn’t suspend disbelief enough to not yell at the TV. ‘Fuck off! No way would a whole group of people act that stupid! No one would be stupid and selfish enough to cover up a bite!’ After Covid, though, I just kind of nod and go, ‘Yep, we are that stupid.’”<sup>83</sup>

**84. “Is There A Stranger You’ve Never Seen Again With Whom You’ve Shared A Memorable Moment You’ll Always Remember?”**

1) Ocho171 wrote, “I was weeping after I realized this guy I had a crush on never liked me back. I went for a run and sat on a bench looking out at Lake Michigan crying like an idiot. An old man came and asked me if I got my heart broke and I said yes. He said the guy was stupid but to get ready because this is going to happen to me a bunch more as I get older.”

2) Attack\_of\_the\_BEANS wrote, “I work 9-6, so I get out in the dark every day. One day my last patient canceled so I got out early. I ran outside and video called my fiancé and screamed, ‘I’m outside in the daylight! I’m going home early!’ And spun around just in joy of being able to go home before dark. A stranger parked next to new witnessed it and said, ‘Thank you for letting me witness that joyous moment you just shared with a loved one. Thank you.’”

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<sup>83</sup> Source: The\_Thunder\_Child, “What’s the worst plot hole you’ve seen in a well regarded movie?” Reddit. AskReddit. 31 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qjlcdf/whats\\_the\\_worst\\_plot\\_hole\\_youve\\_seen\\_in\\_a\\_well/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qjlcdf/whats_the_worst_plot_hole_youve_seen_in_a_well/) >.



3) lilly47 wrote, “I was in the bathroom at Target washing my hands when a woman came out of the stall and asked for help reading her pregnancy test. I told her, although it was faint, it looked like two lines to me, she then got super excited and told me she’s been trying to get pregnant for months and we hugged and it was nice. :) I think about her all the time.”

4) Cruise\_Control147 wrote:

“A man stopped in the street once and talked to me; he was a young guy, a bit drunk I think. And I was weary [wary?] because I’m female, I was alone and it was dark, but he talked a bit about life and then said, ‘Don’t do it. It’s not worth it, love’ and then walked away.

“Which was weird, because I was planning on killing myself that night.

“Didn’t do it obviously, and now eight months later, I’m the happiest I’ve ever been. I think I might owe my life to him and I want him to know that. Thanks, dude.”

Eggboi919 commented, “I owe my life to my best friend for not only being there for me about a month ago, when I was still suicidal (could have been a bit longer or not so long ago) and then making my life absolutely amazing. She doesn’t seem to understand that she owes me nothing whenever I bring her snacks or drinks because she has already done so much for me. She’s awesome, and if ANYTHING were to happen to her, I would do whatever it takes to help. Dead fucking serious.”

5) leopoldisacat wrote:

“Yes. I worked at Disneyland in my late teens to early 20s. I was a character host while I worked there, meaning I walked around with the characters and facilitated interactions.

“I’m 38 now and I remember this like it was yesterday even though it was actually 20 years ago. It was just about Christmas, and I was working with the princesses. Back at that time, they were sort of free roaming around the castle instead of having a set meet-and-greet location.

“I was walking Belle and Beast off set for a break. Suddenly we heard a voice yelling, ‘Belle! Wait! I love you!’ Something about the voice made me turn and there was a man with Down Syndrome running towards us with his caregiver. Typically the rule is that once the characters are on their way out, they don’t stop for anyone. Just wave and keep going. But we stopped for him.

“His name was Stephen. He told us how much he loved all of the princesses, but Cinderella was his favorite. But Belle was his second favorite and he loved her, too. As his caregiver and I talked, I learned that he hadn’t had much luck getting to see the princesses, but that they were having a nice time. I was so touched by his genuine excitement that I asked if he and his friend would meet us up by the Christmas tree on Main Street in about half an hour so I could give him a special gift.

“It was getting to be the end of the day and the princesses all used to do their last set at the town square by the tree. So I rushed Belle and Beast inside where I knew Cinderella was waiting to go out and say goodnight to everyone. I told her about Stephen and asked if we could spend some special time with him. Of course the answer was yes. Then I ran to the shops and got an autograph book and ran to all of the nearby break rooms to get as many characters to sign it as I could.

“Just before it was time for Cinderella to come out, I went to find Stephen and his friend. They were sitting on the curb, just in front of the enormous tree. We spotted each other at the same time, and his friend gave him a little nudge. He

came jogging over and gave me a huge smile. I gave Stephen the autograph book and he was SO excited! Then I asked him to come with me to the area where I knew Cinderella would be coming to and we waited together.

“His face lit up when he saw her. He gave her the biggest hug and told her how much he loved her. They spent a little time together and then she saw some other folks. But by some miracle she wasn’t bombarded with a ton of people so she had time to walk around the square with Stephen. He told us about his work, and his friends, and the movies he liked. We stood and watched the carolers in front of the windows of one of the stores with a warm golden light glowing around them.

“But then it was time for Cinderella to go. At Disneyland you never say that a character has to go on a break or end their shift. You tell guests something more true to their character. So I said that Cinderella had to go have tea with her fairy godmother.

She turned to give him a hug and say goodnight. He went still and quiet for a moment. He looked up at her and said, “Can you ask for a wish for me?”

“Cinderella smiled sweetly and told him of course.

“He stood quietly for a moment longer and then said, ‘Can you please ask her to make me normal?’

“It was like someone knocked the breath out of me. My heart broke for him. He kept looking up at her with sad, hopeful eyes. I immediately started sobbing.

“Cinderella tried to compose herself and gave Stephen a hug and a kiss on the cheek, leaving a pink lipstick mark behind. She looked him straight in the eyes and told him, ‘You are so much better than normal.’

“She and I had to then rush away so we could get her off stage before she lost control.

“I tried to go back and find Stephen and his friend again once I got Cinderella settled. But they were gone by the time I came back. I never saw them again. But every year, around Christmas time, he pops into my mind and I hope that he is doing well and remembers that he really is so much better than normal.”

6) TommyChongUn wrote, “One time when I was 17, I was riding the train home on a gorgeous day. We pulled up to this station and there was a guy sitting on a bench on the platform with the saddest face. I was staring at him through the window wondering what was on his mind, and he noticed me staring and kind of gave a dirty look. Without thinking, I stuck my tongue out at him like a child, and he did it back and then realized what he did and actually laughed. I laughed too. Never saw the guy again. I hope I made his day that day because he made mine.”

7) 2ID11B wrote:

“Back in late 2007, we were in a place in Iraq called Diyala (if you google Baqubah, that’s the largest city in the province), we were in a couple smaller towns, with barely any dirt roads, we mainly ran night patrols, Over-Night SKT’s. ... We mostly worked at night.

“There was a 2100 (9:00 pm for non-Military/non-Europeans) curfew so anyone out past that time was going to get rolled up, period, no questions, no excuses. So we’re rolling through this palm grove nearest a small town called Muqisha, and we started hearing, ‘Ameriki? Ayn Alamerikan? Adhhab wahdarhum!’ (‘American? Where are the Americans? Go get them!’) My Arabic may be a bit off, if so, I’m soooo sorry.

“This kid, maybe nine or 10 years old, comes out and starts screaming for help and the Americans need to help and some other stuff I couldn’t for the life of me understand ... well, ok, that op is a bust and we’re probably gonna get hit now, so we take a tactical pause and sat there for a few minutes with our balls in our stomachs, and this kid is having a breakdown on this dirt road, and we were like, ‘Ok ... we’ll we’re not getting attacked, so let’s go see what’s wrong.’

“This kid sees us walking out and starts running towards the house he came from and we followed, and no shit, the kid was trying to find help because his mom was giving birth. So my best friend David (our platoon medic, and the one who gave me instructions, David was killed four days later in an area close to this town) and I got down in there and literally delivered this baby in the middle of a backwater Iraqi town, on a dirt floor.

“She named the little boy Lee-Alan.

“After everything that’s happened since then, I wish was able to find out what happened with that kid.”

8) DeviantPapa wrote, “Riding the tram back to the parking lot at Disney World, spring break in college. Saw a cute girl sitting with her family a few rows away. We made eye contact and smiled at each other. Got off on opposite sides of the tram, and as we walked away from each other we each turned, and she waved at me. I’ve thought about that encounter many times. It happened in 1978.”

9) bananicoot wrote:

“Waiting for the bus one day, minding my own biz.

““Ohh, girl, I *loove* your bag!”

“I turn and see an older woman, the first thing I notice is she has rainbow eyeshadow, which stood out amazingly against

her dark skin. Literally all the colours painted on her eyelids, with a lovely maroon lipstain and a golden blush. Her whole outfit was a mix of tie-dye and pastel. My own purse was kinda tan with some pinks and blues mixed in, my brain told me to give her the purse to complete her outfit. I said thanks and she asked me where I got it. We chatted a bit while we waited for our respective buses. I told her I loved her make-up, and I wish I could pull the look off. I'll never forget what she said:

“Honey, you can do anything and be anything. I always wanted to be a rainbow, so I'm doing just that.”

“Then she strode away and got on a bus. Never saw her again, despite me going to that bus stop every day for three years. It felt so prophetic, and unreal. I hope that lady is doing well.”

10) QuietRulrOfEvrything wrote:

“Dude here.

“I'm a big, African-American guy and I was on my way home one night after work when a torrential Spring downpour flooded half the train station on 42nd & 8th in the city. A petite, Caucasian woman, probably late 50s, was stuck with no way to get past the newly formed lake at the subway entrance. I strode up to her in my black leather boots, gave her a Hollywood bow, and said, ‘Madam ... may I?’

