Deconstructing

Civilization

For whatever it's worth, if I die before this gets completed, I had every intention of fixing typos, tying up a lot of loose ends and making this way, way funnier.

Chapters

__Disclaimer:__ This book contains gratuitous profanity. Many of the subjects discussed are controversial by nature and may be viewed as offensive to some. Usually this is where the author says, "Dedicated to Brooke, the love of my life", but my wife has requested that I leave her name out of this smut. Sorry, Brooke.

Introduction

Look here, you perverted toad-kissing wannabe Disney princess ass snowflakes. I'm not here to beat around your mom's overgrown bush, and it's a good damn thing because we both know she hasn't shaved a single hair off that mountain laurel since she was flicking her bean to Danny Zuko in the late 70's. This book is **offensive**. For Christ's sake if you're a delicate little dolphin then put this book down and go read some god damn racist Dr. Seuss novel instead.

Also, Dolphins aren't really delicate, they're fucking horrifying horny creatures that have been spotted chewing on pufferfish to get high and are willing to fuck a trout to death and it use its corpse to masturbate to completion. If you don't believe me, fucking google that shit. And if you ever see a dolphin, you better Michael Phelps it the fuck out of there because they will gladly use your fucking face as a fleshlight if you let them. Unless you're just into that type of shit, in which case I'm not one to shame good old-fashioned gland-to-gland combat between two consenting parties, you weird little dolphin fucker, you.

That's another thing about this book, it's God damn educational. This is all the shit your parents should've taught you, but instead they spent all the time blowing your college money to get high on Oxycontin. No, I'm not giving you my god damn sources. This isn't a fucking high school essay and I'm too drunk right now to figure out how to cite my dick in MLA format. Citations made a LOT more sense in the early 1900's when you had to peruse through 5,000 books and risk catching the Spanish Flu just so you could spend 4 hours getting papercuts and thumbing through hundreds of pages to find the exact paragraph that verifies that "hey the author wasn't a god damn liar". It's 2021, you've got google access on at least 3 devices in your house. Use the shit.

Speaking of the Spanish Flu, if we're really going to be accurate, and as adamant as the Trump administration was about nicknaming COVID-19 "The Chinese Virus" we should really consider going back and changing the Spanish flu to "The American Flu" since the virus that killed roughly 1 out of every 30 people on earth most likely originated in Kansas. God DAMNIT Dorothy, all you had to do was wash your hands and wear a fucking mask.

I welcome people to challenge everything I say, there's gonna be a lot of information in this book and I'm sure some of it's flawed. I'm a god damn human. I'm gonna have some fucking opinions, I'm not saying they're right, and I don't expect you to agree with all of them. What are you, fucking 5? You spot a hole in my argument? Great! If I say "Killing babies is bad because they don't even taste delicious" that's a pretty shitty justification for why killing babies is bad. Nobody's saying that your only options are to let them live or eat them. CONGRATS! You've now spotted a hole in my argument. Does that mean killing babies ISN'T bad? Of course not. The lesson here is that being able to spot a hole in an argument doesn't mean that the thing that's being argued (in this case, "You shouldn't eat babies") is wrong.

Really, what's weird is we usually DON'T look for holes in arguments when we agree with someone. Or if we DO notice them, you might be afraid of pointing it out because you don't want people to think you're siding with the baby killers. But you SHOULD point out the holes in arguments, ESPECIALLY if you agree with them. That's how you make an argument even stronger. In "Hack the Army 3.0", the U.S. army paid out more than $150,000 to people who would hack them and find cybersecurity holes. They do that to prevent their opponents from finding the holes first, and it's a sensible fucking strategy.

But frankly, I don't give a shit if you read this book for comedic value, or you actually take something away from it. Just give me some god damn money because I gambled away the only cash I have to an Italian mob boss over a Paralympic curling match and I'm about 24 hours from waking up next a horse's head on my pillow if I can't pay up.

You'll notice me using caps a lot. We call that EMPHASIS. Emphasis is important because different types of emphasis can mean all kinds of different things. Here's a classic example how one sentence can have 7 different meanings depending on the emphasis:

I didn't say we should kill him. = somebody else said we should kill him

I **DIDN'T** say we should kill him. = I deny saying that we should kill him

I didn't **SAY** we should kill him. = I implied we should kill him, but I didn't say it out loud.

I didn't say **WE** should kill him. = I said someone else should kill him

I didn't say we **SHOULD** kill him. = I likely said we shouldn't kill him

I didn't say we should **KILL** him. = I said we should do something with him OTHER than killing him

I didn't say we should kill **HIM**. = I said we should kill someone else.

If you see me putting emphasis on a word, it's PROBABLY because I imagined there being some emphasis in my head as I wrote it down. I'm trying to make sure you're receiving the same translation of that sentence that I intended.

And as you can probably already see, I cuss. A lot. Cussing results in elevated **endorphins in your brain**, and an overall sense of calm, control, and well-being. That's just fucking science. Cussing can also increase your pain tolerance which is probably for the best because some of my jokes are gonna b e so bad that they're painful. Also, let's just get this out of the way now. Not every single line or sentence in this is gonna be hilarious. Again, this book is a COMBINATION of humor and education, but sometimes it's hard to get an educational point across without you going, "DANCE FOR ME MONKEY BOY COMEDIAN TELL ME ANOTHER "HA HA" THAT LAST LINE DIDN'T EVEN MAKE ME CHORTLE".

Look, I'm under a lot of God damn pressure here to create engaging content and I'm writing this book because I want to enjoy it. Everyone should write a book; YOU should

write a book. It doesn't even matter what it's about or if it comes across sounding like a ranting alcoholic going through a mid-life crisis because you're in your early 30's and tried to show your ID to the teenage cashier to buy beer at the grocery store, but he just looked at you like you're his grandpops telling him how you used to buy Frank Sinatra tickets for a nickel. WELL FUCK YOU TOO, JACOB FROM PUBLIX.

But seriously, this book covers some controversial topics and I genuinely do not think it will be possible for ANYONE to read this entire book without being offended by SOMETHING I've said. If something offends you - hey, I'm sorry. Move on to the next subject, I'm sure you'll agree with me on SOMETHING. But I'm not here to MAKE you agree with me on ANYTHING. As far as I'm concerned, I'm a lazy idiot who has to rely on comedy and excessive use of profanity as a crutch to cover up my lack of understanding on some of these topics.

What I won't do is *intentionally* cite some statistic or piece of information that isn't true. But I may have a mistake, and statistics CHANGE. For example, I could say "Your parents have 3 kids". If your brother shows up at my doorstep tomorrow saying "HA! That statistic is WRONG. Our parents have FOUR kids, because our mom just gave birth to a baby girl this morning!" well then I have no choice than to relentlessly end his life by beating him over the head with a plastic wiffle bat. THEY HAVE 3 KIDS NOW. YOU SHALL NOT MAKE A LIAR OUT OF ME, SIR.

It's your JOB to question everything I say. It's easy for people to be skeptical of shit that they don't believe, but most people rarely fact check when they encounter information that they agree with, especially if it KINDA makes sense.

Let's say you go online and read "Circumcision was made popular in 19th century because the dude who created Corn Flakes cereal and a bunch of medical doctors who were opposed to boys jerking off said "HEY WE SHOULD ALL CUT THE SKIN OFF THEIR DICKS SO THEY'LL STOP PLAYING WITH THEIR WILLY AT THE DINNER TABLE".

If you're someone who's OPPOSED to circumcision, and maybe you remember hearing your cousin once telling you something similar to this, you MIGHT read that article and say "Hey, that sounds vaguely familiar, so there's a good chance it's true". But if I'm in FAVOR of circumcision, I'm going to think that's a load of horseshit and do some more research. Frankly, I'm going to want to reject it because it doesn't align with my worldview, and I want the confirmation bias of believing my worldview is correct. But you should stop to research new information even if it DOES align with your worldview. You should be skeptical even if you DO believe them, and even if it DOES seem to make sense, or if it sounds like something you've heard before.

I know that sounds weird, but there's some truth to this. Claims that John Kellogg helped popularize circumcision and opposed foreskin WERE part of marketing campaign by some anti-circumcision groups. It's also something that *some* opponents to circumcision legitimately BELIEVED.

Why did America start cutting baby boys?

Dr. John Harvey Kellogg

Because this guy thought masturbation was nasty.

intactamerica.org

The fact is, there WERE doctors who encouraged circumcision as a way to reduce the frequency of masturbation. The creator of Corn Flakes, John Kellogg DID say circumcision should be used as a **punishment** for boys who are caught masturbating (He really hated masturbating). However, there's no evidence that shows he was opposed to foreskin, or that he believed it would decrease their sexual urges. He basically wanted to use it as a slap on the wrist. Or better yet, a snip off the tip.

To this day, I still don't fuck with Kellogg cereal. I know damn well what a bowl full of foreskin floating in 2% milk looks like when I see it, and Corn Flakes is NOT a vibe.

It's also true that circumcision WAS made popular in the 19th century. However, it was made popular during World War 1 because American troops were confined to the trenches and suffered from infections that required circumcision. When they got home, many of them had their sons circumcised to promote better hygiene.

So, question shit you don't believe. Question shit you DO believe. Question the shit your parents spent your whole life telling you. Hell, question science. (I do acknowledge that just implying that is sort of a slippery slope that leads to flat earthers and antivaxxers who think Bill Gates is creating an army of cyborgs by microchipping people).

But conventionally there's a common misconception of what science is. Science was MEANT to be questioned. That's the entire beauty of science, being able to create repeatable and verifiable experiments. Good scientific studies are written and published in a way that explicitly explains HOW they've conducted their experiments, WHERE their data and research came from, and WHAT their findings are. That way, if YOU want to question the science, then YOU have the ability to follow their steps and see those results for yourself.

The reality is, you're probably too lazy to do that. You may not have the resources, and frankly, there is so much research being done at any given time that it'd be impossible for one person to test EVERY experiment. But that's why peer reviews exist. "Peers" are other scientists and experts in that field, and it is literally their JOB to question the science on your behalf.

But a major issue is the way that's news reports science and the way people often take it at face value. You may be going through your Facebook and stumble on a news article that says "BREAKING: SCIENTISTS FIND THAT GETTING TATTOOS WILL

BOOST YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM", and hey, the average person might read that article and say "wow, that's not unreasonable and since scientists say it's true, must be true". And it IS true that there was a study for this EXACT example in the American Journal of Human Biology.

BUT what these news articles are really saying is ONE scientist or one group of scientists conducted an experiment and found data supporting this claim. It's now the job of OTHER scientists to find flaws in HOW they did their research and either find issues with the experiment or attempt to replicate the results. It's entirely possible that the second group of scientists might find an issue with the way the experiment was conducted, recreate the experiment WITHOUT that issue, and then find completely opposite results. And in the case of tattoos boosting immune systems, there ARE many scientists who question the methodology of this research. So, you can't CLAIM tattoos will boost your immune system without more evidence. Personally, I find it hard to believe tattoos boost your immune system when every SoundCloud rapper I ever meet tells me they're sick.

But that's what science is. The goal is to TRY to prove that something is ALWAYS true given the same set of circumstances and having other peers verify or deny those results. It's not just one group of scientists finding data and everyone just blindly accepting it. There's SUPPOSED to be skepticism.

After MANY groups of scientists all view the results as valid and are all able to REPLICATE those results successfully, that there's a collective agreement among the entire scientific community that the methodology and results were valid. At which point, there's strong evidence that the hypothesis itself was valid. So, when you read a news article or hear a podcast that says "SCIENTISTS HAVE FOUND THAT URANUS IS LEAKING GAS", that does NOT necessarily mean that there's an agreement among the entire scientific community. So, what you can NOT do (which many people do anyway) is bring that up in an argument and state that it's a "scientific fact". That's not how ANY of this works. (But in this case, scientists have studied Uranus VERY thoroughly. It's PRETTY certain that Uranus leaks gas at LEAST once a day, every day. Fact check it).

This misunderstanding leads to people being confused about certain topics. For example, scientists may be FUNDED by tobacco companies and put together a study that claims that there's no link between secondhand tobacco smoke and coronary heart disease. OTHER scientists may state that the research was flawed and biased and then put together experiments and find evidence that this is false. Then news sources and average citizens may read these conflicting reports and just say "HEY THESE SCIENCE IDIOTS ARE CONTRADICTING THEMSELVES; THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FUCK THEY'RE DOING" which causes people to doubt the science because they don't understand how the process actually works. They just see conflicting reports from "scientists" and people who smoke cigarettes are most likely going to side with the scientists who support cigarettes, and the people who don't approve of smoking are going to support the other scientists.

It's important to understand these nuances if you're going to be properly informed. If you're in a discussion where someone says, "My cousin's a scientist and she told me

evolution isn't real", this is what's called the "Appeal to Authority fallacy". Hey, maybe their cousin IS a scientist. There are all KINDS of fields in science, they could be a plant pathologist. They probably know some COOL ASS plant facts, like "90% of the foods humans eat come from just 30 plants". "Baby Koalas eat their mother's shit to get the bacteria they need to be able to eat Eucalyptus leaves".

Both things are true and fucking AWESOME things to know. But that doesn't make them an expert, or even imply that they know anything at ALL about evolution. HOWEVER, if they said, "My cousin is an evolutionary biologist and SHE told me evolution isn't real." then that's something completely different. In THAT case, their cousin IS an expert in the field of evolution. However, their cousin MAY still be reporting inaccurate, biased, or incomplete information/observations. Maybe she's being funded by a group of creationists, or a group of chimpanzees, or a group of creationist chimpanzees. If 97% of evolutionary biologists all agree that their data supports the theory that evolution is real, the 3% of evolutionary biologists who disagree are most likely irrelevant.

Question the statistics I show you and question the statistics you read online. Just because you see a statistic on something, doesn't mean that the implication is correct. Don't put all your blind fucking faith in statistics. Statistics are flawed and are distorted to misrepresent information ALL the time.

I'm gonna give you an example. There will be more math examples later in the book. There will be some numbers, and it may require more than just skimming through it to fully follow what's going on. I know what you're thinking, "I DIDN'T GET THIS BOOK SO I'D HAVE DO MATH HOMEWORK", just relax. The only reason I'm writing out all these numbers is so that if you WANT to look things up, pull the calculator out and verify them for yourself, you have the ability to do that. If you don't want to stress over the numbers, just skim over it and focus on the main point of what I'm saying. I'm not grading you on this shit.

There were 2 baseball players in 1995 and 1996 named Derek Jeter and David Justice. If you're not familiar with baseball, "Batting average" is a percentage representing how many times the player hit the ball out of the number of times they've gone up to the plate to swing. A .250 batting average means that **1** out of every **4** times the player went up to bat, they hit the ball.

In 1995 Derek Jeter had a batting average of .250, while David Justice had a batting average of .253. Based on those numbers, you'd say that David Justice was more successful than Derek Jeter. In 1996, Jeter had a batting average of .314 while Justice had a batting average of .321. That means David Justice had a higher batting average than Jeter in 1995 AND a higher batting average in 1996.

Now I could write a news article that says "DAVID JUSTICE. IS HE EVEN BETTER THAN DEREK JETER?!" and the answer is absolutely fucking not. In 1995 Jeter had

12/48 hits, and in 1996 he had **183/582** hits. Add those up and you get **195/630** hits. That's a .310 average (rounded). Justice had **104/411** hits in 1995 and **45/140** hits in 1996. Add those up and that's **149/551** hits. That's a .270 average.

The reality is if you **combine** the 2 years, Jeter blew him out of the fucking water, and it wasn't even close. But if I said to you "Justice had a better batting average in both 1995 and 1996" I wouldn't be lying, nor would I be wrong. But there's a missing story here, and the way I report those statistics CAN give you a false understanding of the story itself.

Here's the point: statistics are useful, but you need to be aware that if you DON'T know all of the context behind the numbers, they're not useful for much.

Here's a simpler example with less math: More people are killed by cows than killed by sharks. And no, I don't mean by deaths caused by hamburgers and heart disease. I mean literal COW HOMICIDE. Cows statistically kill more people per year, and that's just a fact. A reporter could easily take this information, go on the news, and say COWS KILL MORE PEOPLE THAN SHARKS, EVERYBODY FREAK THE FUCK OUT. COWS ARE TURNING MURDEROUS, WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE, IT'S ***MOOOO-RDER***. Which at the very least means it's a slow fucking news day.

Technically, they'd be right, though. cows kill more people per year than sharks. Does it make them more deadly than sharks? No, not really. People are more likely to come into close contact with a cow than they will with a shark. If every day you went out into the ocean and got really fucking close to a horde of sharks and had some sort of open wound in the process, you'd be DRASTICALLY increasing your odds of getting killed. Still, sharks rarely attack humans.

One more example: The life expectancy at birth for English people in the late 16th and early 17th centuries was ~39.7 years old. You might think "FUCK, we really don't get a lot of time to live". But those numbers are distorted by the fact that there were a LOT of dead babies in the 16th - 17th century. In fact, 12% of ALL babies would die within 1 year, which DRASTICALLY brings down the average life expectancy.

I do sincerely want to apologize, I'm only 8 pages in and I really didn't plan to start pulling out the dead baby facts this early into the game, but here we are. I hope this picture of a kitten in a croc cheers you up.

The point is that context for numbers is just as important as the numbers themselves.

Let me be crystal fucking clear here. This book is COMEDIC haha jokester here. I'm not a lawyer, I'm not an accountant, I'm not a financial advisor. Nothing I say should be construed as financial advice, legal advice, or ANY form of professional advice for that matter. By reading any content contained within this book, you are acknowledging that you agree that I am NOT legally liable for however you may choose to interpret information found in this book.

This is a fucking coming-of-age book. Some of this shit might be conventional wisdom that you already know. WHOOPTYFUCKINGDOO aren't you a good fucking noodle smarty shit. I'm not JUST here to dig up fucking obscure fucking facts like "The majority of Canada's population lives south of Seattle". I mean, it's true. It's fucking interesting. But it's not the fucking point. This book is designed to hopefully help you become a better god damn thinker, a logical god damn person, and help you make the future decisions that will make you more successful. This is the book I wish someone had slapped me in the dick with when I was 16 or 17, but frankly I still could've used the shit when I was still well into my mid and late 20's.

I did a little survey asking random people online where they think their IQ falls. 167 people filled out the survey but then surveymonkey.com told me I could only view the first 100 responses unless I paid to upgrade my membership, but I'm not paying for that shit, which goes to show you how seriously I take my data in this stupid ass book. Here's the results for the first 100 people to respond:

Range	Numerical Range	Percentage of Population	Number of Responses
Extremely Below Average	55 and below	0.1%	ignored
Well Below Average	55 – 70	2%	1
Below Average	70 – 85	14%	4
Average	85 - 115	68%	37
Above Average	115 - 130	14%	39
Well Above Average	130 - 145	2%	13
Extremely Above Average	145 and above	0.1%	ignored

I'm going to completely ignore the 6 dickheads that voted themselves as extremely below average and extremely above average. Those poll options were really just to distract trolls and get somewhat credible data. Let's also point out that my main two sources of this data were from Facebook groups consisting of a fair number of college and grad school students, as well as some survey subreddits. I have no idea what the actual demographic involved is, but it's probably young, somewhat educated, and white as fuck. It's also a voluntary survey, which has a bias in itself. So, there are plenty of discrepancies that you can bitch about, and I agree, the methodology here is fucking horrible. I'm not a fucking scientist trying to test a hypothesis, I'm an idiot with a laptop and too much time on my fucking hands.

That being said, the point of this survey, which I hope pops the fuck off the page when you see it, is that **54% of people** who responded believe that they're in **the top 16% of people when it comes to intelligence**. You probably fancy yourself as an intellectual, too; Of course, you fucking do. However, if you're a numbers person, you could see that there is an 84% chance that you're either average or below-average intellectually. Say I put a gun up to your fucking head and told you to pick where you stand, between the 84% that's average and below average, or the 16% that's above average. I'm a numbers guy, I feel much more at peace with the probability that I'm part of the 6.4 billion people who are either average or below average, and nobody who's truly rational would put themselves in that category of 16% *without* some level of undeniable evidence that can justify it.

People drastically overestimate their ability. I would say that the MAJORITY of people never fully challenge themselves intellectually. It's INCREDIBLY easy for me to say "Hey, yeah if I applied myself, I could totally go to MIT and get a Ph. D in astrophysics and work for NASA, because I'm pretty damn intelligent". It's similar to your grandpa sitting in a recliner with a Steel Reserve in his hand yelling at the quarterback of the Detroit Lions because he made a bad play. NO SHIT THEY MADE A BAD PLAY, THEY'RE THE FUCKING DETROIT LIONS BRUH.

And hey, I don't blame him. We have mirror neurons in our brain, such that when we WATCH football players playing a game, our brain is reacting in a similar way to how it would react if we were actually out on the field and PLAYING that game ourselves. But still, it's important to know that you're NOT playing the game, and it's a lot easier to be

an armchair quarterback when nobody's shoving the ball into your hand and saying "Ok, if you know so much then YOU go get speared by a 300-pound linebacker".

In other words, it's incredibly easy to think you're educated when you're surrounded by people who aren't. It's not until you actually go through the process of working alongside other students who are likely to go on and do something useful in their fields, professors who all have PhDs that dedicate their lives to learning, and you're reading from textbooks filled with information that the most intelligent people in the world's history have discovered, that you can accurately measure what you know compared to how much information there IS to know. Surround yourself with uneducated people and you'll feel smart, surround yourself with educated people and you'll feel stupid. Yet ironically, you learn the most when you feel stupid and learn the least when you feel smart.

I always find it weird that the average person will claim to be intelligent but simultaneously turn around and say they don't like math, or science, or really ANY subject that actually requires effort to learn. You can be educated and stupid, just like you can be intelligent and uneducated. But having a high IQ and not using it to learn is like having a big dick and never fucking anyone with it. It's HARD to understand the math, physics, and mechanical engineering that goes into making a 90,000-pound airplane full of passengers fly in the air. It would be a challenging task for even someone who has above average intelligence. But once you LEARN those concepts, it really gives you an additional appreciation for the people who discovered and defined those ideas mathematically WITHOUT having been taught them.

Look, I'm stupid. I know I'm stupid. We're all fucking stupid. Of course, we're stupid, it only makes SENSE for us to be stupid. Humans have been around over 200,000 years and the vast majority of our survival as a species has NEVER depended on us knowing how to do calculus. Humans historically been incredibly primitive and had primitive needs (e.g., farming, hunting etc.) for the VAST MAJORITY of our existence. So, calm the fuck down with what you think you know and let's just use this opportunity to engage with some different perspectives.

A quick note I want to use about the word, "majority" because I'll use it plenty of times throughout this book. Some might think "majority" means the same thing as "an overwhelming majority" of people. So, if I say a majority of people suck dicks for gas money, they assume that it's on the order of 80% or more are at the pump every day filling up (in more ways than one).

All you need to be a majority is MORE than 50%. Fact: a **MAJORITY** of the world's population has a vagina. But don't worry, there's still a WHOLE lot of dicks flopping around and making sure everyone's having a bad day.