“She gave me the biggest smile, threw her arm around my neck and did this ballerina pose thing when I carried her to safety. You'd have thought we were on DANCING WITH THE STARS the way we moved across the water. Even though we hammed it up a bit, she held me close and was so incredibly light in my grasp. When I put her down on the nearest dry step she gave me a hug and a smile that blew my mind, even to this day! I'd like to think that she was part of one of them Broadway shows above ground because she

DEFINITELY had the aura of a performer, y'know? The whole experience was fairytale as fu\*k and more than just a little arousing, to be honest.

“I honestly would LOVE to have that same warm, fuzzy, accomplished feeling again.”

11) RockStarAngel wrote:

“Yes. Some sad, some happy. But I have shared many memorable moments with strangers I’ve never seen again.

“I guess the happiest was pre-Covid. I was on the way out of the store when this old man just gave me the biggest hug. Came running up to me, called me Clara. I tried to tell him I’m not Clara, but he was too busy telling me how proud of me he was, how I don’t call enough, he misses me. He kept telling me to stop worrying about something, that I’m smart and beautiful, and whoever it was he thought I had a problem with will recognize that.

“This apologetic older lady comes up, all she says is sorry, he’s confused, while he’s just going on and on telling her how proud he is of me.

“Obviously I told her it’s okay. He was clearly having a dementia moment. He thought I was his daughter, I think the wife (I presume it was his wife) was trying to tell him the truth. He kept saying I was, and he was getting upset, and finally I just blurted, ‘It’s okay, dad. I have to get back to class, but I loved running into you. What a surprise.’

“He stood and watched over me get in my car, and he waited until I left the parking lot before he went into the store (presumably). I could see his wife still trying to drag him in and him, I guess, saying he was waiting until I was out of sight. (I was at a light.)

“I look for him, both of them. Every time I go to the pharmacy. That was, two years now? Obviously, the thought has crossed my mind, Covid, the elderly, the really elderly .... I haven’t seen him again, but I do look.”

12) redmoonleather wrote:

“Thirteen years ago I went to Seoul, South Korea, on a business trip. I knew it may be my only trip, so I took a couple of days to be a tourist. While there I toured one of the many ancestral palaces and sat on a bench to rest in the shade. A large group of teenage students came by with their chaperone who was an older gentleman and rushed over to me, eager to practice their English. There were many students saying ‘Hello,’ ‘How are you?,’ and ‘Pleased to meet you’ before the older man shoed them away.

“He sat next to me on the bench and asked if I was from America. I told him I was from Chicago, and he proceeded to tell me his life story. He had been to Chicago once after he retired, but his story started much earlier. As a young boy in Korea during the war, he went from Seoul to Inchion, where the US military base was located. He became a house boy for some US officers, bringing them food and doing their laundry. In return they paid him monthly but told him he was to save the money to get an education after the war. Over time he became like a son to them. One day, when he was off base, there was an attack and his officers’ tent was hit killing them all. He was devastated. But he took their advice and saved his money until he could attend the American University. He graduated and became a high school teacher of English. He married, had children, and retired. As a retirement present, his children sent him and his wife on a tour of America. Upon returning, he began volunteering at the schools because he so loved teaching the children.



“He told me that the young people in Korea don’t understand the debt they owe to those who served. His generation will forever be grateful for those who gave all.

“I’ll never see him again, but our time on that bench in the shade will never be forgotten.”

13) morwennaforever wrote:

“I worked retail for a very cheap, nasty company. One day our head office workers came to check on the store, and my previous experiences with them had not been very nice so I was very anxious. I was going through a really difficult time; I was very young and had recently experienced an extreme trauma and was prone to crying easily. I was trying to check a customer out at the register while the head office lady ranted at me (they were super unprofessional like that), and I teared up from the stress of it all. Then out of nowhere, my customer touched my hand and whispered, ‘They’ll be gone soon, don’t you worry.’ We finished her transaction and she left, and I felt like I’d been touched by a guardian angel. I don’t know how the customer knew that the head office workers weren’t usually at our location, but her acknowledgement of my situation and pain meant the world to me.

“Another time, I worked at a bar and we had this nonverbal guy come in sometimes. He would order drinks by writing it down on a notepad, and sometimes he would ask me questions about myself. He was really friendly. About a year after I’d quit the bar job, I was waiting to cross the traffic lights and he walked up beside me. I was happy to see him and he gave me this huge hug, which was unexpected but quite sweet. Then the traffic light turned green and he grabbed my hand, and we crossed the road together holding hands. Once we got to the other side, he hugged me again and then wandered off down the road. I never saw him again but I loved the genuine friendliness of that moment. He was

a very happy soul. I hope he's doing well, wherever he is now."

14) SultanOfSwave wrote:

"Almost a decade ago I was riding in a taxi from the airport talking to the police at my son's university.

"I'd gotten a call the day before that he'd failed to return to his apartment after his last exam. He'd waved to a friend as he finished his exam early, walked out, and simply vanished.

"I was coordinating a search effort and was obviously distraught on the phone.

"When we stopped at my son's apartment, I pulled out my wallet to pay. The taxi driver grabbed both of my shoulders, looked me in the eye and said in a thick Russian accent, 'You no pay. Go find your son.' Then he gave my shoulders a shake and a squeeze and off he drove.

"That was the first of many examples of the kindnesses that were shown to my family as we searched for him.

"Sadly, a fisherman spotted his body on the seventh day of our search. At least we were able to bring him back home."<sup>84</sup>

## **85. "Have You Ever Had A Wish (Good Or Bad) Unexpectedly Come True? What Happened?"**

1) un-shankable wrote:

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<sup>84</sup> Source: Himmel011, "Is there a stranger you've never seen again with whom you've shared a memorable moment you'll always remember?" Reddit. AskReddit. 30 October 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qjcukz/is\\_there\\_a\\_stranger\\_youve\\_never\\_seen\\_again\\_with/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qjcukz/is_there_a_stranger_youve_never_seen_again_with/) >.

“Probably not what you were asking for but during middle school I took one of those BuzzFeed-like quizzes for what superpower you would get. And as most middle schoolers were, I was obsessed with being the main character of a YA [Young Adult] adventure / romance novel. I got ‘creation’ as my superpower and that became my personality for a week and I wished SO hard to have that power.

“During a middle school dance like two days later, I went to the back where they were selling snacks. Like chips and Gatorade for a dollar. I’m a hungry B, so I jokingly asked my teacher how much it costs for EVERYTHING. And he replies that it’s one miiiillion dollars. I knew I put five dollars in my jacket pocket so I reach in there to ‘haggle’ with it and I pull out A ONE MILLION DOLLAR BILL and I friggin lost my tiny child mind! Holy shit, this was part of my origin story! I was gonna save the world and / or destroy it and it all starts with buying up all the snacks at my middle school dance!

“Turns out it was just one of those church pamphlet thingys disguised as money, so I just bought a bag of Doritos.”

2) Significant\_Spud\_ wrote, “The two things I used to wish for so so so hard (literally me, a young child, looking out my window at night searching for shooting stars to wish on) finally both have come true. I’ve always wished for my true love, someone to love me and no one else and to take all my pain (love pains) away. And then I always used to wish for a dog who was my best friend and would lie on the couch with me and in bed with me every day. I have both in bed with me now.”

3) Katsitsanoron wrote, “I lowkey wished for a girl both times I was pregnant. Obviously I would have loved whatever I got, but it was a happy coincidence.”

4) schwartzmalerin wrote, “I wished that my high school bully would die. He had a fatal car accident before he turned 18. Still feel guilty.”<sup>85</sup>

### **86. “What Do You NOT Own Enough Of?”**

Purpleowlie wrote, “Tupperware lids.”

Beaushaw commented, “I have plenty, just not the right fucking size!”

Tylerjordan1994 commented:

“A while back, I threw all my plastic containers away and just bought like two or three large packs of the same exact type, there are multiple sizes but only three different types of lids; I never have to search for the right lid and they all stack neatly.

“I grew up with cabinets full of hundreds of different containers, each with its own unique lid that somehow vanished.”<sup>86</sup>

### **87. “You Have \$6 Billion To End World Hunger. What Would You Do?”**

DJRoone wrote:

“This is actually what I do. I’m a humanitarian aid worker in Madagascar. I know we all think of Madagascar as lush

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85 Source: zoozoospetals, “Have you ever had a wish (good or bad) unexpectedly come true? What happened?” Reddit. AskWomen. 1 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/qk6wb1/have\\_you\\_ever\\_had\\_a\\_wish\\_good\\_or\\_bad\\_unexpectedly/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/qk6wb1/have_you_ever_had_a_wish_good_or_bad_unexpectedly/) >.

86 Source: Sentient-Sock, “What do you NOT own enough of?” Reddit. AskWomen. 1 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qkk3p0/what\\_do\\_you\\_not\\_own\\_enough\\_of/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qkk3p0/what_do_you_not_own_enough_of/) >.

forest teeming with lemurs, but the south is a desert and rains are shifting because of Climate Change.

“The \$6B dollar amount is tough to justify because hunger (we call it food insecurity) isn’t a function of cash shortage. The idea that it’s lack of cash is just a talking point from an organization that spends a lot on publicity.

“The talking point version of hunger comes from Nobel prize economics Amartya Sen which basically says famine is a function of government failure because there is enough food in the world. So some conditions are preventing food-insecure people from accessing it. Within humanitarian academics / work, it’s understood that food insecurity is based on these factors:

“Availability: Is food in the market?

“Access: Can people afford the food in the market?

“Use & utilization: Do people prepare it in a way that allows for nutritional absorption? Or urban food deserts.

“It’s pretty rare to have all three conditions happen on their own. We are distributing food to 60,000 households because of lack of access. There is still food in the markets, but people can’t afford it. And we work in use and utilization because people wouldn’t otherwise know how to properly prepare the sorghum we provide.

“TL;DR: \$6B isn’t going to end world hunger.

“EDIT: This posts 1 November 2021:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=SyehvY7uYxs>

ecornflak commented:

“You seem to actually know what you are talking about.

“If Elon Musk did write you a cheque, what would you do with it?”

DJRoone commented:

“I’ve never had to think about it. And I’m so much in the day to day of making sure that the people we support can feed themselves tomorrow that I’m honestly not sure what I’d do.

“Brainstorming: There are strong linkages between infrastructure and food insecurity / ability to respond to shocks. I guess that the best way to solve hunger would be to build roads, market, sanitation systems, etc. Those are really the gaps. It’s not food as a physical thing, like 50 kilos of rice. It’s more making sure that rice can get where it needs to go.”

SimOnsaysshh asked, “If anywhere could be a trading hub to serve these locations with food, where would you set up to be the most effective?”

DJRoone wrote:

“In fact, a lot of that infrastructure already exists and it follows the same hubs as most maritime traffic. A lot of shortages are [known ahead of time]. You can typically know eight to 10 months in advance if there will be food insecurity in any locale ([www.ipcinfo.org](http://www.ipcinfo.org)). So we order food well in advance, and it comes from the US (because we are funded by USAID).

“Large actors preposition food around the world in case of an unplanned emergency. For us — Southern Madagascar — we are served from Durban South Africa. But basically, anywhere there is a transport hub, there’s a depot to support feeding people in need.”

OutlandishnessOdd630 wrote, “Even when we donate to these causes, our money goes to these governments not the actual people.”

DJRoone responded:

“That’s not always true. Most NGOs, are just what their name says: non-governmental organizations. Donations to them can be well spent. (Guidestar.org gives a good way to track.) But the large quasi-diplomat actors like World Bank, IMF, UN agencies. Yes. They often have to route through local governments and there is some, um, leakage.

“Source: I’ve worked for USG overseas and now for an NGO.”<sup>87</sup>

### **88. “What’s The Worst ‘First Day’ You’ve Had In A Job?”**

SurlyJason wrote:

“I was a supervisor in a technical support department for ‘professional’ support, but I was one day unceremoniously moved to ‘personal’ support. (The former was expensive and for IT and experienced clients. The latter for regular home users.)

“When I arrived in my new department, they were short three supervisors, so I was assigned all three teams, and the place was like Lord of the Flies. I was given a printout of schedules and names, with no way to find the people. I started tracking them down to find that nearly 1/3 of them had left the company, but previous supervisors didn’t notify HR / payroll; there were no files on what people were trained on, nothing.

“End of the day my new boss asked how things were, and I told him people needed to be fired. He laughed, and said, ‘We’re understaffed already.’

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<sup>87</sup> Source: BeCre8iv, “You have \$6 Billion dollars to end world hunger. What would you do?” Reddit. AskReddit. 1 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qku82l/you\\_have\\_6\\_billion\\_dollars\\_to\\_end\\_world\\_hunger/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qku82l/you_have_6_billion_dollars_to_end_world_hunger/) >.

“I replied, ‘No, I mean the other supervisors who aren’t doing any job I can identify, and you for letting it get like this.’”

“Things with him were a bit touchy after that.”

itijara commented, “Wow. I mean, that took some chutzpah. Were those people who had left still getting paychecks? It is almost unbelievable that a group of people could be so incompetent.”

SurlyJason replied:

“The techs were paid hourly, so since they weren’t clocking in they weren’t getting paid, but they were still in systems for payroll taxes, and PTO and stuff. The worst part is we were supposed to have a queue time of ~18 minutes, but when I got the wait was usually hours long because the scheduling was still counting on those people being there.

“Over the first days I located my team, and I found one guy who was clocking in, but wasn’t on his assigned phone extension. Sometimes it happened that a person would get a new extension — something broke and the telephony guys couldn’t fix it, so they just got a new one, and I figured that was the case. I would email him, and get nothing, and after a couple more days without response I found a way to put an alert on the timeclock so when he clocked in, the computer would squawk, and I sat nearby.

“When I heard the alert, I hopped up to see the kid at the computer. I introduced myself and asked why he’d not come to see me. He quickly confessed that he didn’t stay. He would come in, clock in, then go home and return to clock out. He said he’d never been trained, so there was no point to staying. Though I didn’t have the authority to do so, I fired him on the spot and called HR to tell them.



“When the woman from HR came down, we needed to sort out how long he was getting paid and not working. While sorting it at my desk, I was upset (with the whole situation) and had to fight back my tears, and the HR rep hugged me ... right as my boss came around the corner.”<sup>88</sup>

### **89. “What Is The Most Depressing Truth That You’ve Had To Accept?”**

thomascamerron wrote, “That my cancer is incurable and aggressive, and that I’m probably not even going to live to see my kids grow up and start their adult lives. It destroys me.”

arkangelic commented, “If you can, try and record some messages for them. Like congratulations for weddings or graduations, happy birthdays, etc. Then you can have those put in a system to be sent out at the right opportunities by someone of your choosing that you trust.”

Remarkable\_Alps5406 commented, “This made me ugly-sob in the parking lot. My mom passed in August, and what I wouldn’t for her to be here with me. I really wish I had videos like that of her. That’s such a wonderful suggestion.”

red-bot commented, “Just because you can’t grow old with them, doesn’t mean they can’t continue to grow old with you. Leave them things like telling them how proud you are that they graduated, or how happy you are for them when they get married, tell them how beautiful their babies are, or tell them random stories you wish you could bond over when they got older.”

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<sup>88</sup> Source: Mr\_Roomba, “What’s the worst ‘first day’ you’ve had in a job?” Reddit. AskReddit. 3 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qlu02f/whats\\_the\\_worst\\_first\\_day\\_youve\\_had\\_in\\_a\\_job/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qlu02f/whats_the_worst_first_day_youve_had_in_a_job/) >.

clumsyumbrella wrote:

“My dad wrote in a notebook when his chemo stopped working. He wrote favorite stories and about what it was like for him growing up. His favorite memories of each of me and my sisters when we were little, love letters to my mom, etc. It is a treasure.

“In addition to that, he wrote each of us a letter to be read only after he passed. It is my most valued possession that I own. It has been two years and that letter is kept in my fireproof lockbox.

“I’m so sorry you’re going through this. I’m so sorry your family is going through this. My thoughts are with you and I’m wishing you all the best for the time you have left.”<sup>89</sup>

## **90. “What Is Something Non-Sexual That You Find Really Attractive?”**

1) devo9er wrote:

“I have a male coworker with a fairly deep and pleasant voice who does customer service and sales for our company. A woman called about 10-12 years ago but had dialed the wrong number and company. When our guy finished explaining we’re not who she is trying to contact, and in fact we’re a print technology company, she just exclaimed, ‘WOW! You have got a really great voice. Sorry, I know it’s kinda weird, but some guy’s voices are just fantastic. I LOVE your voice. Some guys’ voices aren’t so great, but yours? You could talk to me all day about annnnnnythingggggg.’ He wrapped up the call and told us coworkers and the owner about it and the boss says, ‘Cam, I

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<sup>89</sup> Source: WhiteMass, “What is the most depressing truth that you’ve had to accept?” Reddit. AskReddit. 3 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qmbu95/what\\_is\\_the\\_most\\_depressing\\_truth\\_that\\_youve\\_had/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qmbu95/what_is_the_most_depressing_truth_that_youve_had/) >.

want you to call that woman back and tell her you'll talk to her about whatever she wants for \$3.99 a minute!' He didn't do that of course, but we had a good chuckle that day.

"Anyhow, we record our phone calls and now we listen to this call every year at our Christmas party along with a handful of other great callers. We cry in laughter every time."

2) Weary-Ad-6162 wrote, "Ancient Battle Axes."

smatchimo commented, "You'd like my wife. Boy, I'll tell ya, she's a real battle axe."

not\_Logan commented, "I remember driving past a farm with pigs on it, I turn to my wife and I says to her, I say, 'Remind you of anyone in your family?' And she said, 'Yeah, my in-laws!' I said, 'You dirty dog!'"

3) Cheelo98 wrote, "Girl in a sweater deeply engrossed in her book. Bonus points if she has long hair and is wearing glasses."

cupcake-squishmallow commented, "I'm a booknerd who gets cold easily and I have long frizzy hair along with round pink glasses."

4) TheRealThrill wrote, "When a girl has just put on her jacket and uses her hands to release her hair from underneath it."<sup>90</sup>

## 91. "What Small Habits Make You Feel Your Best Self?"

melaela wrote:

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<sup>90</sup> Source: cupcake-squishmallow, "What is something non sexual that you find really attractive?" Reddit. AskReddit. 7 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qokody/what\\_is\\_something\\_non\\_sexual\\_that\\_you\\_find\\_really/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qokody/what_is_something_non_sexual_that_you_find_really/) >.

“I read somewhere that when something good happens in your life, add something or change something. Not a big thing. Lighting, a plant. I felt at ease and bought a new lamp for my room. Love the feeling associated with the lamp when I switch it on. Creates such a vibe. Maybe it’s all in my head, but it makes a difference.”<sup>91</sup>

## **92. “What Is A Positive Core Memory That Shaped You Into The Person You Are Today?”**

1) pasteljessie wrote, “For me, it was my babysitter who would patiently listen to me when I would talk about Hello Kitty or some drawing (I was super shy) even when others would ignore me. As an adult, I always took that with me and made sure that everyone has a chance to speak, especially the ‘shy’ friends.”