One last thing about the book; it's fucking denser than Honey Boo Boo's mom on Jupiter. Just kidding, mass has nothing to do with gravity, so the planet she's on doesn't affect her density. But this mofo is still dense. This book was not meant to be read in a day. If you finish reading this book in a month, you probably still read the damn thing too

fast. I'm only gonna say this one time, so REMEMBER IT. I might take a fucking concept that people have written whole fucking textbooks about and sum it up in a paragraph. It WON'T be a god damn perfect explanation, but if you see something that makes you wonder, then go the fuck out there and read up on it. I oversimplify complex topics a LOT because giving too much detail on any one topic drastically limits the number of things I want to talk about. Plenty of people who are smarter than me will cover ALL these topics with much more efficiency and accuracy, but I'm the only fucker that will call your mom a troglodyte while doing it.

I make plenty of inside jokes and pop culture references, so this shit's like Macaulay Culkin, it's not gonna age well. That said, Macaulay Culkin and Mila Kunis were fucking each other and playing World of Warcraft together for like 8 years, so that's an energy I can't be mad at. Also, if you're so young that you don't know who Macaulay Culkin is, just replace his name with Justin Bieber, or any other celebrity who was an adorable 12-year-old boy and grew up looking like a pedo with a mustache that preys on adorable 12-year-old-boys.

This book isn't meant to be perfect. I have some back of the napkin math going here and I'm rounding a lot because I'm more concerned with conveying ideas than dotting my fucking i's and crossing my fucking t's. Things also change. I try to be specific about what YEAR each piece of data represents, but not everything that was true in 2020 is still true in 2021. If that were the case, we'd still have a Cheeto as president.

Let's just get on with this. Ideally you would go out into the woods and find a fucking log cabin or some shit like Thoreau when he wrote "Walden", so you can read this book in silence and solitude. But you're all so god damn attached to your technology I'm surprised Apple hasn't made a phone accessory that wipes your ass to the rhythm of Andre 3000 singing "So Fresh & So Clean" via Bluetooth in your sphincter.

I need you to find yourself an environment that's away from humans and quiet. SO quiet that the only thing you can hear is an American Goldfinch shitting a flood of diarrhea out of its butthole because some fucking idiot littered a Hershey's bar and doesn't give a god damn shit about their impact on the environment. Yes, chocolate gives birds diarrhea. The American Goldfinch in particular? No fucking idea to be honest. The point is the overall message: Don't litter, & recycle your fucking shit. Speaking of which, there was a book called "No Impact Man" written by Colin Beavan in which he talks about how he spent a year in New York making "zero impact" on the environment for a year. Then he proceeded to sell thousands of paperback copies of his 300-page book about his experience. Now THERE'S a guy missing the fucking point.

Okay, so assuming you're out in the woods somewhere and not getting murdered by coyotes, take a moment to look around you. THAT is what natural is. Now I know you're thinking "No shit Sherlock, that's why they call it nature", well first off – fuck you. Secondly, it's just a god damn fact that most people take for granted every day of their fucking lives. All that shit you normally see every day: cars, houses, roads, the pawn shop with the 60-year-old homeless opium addict wearing lederhosen in front of it. ALL that shit is fucking manufactured by society.

The food you eat is not natural food. The air you breathe is not natural air. Half the water you drink is barely fucking water. If you brought a fucking Coca-Cola back in time and offered it to a Neanderthal to drink, he'd smack that shit out of your hand and call you a half-witted dino-fucker. Granted, it'd be in a language you don't understand, but it HAS to hurt your ego just a little bit being called stupid by an evolutionarily inferior species. I don't know if you've ever noticed, but Coca Cola is damn near pitch black. To someone who only knows of drinking CLEAN, CLEAR water and who has never seen a coke, to them it would probably look like a drink that's RIDDLED with fucking bacteria. It looks like something that's lethal and contaminated as fuck. Yet many of us drink that shit multiple times every god damn day. Have a fucking coke & a smile, you dipshits.

You might consider it "normal" to buy and live in a house, but even the idea of landownership had to be created by humans. Many Native American tribes shared the land because they were decent god damn people. The idea of claiming a 2500 square foot plot and putting up your white picket fence so you can argue with Dick & Jane next door about how the branches on their sugar maple are growing over your property line doesn't "naturally" exist. That's some European fuckery. The only thing that actually validates your claim to that land as your "property" is the existence of a government that will (hopefully) defend that claim.

Don't get me wrong, I think it's necessary to define SOME notion of private property, but the idea that everyone can be allowed to exist where they choose to, seems to be more ethical and logical than the U.S. government's mentality which is currently "You're allowed to legally be a citizen of this land as long as your dad fucked your mom somewhere on top of it".

You've grown up your entire life completely surrounded by civilization and may have never thought twice about many of the things that are around you every day that are frankly not "natural". So, let's not glorify the shit we know, and instead be skeptical of our knowledge and analyze the shit that we usually take for granted. I want you to look at the world as if you were someone who has never seen it before, because that's when you'll realize that you haven't.

Fuck, that's overdramatic. But it sure sounded witty.

Language/Humanities

Language is fucking weird. Sometimes language just doesn't evolve well with the modern times. It's like your slightly racist grandpa. Say for example the phrase, "Hang up the phone". In 2021 we all have cellphones, you don't really "hang it up" on a wall anymore, yet the phrase is still around. Or like the word "atom", which derives from the Greek, meaning "unsplittable", because it USED to be a belief that you couldn't "split" an atom. That said, there were over 200,000 people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki that would beg to differ. Funnily enough, for all the fear mongering and policing the U.S. imposes regarding nuclear weapons, there's only one piece of shit country in the world's history that's ever actually USED them.

Back to language. What comes to mind when I say, "I saw a dog take a shit in the street the other day"? You can probably visualize that sentence, but when I say the word "dog", you and I probably don't have the SAME image of a dog in our heads. You could be picturing a big dog, a little dog, a white dog, a black dog, a German Shepherd, a Pekinese. Until I describe the dog that I'm visualizing with more accuracy, you're probably not picturing the same dog that I am. To be honest, I'm not even picturing a dog, I'm picturing a fucking Zebra wearing a Viking hat, so suck on that. Fun fact, Vikings didn't even WEAR those hats. They were painted on by Scandinavian artists in the 1800's who must've thought "Hey, right now our warriors look like pussies, so let's put a horny bowl on their head with blonde braids on the side and that'll be alpha as fuck".

Let's run that back once more. Language is the way that I can get the thoughts and ideas from MY head into YOUR head. That is literally the only goal and purpose of language. If I fail to do that, then I must've fucking languaged to you the wrong way. When you look at fields like accounting, law, science; they're all completely littered with terminology that is superfluous. That's right, I said superfluous. I could've just said "unnecessary". It basically means the same fucking thing, but I didn't. Why? Cause I'm a fucking asshole. Hell, it even happens when people teach you "HOW to communicate", which is as fucking ironic as Alanis Morisette making a song about irony that doesn't contain irony.

Here's an actual excerpt from a college textbook on Group Communications: "*Social knowledge is more ambiguous and is usually conveyed through informal means or passively learned by new members through observation*".

…Well call me five fucking French fries on a funnel cake. They sure as hell spent a LOT of time trying to make themselves sound intelligent by using excessive words that basically just say "Hey, when it comes to meeting NEW humans, these dipshits just know what to do".

Now don't get me wrong here, them Brobdingnagian words (means fucking BIG ass words) are useful in some capacity. If for some reason you're a scientist working with your scientist buddy and you need to be able to specifically identify the Anas platyrhynchos for some fucking reason and you know your scientist buddy knows what the fuck the Anas platyrhynchos is, then fine. But when you talk to the rest of us, you better call it a god damn duck. Fucking EVERYONE knows what a duck is. You know,

when I was growing up I always pictured "science" as some woman in a lab coat with a big glass beaker doing titrations, but the more school papers I wrote, the more I realized that a lot of science is just be a team of potheads saying "Hey let's see what happens if we give this monkey cocaine and try to teach it how to play videogames" (it's a real study).

I got two main issues with big words. First off, they're deliberately used to withhold information from those who are less educated. It's a form of gatekeeping, but for education and information, which EVERYONE should have a right to. For example, ANY god damn person can do their god damn taxes. Accounting might be boring as shit, but most people are capable of some fucking addition and subtraction. That shit's only gotten easier as technology develops. The fucking veil that keeps people from SEEING that, and the reason accountants can upcharge people hundreds of dollars to copy and paste 5 boxes from a basic W-2 is because the instructions are riddled with unnecessary terminology and unclear communication.

Then we send people to school during their intellectual prime for 4 or more years, all so they can get drunk and catch herpes while we charge them $50,000+ for classes. Half of those classes don't even have anything to DO with accounting. All so they can grow up to be an accountant and get a piece of paper that says they know the word "depreciation" means "your shit ain't worth what it used to be".

It also affects our election ballots. It's not that hard to word questions in a way that people understand. For example, let's say you're in the voting booth filling out your ballot and the question that's pops up is, "Should we make a DOG our FUCKING MAYOR?!". First off, the answer is hell yes. Secondly, this is real and there have been MULTIPLE dogs, cats, and even a goat elected as mayors of various small towns. That goes to show you how fucking seriously we take our politics. Thirdly, when propositions of REAL significance get put on election ballots they're usually worded more like this:

"Shall the town of Cormorant elect to make official as the mayoral electee, a member of the Canis lupus subspecies, hereby known to constituents as "Duke" through termination on the date of 06/09/2022."

Many voters resign themselves to believing that their vote simply doesn't matter, but if that were the case, I don't see why so many politicians would waste such a significant amount of time, money, and effort to make sure people CAN'T vote efficiently.

My other problem with big words is BECAUSE they're used so frequently in the context of education, they literally complicate the individual's understanding of the topics they ARE learning which makes dumber fucking people. If you're a fucking educator, your job is to educate and explain every concept to your students as if they were a 5-year-olds with snot dripping down their nose and shit in their pants. LITERALLY the only thing you should be doing is making sure people understand the concepts. You're a dick-swinging educator. Even if you don't identify as a man, both clits and dicks come from the same fetal tissue and we're both woke ass motherfuckers that know words and terminology are just arbitrary bullshit, so know deep down in your heart it's all the same, and it has the girth and vitality of Supergirl on crack and you better swing that shit to the fucking fence.

Years ago, I read a quote that said, "it's ideas, not words, that are important" and it's pretty fucking fitting because I couldn't tell you who the fuck it is that said that quote or where I read it, but I remember the damn quote. That's really all that matters.

Fuck humans and their need to prove their importance by trying to chronicle their existence. Fuck naming things after people. There's more than a million God damn words in the English language. Names (especially in science) should be descriptive with respect to what they do. People give history shit for being unoriginal in how they name their wars, but at least if I say "the war of 1812" you already know what fucking year it took place. That'll make you really think "hey, these fuckheads REALLY have their shit together" until someone asks you how long the fucking 7-years war was and then you end up look like a fucking idiot if you DON'T say "9 years".

But seriously, *good* names in science and education should be clear and indicative of their function, not named after people. The term "Reiter's syndrome" doesn't mean shit to anyone and tells you nothing about the syndrome itself. Maybe Reiter is the name of a person who first had the syndrome, or maybe Reiter is the name of a Nazi party leader who was a doctor that first discovered the condition in a solider he treated during World War I (spoiler alert: it's the second one). We'd be better off abandoning the term Reiter's syndrome and calling it "Reactive arthritis". Not only does reading "Reactive Arthritis" probably give you a better fucking idea of what the syndrome actually is (it's related to arthritis somehow?), but there's also no fucking Nazis involved. So really, it's a fucking win/win for literally everyone who doesn't have mustaches inspired by Charlie Chaplin.

tl;dr dumb your shit down. It'll give the world more people with real, tangible knowledge instead of pseudointellectual oxford comma bullshit.

I've noticed the people who seem to take issue with this approach are often the same ones who avoid the complex topics of education. Clearly, they've never sat in a room full of engineering majors trying to hacksaw Jim Duggan their way through a physics problem with their thumbs waving around in the air using a right-hand rule. If you walked in on them, you'd think it was a room full of future aerospace engineers and physicists playing "heads up 7 up". The shit isn't elegant, but it works.

What do I mean by pseudointellectual? How many continents are there? Most English-speaking countries will say it's 7, but the reality is it's taught differently in various countries. Some countries consider North & South America one continent, along with Europe/Africa/Asia as one country. Overall, there are multiple different models that range from 4 to 7 continents. Some geologists argue that Zealandia may be the 8th.

Again, it's important to look at the world as if it's something you've never seen before. It's not good enough to say, "There are 7 continents because my teacher taught me there's 7 continents". It's not REAL knowledge, and that's perfectly okay. You'll find plenty of worthless pseudointellectual bullshit in this book. We can all come to an agreement on the way the word "Soap" should be spelled, but the fact is we HAVEN'T come to an agreement on how to spell "Soap". ANYONE who doesn't speak English has a different, correct answer of how the name of the object represented by the word

"Soap" should be pronounced and spelled. If your primary language is Spanish, the correct spelling is "jabón". If you're Dutch, you probably don't even have a WORD for "Soap" since 50% of those nasty ass fuckers don't even wash their hands after going to the bathroom. Keep that shit in mind next time you plan to visit Amsterdam, and someone offers to give you a high five.

I promise I'm not going to introduce a ton of terminology, but I do want to define the word "ambiguity" because I'm probably gonna use it quite a few times throughout this book, and it's my favorite word of all time. When something is "ambiguous", it means it's "open to interpretation" or that there is more than one meaning.

Things are taught differently throughout the world. This can lead to really simple and stupid social media clickbait like, "74% of Adults can't solve this math problem!"

$$6 \div 2 * (1+2)$$

You may come up with 1, you may come up with 9. Neither answer is unreasonable. In American math you might be familiar with the order of operations as PEMDAS (P is for parentheses). Many other countries use BEDMAS (B is for brackets, which is the same as parentheses). Note that in PEMDAS, multiplication comes before division and in BEDMAS division comes before multiplication. So, which one is it? Well, it really doesn't matter because they're done at the same time.

But the obelus symbol (÷) historically has been used to say "Divide everything on the left of it by everything on the right of it"

Which means there are two *reasonable* ways to interpret this problem:

$$\frac{6}{2} * (1 + 2)$$

or alternatively,

$$\frac{6}{2 * (1 + 2)}$$

Notice that by using THIS notation, there's no more ambiguity. In math, there's only ONE correct answer, but you can't know what the correct answer IS until you understand what the author of the question WANTS you to do. At that point, it's no longer about math and becomes about language, because it's my responsibility to ensure that you understand what I'm asking.

The reality is that the primary PURPOSE of parentheses is to prevent stupid ambiguities like this.

    If I wanted you to divide 6 by 2 first, I would've written (6 ÷ 2) * (1+2)
    If I wanted you to divide 6 by everything else, I would've written 6 ÷ ((2 * (1+2))

The same goes for hacky ass debates like "Which came first? The chicken or egg" or "If a tree falls in the forest, does it make a sound?". First off, the egg came first, because the first occurrence of a chicken had to be a genetic mutation that evolved from two

non-chicken parents. As far as sound, when a tree hits the ground, it causes compression waves that propagate through the air. If someone is standing there to HEAR those waves, they'll perceive those waves and call it "sound".

The only thing there is to argue about is whether we define "sound" as the waves themselves, or act of "hearing" those waves. At that point, it's no longer a question or about the THING that's actually occurring in the universe, it's a stupid pseudointellectual debate about terminology and words.

To have an appropriate, logical debate, definitions NEED to be established. You can be fancy and call them "(philosophical) axioms" but I'm just going to call them definitions.

If we don't have a concrete DEFINITION for what "sound" is then it SEEMS like there could be more than one correct answer. In physics, "sound" is the waves themselves. Even if nobody's around, those waves still occur, so there's nothing left to debate, the answer is YES.

For example, if my definition for "Planet" is something that's round and in the sky, then you can say "Ok, well if I take a basketball on an airplane. It's round, it's in the sky. Therefore, it must be a planet". And according to my DEFINITION, you'd be **absolutely right,** because I gave you an awfully written definition.

Lack of clear definitions is why I grew up thinking there were 9 planets, only to watch everyone lose their shit when they downgraded Pluto because it wasn't big enough to fit their "definition". Frankly, unless you're Neil deGrasse Tyson, who gives a fuck how many planets there are. But those definitions become a HELL of a lot more important when you're trying to define what behavior is, and is not, considered "mental disorder". At that point, definitions can have a profound impact on how those people are going to be treated in medicine and society.

But if these words, "mental disorder" and "planet" are both things that have to be defined by humans to have any significant meaning, then they're pseudointellectual. 2 completely different cultures of people could have their own definition of what a "mental disorder" is. If you ask me, anyone who likes opera should be forced into a straitjacket and locked away in a padded room where they can listen to Luciano Pavarotti on repeat for the rest of their life.

Also, it should go without saying, but an obvious point that most people seem to miss is that winning or losing a debate doesn't make you right or wrong regarding the subject of the debate. Often, especially in the terms of a social media setting, it just means that one person was able to communicate their ideas better than the other person, or in the context of the above example, NOT having clear definitions that you can guarantee **won't** be open to interpretation.

Words are made by dipshit humans that constantly misuse them on a daily fucking basis. I'm not saying it's wrong to have conventional agreements on how to spell and pronounce "soap" existing, or having dumb debates with your friends over philosophical bullshit while you're smoking weed, but there is something inherently wrong with having

your tiara so far up your ass that you think that knowing the difference between "There", "Their", and "They're" somehow equates to real knowledge, or that it's indicative of what someone is truly capable of doing.

Let's say Person A and Person B are identical clones in all matters of intelligence except for the fact that Person A is completely illiterate but knows how to repair a car in almost ALL reasonable circumstances. Meanwhile, Person B doesn't have any idea how to fix a car, but their vocabulary is off the charts, their spelling is A1, they know where to put every comma and semi-colon. I argue that Person A is inherently more valuable to society and knowledgeable than Person B.

That being said, person B can absolutely use their reading ability to LEARN how to fix a car one day, or to continue learning things that Person A NEVER will. Whether Person B ever WILL is irrelevant. But they can only **learn** that information from somebody like Person A, who discovered and learned how to build or fix a car in the first place.

I'm not saying literacy has no benefits or that you shouldn't learn to read or write. I assume if you've made it this far in the god damn book you understand the fucking basics. I'm just saying that you as a human have a FINITE time to live in this world, and at this point your time is better spent learning to fix some shit or make some kind of scientific advancements rather than fine tuning your god damn ability of knowing where to put a god damn predicate or preposition in. (u c wat I did thar?).

Let's just call it real knowledge versus abstract knowledge. It's the same shit as a realist painting versus abstract painting. Let's be honest, if I went to the flea market with an original fucking Rothko and tried to sell the shit for $1,000 most people would never even fucking look twice at it. You can find more artistic talent and substance in a god damn Art Spiegelman graphic novel. Hell, there's more artistic talent in the paper turkeys I used to cut out of construction paper using my hands in fucking kindergarten with 2 ounces of Elmer's glue up my nose.

Realism, on the other hand, is based on actual shit that looks like some fucking shit. There's a painting of a god damn apple and it looks JUST like a fucking apple. Both have speculative value, but there's far more speculation over abstract art. Let's be honest, the only reason that abstract art has ANY value to begin with is because geriatric winos dressed like Cruella de Vil got their hands on too much god damn money and needed a way to one-up their neighbors.

If you need proof, someone once paid $10,000 for invisible artwork by James Franco. Q.E.D.

When people come to a mutual agreement that art is worth millions of dollars, then it is. That doesn't mean it's GOOD art. Just like if people come to a mutual agreement that there's 7 continents, then there are. But that statement is only true WITHIN that group of people. If you took a Rothko and give that shit to the lost tribe of people on North Sentinel Island who to this day have yet to invent fire and have avoided being significantly contacted by ANY form of modern civilization, they would just kill you with a bunch of arrows and proceed to inbreed with their family members.

Something like Math is universal because 2 + 2 is always going to be equal to 4, even if the words we use to represent those ideas are different in multiple languages. You may even take for granted that math would look much different if we didn't use the decimal system, or if we had begun counting at 0 instead of 1. But the relationship numbers have to each other is the aspect of it that is not man-made. Abstract knowledge is knowing that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. Real knowledge is actually knowing how to combine different substances in the universe that can allow us to communicate effectively while being hundreds of miles apart.

Realism is art that has an objective foundation. Just as real knowledge (e.g., Math) has an objective foundation. It's knowledge that would still exist and would still be pertinent if every human other than you were to just instantly disappear. If you gave the lost tribe a well-done portrait of one of their members, they might not think it has any fucking value; they might even think it's some black magic witchcraft, how the FUCK did you clone them and trap them in this evil box, and they may destroy and kill you immediately. BUT there's still SOME inherent understanding of the image being similar to an actual object or person that transcends the value that we as a society have created for something like Abstract art.

Again, we're looking at the world as people who have never seen it before. The laws of science and math all still apply, they're in every organism and interaction you'll ever encounter. Quantities exist with or without humans. If you know how to ride a bike, you would still know how to ride a bike. Even if bikes didn't exist, the components and physics that allow a bike (or something similar) to be assembled and function would still exist until it was discovered. Communication allows sharing of ideas and makes it easier for that knowledge to be discovered. However, knowing how many planets there are and whether Pluto counts as a planet doesn't mean shit if there's nobody else to agree on it with you. Language itself only has value if there's someone else speaking with you.

Don't get me wrong though, I'm not saying language isn't important. Language is the fucking cat's pajamas, ok? Check this out: Make your hand into a fist, and then take a look at the BACK of your fist. It's been scientifically proven that if the knuckle on your middle finger extends LONGER than your index knuckle then there's an approximately 35% increased chance that you have some form of ADD.

That last sentence wasn't true at all, I just made ALL that shit up. But the real question is, how many people reading this actually followed my instructions and tried? Did you? My goal with that sentence wasn't to CONVEY information, but rather to MAKE you to do something. If I was successful at getting you to look at your fist, then holy mick foley did I just fucking mind-control you. If I wasn't successful, eh I guess need to fucking try harder, don't I?

If I told you "clap your hands and I'll give $200", you would probably do it. Of course, you'd have to believe that I'd legitimately give you the money, but that trust comes from things I've previously communicated to you verbally or nonverbally. Maybe I have a microphone in my hand and someone following behind me with a video camera, and I tell you "Hey, I'm from *(local tv news station)* and we're having this contest". Overall, if all I asked you to do was clap your hands for $200, you would have to either be a

psycho or Bill "Big Dick" Gates NOT to try it. But honestly, I have NO intention of giving you $200. You've already clapped. I just needed to convince you that I would.