2) CatSpecificTuna wrote, “It’s one of a lot of little things, but I remember my mom and I were going through some old clothes to donate and she found some cash in a coat pocket. I watched her put it back in and zip the pocket. She saw me looking and said, ‘Let’s just leave it; that’ll be a nice surprise for whoever needs this coat.’ That moment and others growing up have shaped how I view community and caring for people in the small ways within my ability. She is always so generous with her time and resources in a way that doesn’t call attention to herself. It really fostered a desire in me to take care of people in a way that makes them feel loved without creating the burden of guilt or even the weight of gratitude.”

3) dal\_Helyg wrote:

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<sup>91</sup> Source: Nice\_Plant\_7513, “What small habits make you feel your best self?” Reddit. AskWomen. 6 November 2021 <  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/qo2upe/what\\_small\\_habits\\_make\\_you\\_feel\\_your\\_best\\_self/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/qo2upe/what_small_habits_make_you_feel_your_best_self/)>.

“I was taken into university three weeks after my 15th birthday under a university-sponsored programme for ‘gifted children.’

“While in the waiting room outside the project director’s office, I heard the following:

“‘But she’s a girl. She’ll just get preggers, have a kid or two, and just be another mother. It’s a waste.’

“In response, ‘But she’s only the second one with an IQ that high. Think of the stats we’ll get. Who cares if she’ll never amount to anything?’

“Then came the voice of the woman who talked my parents and myself into entering the programme, ‘You don’t know this girl. She’s amazing on several levels.’

“I did everything I could to prove her right ... and still do.”

dal\_Helyg added, “Amazing what happens when we support each other, isn’t it?”

dal\_Helyg also added, “Gives you an idea of the depth of the prejudice, doesn’t it?”

dal\_Helyg also added, “Like more and more women today, my life is mine to decide ... as long as I’m willing to pay the consequences. More and more of us are. By doing so, we lessen the consequences for our daughters. Like our mothers did, and our grandmothers, and ....”

4) RedBeardtongue wrote:

“Spending time with my mom and grandma in the kitchen makes up many of my fondest childhood memories. My mom cooked every night when I was growing up, and holidays were always a major event. We sometimes hosted 20-25 people for Thanksgiving and Christmas! It was hectic and a lot of work, but so satisfying to present a delicious

meal to my family and friends. I started as the official mashed potato tester when I was little and eventually took charge of full dishes and some planning by middle school.

“To this day, I get a lot of personal satisfaction from spending time in the kitchen. It doesn’t hurt that my husband is so appreciative of my efforts!”

5) Lilliputian0513 wrote, “I had a teacher in second grade who submitted my poem to be published in the school paper. I was on the first page. It was just a dumb poem about reading that happened to rhyme, but I was so proud of it because she was.”

6) UglyWallArt wrote, “When I was growing up, my mom seemed super strict about a lot and I ended up apologizing constantly for absolutely everything I did. (Now I’ve been diagnosed with ADHD and manic depression, so my mom’s more understanding; she just didn’t understand it when it started, and it caused her to treat me very harshly.) Anyway my best friend was a guy and for almost a complete year every time I apologized, he told me to stop saying, ‘I’m sorry.’ He would do this constantly as a solid consistent reassurance for me that I didn’t need to apologize for things I wasn’t doing wrong. It’s seems like something so small but I always hear his voice when I find myself still saying sorry for minor things that don’t matter. I miss him so much.”

7) SinfullySinless wrote:

“I was an only child to busy, work-traveling, inattentive parents for the first 10 years of my life.

“My favorite holiday was Christmas Eve. My mom would say, ‘Fuck cooking,’ and take me to Cub Foods and have me pick out whatever deli sliced meats and cheeses I wanted. We would get mini-buns and sandwich spreads.

“All night we sat in front of the TV (not dining table) with a fire in the fireplace watching Christmas movies eating as many small sandwiches as you could stomach.

“It’s my favorite holiday tradition.”

8) yeepix wrote:

“I am the second child, which means that I rarely got to play videogames and instead had to watch my older brother play.

“This one time he was playing *Twilight Princess*, the part where you have to find a way to unfreeze / free the Zoras. He had been stuck there for a while. So, I just randomly suggested if he could somehow tell Midna to teleport the big hot rock into the Zoras’ home. I was seven.

“It worked! He praised me for being smart!! It gave me a confidence boost on my problem-solving skills that I still hang on to nowadays.”

9) lowintensityraccoon wrote:

“Almost everything I did with my grandfather. He was a wonderfully kind person and always extremely patient with me. I can still remember the countless hours we spent playing music, building birdhouses, and just hanging out together making up stories and playing with toy cars and Legos. He’s someone who shaped me to be confident, believe in myself, be kind and generous to others, be honest, loyal, never hurt others because I’m angry, and not take anyone’s crap.

“If there’s one memory that sticks out to me, it’s when he passed away. It’s not exactly a positive memory in the traditional sense, but one that I’m very grateful for. He woke up in the hospital out of a medically induced coma one final time and he smiled at me. I think it’s at that point in time that my focus in life completely shifted. At that time I realized

that the most important thing to me is living a life that I can be proud of, so that when my time comes I can be as at peace and content about how I lived as he was. The last lesson he gave me was to be grateful for everything that I have, let the people who are in my life right now know that I care about them, and not to sweat the setbacks because they're not what matters in the end — what matters is how you dealt with them.”

10) [crazy\\_cat\\_lady\\_CA\\_NV](#) wrote, “When I was around four years old, my dad came home after being gone a few days for work. I was waiting outside for him and when he saw me, he lifted me up into his arms and held me. I lay my head on his shoulders and as we walked into our home, I felt very loved and secure. It was a perfect childhood moment, and I think it set the stage for me trying to help others feel loved and secure.”

[irishbren77](#) commented, “I am a daddy of a five-year-old girl. The head on the shoulder is priceless. I hope to be an old man someday and find myself across some table from her as she talks about her day and the things that are important to her. But I know in my heart that my mind will drift back to those nights when I circled the living room, holding her in my arms and singing to her as she fell asleep.”

[crazy\\_cat\\_lady\\_CA\\_NV](#) replied, “That’s so beautiful. I hope you know that your little girl cherishes those moments and it will help her form positive self-esteem and healthy bonds. There may be bumps in the road along the way but you will always be her rock and center. And she may not always communicate what a profoundly positive effect these moments have on her, but they truly do.”

11) [yourock\\_rock](#) wrote:

“I was in ninth grade and joined the debate team. I was feeling really unsure of myself; the older kids seemed so



much smarter and capable. I was a girl and it was mostly boys. I wasn't sure I had the ability to be cutthroat and ask the daring questions (partly because of being a girl). I was strongly considering dropping it even though I had fun and liked doing it. At the end of the first semester, the gruff old man head coach asked me to join the invite-only spring team and told me that he believed in me, I could do it, I had the talent and drive, etc. — all the things I needed to hear to become successful and pursue it. It was the first time I really felt like someone believed in me to do something great. And from someone who did not give praise easily so I knew it wasn't just BS [bullshit] (especially as a teenager).

“I ended up in the semifinals of state, got a full ride to a ritzy private university, and finished in the top 16 of the college national championships. It changed my life, and it all started with one person who believed in me.”

12) Amaramth\_Addams wrote:

“My mother made household chores fun by blasting Elton John, Eric Clapton, Aerosmith, etc., and dancing around the house while we cleaned together. It really cemented our bond, we've always been close and I took the ‘make shitty things fun’ attitude through to my adulthood.

“My grandmother's pride in my effort when she was teaching me to crochet. She would show anyone she could my wonky potholders and uneven scarves, until I had the same pride in my creations. It motivated me to be more proficient and I now carve out time every day to crochet. It's become my fallback task when I need to feel good about something, or when my anxiety acts up its practically instant relief just to touch some yarn.”

13) SnooEagles7610 wrote, “I was very young, under 10, and my grandpap, dad, and uncles took me and a few other younger cousins to an apple orchard down the street (We

lived out in the country.) We collected a bunch of apples and then went to my pap's garage / barn and made homemade apple cider. It was an all-day affair, took a lot of work, and was sooo much fun! I remember being in awe because, at that point in my life, I guess I didn't really understand where things in the grocery store came from, so I found it really cool and like mind-altering that this was how food worked. I feel like it's helped shape me into the hands-on, dive-in type of personality that I have today."

14) Work2Tuff wrote, "Most of what has shaped me has been negative, but I will say there is at least one positive one that's very important. I have never liked the way I've looked even from a very young age and back then it was more centered around my race and skin color (think four or five years old). I wanted to be white very badly and my mom became aware of that. So one summer she sent me to a camp she also went to as a child where everyone there looked like me. When I came back, and ever since then, I have never wanted to be another race other than my own."

15) Ali30May wrote:

"Cooking with my grandfather; he was a brilliant man and cook. When he passed I took over all the cooking for special occasions and family gatherings.

"Cooking makes me happy and I love seeing people enjoy my food or when they say things like 'tastes just like Grandad's.' Makes me feel like he would be proud of me."92

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92 Source: pasteljessie, "What is a positive core memory that shaped you into the person you are today?" Reddit. AskWomen. 7 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/qopnzh/what\\_is\\_a\\_positive\\_core\\_memory\\_that\\_shaped\\_you/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskWomen/comments/qopnzh/what_is_a_positive_core_memory_that_shaped_you/) >.

### 93. “Grandchildren Of WW2 Veterans, What Stories Did You Hear From Them About Being In The War?”

1) holy\_plaster\_batman wrote:

“My grandfather was in the Navy on the *USS Indianapolis*. He had a scar on his shin that he said he got from a bayonet on the beach of Okinawa.