I would argue that you can use language as a means of getting anyone to do absolutely ANYTHING. Sure, the more complicated the task, the more you have to work for it and the more strategic you have to be with what you say and how you convince them. But the right person with the right communication could literally kill you with words. Case in point: Charles Manson. Granted, I'm sure he used more than just language to convince those women to murder on his behalf. I'm sure he could also fuck like a teenaged bonobo on the Congo River after 50 milligrams of Cialis. I mean, I can't imagine any dick being so good that you'd KILL for it. The point being, if you can't convince someone to do something, you didn't SAY all the right things.

Of course there's also counter-communication. You might find a fine ass date that you want to take home and tie to the bedpost while you lick Nutella off their nipples, and you MIGHT be capable of saying all the things that'll make that happen. Meanwhile, someone else might come along with better words, and they'll be the ones who end up with a mouth full of that delicious cocoa spread while you go home and cry to the golden girls and eat moose tracks ice cream in Hello Kitty pajama pants. I'll never forget my 19th birthday.

General Education

Let's turn this fucking car around a bit and revisit the topic of education. Why in the fucking Stevie Wonder's receding hairline world are we still pushing approximately 2 years of general education bullshit. Let's say Stephanie Bumfuzzle is going to school to be a doctor. She should spend all 4 years in school learning doctor shit. When I'm on the operation table with my chest cut open and surgical scissors sticking out of my aorta, I don't really give a dog's dingleberry what grade she got in public speaking or whether she knows that Christopher Columbus never ACTUALLY stepped foot in North America (he didn't).

If people want to go to school to study other subjects independently, that's their flying spaghetti monster-given right. But in the 21st Century, the sole societal expectation of college is to prepare students for a career. The required curriculum should reflect that. It should not be a requirement to study subjects that don't mean shit to your degree or profession.

Even if the argument is "We're trying to make people more intellectually well-rounded", there is a better way to educate people in a fashion that's useful to our daily lives. For example, knowing that items with less mass don't retain heat as long. That can be pretty fucking useful because if you plan to pull something out of the oven and grab a baking sheet, you're gonna burn the fucking skin right off your fingers and spend the rest of the night in tears while fisting a bucket of ice. But if you had just put that shit on aluminum foil and grabbed the FOIL instead, you would've been fine. Aluminum foil gets really hot in the oven, but because it's incredibly thin it releases the heat quickly. So, when you pull something out of the oven, you can touch the aluminum foil and it's not even hot.

Or knowing that heat is essentially just atoms that jiggling in motion is a high-level understanding of science that people can actually use because they interact with heat on a daily basis and can RECALL that information on a daily basis. However, knowing how to calculate the exact quantity of kinetic energy generated when a photon ejects an electron from an atom is pointless and has no practical use for anyone outside of that field. The average layperson will remember that information for the duration of one exam and never use, or even be able to recall that formula again. It's an incredibly poor and impractical use of our finite time in life, and it's time that we could otherwise be using to produce something of value.

Poorly planned strategies are magnified by the number of people involved. For example, a restaurant server COULD use a cart on wheels to bring drinks to multiple tables rather than using a tray to bring drinks to one table. Let's say it would increase their ability to bring out drinks from 4 drinks to 8 drinks at a time. This could save about 5 minutes of time for that server EVERY time they bring out drinks. So, at the end of the day, let's just say I saved them 30 minutes, which isn't a huge difference. On the surface it seems really trivial and pointless to bother making this change just to save maybe 30 minutes throughout the day.

However, if you had 3 servers all using the same process, then the new, faster process would save a total of 90 minutes (30 for each server). Now let's say I own a major fast-food chain like Texas Roadhouse where I own 563 of these restaurants and all of them have 3 servers. By implementing this incredibly small change of using carts instead of trays across all our locations, I'd be saving the company a total of 50,670 minutes, or about 844 hours Every. Single. Day. If they only pay their servers $5 an hour, that's worth about 1.5 million dollars per year. This is an example of how small inefficiencies have a much larger impact when many people are involved.

I would argue that public colleges as they are set up now are designed to waste at *minimum* 1 year of productivity during the prime labor years of our lives. These are classes and concepts being taught that are unnecessary and don't add anything to the student's ability to perform work. Somewhere around 3 million freshmen enroll in college each year. That is 3 MILLION years of potential productivity from the American economy that are going to waste due to the inefficient way our school systems are designed. If college was shortened to 3 years without excess classes, and all those enrolled worked in their 4th year making the average salary coming out of college (~$50,000) then the opportunity cost that college wastes is **$150 billion dollars every year.**

Let's be fucking clear, I'm not opposed to education. I love education and believe we don't spend ENOUGH time educating ourselves. But I AM opposed to the way education is executed in America. I mean, your teachers PROBABLY taught you more about Ben Franklin, some dude who was likely in a sex cult and once electrocuted himself trying to kill a Turkey, than they taught you about Alan Turing, the guy who helped win World War II when he developed a machine that could quickly crack Nazi codes. He was also gay, prosecuted for gross indecency for getting it on with a 19-year-old man, and forced to take estrogen to neutralize his sex drive. Some speculate that it led to him committing suicide. Others speculate his death was an accident. Either way, seems like a shitty way to repay someone who single-handedly cut off about 4 years of the War. How many MILLION lives do you have to save before you can gain the right to suck a dick in the privacy of your own home?!

Asking for a friend.

Beyond that, I'm opposed to you wasting your fucking time and money and not getting anything useful out of it. Even MORE pointless is the economic waste that occurs when colleges don't accept transfer credits. I experienced this firsthand when I took a "public speaking" class at a community college and transferred to a university that wouldn't accept it. This meant having to take the exact same class twice and learning nothing in the process. I assure you there's no world that justifies needing to take a public speaking course once, let alone twice to major in Computer Science. YOU STAND IN FRONT OF PEOPLE AND SAY SHIT, IT REALLY AINT THAT DIFFICULT.

Yet my story is far from unique and not nearly as bad as being an immigrant who might receive a degree in their home country and travel to America only to find that their degree or certifications are no longer considered valid in this country. Many people have had to waste time and money REPEATING their degree and going through an

educational system which, frankly, is often times inferior to the education system they've ALREADY gotten a degree from.

But if you're currently in college or going to college, this next fucking number is for you: For the love of eeeeevvverything that make's Captain Redbeard's beard red, will you stop fucking pursuing soft majors you god damn loafers in loafers. Good fucking Charlie if I have to see ONE MORE 18-year-old nutjob dropping 40 grand of his parents' money to go to university to get a fucking degree in liberal arts I'm gonna throw them headfirst into a heated oven with a Sylvia Plath audiobook playing in the background.

Look, if you've already got a good job and/or money and you just want to take fine arts classes for fun because you've always wanted to learn more about them, then that's fucking bad ass and you should go for it. But if you need an ACTUAL career out of your major, chances are, whatever job you end up getting after coming out of a 4-year soft major, you probably could've gotten without going to college in the first place. Instead of spending those 4 years losing your money, you COULD'VE spent those 4 years actually making money and getting some god damn life & career experience in the process. It would be a HELL of a lot more valuable than waiting until it's an hour before class starts then rushing a half-assed essay about how Freud was a cocaine addict that was weirdly obsessed with wanting to fuck his own mother.

Get a fucking STEM degree. That's Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math. When it comes to fields that actually have long-term exponential benefits for the human race as a whole, these are the fucking cool kids you wanna be with. On Wednesdays we wear pink. I **especially** encourage you pursue a STEM major if you're a woman or a minority, because good fucking god is it a honkey sausage fest in there. I'VE SEEN IT.

This next number applies to EVERYONE in high school OR college. For the love of fucking lasagna start taking your education serious. One thing I'm sick and tired of hearing is people who say, "I'm not good at Math". Here's a fucking Brobdingnagian newsflash for your ass, write it down and make it last. You don't gotta be Sheldon fucking Cooper. Almost NOBODY'S a fucking math savant. You can be average at math and still get a fucking master's in math if you put in the god damn **work**. Just because you could go to English or History class and pull an 8-page essay out of your ass the night before it was due and scrape by with a B, doesn't mean that's the same amount of effort you should EXPECT to put into calculus to get a B. We live in a world where you can literally go online and find thousands of videos explaining the same damn educational concepts. Some are better at communicating than others. Take some damn time to find a good explanation and pause and rewind until the damn thing makes sense.

The world needs more god damn people focusing on science & engineering. It's where the future is, and it's where the god damn money is. You fucking like money, don't you? You're like everyone else, you want that giant ass mansion with 8 half-naked servants feeding you grapes in bed with the ugly ass Rothko on the wall while you shit excellence on your haters all morning, and your haters fucking deserve it.

All I'm saying is, find a way to give a fuck about your education. Science and Math are the pinnacle of education, but they're also the thing that most people are afraid of.

I'm just here to give you information, I'm not here to be your fucking moral godmother. If your only reason for wanting learn calculus and physics is so you can go to the casino and calculate the angular velocity of the ball on a roulette wheel and determine where probability says it's most likely gonna land, then use that to make yourself rich by cheating out casinos for millions of dollars, that's your prerogative. That's what Ed Thorp did, and he's generally well-respected in the mathematics community. Who am I to sit here and say that his choice to get rich off of casinos is somehow LESS ethical than the scientists who developed the atomic bomb and killed over 200,000 people?

America is lagging when it comes to STEM education. In 2018, the U.S. ranked 38th in math scores and 24th in science. Even Richard Feynman, one of the physicists that CREATED the atom bomb, has said that in the context of exams and academia, that physics is an awful subject. But if you can get past viewing subjects like math or physics as just something you HAVE to do because your mom told you that you need to go to college and get a job, it's a fucking fascinating field.

There are so many mind-blowing facts about physics. If two sounds are played at the played at the same frequency with a slight time offset, they can cancel each other out completely. Meaning the sound is there, but you won't even hear the shit. Based on this, noise-reducing headphones actually REDUCE background noise by putting MORE sound in your ear. That's fucking wild. Or if two humans stood at arm's length from each other and they both had just 1% more electrons in their body than they do protons, the force between them would be strong enough to lift a weight equivalent to the entire earth.

We're also made of atoms that constantly have repulsive interactions with the atoms in other objects, which our brain processes as touch. The reality is the atoms in your body will come CLOSE to the atoms in objects and other people, but you have never actually TOUCHED anything or anyone in your life, which I won't lie, is a little bit fucking depressing.

It's been proven that a collection of 2,000 atoms can exist in TWO different places at the EXACT same time. Also, the light from a star in space takes so long to reach your eye that it could've already exploded and disappeared YEARS ago despite you still being able to see it in the sky today. And there is SO.MUCH.MORE. Meanwhile, people on social media in 2019 were fucking amazed that they could make a broom stand upright without falling over and that shit was #TRENDING. Ok then Harry Potter, how bout you take your magic broom and shove it right up your chamber of secrets. 10 POINTS FOR GRYFFINDOR!!

You could have a scientist or a mathematician who was one of the GREATEST minds in the history of humanity; Someone who spent their entire lives trying to come up with ONE groundbreaking, revolutionary, theory and proof. The reality of college is you'll receive an introductory math or science textbook that will commonly have THAT person's ENTIRE life's work condensed into one or two sentences. Or you may have just one formula that people just memorize without ever understanding.

Which means that **ONE** of the most intelligent people that ever lived has had their life's work condensed into **TWO** out of 4 or 5 sentences in one paragraph, which is just **ONE** out of 9 or 10 paragraphs on THAT single page, which is **ONE** out of 20-30 pages in that chapter, which is **ONE** of up to 15 chapters in THAT textbook and THAT book is just **ONE** out of 5 or more books that you're meant to be reading in 12 weeks out of your 4 years as an undergraduate in college, and EVERY one of those books is a similar composition of the life's work from thousands of other people who were at the top of their respective fields. And we're all normalized to believe that for the average person, asking them to absorb all of that, possibly while working to sustain themselves or while taking care of a child, is a REASONABLE task.

If those last 2 paragraphs didn't hit you like a ton of bricks, I suggest reading them once more.

It's also problematic that America still insists on using the fucking imperial system when science and 94% of the world uses metric. It unnecessarily increases the learning curve for Americans in science at younger ages and makes it harder for Americans to develop an intuitive sense of scientific measurements. WHOA NELLY BOY DOWN HURR IN AMERICA WE MEASURE THINGS IN BALLPARK HOTDOGS. THIS ROAD AIN'T A KILOMETER LONG, THAT RIGHT THERE'S THE LENGTH OF 16 FREEDOM FRANKS.

It's much easier for me to imagine how much a pound weighs than it is for me to imagine 5 grams (It's about the weight of a Nickel). Not having that full intuition from life experiences just makes doing science, and science problems, less tangible and creates a disconnect in interest. I just did a math problem that told me the car's going 30 fucking meters per second, yet I don't really know what that **feels** like because I've only traveled in miles per hour. So why the fuck did I just solve this shit?

It's important to have people grow up with this kind of intuition. It's practically like learning a language – sure, you can LEARN to speak fucking Klingon at any age you fucking want to, but to truly have a NATURAL grasp of the shit, you need to learn and get accustomed to a language before you turn 10 years old. If you learn a language after 10, you're probably gonna butcher the language your whole life and sound like a fucking Wookie having a stroke every time you speak it.

But pay attention: Going to college is fucking EXPENSIVE. If you take out loans that are $40,000, then graduate from school, you will have to pay **$400** every month **for 10 fucking years** to pay that shit off. And this is during your fucking golden years, when I assume most people want to buy a fucking house, a car, and do some toe curling in bed to make tiny ass fucking clones of themselves that they have to babysit for another 18 God damn years while THOSE kids waste another 60 grand for an art degree in a vicious cycle of poor financial decisions. If these numbers don't make sense to you, well hold your fucking Sea biscuits for a moment; I'll be covering inflation and interest in a later fucking chapter, but we're not fucking there yet, are we? You impatient son of a bitch.

Let me give you a personal anecdote. I dropped out of high school at 16 and directly entered the workforce for about 12 years. I eventually ended up working an

administrative job and my co-worker, who had the same god damn job and title as me, had a master's degree in English. I had a god damn G.E.D. and was performing the same job and making the same salary as my coworker. That's how fucking useless 6 years of education and $80,000 of college loan-debt is.

If you're going to take ANY of my advice, let it be this: If you're NOT going to school for a STEM Major *(Note: Medicine is also STEM)* or some other job field that actually has demand e.g., Accounting, or Law where your salary over the course of ~3 years will be GREATER than the amount of loans you'll accrue in school, then **don't fucking go to college**. I'm not saying NEVER go to college, go fucking explore the working world and get some god damn experience in your life. You can ALWAYS go back at a later age. Maybe nobody has ever told you this but it's okay to NOT have your whole fucking life figured out at 18. It took me until I was 29 before I finally went back to school full-time, but by then I was experienced enough understand the financial tradeoffs of working versus not working better than I would have when I was 16.

If you DO decide to go to college, for FUCK'S sake put some damn effort in. Don't settle for fucking C's and B's, your goal should ALWAYS be to get an A in every damn class. If you fail at your goal, try harder. There's no shame in falling short of that goal, but there IS shame in not making a LEGITIMATE attempt. I know you want to get high at a party & wake up the next morning in the back of somebody's van with a hangover, your underwear missing, and 8 dicks sharpied on your face. But college is also about doing your god damn assignments and learning skills that will earn you some god damn money.

Keep your fucking GPA higher than your goddamn B.A.C. I'm not your fucking daddy, I'm not telling you this shit because that's what I'm SUPPOSED to fucking say in hopes that you don't wind up sucking dick in the back of a Best Western for money someday - fucking been there, DONE THAT. I'm telling you this because the world right now needs more fucking people making actual progress and innovation and less people trying to pursue pipe dreams.

Look here, hobbies are great to have. I have a baker's dozen of them. but a hobby is not a viable career path. I'm writing this garbage ass book right now, but I'm not trying to pursue a career as an author because God damn NOBODY is standing around saying "Man, I really wish a middle-aged man who makes dick jokes and sounds like a Tourette's victim would write a book on how to improve my life". Nobody fucking wants that shit. They want fucking books about wizards going through puberty or vampires fighting with werewolves over who's going to impregnate Kristen Stewart first.

But also, if you're going to college, you NEED to make friends, get high, party, & wake up in the morning in the back of somebody's van with a hangover, your underwear missing, and 8 dicks sharpied on your face. I'm actually being half serious here. I'm NOT saying you need to do drugs or drink, that part's a joke. But you do need to fucking socialize. The ONE thing that literally nobody ever fucking talks about when you're in high school and moving onto "The real world" is how much fucking nepotism exists in the workplace.

In your career, you will MOST LIKELY come across some job where your store manager so happens to conveniently be fucking the person who most recently got promoted to supervisor. MAYBE they earned that job, but often it's the case that they had an advantage due to a close relationship with someone who makes those decisions. If you ever work for a smaller company, you will MOST LIKELY come across a job where the cushy high-paying non-labor job belongs to the boss's kid. This shit is FAR more fucking rampant than anyone ever admits. It's like glitter in a strip club, it's ALLLL over the place; you can't avoid it, and once it's on you you're fucking fucked, Frederick. Also, whoever the hell invented glitter needs to be put into a god damn guillotine and have their head rolled down the streets of a damn pride parade until every inch of their face is covered in *sparkle motion*. Glitter is an evil that can't be washed away, and they deserve to have their head mounted in the middle of a god damn club and used as a disco ball for eternity.

Seriously though, make some fucking friends. What you SHOULD do is make some fucking SMART friends who take school seriously, because THEY'RE the ones who will give you the most opportunities. Here's another newsflash for you to shove inside your bowl of cheerios: the main benefit of going to a god damn ivy league school like Harvard or fucking M.I.T. has nothing to do with the god damn education. They literally post their fucking lectures ONLINE for fucking free, they're GIVING that shit away. Calculus at M.I.T. is the same shit as Calculus anywhere else. The derivative of x^2 = 2x regardless of WHERE you go to school. They MAY teach it at a faster pace, and use excessively complex examples of the same material, but at the root of it all, it's the same shit with a better brand.

The PRIMARY value of going to a fucking ivy league school is that it allows you to make friends with the Obamas and maybe get invited to a dinner, or maybe you shoot your shot and try swiping right on one of JFK's bastard children. I'm saying that some of the PEOPLE that go to ivy league schools are usually from families that are fucking LOADED with old money, or have ties in government, or make their living off wall street. Some of which goes back to when their grandfather was chopping somebody's nuts off in the mafia for selling moonshine on their territory. Making friends with those people, or potentially marrying into that wealth is a hundred times more valuable with respect to economic and career opportunities than the degree is.

Also, if for some reason you have this ridiculous notion in your head that people who go to ivy league schools AREN'T loading up on 8-balls of cocaine and partying while doing jello shots off untested hookers, you're wrong. They're just like you and me - they fucking party, have copious amounts of sex with questionable partners, and get so high that they're convinced 100 pounds of brick weighs more than 100 pounds of feathers. I'm generalizing here, but there are TONS of people who go to Harvard or Princeton or Yale who do just as many fucked up and illegal things that should get them thrown in jail as anyone. They just happen to have more influential parents with MUCH better lawyers.

While we're on the topic, I want to go on a slight tangent regarding drugs. Instead of saying the word "drugs" I *could* use a term like "mind-altering substance" but nah, fuck

that. I'm not gonna type out "mind-altering substance" every time I want to say the word drugs. Words are all fucking arbitrary, defined by flawed, humans who have all at some point in their lives shit in their pants. I mean these are some of the SAME dumb fucks that once classified Beavers to be a type of Fish.

Let's redefine our terminology here. I don't consider caffeine to be a drug. Nobody's ever woken up on a park bench in Alabama with a hangover, half their clothes missing, and a homeless man spooning them from behind because they had too many triple shot espressos. It IS a drug if your definition of drug is something that has SOME psychological effect, but the definition I'm choosing to use right now is something that has a SEVERE psychological effect. We don't generally consume caffeine in a quantity that would cause a SEVERE psychological effect. Alcohol, by my definition, is ABSOLUTELY a drug. Trust me, I've done enough substances in my life that I'm somewhat of an authority. The number of times I've blacked out hours of my life and woken up the next morning wondering "How the fuck badly did I just fuck up my relationship with everyone I know last night?" is too absurd to downplay the severity of it by classifying it as anything OTHER than a drug.

However, for a while, alcohol was the ONLY drug that was federally authorized and is still the only drug that you buy legally in EVERY state. It's the only drug that's readily available practically EVERYWHERE you go. I mean just IMAGINE if you went out to eat at a restaurant and the server comes out and says "You know what would really go great with that steak? This red wine and 20 milligrams of Oxycodone". I'm not gonna lie to you, it'd probably be the best god damn steak you ever ate, right before they send your ass driving home from the bar in a 5,000-pound weaponized Tacoma plowing the shit out of a family of 5 waiting in the parking lot of an Outback steakhouse with the leg of a 3-year-old toddler stuck in the grill of your Toyota. But it's absolutely fucking mind-boggling to me how compartmentalized our perception of these substances are when it comes to alcohol.

Now I'm not here to tell you to do drugs. I'm not here to tell you NOT to do drugs. I have opinions on it, just as I've had opinions on everything I've talked about so far. I personally think you should avoid drugs and stay sober if you can. I, myself, still struggle continually to get to a point of being sober, and the older I get the more I wish that I had never been involved with it in the first place. On the flipside, I've had many great memories involved with drinking and it has probably made my life better in some ways. On the flipside, I've many terrible memories involved with drinking, and it has probably made my life worse in some ways. That's the reality of world, it's never black or white. Ultimately, I'm just trying to be unbiased about drugs, because they're a part of life for many people, including myself. Again, remembering that alcohol is absolutely 100% a drug.

It's important to understand what drugs do. The reward system in your brain is supposed to make sure that you repeat the basic actions necessary for survival by rewarding your brain with dopamine, a chemical that makes you happy. You eat food, it makes you happy. You have sex, it makes you happy. The problem is that drugs hijack this reward system and pump it with an unnatural amount of dopamine which causes overstimulation in the brain and ultimately makes it incredibly difficult to attain that same

level of happiness when you're sober. At which point, you'll be continually relying on the drug to get your fix of happiness. It's like listening to music and blasting the stereo at maximum volume and blowing out your fucking eardrums. Now you're gonna have to turn that shit up EVEN MORE just to hear it at the same volume. It's going to be a fuck of a lot harder to enjoy music when you need to blast that shit so loud that even Helen Keller comes in throwing up gang signs and telling you to turn that shit down.

The reality is you're probably going to find yourself hanging out around intoxicated people at some point in your life, and that's fine. Only someone with low self-confidence will feel like they need to do drugs to fit in or be popular. Trend-followers rely on looking at what others do and try to emulate their behavior. Trend-setters do whatever the fuck they want, and others follow them.

That said, I do want to make it clear that it is possible to do drugs without being an addict, and it's also possible to be an addict and still be a functional adult with a successful career. I've gotten drunk and high with doctors, lawyers, accountants, you name it. I'm not trying to CONDONE drug use in any way, I'm just saying there are fuckups and degenerates in EVERY profession. I know when I was in high school, I had this incorrect idea in my head that people in these high-paying professions and highly esteemed colleges all had their shit together and were flawless. That's some hot fucking bologna and you can cram it in your god damn gluten-free bread sandwich with low fat cheese and throw that WHOLE plate in the trash because anything on gluten-free bread is fucking inedible.