“Turns out, he fell off his bike as a teen trying to impress some girl.”

holy\_plaster\_batman added, “It was actually the *USS Louisville*; I always get them confused. He was on-board when the bridge was taken out by a kamikaze, but he worked in the engine room and was unharmed.”

Slipalong\_Trevascas commented:

“My family ran a newspaper shop back in the 1990s. One of our paperboys was a guy in his 1980s who fought in the war. He had a wooden leg that he lost in the war, but he still cycled round and did his paper round in all weathers.

“He passed away a good while ago now. A few years ago I was talking to his son in the pub. It turns out he lost his leg in the war by crashing a motorbike while he was shitfaced drunk on leave in Alexandria.”

2) TarantuaPets wrote:

“The only story Grandpa ever told us was his squadron marching to intercept the enemy and not stopping for anything. He saw a small village coming up down the road, closed his eyes for what he thought was just for a second, hoping they could stop for even just 30 minutes, and when he opened his eyes, his squad had already passed through the village and it was well behind them. I doubt he was actually asleep, but he was just so exhausted he suffered from

highway hypnosis on his feet and just didn't register anything for a couple hours.

“He absolutely refused to talk about combat.”

DikkDelicious commented, “My grandfather refused also. I'm a huge history buff so in some sense it disappointed me, but then again I could never imagine what he went through and I respected his wishes.”

wierdflexbutokk commented, “My grandma was a little kid in Berlin in WW2. Her older sister got killed in the war trying to protect them. My grandma told us that she had to hide in shelter- like things because of the bombs and she will NOT talk about the combat, which I get. She also HATES July 4th [...] because of the bang of the fireworks, and she literally locks the doors and closes all of the blinds and doors and everything.”

3) Svenson\_26 wrote:

“My grandfather was on an allied minesweeper ship.

“He said that everyone always acted tough, but they were all terrified. At one point, a torpedo passed right between their ship and their neighboring ship. The captain literally shat his pants.

“That ship and crew ended up being part of the D-day invasion of Normandy. It's pretty cool that he was a part of that.”

MGee9 commented:

“My grandpa was on a ship as part of the escort for the minesweepers during D-day. He said they were there in the dark dead of the morning, so close to shore ‘that you could hear the Germans snoring.’”

“He never said much about it until the very last D-day anniversary he was alive for. Their main job was clearing the mines for the invasion boats; their secondary objective was to then shell the shore and clear as much of the barbed wire as possible.

“Once they opened up the guns, it didn’t take long for the land guns to start firing back so they pulled away but stuck around to see the invasion happen. The minesweepers got most of the mines, but they couldn’t get them all and he watched one of those tiny landing boats roll over one. He said he was close enough to see bits of people fly around and it was the worst thing he’d seen. Up until that point, he was in non-combat roles.”

4) GavinBelsonsAlexa wrote:

“My grandfather was on the western front. He got captured by the Germans and kept in a POW camp in France for less than a week. The French resistance staged a raid on the camp, freeing numerous POWs, including him.

“He then spent the rest of the war hiding with the French Resistance. I am told this mostly consisted of sleeping, smoking cigars, and playing golf at night with hand-whittled clubs and balls.”

5) Hold\_\_Fast wrote:

“My grandpa was a radio operator on a ship in the Pacific. He told me about it one time because I asked and he went on talking for about an hour about being in the US Navy and WW2.

“My dad was in the room with us. When we left, my dad said that was the first time he ever heard my grandpa talk about being in the war. This was in ~2018.”

NerdyRedneck45 commented, “Same here. Grandpa was a radio operator on a PT boat. I assumed that meant no combat roles, but I have his old combat knife and there’s definitely blood stains on the handle so...”

6) DudeThatsAGG wrote, “My grandfather was one of Darby’s Rangers, fought in Africa, and was taken prisoner in Italy after their DC-3 missed the DZ and they parachuted into enemy territory. He was a prisoner for about four years, his wife was told he was dead, and when he finally got home she was engaged to a new man. She left the new guy and got back with my grandfather. He was never the same after the war, so I’m told. Very mean and quiet. I’m told he was almost killed in a firing squad, but the machine gunner stopped at the person next to him after they ran out of ammo and let the rest live. He said the Germans were decent to them, but the Italians were brutal.”

7) Fandorin wrote:

“Oh man, I have a few. I was born in the USSR, and pretty much everyone was somehow impacted by the war, generations down the line. Both sides of my family fought, and many were killed.

“My great-grandfather passed away when I was five, but I got some stories from my grandma, who has some crazy stories of her own.

“So, my great-grandfather was conscripted when the war started. He was thrown into the meat grinder near Kiev during Barbarosa. Kiev was one of the largest troop encirclements in history, with entire armies encircled and destroyed. He was captured along with 450,000 other soldiers and was being marched back to Germany as slave labor. The only reason that he wasn’t immediately killed was because he spoke fluent Ukrainian and was able to conceal

that he was Jewish. Jewish Soviet soldiers who were captured were immediately shot.

“Somewhere on the march to Germany, he managed to escape into the forest. He somehow survived through the winter of 41/42, and he managed to make his way across the front-line and rejoined the war. It was such a dire situation on the front that the Soviets allowed him to re-enlist and didn’t shoot him for desertion, as was the case for many captured soldiers in 1941 who managed to make it back.

“He was placed into the 223 Infantry division and spent the war on the Southern front, finishing the war in Vienna.

“My grandma, who is going to be 86 the day before Thanksgiving 2021, was young when the war started. She and my great-grandma were evacuated from Kharkov, like many women and children, days before Germans took the city. They made their way South-East, and somehow ended up in Stalingrad, just as the battle was starting. They had to make it to the port to cross the Volga and keep going East. They were running on the riverbank to the ferry, and my grandma’s shoe got stuck in the mud and came off her foot. As this was her only pair of shoes, they stopped for a few seconds to get her shoe and put it back on. When they made it to the pier, the ferry, full of wounded soldiers and fleeing civilians, had just left. They watched the ferry get dive-bombed and sink, and then they caught the next boat to cross. If it wasn’t for the shoe of a seven-year-old girl getting stuck in a muddy riverbank, I wouldn’t be here.”

8) Vercingetorix\_ wrote:

“My great-grandfather was in both world wars. He worked on a destroyer as a machine operator. He got sick during the second war and stayed in San Diego to recover. A kamikaze pilot drove a plane below the decks of his ship and killed the

crew in his operating vicinity. Can't imagine the guilt and relief he felt for that.

“My great-uncle stormed Utah beach. When they were attempting to liberate an inland town, a machine gunner in a tower was eliminated with mortar fire. When the body was retrieved, it was discovered to belong to a 13-year-old French girl who had fallen in love with a German soldier, whose company had evacuated earlier that day. My great-uncle never told the family he deployed to Europe and insisted he was in the Aleutian Islands during the war. This all came out shortly before his death in the early 90's.

“A family friend during my childhood told my brother and me some stories about the Pearl Harbor attack. He was on one of the ship (*USS Nevada*, I believe). A bomb dropped by a plane exploded a munitions cache on the ship. The impact knocked him backwards on the deck. When he went to pick himself back up, he stuck his hand behind his back and into the stomach of one of the Filipino cooks who had served him the night before. He also described trying to pull men out of the water and the skin coming off their hands from all the burning oil in the water.”

9) KS1203 wrote, “My great-grandfather was in charge of POWs, specifically the Germans. He got a lot of flack from other soldiers for sharing his rations of peanut butter with them. He was often found saying that everyone deserves a little bit of kindness because they are still people. I love that man.”

10) MostlySpiders wrote:

“My other grandfather had the best job of WWII. He was stationed in Panama, as a physical fitness instructor, aka a lifeguard. His job was to watch a beach that was protected by a shark net.



“The beach had pretty serious tides. At low tide, the top of the net was six or so feet out of the water. Anyway, one day some guy swam out to the net at high tide, grabbed onto it, and froze. When the tide went out, the guy was stuck way up in the air on the net, so granddad had to row a boat out and whack the guy’s fingers with an oar until he fell off into the boat.

“He also met my grandmother in Panama. He was an enlisted man, and she was an officer. They were out fraternizing one night when an Army patrol turned down the street they were walking on. He knew that she’d get in more trouble over the incident than he would, so thinking fast, he shoved her into what he thought was a dark alley before they got seen and identified. Turned out it was actually a flight of cement stairs. Luckily, she forgave him.”

11) pudding7 wrote:

“My grandfather was one of the first people to participate in the Western Front and kinda personally kicked off the Allied invasion of North Africa (and subsequently, Europe).

“He was a radioman in a scout plane flying off the *USS Massachusetts* during Operation Torch (the invasion of Morocco, Nov 1942). The US didn’t know if the Vichy French were going to fight back, so Grandpa and his pilot flew over Casablanca and were to report back if the Vichy French fired at them. If they did, then the US Navy would then proceed to bombard the port and the invasion would begin.

“So Grandpa flies over the port of Casablanca, and they get shot at, Grandpa radios back, and the Navy ships start pounding the port. Meanwhile, Grandpa’s plane gets shot down and they crash land on the beach. He gets taken prisoner and spends three days as POWs until the Vichy surrender and General Patton’s army rescues them.

“EDIT: Found a few links about the incident. I just googled the name of Grandpa’s pilot; these are articles about him. Any reference to the pilot radioing back to the fleet ‘batter up,’ that was actually my grandpa who handled the radio.

<https://www.perfectduluthday.com/2012/07/31/duluthian-thomas-angelo-dougherty-u-s-naval-aviator-during-world-war-ii/>

<https://www.duluthnews Tribune.com/business/2309612-duluth-man-tells-ales-wwii-intrigue-pilot>

12) Satures wrote:

“One grandfather worked in a factory during WWII (and was killed for it afterwards), the other one worked at a factory as well initially. But after the early successes, he wanted to be part of it as well, being blinded by awards and propaganda (in his own words). He volunteered for the Luftwaffe in 1940 and went through extensive training. On a training mission he was shot down in his Me109 trainer by American day fighters. He parachuted in what he called the only tree in 20 km around. This left him permanently, but luckily only slightly, disabled and knocked him out for a long while, most likely saving his life.

“Shortly before the battle of Berlin, he was called to serve in an infantry unit formed of surplus Luftwaffe staff, convalescents, wounded ... basically one of those units that were formed of anyone that could halfway walk and halfway hold a gun in the right direction, 0 military value. The entire unit burned their uniforms and deserted. A friend of his wanted to stay in the Berlin area. My grandfather gave him a message for his girlfriend so she knew where to find him; my grandmother fled to his place in the next few days.

“When he arrived home shortly after war’s end, suspicion arose. A woman (whom he never forgave) didn’t believe his story that he was already released from being a POW and

called the British. They interrogated him, and there having been in the Luftwaffe saved him again: The British gave him two options:

“Option A was to collaborate with them — that meant they’d drive him to a nearby airfield regularly over several weeks where the British collected captured planes, and he’d tell them anything he knew about these planes; in turn, he would live at home and not face repercussions.

“Option B was being taken prisoner.

“Grandfather opted for A, and both sides kept their part of the deal.”

Dr4gonM4ster420 commented, “At least the side who gave him the options kept their word. I would’ve been hella suspicious on it.”

Satures commented, “Yes. But the alternative was definitely being a POW, so he couldn’t really afford not to trust them. And, as he told me, it didn’t matter. The war was over and the regime gone; he had understood that the propaganda was lies. Especially being sent to that 0 chance unit made him clear how much they valued life. So he didn’t see any reason not to talk about everything they asked him to.”

13) Daves\_no\_here wrote, “Not my grandparent, but my former German tutor was from Germany and lived through the war. She told me that during the raids on her town, it was good to hear the explosions as it mean the bombs didn’t hit her shelter. Also, after the war, the Allies would make all the adults watch films showing the death and evil that happened at the concentration camps. Lots of people thought it was Hollywood propaganda at first because that couldn’t believe the atrocities were real. If the adults didn’t watch the films, they couldn’t get their rations.”

14) spiderbabyinapram wrote, “My grandad spent the war chasing Nazis around Africa and his stories were great. Best one was the sitting on a toilet in a long block building when a lion just casually came in and wandered right past him. Let’s just say he was in the right place, considering the effect this had on him.”<sup>93</sup>

#### **94. “What Animal Is An Asshole?”**

Squirelle wrote:

“Geese are assholes. But they own it. No fucks given unless you’re a part of their gaggle.

“My love for them started when I was about six. I was happily feeding one from a safe distance. Respecting their space, enjoying a quiet moment. When suddenly my asshole older brother came barreling at the goose to try to scare and catch it, ruining a peaceful moment for both of us. That goose stretched its wings, hissed, and charged my brother. Biting him right in the ass as he ran away screaming for our Mom. I was in awe. From that moment I knew: Never back down. Never surrender.

“Goose gaggle for life!”<sup>94</sup>

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93 Source: mrinkyface, “Grandchildren of WW2 veterans, what stories did you hear from them about being in the war?” Reddit. AskReddit. 8 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qpjb7b/grandchildren\\_of\\_ww2\\_veterans\\_what\\_stories\\_did/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qpjb7b/grandchildren_of_ww2_veterans_what_stories_did/) >.

94 Source: trajop, “What animal is an asshole?” Reddit. AskReddit. 9 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qq2h1c/what\\_animal\\_is\\_an\\_asshole/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qq2h1c/what_animal_is_an_asshole/) >.

## 95. “Reddit, What Is The Strangest Thing You ‘Have A Guy’ For?”

GreteLovesBlax wrote, “In high school I had a guy who would beat up my bullies for me.”

Demonweed commented, “I had one of those earlier in life. In third grade he got some bad family news and then randomly attacked me. Though I was bruised and bloodied, I just walked home instead of getting school staff involved. A couple of days later, he apologized and thanked me for not being a snitch. A couple of months later, when he saw a kid on the playground spit on me, then went apeshit all over that spitter and held him down so I could get in a good kick. He got kicked out of school altogether in seventh grade, but by then I had a major growth spurt and was no longer a logical bully target.”

Hefty282ocket commented:

1) “I was a scrawny kid in high school, and I’m short but smart and quickly learned being funny would get me out of more trouble than it’d ever get me into. My younger (and much larger) brother was on the football team so they never hassled me. I shared a study hall with an old friend on the team and one of his buddies. Name was Quinn, dude was 6’8”, 300 lbs, built like a gorilla. Quiet, never added much to the conversation, but a nice enough guy if you didn’t make him mad. I used to crack a lot of jokes and tell funny stories to my buddy and Quinn in a study hall we shared together. I’d keep them laughing the whole hour we had together every other day. Quinn never said more than a few one-syllable words, but he always, always laughed.

“One day I had heard that one of my uncle’s awful stepsons was spreading a gross rumor about me. I don’t remember details, but it was nasty. Quinn approaches me two days after this guy started spreading this rumor and says, ‘You don’t

have to worry about that stupid story anymore, HeftyPockets. I took care of it.' I asked what he was talking about. He said he heard the guy spreading this rumor to a few classmates and 'had a talk' with him after class. Rumor stopped dead in its tracks and that guy never so much as made a snide comment about me again. Heard through the grapevine that he threatened to kick the ever-loving shit out of him if he ever heard him talking poorly about me again.

"It pays to be funny, kids."

2) Seeking\_Starlight wrote, "I have a sloth guy. Three separate family events over the last 15 years? I've called my guy and he's brought a sloth to the party."

3) prunepicker wrote, "I have a tamale guy. Everyone should have a tamale guy."

nono)\_baddog commented, "I worked in restaurants for years. I learned that Hispanic communities really do have a 'guy' for everything, at least where I live — there's a car repair 'guy' they all go to, a tax 'guy,' etc. Well, my buddy Felipe introduced me to the Tamale Guy, and I go see him almost weekly ever since I was introduced. You just drop by his house and go in the kitchen door in the back and he's in there, like six days a week. Fucking rad."

Bkbee commented, "I grew up in Central California (Modesto) and my mom taught high school on the west side of town and there was a tamale lady that would come to the high school and all the teachers would get so happy and throw money at her for them."

runner\_available commented, "My grandma has a tamale guy; she helped him with his citizenship paperwork and every year he overnights us tamales for Christmas. They're the best tamales I've ever eaten, I look forward to it every year!"

colomommy commented, “The best tamale guys are ladies.”

LusciousofBorg wrote, “I have a tamale gal ... otherwise known as my Mom. :D”

4) Anton\_oderso wrote, “My uncle has a criminal history. He now owns a car business, but he is still in contact with old friends. He once told me that if I need something, he knows people I don’t want to know.”

angrymoleratsbaggle commented:

“One of my mother’s friends said something like that to me. Her son is in some gang, and she told me if I ever have a problem with someone to let her know and it’ll be taken care of.

“Kind of weird having an elderly lady sweetly offer to have people taken care of for ya.”

5) googlyevileye wrote:

“I am the birdfeeder ‘guy’ for a very wealthy man. When he’s on vacation, I will go in the morning to fill up the feeders and at night take them down.

“Edit: Since a lot of people are asking, we take them down at night because of the raccoons and skunks.”

johnzische commented:

“Keep at it, I started as the ‘weed guy’ for a billionaire, now I’m Director of Sales at the biggest cannabis farm in my state.

“Swimming in the wake of the very wealthy is a pretty common path to modest success.”

silk\_mitts\_top\_titts commented: “My side gig is being the ‘car guy’ for a couple wealthy clients. I can do anything with cars. Always wanted a particular car? I’ll find it and deliver

it to your driveway. For my uncle's 50th birthday, I found the 1967 electric blue Pontiac GTO he always wanted. Not *A* 1967 Pontiac GTO. *THE* one he wanted that belonged to his best friend's dad when he was a kid — the exact car — and I restored it personally and gave it to him as a gift. If you have a few cars and just want them to be cleaned and maintained regularly? I got it. You want a custom hot rod, race car, dune buggy? Hit me up. Want to sell a car? I got you. I can be a mechanic, detailer, broker, builder, body shop, or painter, and I'll even come right to your fucking house and do it. It's not a real business or anything. Just something I do for a couple people who don't mind paying for my time.”<sup>95</sup>

## 96. “Redditors Who Grew Up Poor, What Do You Associate With Being Rich?”

1) Awkward\_Name5898 wrote, “Being able to buy something you need without having to ask yourself how badly you need it.”

Alohamorra95 commented, “A .5 inch nub of a bar of soap, the deodorant plastic scraping your armpit but there's still some left, the one-blade disposable razor that is slightly rusty but ‘still good.’ I felt this in my soul. I'm a lot better off now and living comfortably, and I am still frugal. My husband has to tell me at times to just throw it out and buy a new one.”