The primary reason I say this is to say that no matter who you are or where you're from, 6 figures is fucking attainable. Being a millionaire or billionaire is attainable. I'm not trying to put sprinkles on your god damn sugar cone, Sally, but you can fucking do anything you want to do. There's nothing fucking special about those people except for the fact that some people got lucky to be there, some people worked their asses off to be there, and some people have some combination of both. If you're like me and don't come from wealth, you'll have to buy your own car, pay for your own tuition, and you don't have parents who help you figure out how the god damn world works. You're gonna have to fucking work harder and be smarter. But I wrote this book to help you. I'm your god damn Jiminy Cricket conscience here to show you how to be a real fucking human, kiddo.

But if you're going to school, have some god damn pride in your work. Nothing ever pissed me off more than kids who are staring at the clock when there's 5 minutes left in the class and packing up their stuff and zipping up their bags when the teacher's still lecturing. GUESS THE FUCK WHAT, if you're in college, you're PAYING for this god damn class. Or at least SOMEBODY fucking is, and you owe it to either them or yourself to be the best god damn student you can be. If I pay money to go to a movie and it says it's 2 hours long, I don't start packing up my Twizzlers & popcorn to start leaving at 1 hour and 55 minutes. Unless it's a god damn M. Night Shyamalan movie, in which case I had no god damn business going to see a movie directed by somebody whose name I can't fucking pronounce in the first place. In MOST cases, people will sit through the whole movie then spend another 15 minutes reading the names of people who you don't give a shit about just to see the post-credits scene only to find out there

ISN'T one.

If you're SKIPPING fucking class, well Jesus better use both of his holy hands to take the goddamn wheel right now cause I'm about to slap the dog shittin sinner out of your whole family tree. You're literally throwing hundreds of dollars down the drain. If you miss class, you better have a god damn dead relative who you've felt compelled to talk to during the last 2 years WITHOUT some expectation that they'll be sending you cash in a damn birthday card soon. If your 3rd removed cousin's aunt on your stepmother's side passed away, I think you can probably contain your fucking emotions long enough to get through God damn biology.

If you're on the younger side, there's this idea that I want to get through to you. When you first enter college, you're fresh out of spending your entire life going through elementary, middle, high school where teachers are the "Adults", and you just take everything they say at face value. But the reality is that teachers are like everyone else. Think about all the kids you know who are COMPLETE fuck-ups. Little Jimmy in 3rd grade who used to pick his boogers and eat them. I knew a little Jimmy like that, and THAT kid grew up to be your social studies teacher in 8th grade. Sure, he's evolved a little bit since then, but there's only so many boogers you can eat before suffering some kind of permanent mental impairment. Don't quote me on that though, I don't have ANY science to back that up.

But seriously, if you didn't do well in social studies maybe it was because your teacher was little Jimmy. Maybe your math teacher was Scott Steiner. There are many, MANY teachers who frankly don't give a shit about their jobs and put in the bare minimum every day. Those teachers exist in college, too. If you're in math and having a hard time understanding some concept in class, it's entirely possible that your teacher's just a moron. I sat in pre-calc trigonometry and watched a senile math professor spend a solid 15 minutes try to argue about something they did algebraically that was clearly wrong.

An exam doesn't only measure how well the students learned; it also measures how well the teacher taught. If my job is to be a comedian and nobody laughs, it's not the crowd's fault that they didn't laugh, it's my fault. My job is to make them laugh. If they don't laugh, I didn't do my job of being funny. It doesn't even matter if I'm doing an open mic at a bar where nobody wanted me there, a good comedian has no choice but to adapt to a room. And I've seen them do it successfully, many times. Similarly, it's a teacher's job to ensure that students learn by any means necessary.

Especially when you're in college, the burden is on you to educate YOURSELF. I strongly, strongly advise you take advantage of all the online educational resources available. Khan Academy is the main one. My only gripe with Khan Academy is that 80% of the videos start out with, ***"If I walk up to you on the street and ask you for the dimensions of a cylindrical container that can hold 1.5 liters of liquid and minimizes the amount of material used in its construction, how would you solve that?"***.

That's borderline neurotic behavior, Sal. I have enough anxiety about leaving the house without having to worry about getting drilled with a pop quiz on calculus from strangers. But I've got an entire list of online educational sources that I strongly recommend at the end of this book.

Before you BUY college textbooks, check to see if you can find them online. Chances are, you can (psst, *www.libgen.rs*). My perspective is that textbooks are outdated educational materials. In the 21st century, we should focus more on video and 3D Models. Think about trying to depict something TRULY complex like a schematic with thousands of pieces. You're trying to educate someone on how to put it together... like a piece of furniture from IKEA but MUCH bigger. Understanding how to put it together requires taking a step-by-step look at EVERY part. Doing that in a book just isn't practical. You would need ONE image for each step in the process.

Or think of it mathematically. A SINGLE page from a book is ONE frame (aka one picture). Videos are literally composed of frames per second. The average video is about 30 frames-per-second. That means in **5.6 minutes** you could literally look at EVERY single page of a 10,000-page manual. It's just more efficient.

Look, I KNOW that's an absurd way of looking at it, you couldn't possibly look at 30 pages, especially of text, in one second and retain ANY coherent information about those pages. And it's also not fucking lost on me that HEY I'm literally writing a fucking book right now. But the point I'm getting at is that the rate the videos dispense information is SIGNIFICANTLY faster than the rate that a book can dispense information. The visual component of video learning is just undeniably faster than it can be produced in a book. Yet, learning through audio information takes about the same as reading (and it takes even LESS time when you consider the time it takes to stop reading and refer BACK to the image multiple times).

If we all lived in some crazy weird alternate reality where ALL the technology we currently have still exists, but somehow, we NEVER created education until NOW and needed to create it all from scratch, I personally don't believe we would EVER create education to be the way it's currently designed. Recorded videos are 100% the way to go for all educational purposes unless students need to ask questions.

It seems silly to me that every year we send teachers to go to school and repeat the exact same lecture again and again verbatim the way that they did the year before. Even worse, over time they may get tired of constantly repeating themselves and put less effort into getting the point across. That'd be like me writing a college textbook and instead of making a copy of it and adding to it or modifying it, I just trying to rewrite the entire thing from memory again NEXT year. The much better alternative is clearly to record the lecture ONE time and put in the extra effort to make sure that everything is said perfectly exactly how the lecturer intended to say it. Then next year, if you want to rewatch it and make modifications, that's your prerogative. But creating one lecture that's flawless is better than recreating a new one every year that isn't.

Finance

Look, I'm gonna tell you a secret. I want you to lean in REAL close. I want you to cup your hand to your ear and listen as carefully as you possibly can.

Are you ready?

REAL PROGRESS IS FUCKING SLOW AND BORING!!!!!

I apologize for metaphorically shouting in your ear. But people always want instant gratification and overnight success. Maybe you want to lose weight and become skinny, or maybe you want to get absolutely shredded in a matter of weeks or even months. It just doesn't work like that. It also doesn't help that people post things like "Before" and "After" pictures where one minute they're an overweight white slob that weighs 300 pounds and the next minute they look like the Rock. How the FUCK did that many sit-ups turn you Samoan.

I'm not here to fat shame. I was a fat kid, and when you're a fat kid, your fat cells persist as an adult, making it harder to lose weight. I'm not fat, I'm a competitive eater that's kicking your ass right now. But I've never understood why our society is so angry at fat people. They'll claim it's because fatties are unhealthy, but let's be honest, you're not affected by someone else's health. If you were, you'd be just as judgmental of anorexic people because that shit's unhealthy, too. So is steroid abuse. Yet the most common judgement seems to be against fat people, or even against vegans who "don't get enough protein".

C'mon we're all adults here. Nobody REALLY gives a shit about some stranger's health; they just want to feel that they're superior to someone else. Everyone here is getting dopamine, some people just get theirs from judging people and others get theirs from pasta.

But I digress. When you see these "Before and After" pictures, it ignores the day after day after day after day after day after DAY after DAY that they spent busting their ass. In many cases, you aren't going to see real noticeable and SIGNIFICANT progress any time in the first month. So, people get discouraged and they quit. Meanwhile, Planet Fitness figures out how to advertise their product at the next New Year's Day parade.

In fact, let's math it out

To lose 1 pound of weight, you need to burn 3,500 calories more than you take in. You can find a BMR calculator online, which will tell you how many calories burn by doing almost nothing at ALL.

For example, a 20-year-old, 5'4 woman who weighs 250 pounds and does little-to-no exercise, she burns somewhere around 2,000 calories per day. Let's say she wants to lose weight by dieting but has no desire to exercise because who the fuck likes cardio. As a general rule, people need a minimum of 1,200 calories daily to stay healthy. Since her BMR is around 2,000, that means she's burning 800 calories each day. That means it would take her **4.375** days to lose **1 pound** on this diet.

If her goal is to get down to 145 pounds (which is considered "normal" according to BMI), it would take about **459 days**, or 1 year and 3 months without ever cheating once.

But the same applies with money. If you're someone who has grown up financially impaired, it could be a LONG time before you see any REAL progress. Whether that be from returns on your investment, or just trying to bust your ass to do things that other people might be able to do effortlessly, such as get out of debt and buy a house or a car. But in the long run, if you make good and rational life choices you'll eventually end up in a better financial position.

This chapter is here to help you with those decisions, but let's be fucking clear here before I get 8 lawyers up my ass because one of you shitheads loses a bunch of money listening to my dumb ass. I'm not a financial advisor, nothing in this book is financial advice. I'm here to tell bad jokes. I once broke up with a girl who was narcoleptic because she was always sleeping around. Don't go filing lawsuits because you got your stock investing tips from Carrot Top.

There are some basics in finance that anyone should know, and I would strongly advise you to take an intro class to macroeconomics (or just watch educational videos online), regardless of your major. And this section might get a little mathy, but I promise there's no algebra or trigonometric wizardry here, it's all just basic multiplication or division. If you're one of those people who are scared of numbers, just take your fucking time and I promise the payoff will be worth it. As I've said before, this book isn't meant to be read in a god damn day, or even a month. We ain't calculating the god damn hypotenuse of a moose logarithm, this is real shit that's actually applicable and useful for your everyday god damn life, so bear with me.

Everything in life is about tradeoffs. Right now you're reading this book, but you could be doing literally ANYTHING else in the world. You could be having sex. I think pretty highly of myself, but I don't think my book is better than sex. But it's also not that simple. Unless you're Ryan Reynolds and just oozing so many sex pheromones that all the boys are lined up in the yard ready to lick a chocolate milkshake out of your belly button, you probably can't just put this book down and fuck at will. You've got to find a partner first. Maybe you have to make a new connection with someone, hope they feel that same connection, go out to dinner and pay for the meal, hope that they aren't a serial killer, worry whether people will judge you for sleeping with strangers. It's a LOT of work.

When you're making a decision to do something with your time or money, it's important to consider what the impact of that decision actually is. For example, buying a

horse isn't as simple as "Do I want a horse?", you also have to ask yourself if you have the time, energy, and money to maintain the upkeep on a horse. What could I be doing with that money INSTEAD of buying a horse? Can I go on vacations or work the same number of hours at my job with a horse? Will I need to buy a stable and a trailer? How much are vet bills? How is owning a horse going to change my BEHAVIOR? You need answer to all of these things before putting on a 10-gallon hat and hopping on the back of a white stallion and riding down the beach with Isaiah Mustafa into the sunset of an old spice commercial.

Using a more realistic example, my mom was a single parent, and we were often strapped for cash. Occasionally she would opt out of paying for cable television to cut down the cost of our monthly bills. Realistically, the bill itself was probably less than about $40 per month, but without cable we essentially didn't have anything to watch on television #FirstWorldProblems. Keep in mind, a month is roughly 30 days – it's a relatively LONG period of time, especially when there's nothing to do. It's also worth mentioning that my mom was a pretty impulsive person, so she would often get bored, at which point she would be more inclined to go out to eat or go to a movie theatre. On average, we would go out to eat or to a movie about **7 times more per month** than we would if we had cable, and each of those outings cost about $20 each. That means that instead of saving $40 by cutting cable, she ended up losing $100 every month.

As corny as it is to say "Time is money" it's true, for the most part. If you're an hourly employee, your salary is literally the amount of money of money you get paid for each hour of time you give your company. Instead of working 40 hours a week, you COULD be doing whatever the fuck you want. You could be having unprotected sex with models in Zimbabwe, you could be doing cocaine off the rim of a toilet seat, you could be watching the Teletubbies, hell if you had any REAL ambition, you'd be doing all 3 of those things at once. But no, instead you agreed to spend that time working at Arby's making a batch of curly fries while arguing with a customer over the price of a milkshake for $10 an hour. But the point is you COULD be doing anything you want with those 40 hours, and that includes working in the stock room at Walmart for $11 or working in an administrative position in an office for $15.

If you COULD be working at an office for $600 a week but instead, you're working at Arby's for $400 a week, that $200 difference is called **foregone earnings**. It's essentially money you're *losing out on every week*, and you should absolutely view it that way. With respect to college, you're not only paying $50,000 for your tuition, but you're also paying with 4 years of your time. Instead of going to college and getting a bachelor's degree, you COULD have spent 4 years in a job where you make $30,000 a year. Therefore, the REAL cost of going to college is the $120,000 of foregone earnings you're giving up PLUS the $50,000 you pay in tuition.

Ultimately, it would cost about $170,000 to get a bachelor's degree if you're not working while in school.

That's a LOT of money. It's even MORE if you go to grad school. This is why I've stressed the importance of making sure that when you GRADUATE from college, you actually end up making enough money for that kind of investment to be worth it.

While we're on the topic of hourly wages, I got a lifehack for you and if you behave & act right, I might just fucking share it with your sexy ass. If you need a quick way to convert between hourly wages and your yearly salary without digging into your britches and pulling out your calculator, just **multiply the shit by 2** then add the 0's at the end. It's not going to give you a *perfect* fucking answer, but it's close a damn nuff (I'm also assuming you work 40 hours a week).

In other words:
$10 an hour is *roughly* $20,000 a year. (**10** x 2 = 20)
$15 an hour is *roughly* $30,000 a year. (**15** x 2 = 30)

To go backwards, just divide by 2 instead of multiplying.
a $**64**,000 salary is *roughly* $32 an hour. (**64** ÷ 2 = 32)
a $**100**,000 salary is *roughly* $50 an hour. (**100** ÷ 2 = 50)

Again, the numbers aren't PERFECT, they'll be off by a bit, but it's probably the fastest way to get an approximate number and calculate it in your head. So, if your manager pulls you to the after a year and says "Hey, I'm giving you a $1.00 hourly raise", that's 1 x 2 = 2. You can assume that's about a $2,000 raise for the year (the actual amount is $2,080). At that point you can say "Hey, that ain't shit fool. I get more money than THAT doing push-ups on your mom for an hour".

** *This is especially bad if you made more than $100,000 last year, because that's a 2% pay increase. However, inflation rises about 3% each year. Your salary might be $2,000 higher but you would actually be LOSING money.*

The "time is money" idea is fun to play with, so let's do some mental masturbation. Let's say you make **$10 an hour** and you're driving out of town to see your annoying ass mother-in-law who's always on her 4th mimosa by noon and she needs you to help move the armoire for the 2nd time this month while she goes on a slightly racist tangent about her Hispanic neighbor. You COULD take a toll road to get there that costs you $10, BUT it'll shave **30 minutes off your time** driving. Should you? Probably not. You basically gave your employer 1 hour of your life for that $10 and if you take the toll road, you'll be giving someone else that SAME $10 to give you 30 minutes of time. If you take out the middleman (the $10) you're essentially trading 60 minutes of your life for 30 minutes. That's a bad deal.

Hold your nut, that was just some foreplay. I got one more for ya. Should you spend **$5** for a cheeseburger? Eating is obviously necessary for survival. It's possible to go 3 weeks without eating, but just for the sake of argument let's say that eating a cheeseburger right now will allow you to live for another 20 days. So, in 20 days, you're gonna have to eat another cheeseburger or else you're going to die of starvation. That means that a cheeseburger essentially gives you 20 days of time, or 480 hours. If you make $10 an hour, that means the real inherent value of a cheeseburger is $4,800. You would be trading **30 minutes of your time** for **20 days.** That's a hell of a fucking steal.

Now OBVIOUSLY that's a fucking ridiculous scenario. People can't just survive off eating 1 fucking cheeseburger every 20 days, and they need water and other shit. At

best it sounds like a bad ass advertisement for McDonald's. I'm just trying to give you a different way to think about the value of money and the decisions you make with it.

Before I get any further, let me just acknowledge that we're all in different financial situations. Even in my mid-to-late 20's, I only managed to have a couple hundred dollars in my bank account, and the idea of investing $100 every month was just not a possibility for me. But your perspective, as well as your ability to save, changes as you get older and as you put yourself in better opportunities.

Don't get complacent with a low-paying job or buy into the "work your way up" mentality at a shitty job that's not paying you what you're worth. They're gonna keep dangling that carrot in front of your face and have you running on the treadmill as long as they can. Some people say it's possible to be SO good at your job that you're irreplaceable, which ultimately makes it harder for you to move up. Do what you need to do to get a GOOD paying job and access to money that you can save.

If an employer offers you a sign-on bonus, try negotiating a pay increase instead. It's cool that someone's offering you $2,000 just to take a job, but an extra $1 an hour will give you $2,080 at the end of the year, and another $2,000 every year after that. In the long run, it's much better than getting a chunk of cash up front (unless you know you're not going to be working with them for long). Also consider negotiating a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) which increases your paycheck each year to account for inflation.

The sooner you start to make well-informed, rational financial decisions for yourself, the more opportunities you'll have to make money with money. This is why I'm such a huge advocate of education and majoring in a STEM field. College is a major long-term debt, but it's one that can generate a profit. There are actually a few major long-term debts that nearly EVERYONE experiences:

- Buying a home/housing in general
- Buying a car
- Insurance
- College
- Weddings
- Children

These are ALL things that could potentially drain you financially for the rest of your life. It is your job to be aware of all these things, because avoiding them or minimizing their costs are literal life-changers. Let's look at these one by one:

Housing:

The unfortunate reality is that renting a home or an apartment means getting the shit end of a bad stick, but not everyone can AFFORD to buy a home. Sometimes the best thing to do financially is live with your family and avoid paying rent as long as possible. But I also understand it can be difficult when your mom keeps ruining your love life by pulling out the photo album and showing all your dates pictures of your chubby goth phase in middle school.

So, if that's not possible, try splitting rent with roommates. Renting is fine but avoid BUYING a house with roommates. That can lead to a lot of issues. But you should do whatever you CAN do to stall and avoid having to pay $1,000+ every month for rent. (Which, if you're from Hawaii or California, will probably how much you pay for rent even if you DO split it).

It is worth noting that buying a home is a COMMITMENT. If you can't commit to staying in the same area for 20+ years, then buying a home almost definitely is NOT the move for you.

Renting is problematic because you're essentially giving money to someone ELSE for a place to stay, but THEY get to keep the only asset. You could rent a house for $1,000 a month and after 30 years, you'll have spent a total of $360,000 and have $0 worth of an asset. Alternatively, you could have BOUGHT a house while paying a mortgage for about the same cost and after 30 years you'll still have a house that you can sell.

In both cases you're spending a similar amount of money, but if you BUY the house then MAYBE the house will still be worth $360,000 or if you're lucky, maybe it will be worth even MORE than $360,000 which is a huge win. Hell, in the WORST case scenario the entire housing market crashes and you can only sell the house for $200,000. **That's still $200,000 more than the $0 you would have had if you had rented.**

And honestly, it won't be the worst thing if it's a "buyer's market" when you sell. Because as soon as you sell your home, you're going to have to buy a new one. It SHOULD be the case that your second home is a bigger investment than your first one and increasing your investment on a price dip has a better chance of being favorable in the long run.

But owning a home also has downsides. You're responsible for paying for ANY repairs out of pocket, which means it's entirely possible that you could wake up tomorrow and get stuck with a $20,000 bill because a Tornado came through and took out your kitchen. So, it's worth noting that if you ARE going to own a home, you also need to pay for insurance and be incredibly careful to **save additional money for emergencies** in ADDITION to the rent, which for many people just isn't possible.

Transportation:

Buying a car is a necessity for many people, but if you can go through life without one, then it's honestly not the worst way to lower your costs. The major "return on investment" from owning a car usually comes from time and opportunity. Time is self-explanatory. Every minute you spend waiting on a city bus or bicycling around town is time you COULD spend dressing your weiner dog up like a mariachi singer. But someone WITHOUT a car may not be able to get jobs in a city that's an hour away. If the job that's an hour away pays an additional $1,000 a month, then you're losing $12,000 every year by not owning a car.

Of course, if you get a car and take that job, you should also think about all the additional costs e.g., the cost of owning a car, paying for gas, and the fact that you're

likely losing about 40 hours of your time to drive every month. It may even be a better financial decision to use those 40 hours each month working a second, part-time job that may not require a car. There are a lot of factors to consider for even the smallest decisions. It should go without saying (it doesn't) that a car is a car. A $30,000 car can be just as reliable, and in some cases more reliable than a $60,000 car.

There are other factors to think about when you buy a car. If you purchase a luxury brand car and get in an accident, your repairs are almost ALWAYS going to be more expensive. Which means that the true cost of owning a luxury brand is actually far more than just the difference between the cost of the 2 cars. For example, the AAA website estimates that an alternator replacement for a 2018 Mercedes Benz S-Class is around $2,000 - $3,000. An alternator replacement for a Hyundai accent of the same year is between $569 – 832, and that's just ONE potential repair out of many that you could find yourself up against throughout the lifespan of your car. Especially if you're constantly barreling down the interstate like it's a Formula 1 track and wind up going airborne off the side of an off-ramp while your whole body goes flying out the window like Peter Pan.

When looking at miles per gallon, consider that the average motorist drives 13,500 miles per year. Let's simplify and ignore the distinction between city and highway mileage. For a reasonably efficient car that gets 30 miles per gallon that's 450 gallons per year. For a car that only gets 20 miles per gallon, that's 675 gallons per year. At an average gas price of $2.75 per gallon, getting the car that's MORE fuel efficient will save you $619 every year. I know $619 per year isn't life-changing savings, but if you stick it in stocks with a rate close to 5% compound interest, that $619 in 60 years will be worth more than $12,000. That's not some wizardry I pulled out of my ass; we'll talk details later. The point is, even something as simple as choosing a car with fewer miles-per-gallon can have a MAJOR financial impact that most people just don't consider.

Choosing NOT to purchase a luxury brand is an easy to way to lower the cost of a car, and sometimes buying a used car MIGHT be the best option. The only issue with USED cars is making sure they're RELIABLE. A used car that's unreliable could cost you a significant amount in repairs, or even lead to accidents due to faulty mechanics. This results in additional costs that come with lawsuits and/or a significant increase your insurance, which in the long run will be far more costly than just buying a new car.