2) Top\_Confidence\_9177 wrote, “There's a line from the character Nick Miller in the TV series *New Girl* that describes being well off as ‘filling-your-gas-tank-up-all-the-way rich.’ That was the rich I wanted to be. Comfortable. Also not having to do math in the grocery store to see what

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<sup>95</sup> Source: Roentgenographer, “Reddit, what is the strangest thing you ‘have a guy’ for?” Reddit. AskReddit. 10 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qr7iq7/reddit\\_what\\_is\\_the\\_strangest\\_thing\\_you\\_have\\_a\\_guy/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qr7iq7/reddit_what_is_the_strangest_thing_you_have_a_guy/) >.



food you can buy. I hated that. I wanted to just go buy necessities like gas and food without worrying. Proud to say that now I usually fill my gas tank all the way and don't do math when buying groceries."

phiggie commented, "Now this brought back memories. My dad literally was doing math in a notebook while we shopped to make sure we could afford everything. Never bought anything outside of essentials either."

poisonedkiwi commented, "Same. My dad would tell me to bring my shitty blue calculator from school and we'd go to the store. I felt so cool, like I had the most important job in the world."

3) didntsignup4dis wrote, "Regular doctor's office visits or seeing a dentist at all for anything other than an emergency."

donotmatthews commented, "I didn't see a dentist from the age of 16-34."

Kinwesteros commented, "What on earth? Reading this make me realise the amazingness of the National Health Service. Want to see a doctor? Make an appointment / don't pay a penny. What to see a dentist? \$30. Why you all don't riot, I will never know. You pay taxes, so you deserve a healthcare system that works regardless of your income."

Note by David Bruce: In some ways, the USA is a backwards country, as when it comes to providing health care for its impoverished citizens. Other rich countries do that just fine.

4) alanbastard wrote, "Not having debt collectors coming round."

Edmaaaate commented, "This! I remember multiple occasions where my mum would run into the living room, turn everything off frantically, and tell us to hide until she said we could come out. People would knock and look

through the windows, etc. And eventually leave and I never really thought about that until fairly recently. Was 100% debt collection and my mum not being able to pay.”

5) rusty\_L\_shakleford wrote, “Picking an entrée at a restaurant based on what I want to eat versus which one is cheapest or which one I can eat the rest of for my next meal, too. Such luxury.”

6) UnderTheFishHook wrote, “Parents having time to show up in school events or parents throwing birthday parties in school for their kid.”

Diredoe commented, “One of my friends was going through that with her kids’ school pre-Covid. She managed to get her kid into an honestly really great elementary school, and her son’s teacher was pretty much shaming her for never showing up during school events, specifically the ones that happen during school hours — the time of day when she worked. When she tried explaining to the teacher that she worked during the day, the teacher suggested taking a vacation or sick time. My friend tried to explain to her that she doesn’t *get* vacation or sick time at her jobs. The teacher then insinuated that she wasn’t caring for her son’s education by not being there to support him. So much BS.”

7) Waxnpoetic wrote:

“Indifference. I realized what real wealth meant in high school when we cleaned up trash from a creek and the rich kids wore their Polo shirts, Guess jeans, and Jordan’s because if they were trashed they simply would get new. The poor kids wore their grubby clothes they do labor in.

“Wealth is shown most acutely by indifference: Nothing matters because money will fix it and there is plenty enough to fill black holes.”

BrittaForTheWinnn commented, “Man, this hits home. And I knew how hard my parents worked for everything our family had. I was grateful for my hand-me-downs. Going to houses where girls hung their jeans on hangers was mind-blowing to me.”

8) DirtySingh wrote, “Eating pizza because you want to, not because it’s \$2. That and mom eating along with us normally instead of pretending that the crust is her favorite part and that’s why she’d eat the crust we leave.”

Psyco-diver commented, “I remember my parents not eating dinner and they said they weren’t hungry or had a big lunch. Wasn’t till I was older that I understood what was happening.”

acidthoughtloop commented, “You just unlocked a memory omg. My dad tried his best to make sure we had everything we wanted / needed and he was damn good at it. May he rest in peace. I remember I was like 12 or something, and he took me and my little brother to Cici’s for a buffet but he didn’t get one for himself because he said he didn’t like pizza and wasn’t hungry. I knew he loved the salad bar, but I believed him. Anyways, when I got my food I offered him a slice and he ate it. One of the workers came up and told him he had to buy a buffet if he wanted to eat. I guess the people sitting at the table next to us overheard and a few minutes later the employee came up to us and told my dad that they had paid for his buffet. He enjoyed the hell out of that salad bar. Lmao. That’s when I realized we didn’t have all the money in the world, and it’s not that he wasn’t hungry — he just didn’t wanna ‘waste money’ on himself.”

Elegant\_Extreme3268 commented:

“I completely forgot about my mom saying that the crust is her favorite until you saying that.

“Like I noticed my parents always said they weren’t hungry when my sibling and I got happy meals when we were out all day and eventually caught on to that but that crust thing went over my head until just now.”

tacknosaddle commented:

“‘Pretending that the crust is her favorite part.’

“That reminds me of the story about the mom who always ate the head of the fish. Her son grew up and became successful, and when she was at dinner at his house, he offered her the head of the fish. It was only then that she admitted to him that she did not prefer the head of the fish, that she just told them that when they were growing up so that they could have the better portions.

“In my family ‘the head of the fish’ became shorthand for sacrificing for someone else from that tale.”

person749 commented:

“Just want to say that if you’re in this situation, please, please take advantage of food banks and other resources available to you. There is absolutely no shame in it. Contact your local government offices, town halls, senior centers, and churches to find out what resources there are for you. Facebook and Google searches can help you find local resources as well. You may also qualify for food stamps, but even if you don’t, most food banks don’t have financial requirements. You show up, you get food.

“I’m sure it’s not the case with all food banks, but some of our local ones even have more food and donations than they can give out and end up needing to throw things away, so don’t worry that you might be taking food from someone who ‘really needs it.’ You’re not. It’s for you. You deserve it. Resources are there to help you, please use them. No one deserves to go hungry.”

9) Sock989 wrote, “Eating dinner at a table.”

Doctor-Whodunnit wrote, “I just bought my first table. It’s pretty wild how cool something so seemingly small feels.”

Diredoe commented, “I grew up poor As Fuck and my mom insisted on us eating dinner at a table, at least for most of my childhood. But then, she was horrified at the idea of her kids growing up to be ‘white trash,’ so she made sure to raise us with a certain mindset.”<sup>96</sup>

### **97. “Parents Of Reddit, Would You Have Been Your Child’s Friend At Their Age, Why Or Why Not?”**

1) SmartAlec105 wrote:

“I’m really glad my uncle actively used his popularity to prevent bullying in high school after he used to be bullied in middle school. One of the stories is someone was making fun of some new kid so my uncle said:

““Hey, don’t make fun of my friend — what’s your name?”

““Pete.’

““My friend Pete!””

2) Annual\_Rooster5678 wrote:

“Three kids.

“First — No, he is too cool for who I was at that age. I would have wanted to be friends with him, but he would have intimidated me.

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<sup>96</sup> Source: phiggle, “Redditors who grew up poor, what do you associate with being rich?” Reddit. AskReddit. 10 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qqz907/redditors\\_who\\_grew\\_up\\_poor\\_what\\_do\\_you\\_associate/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qqz907/redditors_who_grew_up_poor_what_do_you_associate/) >.

“Second — No, with her snarky attitude I would have been too insecure and taken her jokes personally.

“Third — Yes, his quiet nature and ability to be a patient and loyal friend would have fit me.”

3) themaloryman wrote:

“This is an absolutely top-notch question, and I’ve never seen it before!

“My answer is ‘Probably not’ to my eldest (she’s too cool, and although she’s kind, I would have been afraid of her) and ‘Yes, I think so’ to my youngest, who is a similar kind of creative dork to me at that age.”

pintotakesthecake commented, “Omg big same! My eldest is easy to get along with and naturally cool; I’d have been terrified of her even if she was nice to me! My younger one is a mega dork just like me; we’d totally have been in the corner of the school yard making dinosaur noises together.”

4) johnwalkersbeard wrote:

“Oldest kid is 24, and in the Army. Probably, but he parties really hard on leave so I would have only hung out if I could afford the next day for recovery.

“Middle kid is 10 and super chill. Probably yes, again, but he’s reaaaallly into video games and I am reaaaallly not. So we would have probably been friends at school but not close enough for overnights.

“Youngest kid is six and struggling with his energy at school. He’s a great kid, very loving and kind, but fucking wild and energetic. His mom and I have had a lot of calls from the school. Six-year-old me would probably have been scared of him.

“I love the shit out of all of them, though.”

Nok\_tortor commented:

“I am all three of your children. I was a hard partier in the army who loves video games and had (has?) Insane ADHD. The worst thing my parents ever did was put me on meds for ADHD. It destroyed my life and they admit it. When they took me off, my dad would take me to the skatepark after school or play video games with me and let me burn off all my energy and that worked better than all the damn Adderall. My dad, god bless him would get home from work tired as hell and play soccer in the front yard or watch me ride my bike for hours until I was tired enough to sit down and do my homework. In the morning he would let me play my guitar as loud as I wanted and head bang to metal running around the house like a mad man to help me chill out. He would even let me ride my bike around the neighborhood while I waited for the school bus in the morning and then bet me that I couldn’t beat it in a drag race. My parents just letting me be a damn kid saved my life.

“In high school my parents bought me a very nice bike and made me ride it 3-4 miles to school. (I loved riding it to school.) That would put me in a perfect zen for the rest of the school day until I rode home and had a pretty chill level of energy.”

5) MikhailDovlatov wrote, “I love my mother a lot and she loves me, but when I asked her that question she said no, and I was sure that she would answer like that.”

6) NeedsMoreTuba wrote:

“She’s three, and I don’t think they’re very picky about who they play with, so yeah totally.

“But I’m pretty sure I would hang out with her at any age. She’s smart and funny, and we like the same cartoons.