In the worst-case scenario, you could potentially injure others or even yourself in a way that makes it impossible for you to ever work again. If that leads to you spending the rest of your life making LESS money than you could have made without a disability then you could be losing hundreds of thousands of dollars over your lifetime, at which point, the tradeoff of saving $24,000 on a used car is not even remotely worth it.

However, I'll acknowledge that there's a twisted scenario where permanent disability for **some** people could lead to them making MORE money from their disability than they were likely to make otherwise. Of course, I'm not advocating that you should injure yourself in any way. I personally don't think there's any financial reward that's worth impairing yourself physically for the rest of your life.

Insurance is almost always worth having, but it's worth noting that insurance isn't really designed to cover EVERYTHING and make life cheaper for you. The primary purpose of insurance is to be a safety net that prevents financial devastation. If your house catches on fire and all of your items go with it, you could be losing a life-altering amount of money and property. The same applies if you have some sort of unpredicted health emergency. If you don't have insurance but need to go to the E.R. with broken bones and have surgery done, it could cost you $10,000 out of pocket. There are many types of insurance: life insurance, car insurance, renter's insurance, health insurance, and more. There aren't many ways to mitigate the cost of insurance, and all of these come out of your paycheck every month. But if you try to avoid paying for insurance, you're severely at risk of having ONE bad accident that could leave you living out on the streets and sucking dick for Subway sandwiches. Bruh Subway isn't even GOOD.

College:

College is another significant expense for many people, and I've already emphasized the thing that matters most here. Spending $40,000 or more to get a degree that employers aren't looking for is likely to be a waste of $40,000. Getting a degree in a good major could give you the opportunity to earn up to $100,000 or more every year for the next 10, 20, 30 or more years of your life. College is an investment, and you COULD be getting a return of MILLIONS of dollars. Or you can blow 60k on a master's degree in Art and make a career out of drawing the finest doodles any employee has ever made on the back of a Starbucks cup.

I want to emphasize that there's no shame in working at Starbucks, or ANY job for that matter. But the fact is that employers don't value their contributions as much as they should. I strongly believe that every job is important, deserving of respect, and should all be paid at livable wages. At the same time, it's important to acknowledge the way things REALLY are, not just the way we want to them to be; Especially when it comes to making decisions for yourself and your future. It's unfortunate, but the depressing reality for EVERY field, is that the literal DEFINITION of "having a job" means you've agreed to let someone else make more money off of your hard work and labor than you do.

Chances are no matter how hard you fight it, you're gonna spend half your life listening entitled post-boomers yelling "GEN Z KIDS AND MILLENIALS MAKE BAD FINANCIAL DECISIONS" ok that's big talk coming from a generation of people who paid actual money to have pet rocks.

There's a quote that goes "It's easier to wear slippers than to carpet the whole world", and even though that quote came from a hacky sexual predator, the quote itself has a point. Adapting to the world around you is a HELL of a lot easier than making the world adapt to you, and it takes someone with a position of power or respect to truly make change. Your number one priority should always be the fucking person in the mirror. You need to do what it takes to make yourself successful then USE that success to pull up others.

Just take a moment to reflect on what we've considered so far to be the wisest financial decisions. Owning a house is significantly better than renting, and the

difference it has on your net worth could be $300,000 or more. Buying a new car is significantly better than buying a used car, because if a used car isn't reliable, there are a number of ways it could put you further in debt and ultimately end up costing more than just buying a new car. Insurance is a must. Not having insurance is like walking on a tightrope without a net. Going to college and getting a degree in something useful is on average the most reliable and risk-free way to become financially solvent.

All of these things have a similar theme. The **wisest** financial choices are the choices that truly poor people often don't have the opportunity to make. Living with your family until you can save up enough money to be financially stable isn't an option for everyone. Living with your family while going to college isn't an option for everyone. Some people have the luxury of parents who will pay FOR that new car, or pay off your insurance, or even put you through college. Even the LOANS you can get on a house or a car cost much less money if you have a parent with good credit who can cosign with you. The ability to invest at a young age (which I'll talk about soon) is another "wise" financial move, but a privilege that some people just don't have. People from financially privileged backgrounds may not even take time out of their life to notice how royally fucked they would be WITHOUT that help.

Weddings:

The last 2 categories are, for the most part, optional. My opinion is that weddings are the longest ongoing scam in human history. A 5″ + 7″ round tiered cake with 26 servings can cost about $120. If I tell the baker that it's for a wedding, that EXACT same cake could be marked up to $200 or more. People will put themselves in debt, sometimes upwards of $10,000 or more, for something that's incredibly stressful and time-consuming. Often, it's all just so they can have a ceremony in front of family members they don't even like, and there's fairly high probability of at least one person getting shitfaced and making your day miserable. And some people do it MULTIPLE times in their life. There's NO financial return on having a wedding. If you've got $10,000 burning a hole in your pocket and don't want anything useful in return, send that shit to me. I'm more than happy to make you an entire photo album of you and your relatives photoshopped in suits and dresses in front of a church, or a beach, or a brothel. Whatever the fuck you need.

If you want an easy way to free up $10,000 of the amount you'll have to spend throughout your lifetime, skipping the wedding and/or just doing something incredibly cheap is almost always the best way to go.

Children:

Ah these little fucking bundles of joy. They're also 18+ years of bills and birthday presents. They say that the average cost to raise one child to 18 is about $250,000. That means having 2 kids is half a million dollars. I'm not going to sit here and tell people not to have kids, maybe you'll pop out a Drake or a Celine Dion that makes millions of dollars and takes care of you and if so, whooptee fucking do for you. From a PROBABILITY standpoint you're more likely to get a dud whose only return on investment is making sure you don't feel alone on Christmas. What I will say, is that I strongly advise you prioritize getting a Home, Car, College. Etc. and becoming

financially stable before you even consider having kids. Until then, use a fucking condom.

There are also MANY other life-altering debts that may be less common, but you should think about, and be aware of them. Committing a felony can possibly cost you just as much as a car, or more. Not only are you going to be saddled with a MASSIVE amount of debt, but you're also going to have a MUCH harder time getting a well-paid job. If you're in a position where you, or people around you are considering doing something that's incredibly illegal, you should really stop to think about the fact that it's essentially a financial death sentence that will almost GUARANTEE you'll never be successful. The exception is if you're Jay Z, but let's be real you don't got bars like that.

If you ever find yourself looking at job opportunities and are attempting to move to a different state, you should look up "cost of living" calculators online and find one that will let you compare salaries so you're making an informed decision. Salaries aren't everything, and financially speaking it is BETTER to make $100,000 a year living in Mississippi than it is to make $200,000 a year living in California. That said, I'm not entirely sure ANY salary would make me feel like it's worth living in Mississippi.

There's actually one other way to optimize your lifetime earnings. Drop out of high school. That's a controversial thing to say because most people who drop out don't do it for the right reasons. You will lose a LOT of job opportunities and be much worse off if you drop out the wrong way. But if you can drop out at 16, immediately get a G.E.D., then get your college degree(s) 2 years earlier than you otherwise would've, employers won't even look at your high school history as a factor. You'll have more opportunities at a younger age, and you'll spend an extra 2 years of your life working (assuming you retire at the same age). If your salary at ANY point is $100,000 then you would be making $200,000 more than you otherwise would've. That said, if you're not some Einstein genius with way more motivation than the average 16-year-old has, dropping out is a bad idea that could cost you millions.

Another topic I want to touch on briefly is taxes. In 2021, if you are the average middle or lower-class worker, or if you're a college student, you should not be afraid of doing your own taxes. Using a software like TurboTax is incredibly easy, and unless you're in a unique tax situation that the average person is not in, it's not worth spending money you don't have to hire an accountant to do things you can probably do on your own.

I do want to cover some basics. In short, if you work a job for a legitimate employer, a certain amount of that money is held to help you pay your taxes. For the sake of this explanation, let's ignore things like Medicare and social security, and to keep the math simple let's say that the amount withheld from your paycheck is 10%.

So, in other words, if you make $30,000 this year, you're going to actually bring home $27,000. The other $3,000 is withheld from your paycheck to pay your taxes. However, that $3,000 was just a guess of how much money you would owe. Once you actually complete your taxes, you might find that you owe $3,700. At that point, you're responsible for paying the extra $700 to the government. Conversely, you could find

that you only owe $2,300. At which point the IRS will refund you $700 and you can take that money to the nearest strip club and pretend you're Cardi B for a day.

A "tax credit" is essentially something that can REDUCE the amount of tax that you owe. One good tax credit to be aware of if you're in college is the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC). You can claim the AOTC for a MAXIMUM of four years. Per the IRS website you're eligible for the AOTC if you're "enrolled in school at least half time for at least ONE academic period beginning in the tax year" as long you have not ALREADY completed a 4-year degree

(It's worth noting you cannot take this credit if you make over $80,000 or over $160,0000 if you're married. Or if you've had a felony or drug conviction. Sorry, Charlie Sheen).

The AOTC can reduce the amount of money that you owe to the IRS **up to** a total of $2,500 per year. To get the FULL $2,500 credit, you must pay a total of $4,000 of "out-of-pocket" costs, which means any money you've paid for your education or college tuition MINUS any scholarships or grants ("free money") that you may receive.

Note that student loans DO qualify, so if you're paying over $4,000 in tuition using student loans, and you also meet all the other above conditions, then you should be eligible for the AOTC.

Even better, 40% of the tax credit is refundable, meaning that as long as you owe the IRS **less than $1500** and meet all the above criteria, you can receive $1,000 for up to 4 years.

* If you've already taken the AOTC for 4 years, you still have the opportunity to take the lifetime learning credit for as many years as you're in school, but you cannot take these two together.

Alright, that was a lot of BORING fucking content that I just threw at you, so here's a quick fun fact: lobsters pee out of their eyes and urinate in each other's faces to communicate. Hopefully, you think about that next time you're enjoying seafood with a bowl of cheddar bay biscuits and munching down on crustaceans dripping in butter.

It's worth knowing that the uses U.S. a bracket system to determine how much you owe in taxes. In 2021 it looks like this:

Tax Rate	Income Bracket (in USD)
10%	0 – 9,875
12%	9,876 – 40,125
22%	40,126 – 85,525
24%	85,526 – 163,300
32%	163,301 – 207,350
35%	207,351 – 518,400
37%	518,401+

You may be inclined to think that if you make $35,000 in 2021 that you'll be taxed 12%. That's not exactly how it works. That would be a pretty silly way to do it, because someone who made $518,401 would end up having to pay $10,000 more in taxes than someone who made $518,400.

In actuality, if you made $35,000 in 2021, you would first be taxed for 10% of all the money you made UP TO $9,875. So that's a tax of $987.50.

Then for any amount of money you make OVER $9,875 but **under** $40,125, you'll be taxed at a rate of 12%.

So, in the case where you make $35,000 this year, (35,000 – 9875) = $25,125 is taxed at a rate of 12%.

12% of 25,125 is $3,015 so you would add that to the $987.50 in part 1.

In total, you would owe $4,002.50.

When you hear talk about politicians "increasing tax rates" they're usually talking increasing the rates that are above $518,401. Those people would still be paying the same tax rates on ALL the money they make that's below $518,401.

And when you take that American Opportunity Tax Credit I told you about, you'll get your $1,000 every year and think you're some hot shit, buying every item off the dollar menu at McDonald's screaming mo money mo problems out the window of your Toyota Corolla until you learn that someone who makes 8 million dollars every year can buy some empty land and **get 4 million dollars of their taxable income thrown out** from the amount of taxes they owe.

In other words, if that 4 million WOULD'VE been taxed at 37%, it gets ignored completely and they effectively save themselves **$1.48 million dollars** which otherwise would've gone to the government and been used to fund things like that stupid ass pothole you see on the way to work every day. I'll be honest, I don't know the going rate of pothole construction, but I assume 1.48 million dollars is a FUCK ton of potholes.

And the ONLY thing they have to do to take that deduction is promise not to BUILD anything on that land. Even worse, they get to take that 4-million-dollar deduction on their income EVERY SINGLE YEAR…FOREVER. That's 1.48 million dollars EVERY SINGLE YEAR that SHOULD be going toward government spending but isn't. Fucking HURRAY for conservation easement.

I promised I was gonna talk about inflation & interest, so let's do this. Inflation just means you can't buy as much shit with $100 today as you could with $100 in the past. My great-grandma used to tell me bedtime stories about how back in the 1920's she used to be able to buy 5 candy bars, a soda pop, a loaf of bread, 75 golden camels, 53 purple peacocks, and a world class menagerie of exotic-type mammals including an elephant that used to be a monkey wearing a purple vest & a fez hat ALL FOR A NICKEL.

Or maybe that was Aladdin, idk.

Today, a nickel won't buy shit. Basically, if you're trying to save money by stuffing it under your mattress, the value of your shit is ALWAYS gonna be decreasing. The best way to prevent losing money when you're trying to save is to invest the shit. Inflation isn't always bad, though. If you have a shit ton of debt, inflation is a GOOD thing because the value of the amount of money you owe is going to be decreasing. Companies that loan money know this, though. That's part of why they tack on ridiculous interest rates that hurt you far more than inflation will ever help you. Also, don't worry I'll be throwing some hot investing tips your way in a bit because I'm a fucking g. You can thank me by slipping a few dollars in my g-string, I'm not spinning on this pole & giving you this lap dance because I like you, you dig?

Interest though…INTEREST?! Interest is the fucking SHIT. Interest has that big-dick "I just returned the grocery cart to the cart collection area" energy. Interest fucks. Interest wears sunglasses at night and every time it walks in the room everyone goes slow motion while Corey Hart plays in the fucking background.

What is interest? It's essentially the cost to borrow money. Let's say your brother wants to borrow $1,000 from you so he can buy a custom-made life-size sex doll for research purposes. You say "Ok, I'll loan you $1,000 NOW if when you pay me back you give me $1,100". He's a bit desperate for the money because he has… science to do, so he says "Deal". Essentially you just loaned him $1,000 with 10% interest.

Now let's say your brother pays you back $1,100 as planned. That $100 that you made is the interest. Your mother-in-law asks you to borrow that money so she can buy an AK-47 because she's convinced that the landscapers who she hired to plant crepe myrtles in the yard back in June know where she lives and are plotting to kill her. You agree to loan her money because you make bad decisions, so you give her the $1,000 and ask her to give you back $1,100. The same deal you gave your brother.

But then you say…wait, I actually have another $100. That's the **interest** that you got from loaning money to your brother. She says she wants to borrow THAT, too… so you loan it to her. However, you want to maintain that 10% interest rate. So, you charge her another $10 to borrow that $100.

OVERALL, you're lending her $1,100 but you'll receive $1,210 back. Essentially what you just did was charge interest…. ON the money you got back FROM interest. They call that INTERESTCEPTION! No, no j/k they call that compound interest. That term existed way before the movie inception came out, but it would've been a dope ass name forreal.

But here's the deal – the next time you loan out your money, you can loan out the $10 of interest that you made off the $100 interest you made off your brother. So then you'll make another $1 from that while simultaneously making another $10 off that $100. It's a repeating cycle that goes on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on and how fucking crazy would it be if I just did like 8 pages of that shit. Someone needs to put a fucking Pulitzer Prize in my hands ASAP.

I know your mind isn't as fucking blown as it should be, that's ok. We're gonna get there in just a couple seconds. Quick terminology to know, first. When a large company

makes a good chunk of money, they'll generally take a small portion of their earnings and give it to people who own a small fraction of their company (each fraction is called a 'share of stock'). They often do this 4 times a year and that portion of earnings they give to stockholders is called a **dividend**. If I own 100 shares of Apple stock and they give dividends of $1 then that means I'll make $1 for **each** stock, so I make $100 total. I can then use that money to buy ANOTHER share of Apple stock (Assuming one share costs $100), so now I'll have 101 shares of Apple. That's what it means to **reinvest your dividends**.

To be clear, stocks don't directly have compounding interest, but dividends work similar to compound interest, IF you reinvest them. And with respect to interest, the Stock market has **historically** given about a 7% return when reinvesting dividends. Now I know you're thinking WAIT WHAT ABOUT INFLATION, well aren't you a fucking good noodle, you deserve a fucking gold star for remembering that shit, but that 7% figure has already been adjusted to include the money lost due to inflation, so we're all fucking kosher here, chief.

Let's say you invest $100 every month and you reinvest your dividends (assuming you get a 7% return). In 40 years, you will have saved up $239,562.13. If you DIDN'T invest your money, you would only have $48,000 saved up. Keep in mind, $239,562.13 is adjusted for inflation, $48,000 isn't. The money you would be losing by SAVING $40,000 versus INVESTING $40,000 is about $200,000. If your mind isn't blown by that shit, you need Jesus.

Sure, you can put your money in a savings account, but the average interest received from a savings account is 0.06%. That is a FRACTION of 1%. Inflation goes up about 3% per year. If the rate of INFLATION is greater than the rate of interest on your savings account (which in most cases it WILL be), you are losing money over time.

I highly, highly encourage you go online and find a compound interest calculator and play with it. There are plenty of websites and apps. Compound interest grows exponentially, meaning the numbers just keep getting bigger and bigger at a faster and faster rate over time. So, it is CRUCIAL that you invest for as LONG as possible and that you start investing as YOUNG as possible. Remember, no matter how old you are, you will never be younger than you are today.

__Trigger Warning:__ The following parabola may invoke emotionally traumatizing memories of quadratic functions, but study thoroughly before moving on
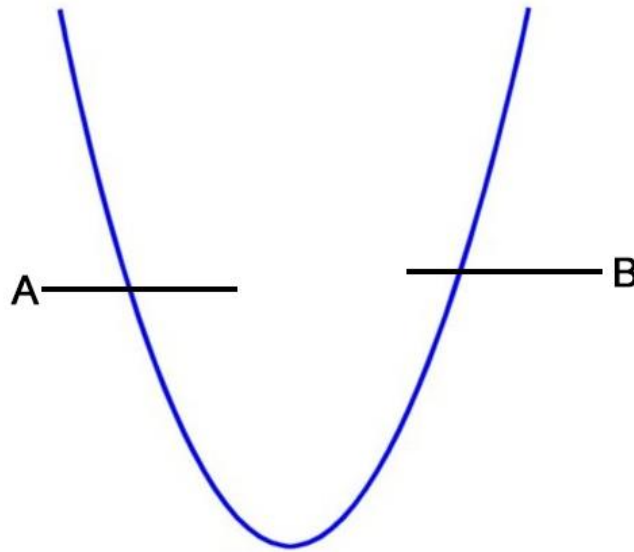
For this next thing I'm going to say, I'm going to make a **very important assumption,** and that is that the stock market in the long run is ALWAYS moving upward. **IF and only IF that assumption holds** then, EVERY short-term dip in the stock market is eventually going take a shape that looks somewhat similar to the picture above. There may be all sorts of small variations when you zoom in and look at the picture closely, but when you zoom out you are essentially guaranteed to have the shape above.

This assumption that the stock market is always going up might seem far-fetched, but historically it has been true. There have been PLENTY of stock market crashes over time, but in the long run the U.S. stock market has NEVER dipped without an eventual recovery.

When a large crash happens, for example, the one that happened when COVID restrictions went into place, everyone shits their pants and starts selling; whether that be because they're afraid of losing their money, because they're just hoping to buy back in at a better position, or just because they had taco bell earlier that day.

There are many people who will buy at **point A** and then when the market keeps going down, they SELL because they had EXPECTED it to go back up, and it didn't. When they see themselves losing money, they're afraid that they made a bad decision. Often what happens, is by the time point B comes around they've lost a large portion of their money because they sold at the bottom instead of holding and waiting for point B to come.

Even worse than those people, are people who see the ENTIRE stock market crashing and say, "I don't want to invest now that the market is going down". And they don't invest at point A, they don't invest at the bottom, they don't invest at ALL because they're not confident that point B will EVER come.

Here's the thing I want you to take home. **IF the assumption holds** that the stock market is moving forever upwards, Point B will always come. I REPEAT. POINT B WILL ALWAYS COME.

And so will your mom (sorry, I couldn't let that one go)

Whether it comes in a week, a month, a year, or a decade, who the fuck knows? When a MAJOR crash happens, the probability that you will get a respectable return, even if all you do is invest at point A, is most likely going to be in your favor.

An alternative method is to invest 1/2 of your money at point A with the expectation that it COULD go down further, then invest the other 1/2 of your money when it hits the bottom. At which point, you'll make MORE money than if you invested ALL of your money at point A. But the reality is you can't ever know WHEN you're going to be at point A, point B, or the bottom.

But the important part to be aware of is that unless the entire market crashes and NEVER gets back to where it was before the crash within your lifetime, which I'm warning you now is ENTIRELY POSSIBLE, you can feel rest assured that Point B will always come. Anyone who invested a lot of money at the bottom of the housing market crash, MADE a lot of money. Anyone who invested a lot of money at the bottom of the COVID crash, MADE a lot of money.

An interesting fact that you should know is that between 1926 and 1960, the rates of return when reinvesting dividends was 9%. Why is that important? It means that even if you were investing on a frequent basis during the GREAT DEPRESSION, which is considered most significant stock market crash in American history, you would have still made more than 10 times what you would have made if you had just left your money in a saving's account.

However, a big issue during the great depression was that a lot of people were buying stocks with money that they BORROWED from banks (This is called "*Buying on Margin*" do NOT do this). The idea was that if the stock market is giving a return of 9% and they can borrow money from the bank with an interest rate where they owe 6%, then they can make money by just taking it from the bank and directly investing it. But if the stock market fails, which it did, they won't be able afford to pay the bank back.

tl;dr DON'T BUY STOCKS WITH MONEY YOU DON'T HAVE, DUMMY.

Let's say you invest $20,000 and at the end of the year you sell all your stocks for $26,000. That $6,000 you made IS considered income, and if the IRS knows about that shit, Uncle Sam is gonna come for that ass. You have to pay taxes on that shit. As long as you report that you made $6,000 on investments when you file your taxes, you'll be good to go, champ. This book isn't meant to be a comprehensive guide to investing, so I highly encourage you to do some independent research on the details of taxation.

401k's and IRA's are long-term investing accounts that allow you to wait as long as possible before being taxed, but the downside is you usually have to wait until you're retired before you can access your money; unless you pay some kind of additional

penalty to withdraw it. Usually, you would set up these accounts with your employer. You may not have the freedom to choose what stocks you invest in, but that's probably a good thing.

Alternatively, if you want to have the freedom & control to buy and sell your own stocks directly, there are apps and websites for that shit. Robinhood is a phone app that's free to use and will allow you to buy and sell stocks whenever you want. If you buy and sell a stock in the same day, it's called a day trade. Robinhood DOES have a maximum limit of 3 day trades in a 5 day period.

Now for the obvious question, WHAT do you invest in? Well, I'm not a fucking stock guru, so I'll pass the buck to Warren Buffet, who is. He has made his advice public and clear multiple times: "Invest 10% in government bonds and the other 90% in a low-cost S&P 500 Index Fund".

Real quick: "What is an Index Fund"? Well, basically S&P 500 is a group of 500 stocks, including Google, Amazon, Apple, etc. probably most of the companies you can think of. An index fund basically pays out money based on the OVERALL performance of all 500 of those stocks. If you just buy a share of Apple stock, you'll make money when Apple goes up, but you'll lose money when Apple goes down. If you have an Index fund, Apple could go down, but Google might go up; so you COULD end up still making money. That's the general idea behind "Diversifying your portfolio" aka don't put all your fucking eggs in one basket. Why the fuck are you even putting eggs in a basket to begin with, you fucking weirdo. You're not the god damn Easter Bunny. Get that Peter Cottontail shit out of my face.

If you're using Robinhood you can just type in "VOO" to find the Vanguard S&P 500 ETF and buy shares of that stock. What's IMPORTANT (especially if you want to stay true to Warren Buffet's advice) is that you buy shares and HOLD. That means do not sell them if they go up, and do not sell them if they go down. It is a LONG term, safe, BORING strategy. But according to Buffet, it's the BEST strategy for the average person. If you want to do anything fancier than that shit, you need to do some more fucking research.

If you ignore that advice and invest in stocks individually, I do want to give you a thought to noodle over. There's a concept called the Keynesian Beauty Contest, based on the idea that there's a newspaper with pictures of 12 women in it and everyone in the contest is meant to vote on who they think the prettiest 6 are. You win if you pick the 6 people that the crowd picks. It's patriarchal sexism at its finest, but don't blame me, I didn't come up with this shit.

It's a bad idea to make your pick based on who YOU think is prettiest, you should pick based on who EVERYONE ELSE will think is prettiest. The same idea applies to choosing stocks. That being said, I personally think there's more nuance to it than that. If you do extended research and learn information that the crowd doesn't already have, like for example that 6 of those girls are going to be outed as baby-killing racists tomorrow before the voting happens, that could drastically impact the way that the

audience votes when that time comes. At that point, you're predicting how that crowd is going to react when they **learn that new information** rather than simply guessing who they all think is the prettiest.

Since day trading and cryptos have become popular subjects, I want to take a moment to say I STRONGLY advise AGAINST is any form of day trading. Again, day trading is attempting to buy stocks or sell stocks over a short period of time hoping that you can get rich quick. At the end of the day, it's gambling. That applies to stocks and/or cryptocurrencies (which I'll talk about later).

Trying to day trade and predict the market is a stupid move. The reality is that math and probability will always rule supreme, and more people get the shit end of the stick than people who benefit from it.

And I'm not going to lie, there can be a certain kind of benefit to stupidity. Let's say I want to make a bet; I want ALL the money in your bank account. We'll flip a coin, if it's heads, I take all your money. If it's tails, I'll give you that amount of money. Assume the coin isn't rigged in any way. A rational person might consider that it's not worth the risk, assuming you actually need that money to survive. But someone who is impulsive or naive about their chances might take that bet. Now they COULD lose all of that money. But they also have a 50% chance that they'll double all their money. The rational person will NEVER do as well the irrational person CAN do. But they can also never do as BADLY as the irrational person. They just sit in the middle.

Almost everything about speculative investing can be really simplified into this: The more risks you take, the more money you'll win or lose, and the less risks you take, the less you win or lose.

It's really that simple

The irrational person can take the bet, and hey there's a 50% chance they win. If they DO win, they're gonna think "Hey, that really worked out for me so clearly I made the right decision". The rational person might even see the irrational person making all that money and feel like they missed out on the opportunity to double their money.

The irrational person is likely to do it again, at which point the law of large numbers says that if they KEEP taking that kind of bet over and over again for a long enough period of time, EVENTUALLY they're gonna end up winning 50% of the time and losing 50% of the time.

But also consider that the higher the reward, the more justification there IS for taking a risk. For example, if I tell you, "Let's flip a coin ONE time. If it lands on heads you have to give me $100, and if it lands on tails, I'll give you 5 million dollars"

You'd have to be on fucking crack to NOT take that bet. It's still a 50/50 chance but losing $100 isn't going to affect your life NEARLY as much as winning 5 million probably will.

And if you've never taken statistics, there's a 50% chance you lose $100 and 50% chance you gain $5 million. The value you will get on average is called the expected value, and it works out to be

*(.50 * -100) + (.50 * 5,000,000) = $2,499,9950.*

If the Expected Value is a **positive** number, you're probably better off taking that bet. The HIGHER that number is, the more sense it makes to take the bet.

But let's be clear, it doesn't matter if you're day trading stocks or cryptos, the probability is NOT 50/50. If you're not a billionaire you're always going to be at a disadvantage. Wealthy people have the ability to pump and dump the market which gives them the competitive edge when it comes buying and selling stocks or cryptocurrencies. In the stock and cryptocurrency markets, they are like the casino, because they have a competitive edge.

It's a pretty easy and obvious strategy. For example, in cryptocurrencies, they could buy a shitload of dogecoin, make the price skyrocket, everyone else will hop on board because they see it skyrocketing. Then the wealthy people immediately sell off all their shares whenever they decide to. Key words: when THEY decide to. Then everybody else sells off and the price plummets because of knee-jerk reactions. The wealthy people can now buy it again and drive it up, sell, rinse and repeat. The average person doesn't have billions of dollars that make a significant impact on the price. Therefore, the average person can't cause a big gain or a fast sell-off. That's why wealthy people are the casino, it's rigged in their favor. They're the ones with the power to manipulate the market.

At the end of the day, the easiest and smartest decision is just to put your money in and leave it.

Look at it this way, playing the lottery is stupid, too. But there are MANY people who have won the lottery and made millions and never had to work again. That doesn't mean they were *smart* to play the lottery, because the OVERWHELMING majority of people who play the lottery don't win. All that means is that the few people who won the lottery were lucky. The half of the story you're not telling from that perspective is the millions of people who bought lottery tickets every week and won nothing. Go to your local casino and talk to the dealers, I promise you they have dozens of stories of people who have completely ruined their lives, lost everything they had, ruined their children's lives over the same shit. Gambling is gambling, some people will win, and some people will lose.

The thing that determines whether gambling at a casino is "stupid" is whether there are more people who LOSE than there are people who WIN. If you had a 95% chance of WINNING money every time you go to the casino, gambling wouldn't be stupid. Hell, it'd be stupid NOT to gamble (assuming you're not losing a ridiculous amount of money the 5% of the time you lose).

But "winning 95% of the time" is not the reality. The reality is that MOST people will end up losing and the house will always walk away with the most money. That's why OWNING a casino isn't stupid but gambling at a casino IS. Realize that the Casinos are gambling with THEIR money, too. They just have a competitive edge and the probability that guarantees in the long run they're going to make more than they lose.

When a speculative boom happens, there will always people who got in early and use that opportunity to get a big payout. Then they go and tell all their friends which is equivalent to saying, "HEY GUYS, I WON $10,000 AT THIS CASINO YOU SHOULD GO TRY IT".

Those people will see the shit skyrocketing and try to get in on the action but end up losing thousands. People have made thousands and people have LOST thousands, but if you don't have a well-researched reason for investing beyond "someone said I should do this, and THAT person seems successful" then you need to sit the fuck down at the kiddie table eat your applesauce.

There's a difference in "investing" because you see an inherent worth in the future of something versus buying some shit because everyone else is buying it and hoping it will make you rich without understanding it, which is just careless gambling. If you thoroughly research the housing market and think, "Hey I've got tons of data and documentation right now that says that banks are loaning out money carelessly to people who can't afford it, and I think that's going to cause the entire housing market to crash soon", and you take out a shitload of money and bet against the housing market, that's a WISE move because when you did THOROUGH RESEARCH and have supporting evidence that predicts an outcome. You have a MORE informed understanding of what the probability is. It's the same as how counting cards in Blackjack could help you identify the moment where your probability of winning is highest. This is how the MIT Blackjack team, which lasted somewhere around 20 years, was able to make millions of dollars by beating casinos.

Another consideration regarding day trading is the technology. Computer programs can buy and sell stocks on your behalf already exist, and the number of them being used will likely increase with time. You can design a computer program to buy a stock when it hits $10 and sell a stock if it hits $5. The problem with these kinds of programs is that they're TOO efficient. Humans have to check the stock market every second to react to swings, so there's always going to be a lagging effect. But computers are ALWAYS tuned in. If the price point hits $5 and a large number of people sell off at the exact same time, the price is going to dip a LOT. Maybe it dips to $4 at which point a bunch of other people whose computer programs are set to sell off at $4 get triggered and then it decreases again to $3, and the same thing happens again. This can lead to bigger dips and bigger rises in the stock market which is the very definition of volatility. That said, it's fair to argue that when that price dropped from $5 to $4 that there also would have been people with programs set to buy at $4 to counteract the people who are selling, which would reduce that volatility.

Not to be captain fucking obvious here, but you should only ever invest money that you can afford to put away and forget about. If your $1,000 rent is due soon and you only have $1,010 in the bank account, you probably shouldn't be investing any of that money. All it takes is for an extra $10 to come out of your account because you forgot you rented Alien-Tentacle Hentai off Amazon last weekend and it winds up over drafting your account right. Then after that, the bank will hit you with $50 of extra fees because they're soulless pieces of shit that can't appreciate good art.

It's incredibly important to understand how powerful compound interest can be, and how quickly it accumulates because it can (and will) also be used against you. Credit cards, bank loans, paycheck advances; any kind of business that is built around loaning you money will absolutely take advantage of you and saddle you with a lifetime of debt. It's baffling to me how normalized it is for Americans to spend their entire lives paying off tens of thousands of dollars in debt.

You should go through life trying to take the fewest loans you can. Don't use credit cards unless it's a dire emergency. No, paying to subscribe to your high school crush on OnlyFans is not an emergency. If you can find a RELIABLE used car for $3,000, it's a better deal to buy that in cash instead of trying to take out a loan for a brand-new car that's going to cost $30,000. But as I've mentioned before, reliability is important and often it may be in your best interest to buy a new car at the lowest cost, with the lowest APR, and lowest MPG you can find. Still, don't buy new cars just because you're bored of the old one.

Most loans are incredibly predatory. I remember my first experience when I was about 16 and going to a rent-to-own place where I had a purchased a desktop computer that was worth about $450. They had upped the price to $550 but they said they'd approve loans to anyone, even me with absolutely no credit experience and a minimum wage job. By the time I actually paid off the computer in full, I had paid about $1,000 for a $400 computer.

Many people don't view paying off debt the same as they view "making money". You may find yourself choosing between putting money into an investment account versus paying off more of your debt. It's much more exciting to look at your investment account and see "I have $30,000" versus if you pay off your debt of $30,000, but the RESULT is exactly the same. If you have $30,000 of debt, plus $30,000 in your investment account, then that means OVERALL you have 0 dollars. But if you use that money to pay off your $30,000 debt, you'll have NO money in your investment account, but you also won't owe anything which means you STILL have 0 dollars. You ever had a Dr. Pepper? What about a Mr. Pibb? THEY'RE THE SAME.DAMN.THING. If you think you can tell the difference you're a fucking liar.

I had a Mr. Pibb. Mr. Pibb is a replica of Dr. Pepper... but it's the bullshit replica, cause dude didn't even get his degree. – Mitch Hedberg

The only difference when deciding between investing your money versus paying off a debt is the interest rate. If the interest rate on your debt is something ridiculously high like 10% or more per year, you should probably pay off your debt before investing. The amount of money you can get from investing is anyone's fucking guess, but you should have realistic expectations that it will be somewhere around 6-7%. At the end of the year, it might be higher, it might be lower. But that 10% on your debt is a guarantee, and 10% is a lot.

I understand that when you're in high school, you have this desire to have name brand clothing, be up on all the latest technology, own a brand-new car because it will impress all your friends. Everyone wants to LOOK like someone who has money, but all that does is make it harder to BE someone who has money. You never fucking see Bill Gates in a music video iced out in diamonds while he's standing on top of a Bugatti with spinning rims and a stack of dollar bills pressed up against his ear while he makes it rain on 3 half-naked strippers.

I've also just never understood paying extra for brand name shit. People will spend more money on a t-shirt with nothing but a logo on it just so they can be a walking billboard. YOU'RE the one advertising their brand for THEM when you wear it. They should be paying YOU for that shit.

I'm not gonna lie, I low-key hate branding with a passion, but it's something that you should be aware of. Some people will buy a brand-new car and tell their friends "Hey, I just bought this car yesterday, it's worth $30,000" HAHAHAHA. No.

Your car loses somewhere around 10% of its value the SECOND you drive it off the lot. Which means MAYBE your car is now worth around $27,000. Your car loses about another 15% - 18% of its value every year after that.

Look at it this way. Let's say you're on your way to Target because you want to buy a flatscreen TV (Let's also pretend tax doesn't exist). But before you get into target, you see some random ass homeless dude in the parking lot who has Steve Buscemi teeth and smells like cigarettes. He comes up to you on the street with a flat screen TV and says hey, I'll sell you this brand-new TV for $200. It's in the box and everything. Target has the EXACT same TV inside for $200, which is the EXACT same price. Are you going to buy the TV from the homeless dude? Probably not.

What you MIGHT do is try to haggle him down. Say, "Hey I'll buy that TV from you for $125 because you smell like cat piss and skin cancer". But you're not going to try to haggle in Target. That's because you believe that SAME TV has less value when it's the hands of that homeless man than it does when it's on the shelf in Target. When you go into Target, you're not paying $200 for the TV, you're paying $200 for the TV PLUS the brand.

Now a rational person might point out that Target has a return policy, which I would argue is PART of that brand. The homeless dude could very well say "If this TV doesn't

work, bring it back and I'll give you a refund. I'll be at the cardboard box around the corner with a tampon soaked in Early Times whiskey hanging out of my ass". But there's a level of trust that you have with Target that you don't have with this random homeless dude. You trust that they'll honor your return. His promise to give you a refund is probably not going to affect your decision much. It's worth noting Target doesn't HAVE to refund you anything. In fact, that's usually written right on the receipt. Of course, they're probably GOING to because they have a brand to maintain. Another aspect of branding that's not talked about is that you TRUST that Target's TVs were legally acquired, whereas you may suspect the homeless man's TV may not be.

But even beyond TV's, branding gets more rampant with more money. For example, wealthy people may spend millions on art. Wolfgang Beltracchi was found guilty of forging 14 works of art and he sold the forgeries to people for a combined 45 million, which is an average of about 3.2 million dollars per forgery.

Here's a newsflash for you, if you can't tell the difference between the original artwork and a forgery of that artwork, it ain't worth 3.2 million dollars.

Fun fact, nuclear bomb testing in 1963 ultimately doubled the amount of an isotope called carbon-14 in our environment. Scientists can test the artwork, and if they find an elevated levels of carbon-14 present in the painting, they can conclude that it was NOT created before 1963 and thus, is a forgery.

Here's a newsflash for you, if you can't tell the difference between the original artwork and a forgery of that artwork without testing for nuclear radiation, it ain't worth 3.2 million dollars.

But personal finances are probably the second most important thing to not fuck up in your life, especially at a young age. If you can get started investing on a monthly basis in your early 20's while simultaneously staying out of debt from car loans, credit card loans, student loans, etc. then you will have a significantly better quality of living for the majority of your life.

So, you're probably wondering "What's the *most* important thing to not fuck up? What is the *number one* most important decision you will ever make in your life?" The answer is ***WHO.YOU.FUCKING.MARRY.***

And by "marry", I just mean the partner(s) you spend the rest of your life with, but if I said all that, the previous sentence wouldn't have been so damn punchy. There's gonna be plenty of content in this book about relationships, finding them, maintaining them, all that bullshit. DON'T WORRY I GOTCHU. It's important to find someone who shares the same interests as you, has a similar ideology to you with respect to the world, and who will be there to support you emotionally and mentally. It's your job to reciprocate those things for them. However, there's a reason I'm bringing this up in the personal finances section. Chances are, you'll spend a LARGE majority of your life financially tied to someone else, and whether or not people want to admit it, finances are a big part of ANY relationship, and to not talk about it would be fucking irresponsible.

Life is a joint effort. The whole notion of gender roles and the woman staying home and maintaining the house is bullshit. If that's how you and your partner choose to allocate your responsibilities, then there's absolutely nothing wrong with that. However, it should be a decision that both you and your partner discuss and agree upon. Every couple is going to be different. We all come from different financial backgrounds, social upbringings, family cultures, habits, and finding someone who is the perfect yin to your yang is the ultimate goal in life.

Let's get anecdotal. My parents had me when they were teenagers. They got divorced when I was young, and I was mostly raised by my mother. We were always financially struggling, moved a lot, and I switched schools constantly. When I was finally an adult, I realized that not a SINGLE person within the family that I grew up with had even attempted grad school. Many of them, including my mom, had never even gotten a bachelor's degree, so their highest level of education was a high school diploma. Even when I looked at most of the kids that I grew up with, they were all in the same boat. The kids I grew up around also seemed MORE likely to have kids at a younger age without gaining the financial stability to ensure they can fully fund having kids in the first place. As an obvious generalization, *people in lower income neighborhoods are less likely to be financially successful*. We can throw some fancy label on it like "the social proximity effect" but that's just uppity bullshit terminology designed to sell sociology degrees. I don't fuck with labels, especially when they try to make an idea sound more complicated than it is. The fucking point is that if you surround yourself with people who are broke, you're likely going to be broke yourself.

Nobody is going to have as much of a social influence on you as the person that you ultimately end up marrying. In high school, my wife lived in a better neighborhood and went through a far better school system than I did. She has about 9 friends that she keeps up with from high school and about 8 out of those 9 have grad school degrees. She's one of 5 sisters, and 4 out of those 5 have grad school degrees. 14 out of 14 of those people have completed their bachelor's. She grew up surrounded by lawyers, accountants, etc. many of which can make 6 figures or more, while many of the people I grew up with were librarians and retail associates making less than 35k a year.

Again, EVERY profession is necessary and deserves respect. They SHOULD all be valued equally, but when our society puts a monetary value on labor, some careers are just valued lower than others. If you want to prosper financially, you have to recognize that. It IS true that money can't buy you happiness but being broke can make you fucking miserable.

Emergencies are COMMON. Cardi B could drop the sequel to wet ass pussy TOMORROW and flood half your basement. No amount of buckets or mops are going to save you from shelling out thousands of dollars to replace all your wooden floors when they start warping. If you don't have money, ANY and EVERY emergency could be a financial train wreck that sets you back months. If you do have money, MOST emergencies are just time-consuming annoyances. There is a HUGE difference.

When I met my wife, she had a bachelor's degree in microbiology and was a plant scientist only making about $32,000 a year. After being together for a few years, she decided to go back to school while I continued to work. She completed her master's

degree, which afforded her the opportunity to find a much better job with more benefits. At that point, I left my job, which was also paying about $32,000 a year at the time. I went back to college myself at the age of 29 to finish my bachelor's degree in computer science.

It's incredibly important to rationalize a life-decision like going to school, whether you're 18 or 55. I KNEW going into the decision that the low-end salary for computer science was about $60,000 a year. I also knew that my earning potential WITHOUT going back to school was about $32,000 a year. I had about 3 years left, so the cost of college itself would be somewhere around $40,000.

But you also have to factor in what would happen if you **DIDN'T** go to college. For me, I'd be losing that $32,000 per year salary I would've been making for each of those 3 years I was in college. The actual cost of going to college was (3 x $32,000) + $40,000 = **$136,000 lost**. The benefit of going to college is that I'd be making $30,000 more per year than I would without a degree, therefore it would be about 4 1/2 years before I broke even on that investment.

Ultimately, it's the right financial move because as long as I work for more than 4 ½ years, I'll make more money off going to college than I ever would have made without going to college.

It was ultimately a team effort between myself and my wife that allowed each of us to significantly increase our earning potential, and if you're in a relationship you SHOULD view it as a collaborative, team effort. I made plenty of horrible educational, financial, and career decisions growing up, and the only reason I was able to recover from them is because I was able to meet and marry someone who was intelligent, frugal, supportive, who had a drive to do more and inspired me to want to do more, and who shared the same goals as me. I had the chance to go to house parties with her friends, dinner gatherings with her family, and hang out with her grad school classmates at bars. Being surrounded by her influence, as well as the influence of all the people around her ultimately gave me the confidence and belief that I could be doing more.

Free Market:

Sticking to the theme of money, let's talk about capitalism. It works like this:

       Step 1: Adam Smith
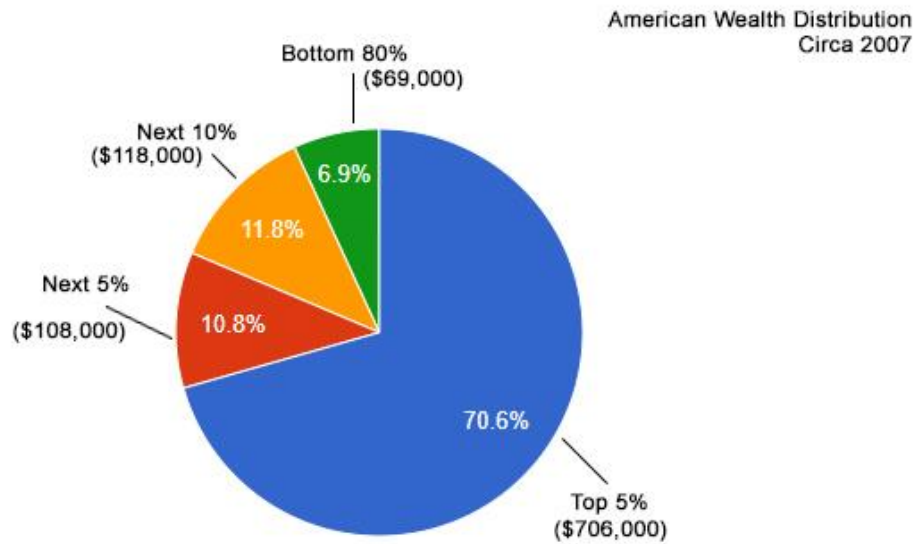   Step 2: ??? (Underpants gnomes?)
       Step 3: Profit!

To be clear, there are different forms of capitalism. When I say "capitalism" I'm nearly always referring to unregulated free-market capitalism. To simplify, free-market capitalism is basically letting business owners run their companies by doing whatever the fuck they want without government intervention. The idea is that it's supposed to incentivize competition between companies and ultimately lead to increased productivity.

For example, Apple and Google both produce phones (and *for this example*, let's say the ONLY thing they make is phones). The general theory is that they'll both be competing to create the highest quality possible phone at the cheapest price, and they're both competing to get the best employees, so they'll be trying to outbid each other to pay their employees who can easily just jump ship and take their skills and expertise to the opposite company if they're offered more money.