“Coincidentally, she also just said to me, ‘I love hanging out with you, Mommy.’”

7) HunterIceFool wrote:

“What a fantastic question! I have a baby, a three-year-old boy and a five-year-old girl. Babies don’t really have friends; they’re basically chaotic agents of destruction. The boy is huge. I was a small, frail, pallid little wisp of a boy. Probably wore velvet overalls and a floppy hat. The boy would have terrified me in preschool. Pass. The girl is slight, extremely funny and a drama llama. I think we would have been besties, honestly.

“I love them all. The girl is likely gonna move away when she’s grown. The boy ... I’ll have him carry me around in a basket on his back like Hodor.”

8) klamwit wrote, “My daughter is 19, and she’s the best and most fantastic person I know. I would’ve been so happy to have been her friend when I was 19.”<sup>97</sup>

## **98. “What Are Women Supposed To Do When Harassment Happens On The Streets?”**

1) Skeletonhair wrote:

“What I found to be the single most effective thing is to challenge him. I had a guy say something really vulgar to me and I looked him in the eye with as much confidence as I could and said, loud enough for everyone else to hear, ‘I don’t think I heard you. Why don’t you go ahead and repeat what you just said to me for everyone to hear?’ He got really

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<sup>97</sup> Source: steakcheesefootl0ng, “[serious](parents of Reddit) would you have been your child’s friend at their age, why or why not?” Reddit. AskReddit. 11 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qrsp8f/seriousparents\\_of\\_reddit\\_would\\_you\\_have\\_been\\_your/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qrsp8f/seriousparents_of_reddit_would_you_have_been_your/) >.



embarrassed and tried to backpedal and I just asked him again to repeat it. He left really quickly. Dudes like that get off on making you uncomfortable. Turn it around on them and they don't know what to do.

“ONLY do this if you're in public with other people around because there is a chance it'll be a really crazy dude who will get worse when you do that. (I have yet to have that happen though, they usually just leave.) If you're alone, best thing to do is run.”

2) coolbrohaha wrote, “I just keep walking normally.”<sup>98</sup>

**99. “Redditors Who Have Experienced Homelessness, Do Donated Knitted And Crocheted Items Actually Reach You? Which Item And Colors Were Most Helpful And Comforting To You?”**

Hello\_Hangnail wrote, “I've never gotten any handknitted anything from the health department but plenty of Walmart-quality stuff. SOCKS are like finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Convertible gloves that won't fall apart. Long narrow scarves you can wrap five times around your neck are awesome, too.”<sup>99</sup>

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98 Source: ShortyTallZx, “What are women supposed to do when harassment happens on the streets?” Reddit. AskReddit. 13 November 2021 <

[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qt9416/what\\_are\\_women\\_supposed\\_to\\_do\\_when\\_harassment/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qt9416/what_are_women_supposed_to_do_when_harassment/) >.

99 Source: Glassfern, “[Serious] Redditors who have experienced homelessness, do donated knitted and crocheted actually reach you? Which item and colors were most helpful and comforting to you?”

Reddit. AskReddit. 13 November 2021 <

[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qszm0q/serious\\_redditors\\_who\\_have\\_experienced/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qszm0q/serious_redditors_who_have_experienced/) >.

**100. “As You Get Older, How Do You Cope With Loss And Change? How Do You Choose To Live Each Day?”**

1) ArtSpeaker wrote:

“If you died, would you want your loved ones to completely shut down? To lose their ability to live their lives for the rest of their own lives? I hope not. And you shouldn’t think the deceased expect that of you either.

“Life is all about change. Always has been. Most of it is going to hurt. But you don’t do it for the endings — you do it for the journey.

“If that wasn’t true, we’d never be dog or cat or fish owners. We’d never start relationships with anyone. Loss is the cost of having. And having is more than worth loss.”

Puling\_Child wrote, “So, my father died a few days ago, very suddenly. And it’s been so hard without him. But reading this is a great comfort. ‘Loss is the cost of having.’ This pain of losing him was worth it for the joy of having him for a father.”

2) guapxander wrote:

“As I get older, I find more reasons to live each day.

“The older I become, the more I realize that I have one chance to have emotions, a body, feelings, physical interactions, and everything we were given. Through this, I have been able to value life a lot more.

“When I was young, I always had the thought that everything we do doesn’t matter because we would die one day. That’s where I’m wrong.

“Everyone in our generation will die one day, everyone living and breathing right now will die one day. But everyone living and breathing is our playing field, our

reality. We don't know who's going to be alive in 100 years, and that doesn't matter. Just have fun and enjoy everything you are given at this point in time.

“Make the best out of your life.”

The\_RedJacket commented:

“To add to this, I propose the question, what is the purpose of the universe if not for life to exist? Without life, there is no story to be told.

“Each person has a unique story. Sure, most will have similar broad strokes. But the details of each individual life are the beauty of it all.

“For example, *Lord of the Rings*. A story with such great detail and lore, that a completely different book, *The Silmarillion*, was written to accompany it for the sake of the vast lore. And the movies, which despite being long as hell, could capture only a portion of the entirety of the stories, is held in high regards because the story is so well thought out and detailed.

“But back to the beauty in the details of life. Yes, those details will include tragedy. That is life. But, as harsh as those tragedies may be, they help highlight the good times. It's a cliché, but still true that you can't know joy, without pain.

“Which brings me to two beautiful songs. The first being ‘Hold on to Memories’ by Disturbed. The music video does a great job adding meaning to the song, but in short for those who may not be aware of The Day of the Dead Holiday celebrated in Mexico, which is a holiday where they honor and remember those who have past. The song really drives home the point that a person never truly dies until their existence is forgotten by all those still alive.

“The second song, ‘Turn! Turn! Turn!’ by The Byrds, well it can be summed up by any of its many lines, such as ‘a time to laugh, a time to weep.’ Life has its ups and downs, but we can’t let the times to weep sour the times to laugh. In fact, times of mourning should help *enhance* the times to dance.

“All this is to say to anyone still reading this, if you’re looking for a reason to power through the bad times, let this be the reason. *Your story is worth remembering, your story is worth the stone it’s to be written on. And only you can live your story. So live it.*”

3) goggojack wrote:

“The second part of your question is easy. Did I wake up on this side of the lawn today? Yes? Okay then. Let’s see what we can do with today.

“As for the first part? The reality is that, as you get older, you’re going to be going to an ever-increasing number of funerals and ‘celebration of life’ events. You’re going to get a lot of practice dealing with loss. It never really gets easy, but it gets ... easier?

“There’s also a chance that you’ll come face to face with your own mortality. I had a health scare a couple years back. It was touch and go for a while, and really put things into perspective. I was in an ICU [Intensive Care Unit], staring up at the clock on the wall when it hit me:

“It wasn’t just telling me what time it was. There was another level. Before, I’d look at it and say, ‘It’s 8 o’clock.’ That night, I looked up and thought, ‘It’s 8 o’clock, and I’m still not dead.’ Then it was 8:30. Still not dead. Then it was 9 ... and so on.

“Being on this side of the lawn is a pretty good thing. Cherish the time you have. Could be years. Could be minutes.”

4) Purplefoxlady wrote, “I remind myself that change is essential to living and try to actively think of how I have changed for the better. There is still plenty of positive change I could use in my life but acknowledging the path I’m on and what I want out of life is most important. I’m single for the first time in my adult life and it’s so terrifying but also so liberating. Making sure I’m meeting my needs and being my most authentic self is really important to me right now and not just existing to be the other half of a couple. I still have a lot of fear around the changes but I try to remember the whys and that my happiness is key.”

The\_RedJacket wrote:

“This is a great answer, and I would like to add, if you don’t mind, that it’s important to explore negative emotions.

“I like to believe that a big part of why I’m as emotionally well-adjusted as I am is because I listen to a lot of music that deals with negative emotions: Linkin Park, Beyond the Black, Disturbed, and Evanescence, for examples.

“Focusing on your own happiness can very much include exploring the negative to help grow a greater appreciation for the good things in life.”

5) sixthandelm wrote:

“When I was younger, I thought that everyone was so much better at dealing with these things than me. That I was a wreck because weird things bothered me, and everyone else seemed fine.

“As I got older, I learned that no one has really got it figured out. We’re all freaking out about different things, and no one is as put-together as they seem.

“For some reason, that helped. I felt less afraid of not being sure of myself once I realized that was a pretty common

feeling and no one really knew what they were doing on that front.

“Once I stopped worrying about being the only one who couldn’t cope, I was easier on myself, and stopped thinking I couldn’t handle life, and what was to come. Everyone was else was messing up, too, but it was ok and they got past it and I didn’t have to be worried or upset at myself for not always being ok.”<sup>100</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> Source: fakedeepthought, “As you get older, how do you cope with loss and change? How do you choose to live each day?” Reddit. AskReddit. 13 November 2021 < [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qsvehpe/as\\_you\\_get\\_older\\_how\\_do\\_you\\_cope\\_with\\_loss\\_and/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/qsvehpe/as_you_get_older_how_do_you_cope_with_loss_and/) >.

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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 Dance*, *Homer’s Iliad: A Retelling in Prose*, and *William Shakespeare’s Othello: 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 Case is Altered: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's Catiline's Conspiracy: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's The Devil is an Ass: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's Epicene: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's Every Man in His Humor: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's Every Man Out of His Humor: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's The Fountain of Self-Love, or Cynthia's Revels: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's The New Inn: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's Sejanus' Fall: 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 Peele's David and Bathsheba, and the Tragedy of Absalom: A Retelling*

*George Peele's Edward I: 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*

*Boredom is Anti-Life: 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*