All of this just fucking magically finds a perfect point of equilibrium that gives EVERYONE the kind of warm and fuzzy feeling you could only find from being nestled in Dan Levy's eyebrows. Everyone's happy, which leads to the most optimal outcome possible for everyone and generates the best economy possible. Theoretically, of course. This is kinda true in the sense that true capitalism DOES tend to generate more overall wealth than other economic systems like socialism, communism, etc.
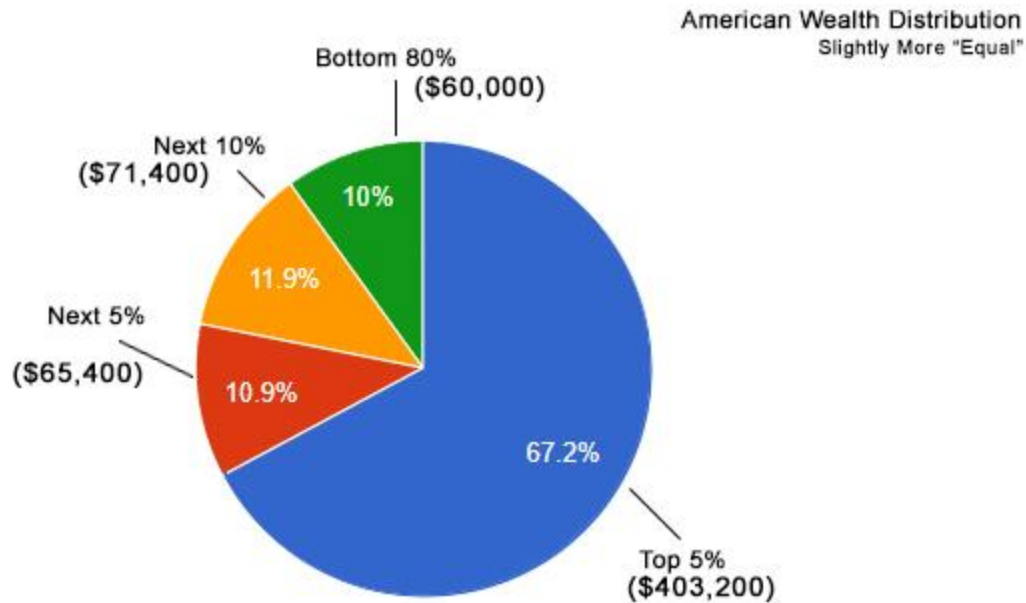
Let's just say that the American economy generates 1,000,000 and this is how they choose to distribute the wealth (which does accurately reflect American wealth distribution from 2007).

American Wealth Distribution
Circa 2007

Bottom 80%
($69,000)

Next 10%
($118,000)

Next 5%
($108,000)

6.9%

11.8%

10.8%

70.6%

Top 5%
($706,000)

If we divided $1,000,000

This pie chart is a little dated, but it's the most recent that I could conveniently find and verify. It still reasonably depicts how American wealth distribution looks in 2021. (Also note that the percentages are rounded, so they don't equal *exactly* 100%).

There's a point here to be aware of, and it's the fact that BETTER wealth distribution does NOT NECESSARILY benefit the bottom 80%. The assumption that's often made is that free market capitalism generates MORE money than other economic systems. So, let's **pretend** that if we impose restrictions that ensure the bottom 80% make 10% of the overall amount that it would stop wealthier people from investing in things like factories, new franchises,innovative technologies, etc. and BECAUSE of that change, let's **pretend** that it would cause the American Economy to generate a total of $600,000 instead of $1,000,000.

American Wealth Distribution
Slightly More "Equal"

Bottom 80% ($60,000) — 10%
Next 10% ($71,400) — 11.9%
Next 5% ($65,400) — 10.9%
Top 5% ($403,200) — 67.2%

If we divided $600,000

You can see from the pie chart above that EVERYONE makes less money, and that INCLUDES the bottom 80% which made $69,000 in picture 1 but only $60,000 in picture 2. The point to take home here is that IF capitalism can generate ENOUGH excess wealth from MORE inequality, there are SOME scenarios where the inequality may actually benefit EVERYONE.

It's accurate, but it's a little misleading. I made REALLY small adjustments to the percentages above; There's still a LOT of inequality left and giving 10% to the bottom 80% of people is absurdly low. In the IDEAL scenario of equality, everything would be distributed evenly. For example, let's say we had COMPLETELY even wealth distribution would cause the American Economy to only generate $250,000. It would look something like this:

Green = Bottom 80%
($200,000)

Top 20%
($50,000)

20% 20% 20% 20% 20%
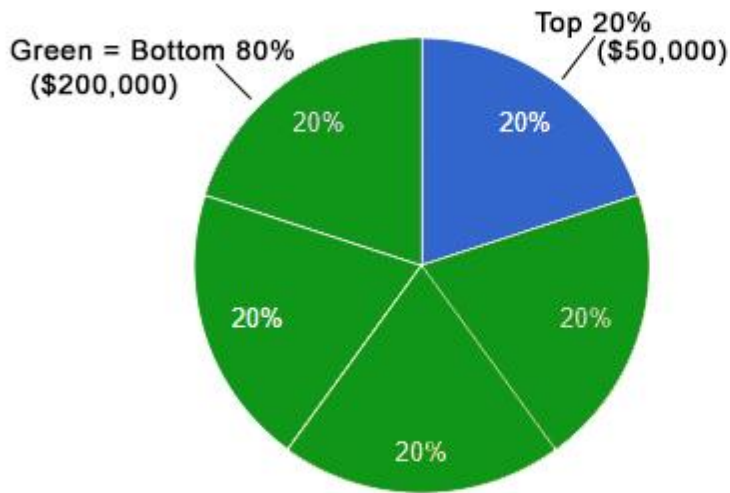
If We Divided $250,000

The obvious loser here is everyone in the top 20% who will all probably commit suicide by leaping out the of their private planes into a vat of Bezos jizz at the thought of ever having to mow their own lawn. But hey, more wealth for the rest of us. It's worth noting that the economy in this scenario only has to generate **$86,250.** Anything more than that is actually MORE beneficial to the bottom 80% than the first scenario. In other words, for the inequality of capitalism to benefit the bottom of 80% of people, it would need to generate an extra **$913,750** of income. The inequality shown in picture 1 would have to generate ~**11.6** times the amount of wealth we would generate *without* inequality. Is capitalism THAT good? To be honest, it might be. I don't know, I'm not an economist.

Adam Smith, the motherfucking father of economics claimed that the best overall result comes from every individual doing what's best for themselves. If you've never seen the movie "A beautiful mind" go watch that shit. It's about a real Nobel Prize-winning mathematician named John Nash (though the movie is heavily dramatized for Hollywood).

There's a scene where there's 4 guys, 4 brunette girls, and ONE blonde girl who they all consider the most attractive of the girls (I didn't write the script, I'm just telling you what happened). The point is that all the guys are fighting over who's going to ask the blonde girl to dance, when Nash realizes that if all 4 guys go up and approach her, they'll block each other. If they do that, the blonde girl won't dance with any of them. Then, if they ask the brunettes to dance, they'll all decline because they don't want to be the second choice to the blonde. Nash says "shit my pants and call me sally, I just had a

eureka moment" or something like that. He claims that Adam Smith was wrong. The best result comes from doing what's best for themselves *AND* doing what's best for the group as a whole. Instead of everyone pursuing the blonde, they should ignore the blonde and directly pursue the 4 brunettes without fighting over anyone. That way, each one of the 4 men will have success pairing up with each one of the 4 women and I assume there's eventually some butt stuff involved.

A real-world example of that might be Apple iPhones. For a long time, every phone was just using micro-USB phone chargers. These were mass-developed and didn't HAVE to be created by the phone company itself. Apple decided to use its OWN charger rather than use the perfectly acceptable micro-USB that every other phone company was using. This was a financial move on Apple's part, and Apple has done this MANY times, where they will create their own unique product rather than use one that's standardized on the market. When people who OWN iPhones need to buy a new charger, they're giving their money directly to Apple rather than some random company that creates micro-USB chargers.

But the time, money, and brainpower that Apple wastes on reinventing the wheel comes at a cost of innovation. They could use those resources to create new things that will actually improve our technology rather than giving us the same technology we already have and rebranding it as a "LIGHTNING CONNECTOR". Jesus Christ, Apple. That name sounds like you got it from an 8-year-old boy with a bed shaped like a sports car.

Think about it like this. Imagine you own a recording studio. MOST recording studios will have name-brand microphones, a microphone amp, a mixing board, maybe they have a guitar, or a drum set, all ready to go so customers can use them if they pay to record in their studio. These are ALL products that are made by individual companies, and USUALLY you would purchase them for your studio and charge other people to come in and record in your studio/use your equipment.

But there's another way you could approach this. You COULD make everything yourself and NOT pay other companies for this equipment. You could make your OWN custom guitar, your own mixing board, your own microphone, etc. If you do this, you MAY be able to spend less money on these items. You can also potentially charge customers MORE for your product if you can brand it well enough to convince people that having all this customized equipment is a UNIQUE EXPERIENCE they'll never find anywhere else in the world. I'm sure getting finger-fucked by Edward Scissorhands is a UNIQUE EXPERIENCE but that doesn't make it worth paying for.

And just to sweeten the pot let's say you also got Dr. Dre to cosign your studio and all your custom equipment, so now EVERYONE'S talking about it. Whether or not your product IS actually better than products created by Neumann or Fender is kind of irrelevant as long as you have a REASONABLY good product and the right branding. If Apple has shown us ANYTHING, it's that branding will make people spend more money on "decent" headphones than GOOD ones without a brand. Or they'll buy an iPhone

that doesn't have a headphone jack at all. Most people care more about what their PEERS think of a product above everything else. Branding disproves the idea that people want the best quality product at the lowest possible price, because now you're adding speculation into the product's value, and people suck at speculating.

But there's a LOT of time, money, and effort that goes into creating your own custom guitar, microphone, mixing board, etc. If you want to take it even further you COULD create your own custom plugs and outlets so that they're not compatible with ANYONE else's mixing boards, microphones, etc.

Yet in all this financial discussion we've lost sight of the entire purpose here. We're creating music. Time spent doing all this excessive work for no reason other than to generate an extra profit is taking away from the time and money we COULD spend making good music that everyone's going to love. We already HAVE phenomenal microphones and mixing boards and guitars, and we're not improving on them. And there's a very clear understanding in the music world that all of this stuff is STANDARDIZED. If I buy a guitar created from Fender, I KNOW that it's going to be compatible with a cord made by Hosa, which is going to be compatible with a mixing board made by Roland. That's 3 different types of products made by 3 different companies, and the only REASON they all work together is because they've come to an understanding that they're going STANDARDIZE, meaning that they're each doing their own part to contribute to a finished product which is YOUR recording studio.

It's similar to an assembly line that involves multiple companies instead of multiple workers. But instead of actually ASSEMBLING anything on the line, they all just quit and start a business and make the entire product from scratch by themselves.

But if Hosa wanted, they could try to make sure their cords aren't compatible with Fender guitars. And maybe Roland decides to make their OWN microphones. They want their line of microphones to do well, so they decide to change their mixing board so it's ONLY compatible with their own line of microphones. The result is you're going to have a LOT of recording studios confused about what's compatible with what, the market is going to be saturated with a dozen different types of cords and cables. This is sort of the REALITY of how many new forms of technology are developed. If you've EVER wanted to download some software on your computer and felt the set-up was unnecessarily confusing, or had something that wouldn't work because of compatibility issues, you're probably a victim of this.

Things like computer networks and the internet COULD all be streamlined and built for simplicity but end up becoming INCREDIBLY complex because companies are focused on competition rather than sharing resources and building on universal ideas. Complex ideas in fields like technology REQUIRE lots of layers and cooperation. It REQUIRES companies to collaborate and build on top of each other's products to really optimize innovation and efficiently create new technology that could change the world

for the better. In a field as complex as this, the "every person for themselves" mentality just doesn't cut it.

And it would be understandable if Apple was creating new, cutting-edge products that surpass others in the market, but that just hasn't historically been the reality. There was a time when if your phone battery was dying, you could just open it up and replace it with a new battery for 10 or 20 bucks, then that phone would be viable for a few more years. Apple has made a concerted effort to ensure that users cannot do this easily.

The reality is that Apple has settled in court, MORE THAN ONCE, for over 600 million dollars in cases where companies claim that Apple was **intentionally** slowing down the performance of their phones. Apple has even admitted that they slow down phones with degraded batteries. Since users can't simply buy a new battery and swap it out themselves, the way you could with older phones, it incentivizes consumers to buy the newer models of iPhones every time their battery gets low. And because Apple makes their OWN batteries rather than using a standardized battery on the market, they have no incentive to make a GOOD battery that will last a long time. In fact, they have MORE incentive to make a shittier battery, because a shitty battery leads to more new iPhone sales, which leads to more money.

The issue with pure capitalism should be obvious. Businesses can do **whatever** the fuck they want, and people with power are often more interested in doing what's best for themselves as opposed to what's best for the group. Capitalism also assumes that businesses are supposed to be trying to make the best possible product for the cheapest prices. That implies that there's no market for making shitty stuff at even cheaper prices. When consumers are poor due to unequal wealth distribution, they buy what the fuck they CAN afford, not necessarily what gets the most bang for your buck.

People don't shop for groceries at the fucking dollar store because they think those products are a good value. They buy that shit because it's the only thing they CAN afford and deal with the diarrhea later. I was gonna joke that the only people that buy Faygo soda is people who can't afford REAL soda and Juggalos, but then I realized that's just a Venn diagram that looks like a fucking circle. There will always be companies looking to cut corners to maximize profits and meet deadlines, and that results in shittier products. That's how you wind up like CeeLo with a Samsung phone that explodes right in your fucking face.

There's a lot of issues with businesses being able to do what they want, and the 21st century only highlights them more. Example: Twitter and Facebook were able to ban Donald Trump from being able to tweet or post on their platforms. I'll be honest, in many ways I'm not a huge fan of banning free speech, even from a narcissistic orange baboon with a toupee. But the irony is that the conservatives and libertarians ARE the parties that most support unlimited capitalism. Twitter and Facebook having the power to block the president from communicating is unlimited capitalism at its FINEST.

Hey, you can be ALL for the second amendment rights and say people should be able to get guns without background checks, but if YOU get shot by someone who's a known schizophrenic with a history of felony charges and is able to acquire a Sig Sauer from Walmart as easily as he can purchase milk, then that's a side effect that you have to accept is a direct RESULT of your political stance. Just don't expect flowers and a sympathy card.

In TRUE capitalism, there's only ONE way to respond to Trump being banned from Twitter and Facebook. You need to develop a competing social media platform that makes a product that WON'T ban Trump rhetoric.

Ok, cool. We hire some programmers and create an app just like that. Let's call it "Parlor" because.. you know, trademark laws. But in order to have a social media site, we need a database and at least one server. That SERVER is owned by a business, and that business can do whatever it wants. In fact, the MAJORITY of cloud servers are either owned by Amazon, Microsoft, or Google. Let's just say there's a good chance the server you want to use is owned by a business being run by a bunch of hippie liberals who regularly vacation to Silicon Valley and eat Tofu Burgers with avocado sauce. So, they say, "you can't use our servers" and ban your platform. Now you need to buy and set up your OWN servers. That's fine, you can do that. So, you buy a computer, find some I.T. worker to set it up, and hire the programmers to design your app. Now you FINALLY have your "free speech" social media platform up and running. Then Apple bans your app from their store. Apple's another business, entitled to do whatever they want in an unlimited capitalist market.

So, let's say that NONE of the cellphone companies want you putting your Nazi social media app on their store. Now the only way to create a mobile app that can "compete" with Twitter would be to hire a team of engineers to create your own cell phone, more I.T. to set up the servers and create a network, you actually have to BUY the rights to own parts of the electromagnetic spectrum, THEN you have to have your programmers create your Nazi app and HOPE that somehow you have enough supporters that will go out and buy your phone and use your application for you to turn a profit.

Capitalism is founded on the idea of competition, but the reality is that corporations like Twitter, Facebook, Amazon, Google, and Apple could theoretically ban ANYONE from using their products. It's actually written into that giant wall of text called "Terms and Conditions" that you always ignore. However, it is a legal contact that you SIGN every time you use one of their websites or products even though you've never read them.

Say you want to create a streaming service like Netflix, and Netflix doesn't want people competing against them. Let's be honest, Queer Eye is the ONLY good show Netflix has put out in the last 3 years. Netflix has billions of dollars, and they can use it to pay off the owners of your internet service provider, who can slow down the traffic for every move streaming website that ISN'T Netflix. So, when people go to use YOUR streaming website, which actually has GOOD content, it will keep buffering and pausing so badly that NOBODY will want to use it. At that point, it frankly doesn't even matter whether your product is as good, or even better than Netflix.

It wasn't always that way. We used to have "Net Neutrality", but nobody gave a fuck about it, and nobody votes, so it got thrown out. Nowadays, if you're looking for content to watch, your only 2 options are either watch the Fab 5 for 50th God damn time or watch the new season of Bridgerton that doesn't even have Rege Jean Page. Bitch, if yall aren't ready to replace Simon and Daphne with Karamo Brown and Jonathan Van Ness you better get that weak ass romanticized colonialist bullshit the FUCK outta here.

More concerning with respect to true capitalism is that they can underpay their workers, require them to work in conditions that could get them injured, or worse. It also almost always results in an uneven distribution of wealth when there's no regulation to keep it controlled.

Before industrialization, people actually made what they earned. I like to use analogies, so let's say hypothetically we live in the late 1700's. If you lived in the 1700's and saw someone rocking a beaver hat on their head, you KNEW they were fucking. Let's also pretend that they used American dollars back then because I don't know the fucking currency conversion rate for shillings and wampums and shit.

Buckle up, because I'm about to start mathing.

Here's the scenario: you're a beaver hunter (giggity) and you trudge several miles up the river each day to kill beavers, risking rabies as they viciously claw and bite you in hopes of survival. Let's say it takes 60 beaver pelts to make a hat, and every day you accumulate 60 pelts, remove all the fur from the hides, fasten them into a hat, then you have to go down to the market and sell it. It won't be too hard because back then, beaver hats were flying off the shelves faster than Plan B during spring break.

Let's say you make $100 that day, but you did EVERYTHING yourself. If tomorrow you went up again, got 120 pelts and made 2 hats, you would have earned $200. Regardless of how many hats you make, or how much you sell them for, you make 100% of the contributions to the process. That means the money you make is 100% of the money you EARNED. That's about as straightforward as a transaction can get.

There's a lot of steps to this process, though. Let's say I start a business, and I employ 5 people and their ONLY job is to go to various locations and collect beaver pelts. They won't have to spend time making the hat, removing the fur, or selling the product, so that's more time that they can spend JUST killing beavers. They'll also theoretically be much better at it because that's the ONLY thing they need to know how to do.

In addition, it's possible (and likely) that these people don't know *how* to make a beaver hat themselves. In exchange, I offer to pay them $50 each day to bring me as many pelts as they can. The truth is, it's not in their best interest to work harder than they need to, but I always have the option of firing them and employing someone else if they don't meet my productivity goals. I require that they each bring me 108 beaver pelts per day. That leaves me with 540 pelts total at the end of the day. I hire someone else who knows how to skin the beavers and make hats, then pay them $50, requiring them to make those 9 hats per day.

That said, ALL my employees still need supplies for hunting and making the hats. Therefore, I'm also going to set aside $100 each day for those. MY only job (apart from coordinating everything) is to go and sell them for $900. However, because I'm the one organizing this, and I'm the one who purchased and owns all of the supplies, I'm the one who gets to decide how that $900 is split up. I've employed 6 people, paid them a total of $300 and set aside $100 for operational costs. My overall profit is $500, meaning I make 10 times MORE than everyone else does. I've also done the LEAST amount of actual labor out of the 7 people involved in the process.

One thing I want to point out is that if you actually went up to the river and gathered 60 pelts yourself, came back, removed the fur, made the hat, then went to the market to sell it, realistically you probably wouldn't have enough time to make more than ONE hat per day. If ALL 7 of the workers did the same thing, then we would only be able to make 7 hats per day. By breaking up the work among everyone in my company, we were able to INCREASE our production possibility and make 2 MORE hats each day than we would have if we each operated by ourselves. That means as a GROUP we make an extra $200. However, because I'm the one organizing the company, I have the power to allocate that profit however I want. If I were to distribute that money ethically, I would set aside $100 for operational costs and split the additional $800 evenly among the 7 of us. That means each person in the process would be making about $114 total.

Another thing I want to point out is any person doing EVERYTHING by themselves would also be responsible for their OWN operation costs, which come out of the $100 they make each day. Note that the overall cost of operation for 7 people SHARING supplies is actually CHEAPER than if everyone were to buy their own supplies. Let's say hypothetically the INDIVIDUAL operational costs would be $15 a day versus my 7-person company's total operational cost of $100 a day.

Let's say YOU also make beaver hats and operate individually. Let's say you're only capable of making 1 hat per day and selling it for $100 with a $15-a-day solo operation cost. If that's the case, **the maximum amount of money you'd be making per day is $85.** Notice that I put that shit in bold. That means fucking remember it, because it's a point that I'm going to come back to later.

The bottom line here is that all 7 people could be making $29 MORE every day as part of a company versus doing it by themselves. But that's IF AND ONLY IF the profits were distributed evenly.

However, if I'm the owner of the company I can divide the profits however I want, and generally, people who own companies don't have any interest in dividing profits among everyone fairly. Things get more complicated if we assume that the ability to make beaver pelts into hats is a rare skill that few people possess. That means there's more demand for those employees, so they can set their wages higher. Meanwhile, maybe ONE of the pelt collectors is much more efficient than all the others and that person collects 168 pelts per day, while the others all the others only collect 108 pelts per day. You could argue that it's unfair for me to pay that person the same amount of money as all the other pelt-collectors since that person is obviously contributing more to my bottom line. But this business model isn't based on commission or people getting

paid based on how much they contribute, it's based on me as an employer paying the least amount of money I can while still retaining the employees that I want to keep.

When you move out of the realm of 7 random employees doing 3 different jobs into a corporation that has thousands, or even millions of employees contributing to the process, and thousands of individualized different jobs, it's easy to put enough smoke and mirrors around the system that nobody knows the actual value of their contributions. In theory, the guy collecting 168 pelts per day SHOULD be able to advertise his superior abilities and entertain offers from alternative companies, and they SHOULD all be competing to pay him higher wages, but someone who actually embraces that aspect of capitalism the way capitalism is designed to work is branded as disloyal to their company. Employees are discouraged from negotiating their working conditions or talking about their wages. There's NO expectation of companies to be loyal to their employees, but there IS an expectation of employees to be loyal to their company. There's more of an expectation in our society for employees to have work ethic than there is an expectation for employers to have **business** ethic.

The overall drive for capitalism is always money. "Capital" is in the fucking name, the money lands in the hands in the hands of whoever has the land or supplies needed to create the goods, and they're the central power that chooses how to distribute it. If I was a smart, money-oriented owner, I'd also want to set aside some of that profit in order to grow the company. Theoretically, not having ANY government intervention or restrictions on what I'm allowed to do is supposed to incentivize me to do exactly that.

Recall that by having 7 people working in individualized roles in a company, the group as a whole would generate $200 more than they would generate if everyone worked by themselves and did everything individually. Say I employ MORE people, buy more efficient tools, and streamline the process to optimize the number of beaver hats we're making each day. I can increase that extra $200 of production possibility to $400 or $600 or more. Remember that ALL of this money is money that would have never existed in the simple model where you did all the work yourself. This is part of the benefit to capitalism. Once the scale of the company gets big enough, you'll end up with millions (or more) extra dollars being generated each year.

Let's say that I increased the operation to the point where I've hired a total of 50 people to collect beaver pelts. 10 people to remove the fur and make the hats, and 4 additional people to handle sales for me. I'm still here overseeing the entire operation, so that's a total of 65 people in the company. The productivity goals are the same as they were before, so the entire company will be making and selling 90 beaver hats every day. That's $9,000 a day. I can pay all 64 of my employees $90 a day, regardless of what their jobs are. Then I can put $1,000 each day towards operation costs. That leaves me making $2,240 a day. Now I'm making almost 25 TIMES as much money as my employees. HOWEVER, remember that fucking bold shit that I told you to pay attention to before? The maximum amount of money YOU can make doing everything yourself is $85. I'm paying $5 MORE than that. That means that you're BETTER OFF in this system of inequality, where I'm making 25 times the amount of money that you're making, than you would be on your own.

You can bring your ass back to the 21st century, we're done with this whole beaver analogy. The primary driving force behind capitalism is competition, competition, competition. Personally, I believe that capitalism *does* generate the most overall wealth, therefore it *is* important to have an economy where individuals can privately own the land, factories, etc. required to create goods and services. IF you can make a valid argument that the poorest people in a capitalist society are better off than they would be in a socialist society where land, factories, etc. are owned by government and redistributed to the workers WITH a "fairer" wealth distribution, then capitalism is, in fact, the most **ethical** economic system.

However, there is *no such thing* as unregulated competition that doesn't involve cheating, therefore pure capitalism can *never* be a practical solution. Let's say I own a large bank, and you come up to me for a big $200,000 loan so you can buy a house. You basically sign a piece of paper called a mortgage, and every month you're required to pay whoever holds the piece of paper $1,200 a month for the next 20 years. If you stop paying, you'll default on your mortgage, meaning whoever holds the piece of paper legally gets the house. If I'm the bank owner, I'm not really interested in the piece of paper OR the stupid house, so I sell that shit to a company that basically gathers up thousands of these mortgages and sells "mortgage-backed-securities" (MBS for short because it's "Major Bull Shit") and rich ass investors can BUY the MBS knowing they'll get more money back on the MBS than they if they invested in government bonds.

The funny thing about mortgage-backed-securities is they're considered incredibly safe investments because I (the bank) only lend money to reputable people who are likely to pay me back. But more and more investors are finding about MBS and they all want a piece of the major bullshit pie. So, they keep buying more and more MBS. My bank sees how much demand there is for MBS, and then I get big fucking greenback dollar signs in my eyes and pop a boner whenever I think of Ben Franklin. These shits are selling like hotcakes, so I tell my bankers to start loosening up my standards for who we give mortgages to. Wait… so YOU'RE telling ME that you're a convicted felon with no job, 8 kids, your monthly income was the 30 cents remaining on a $20 gift card to waffle house that you found while roaming behind the dumpster, AND you want me to give you a $200,000 loan to buy a house?! YOU'RE FUCKING APPROVED!! Fuck if I care, the WORST-CASE scenario is you FAIL to pay the loan and someone ELSE gets the house, and we can always resell that shit.

Eventually I give out hundreds of thousands of these loans to anybody who has at LEAST 2 nipples. The cost of housing skyrockets because the demand is fucking nuts, and then all these people who I gave loans to end up failing to make their payments. The companies that are selling all the MBS are stuck with the hot potato, because they end up with TONS of unsold houses that nobody can afford to buy, then they end up going bankrupt along with ALL the people who invested their money in the MBS.

By the way, remember when you borrowed $200,000 from me for a home? Turns out, the value of houses completely fucking collapsed because nobody's buying the shit. So, you THINK your house is worth $200,000 but your house is actually now only worth $70,000. However, you signed a paper SAYING you owe me $288,000. You're probably going to do the logical fucking thing and stop paying, too. More or less, all of this shit,

along with a bunch of other factors is exactly what caused the 2008 housing crash. It was 100% because of greed, lack of regulation, and ultimately your tax money was used to bail out the banks that did all of this knowing the risks involved. But God fucking FORBID your tax dollars go towards making sure a sick kid with a congenital illness can get access to health care.

When it comes to economic systems, people always want to paint them with a broad brush. Staunch liberals will tell you capitalism is pure evil while conservatives will tell you communism and socialism are the reason baby Jesus needs 6 enemas to cure his constipation for Christmas. The fact is there's NO SUCH THING as an inherently evil economic system. All economic systems involve allocating power, whether that be directly to the government, the businesses, or to the majority of people themselves. Wherever there are humans occupying positions of power, there are bound to be people who abuse that power.

A talking point for conservatives against socialism is claiming that Nazis were a socialist party. It's true that 'socialist' is, in fact, a part of their name. They did had some socialist goals. What's very obviously left out of that description is that the Nazi party were advocates for socialism amongst THEMSELVES, not socialism for EVERYONE. They obviously weren't fucking lobbying for fair wages and universal healthcare for Jewish citizens. THAT would be a socialist move. Blaming Socialism for 1930's Germany or blaming Communism for Stalin is equivalent to blaming Capitalism for slavery in America. It's not the economic systems that are failing, it's the way that they're being implemented by humans.

Our goal for capitalist competition SHOULD be fair competition. Regulation needs to exist for it to be fair. Instead of businesses, let's say the competition was between a bunch of football teams, and there are no rules. Some teams might play fair, but inevitably there are teams that would constantly be looking at every opportunity to cheat and cut corners to win. There will always be unscrupulous assholes like the New England Patriots, spying on their opponents during practice and deflating the footballs at every chance they get so they can cheat their way to another ring.

If you're not familiar with football, generally the team with the WORST record for the year gets the FIRST overall pick for who they want to draft. This makes sense, because the worst team in the league is the one that needs the MOST help to stay competitive with the rest of the teams. Giving them the first pick in the draft means they get the first opportunity to add the BEST upcoming college star to their roster. The second worst team in the league gets second draft pick, the third worst team gets third draft pick, etc.

These rules are made or changed by the NFL competition committee, which is essentially like the government for the NFL. Imagine if the owner of the Patriots had billions of dollars, and he paid off members of the NFL competition committee to change the draft rules. They could change the rules so that instead, the team that wins the Super Bowl will get the first draft pick. Then the second overall pick went to the second-best team in the league, the third overall pick goes to the third best team, etc.

The scenario could look something like this:

Year 1 the Patriots deflate their balls and spy other teams to win a Super Bowl then they pick up a HUGE college star with the first overall draft pick which increases their chance of winning the Super Bowl in year 2.

The teams that did badly get shitty draft picks, which means those teams will get WORSE.

Year 2 Patriots win the Super Bowl again. Surprise, surprise. They get to add ANOTHER huge college star, which makes them an even BETTER team than they already were.

The teams that did badly get shitty draft picks, which means those teams get even worse AGAIN.

Year 3, they win ANOTHER Super Bowl and add another college star. At this point, it's no longer a competition because they keep picking up all the best players every year and every other team is just falling further and further behind in the competition.

Fast forward to year 12. All the teams that did poorly in year 1 are even WORSE now, and they essentially have no resources to continue competing. All the teams who did well in year 1 were able to continue their success because they kept getting REWARDED for their success. If you were to add a brand-new team to the league with average players, they'd NEVER have the chance to compete with a team that's completely stacked with all-stars. Especially not in a system that's rigged to keep the same team on top indefinitely.

Remember that in this analogy, the football teams are businesses – it's not REGULATION that chokes out small businesses, it's regulation that DOESN'T serve the purpose of keeping the competition fair that chokes out small businesses. It's the growth of monopolies and the fact that the people who are responsible for MAKING the rules are getting paid off by the competitors and making sure the competition remains unfair.

At the end of the day, the rules of a competition aren't as important as making sure everyone is playing by the SAME rules. You might play Monopoly with your family and collect $500 every time you land on free parking. Other families might play a different version of Monopoly where NOTHING happens when you land on free parking. But both of these involve FAIR competition. It's only unfair if Bob gets $500 every time he lands on free parking and everyone else gets nothing. Competition is fair as long as EVERYONE starts with the same resources and follows all the SAME rules. For capitalist competition to work efficiently, fair and uncorrupted rules need to be maintained by our government.

There's no *real* reason why everyone who works a 40-hour week can't be paid a livable wage. The literal worst argument (yet seemingly most common) against raising minimum wages is "bUt rAiSiNg mInImUm wAgEs WilL cAuSe iNfLaTiON". Jesus fucking Christ, the point of raising minimum wages is because we've identified that there's an inequality in the wealth distribution and are trying to fix it. When corporations RAISE their prices and cause inflation, it's because they're trying to MAINTAIN that same wealth inequality. They made 1.2 billion dollars in 2021 and it's not ACCEPTABLE

that they'll only make $1.1 billion in 2022. So their response is to drive up the price on consumers until they make $1.3 billion 2022.

Nowhere in the fucking business owner's handbook is there a golden rule that says a CEO isn't allowed to be a fucking human that sacrifices their yacht so that the employees who made them rich in the first place can afford to pay their rent.

Money is like food. There's MORE than enough food to make sure that EVERYONE in the world has enough to get by and never go hungry. But we operate in a way that's driven by greed that makes sure that the people who NEED it the most can't get it. Meanwhile the people who have it, throw it away and waste it in excess.

I can tell you from firsthand experience that when I was 19, I worked as a trash collector for a Hockey arena. They make food for THOUSANDS of people and anything that doesn't get purchased gets thrown into trash bags. Which means garbage bag after garbage bag filled with completely edible food is getting wasted at EVERY game, at EVERY arena, in EVERY major city, in EVERY country in the world. In the U.S. alone, people who attend sporting events generate approximately 39 million pounds of trash per year.

There is PLENTY of food in the world to feed everyone. Just like there is PLENTY of wealth generated by the American economy to give everyone decent paying jobs. But in BOTH cases, the resources end up being hoarded and wasted by the few who need it the least.

The other common argument regarding the minimum wage is that those jobs are for "kids in high school". As of July 1, 2019 there are 21.06 million people between the ages of 15 - 19. Also in 2019, the number of jobs that pay less than $15 an hour is 39 million.

So EVEN IF 100% of those jobs were occupied by "kids in high school" which IN ITSELF is highly unlikely because few people at the ages of 15 and 16 are actively seeking work, there's still about another 18 million jobs that aren't going to have ANYONE working in them if they're employed by "kids in high school".

But hey, I'm a rational and relatively educated idiot. I'm willing to believe that introducing a price floor to the supply and demand economic model reduces the total number of jobs. That same model also suggests that a price CEILING above the equilibrium (e.g., the amount of money employers would pay employees if there was no minimum wage) has no effect on the economic model at all. In other words, that same economic model suggests that having a MAXIMUM wage above equilibrium has no effect on the price equilibrium. And there ARE some economists who support the idea of a maximum wage. One could argue that the government could collect the excess profit that's generated and redistribute it evenly to the people. Of course, that relies on having a certain amount of trust in your government.

There's another obvious issue with this, because if the U.S. government says, "You can't make more than 10 million dollars per year", any REASONABLE billionaire CEO is simply just going to say "Fuck that, I'll just move my business to another country and exploit people somewhere ELSE", which ultimately is going to hurt the economy of the country and the people within it.

But, in an analogy, Denmark-Norway abolished slavery in 1803. If you were a slave owner in 1803, you COULD'VE just said, "Fuck that, I'll move my business to England or America where slavery is still legal". Your business is perfectly CAPABLE of operating with a profit without slavery, you just won't be happy having to do your own labor while making less money. So, you can either opt to MOVE your business to a different country and continue making the same rate while ignoring the fact that it's unethical, OR you could just choose to not be an asshole and pay your workers fair wages.

I'm not really here to argue for or against minimum or maximum wage, I'm simply thinking out loud and pointing out one aspect of the economic supply and demand model that people conveniently ignore.

Technology:

From a financial standpoint, if you can make accurate predictions about the future, then you can increase the probability of your investments doing well. For example, in the early 1900's, 90% of the world's rubber supply came from Brazil. In the 1930's, a disease called "leaf blight" wiped out almost every rubber tree in the country. It completely devastated the supply, and Brazil's rubber economy never recovered. Now, about 90% of the world's rubber supply comes from Asia. If only a FEW spores of this disease somehow affected the trees in Asia, the entire rubber tree population could be wiped out in a matter of weeks, at which point we'd see a repeat of what happened in the 1900's.

It would cause a massive increase in the demand for rubber, and anyone holding a significant number of investments in the rubber industry would become incredibly wealthy overnight. It would also have a devastating impact on the global economy and set us back significantly. Our reliance on rubber today is FAR greater than it was in the 1930's. Back then, only ~22% of people owned cars and we didn't rely on airplanes for travel. It's also worth noting that all those semi-trucks on the highway generate more revenue than any other industry in the United States.

That said, there are scientists who study this disease and aren't too concerned about leaf blight. In order for this to happen, leaf blight would have to be carried between two global destinations that don't currently have any direct connections e.g., Brazil and Thailand. However, some scientists speculate that even though those connections don't exist today, they may be created as we continue to expand our economies and travel in the future.

But I'm not here to speculate about rubber, I want to talk about technology. Anyone in the field of computing is likely already aware of "The internet of things". It sounds like a half-assed working title for a science fiction horror novel that never made it to publishing. The reality is it's a pretty straightforward idea that's probably already starting to develop in your life.

The internet of things is simply the idea of putting small processors (or you can think of them as "tiny computers") in just about every single item in your home. These items can all communicate with each other over a network (e.g., Wi-Fi). Imagine something like this: you set your phone alarm to wake you up at 8 a.m. but at 7:50 your phone sends a signal to your coffeemaker that you're going to be waking up in 10 minutes. So, your coffeemaker turns on and begins brewing in the kitchen. You may also have a bed that detects your body temperature, and if it notices you're getting hot, it can send a signal to your fan or air conditioning to turn on. 30 seconds after your alarm goes off, it also sends a signal to your lights to turn on. You could sit down in your chair, which could have a primitive scale that sends a signal back to your phone and alerts you on some healthier food options, because you're feeling a bit chonky today. Hey, there's nothing wrong with being dummy thicc.

These are all things that really aren't that difficult to implement. The barrier today isn't the ability to CREATE the technology, the barrier is getting people to buy the technology, and there is certainly going to be some loss of privacy that comes with

these innovations. But in the long-term, people are constantly letting their guards down against technology. If you were to survey people in the early 90's asking if they would be willing to keep a tracking device on them at all times, a majority of them would probably say "Hell no that will never happen". Now, over 85% of Americans own a smart phone, which means they're perfectly fine with having a tracking device on them at all times as long as they can use it to play candy crush.

But people have always been hesitant about new technology. People used to be afraid of electricity and thought it was dangerous, and a fad. In fact, when the White House first got electricity in 1891, the sitting president Benjamin Harris refused to touch the light switches because he was afraid of getting shocked.

We're already moving toward the internet of things with items like Amazon Alexa or Google Home. Think about how many items you have in your home: every chair, every lamp, your microwave, oven, refrigerator, couch, etc. EVERY one of those items is going to need its own embedded processor, which means that if you can accurately guess WHICH of the embedded chip developers will be used most frequently in the case that the internet of things grows to its full potential, there's an opportunity to invest in those stocks and get a respectable financial gain.

But let's revisit the privacy issue because it IS an issue. Any device you use can and WILL eventually be used to gather data about you. When you visit a website, they can collect data on anything, from how many seconds you spent looking at that video of a hamster playing a piano, to what times you're most likely to log in, and it can even predict that you'll be horniest at 8 pm on Fridays because that's when you most frequently "like" or view thirst traps posted by your ex on Instagram.

Legally speaking, information that's collected about you has to be reported under the website's "privacy policy" and by clicking "I agree", you're signing a legal contract that says you're okay with them collecting this data. If their privacy policy states that they're distributing your information to a 3rd party company, such as a car salesman, that wants your data (e.g., "What kind of car you're most likely to buy"), you are also acknowledging that you're okay with that. The reality is that most people don't read the privacy policy of ANY website, let alone the privacy policy of every website they visit. Even worse, large corporations may often have excessively long privacy policies written in unnecessarily complicated language that the average person won't put in the work to decipher.

App idea: Create a business that teams with lawyers who check the privacy policy of various websites and provide users with a ranking system of risk, and layman's cliff notes on the things users should be most aware of. If you implement this with any financial success, please throw me a couple bucks to enable my drinking habit.

That said, people do tend to take data collection personally. For the most part, this data collection isn't someone in a room full of monitors watching you through your webcam while you shave your pubic hair in the bathroom. I see you rocking that landing strip. One person COULD have THOUSANDS of pages of data being recorded about their activities. No rational human is going to go through your file and read everything about you. And you're just ONE out of, likely, millions or more people who are using

their service. Going through all that information and making sense of it is the computer's job, because a computer can go through large amounts of data and filter out all the shit that doesn't matter in a matter of minutes.

At the end of the day, there's not a whole lot you can do to prevent the fact that inevitably, a lot of your information is going to end up in the cloud somewhere. Corporations aren't going to change their behavior, because there's a LOT of money in infringing on your privacy and finding out as much about you as they can. It's a part of 21st century free-market capitalism. Which to me is ironic, because some of the people who are the biggest supporters of free-market capitalism and anti-business regulation are also some of the people who are most afraid of technology and privacy invasion.

The internet doesn't have to be like this. It wasn't always like this. I grew up in what I feel was the golden age of the internet, when you could go on Pornhub and jerk off happily without advertisements asking if Cialis is right for you. When literally ANYONE could upload a video on YouTube and got the same exposure as everyone else without having to pay extra for promotion. I remember my whole worldview changed when I thought I was downloading a Nickelback album on Kazaa, but it turned out to be a porno of a girl allowing herself to be penetrated by a dog. If that's appalling to you, just imagine how I felt witnessing bestiality for the first time as a somewhat innocent 13-year-old boy. It was almost bad as the Nickelback album.

I grew up in an era where Hollywood, Videogames, and the Music Industry were all in a complete crisis because they didn't know how to combat against millions of bootleggers getting all of their content for free. And frankly, fuck those industries. I know far too many artists who go through life and make music, movies, and other content that's far better than the shit that gets popularized. I promise you there are THOUSANDS, if not MILLIONS of songs that will never sell 36.1 million copies yet are still a hell of a lot better than Despacito.

(My apologies to Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee. I actually like Despacito much more than Uptown Funk, but I had to pick ONE song on the top 10 fire shots at, and Bruno Mars is too much of a national treasure to be besmirched)

But what I've learned is that the free market catches up, and somehow gets even worse. It used to be the case that you would go to the store and buy a videogame for $50, or whatever the cost was, and that was the game you played until your mom forced you to go outside and interact with real humans. Now there are videogames where you pay $60 for the game itself, but also require a monthly subscription fee of $15 every month. Then on top of that, they're riddled with microtransactions that require you to pay extra money to level up, or change your character's appearance in some way, or unlock some character or item in the game.

It USED to be the case that you paid a monthly fee for your cable subscription, and that was it. You unlocked all the channels you wanted to watch, and if your parents didn't buy the premium channels, the only way you could see nudity was from watching some tribal documentary on the History Channel. Then you had to tell your mom not to bother you, because you'll be working on your geography homework for a couple of hours.

In the golden age of streaming, you could download streaming content for free and watch them without ads. Now we're evolving to the point where EVERY channel has its OWN subscription service (Disney, Starz, HBO, etc.), so instead of paying for 100 or more channels in a package, you're now paying for ONE channel at a worse rate. If you want to watch those channels without ads, it's an additional fee. If you choose to watch a movie trailer, some channels now run ads BEFORE the movie trailer. A trailer is literally an advertisement for a movie. Which means you have to watch an advertisement before you can watch an ADVERTISMENT. In some cases, you have to pay even more on TOP of the subscription just to unlock "premium content" e.g., Disney charging an additional $30 just to RENT a movie that just came out. Fuck you, Disney+, if you want me to pay $30 to watch a live action version of Mulan, it BETTER at least have a flash mob of soldiers singing "I'll Make a Man Out of You", which is arguably the greatest musical composition that has ever existed. EVER.

Look at the fact that Amazon was colluding with book publishers to artificially drive up the prices of e-books to the point where some of the e-books cost even MORE money than the physical books. So, you're telling me it's CHEAPER and EASIER to make an e-book, uses less resources, you as the shipper don't have to PAY to print it out or deliver it, yet somehow this all costs MORE than a physical copy? That's like if the inventors of the printing press said "Alright, now that it's WAY easier and cheaper to manufacture books in a way that's going to revolutionize the entire world, we're going to increase their cost significantly". Eat a dick, Bezos.

It's one thing to be frustrated with where we are NOW, but it's more important to understand that this is an evolution, and these developments are only going to get worse as time progresses. Businesses meet on a weekly basis to pitch ideas for how they can increase their profits even more, and as more companies that adopt these business models, the more normalized it becomes, at which point someone is going to attempt to push it just another step further. We went from almost EVERY website on the internet being free, to visiting websites that will now literally lock all their content behind a paywall. There have been several times where I've looked up information on google and clicked on a website just to have them say, "If you want to read this article you either have to subscribe for a monthly fee" or "You must first sign up to our website".

I'll remind you once more that any time you visit or sign up for a website, you're legally agreeing to their terms of conditions and privacy policy. Meaning, if you sign up with your email or any other personal information, you can't know what they're doing with it unless you **read those documents**. And it's not out of the realm of possibility that one day, EVERY website on the internet could be locked behind a paywall; Where you will need to pay $4 a month to use Facebook, $2 a month to use Instagram, and $3 a month to use Tik Tok. If people allow this sort of thing to become normalized, businesses WILL take advantage of it. If YOU knew you could make MORE money off your product, then why WOULDN'T you?

People are also surprisingly oblivious to bad actors on the internet. "Bad actors" could be politically driven groups that have an entire team of people posing as Americans online for the purposes of trying to spread false information. They may post absurd articles like, "OBAMA WANTS A GENOCIDE OF BABIES" or "TRUMP

SPOTTED AT A KKK RALLY". There was a Russian organization called the "Internet Research Agency" accused of doing exactly that in 2016. The IRA was funded by Vladimir Putin's personal chef, who was added to the FBI's top 10 most wanted fugitives list. Alternatively, "bad actors" could be computer programs that imitate people and will go through and like or comment on Instagram posts to drive up someone's popularity and make them seem like more of an "influencer" than they are. Such a huge portion of the internet is a façade, yet most people don't even think twice about it.

[Poll, what percent of your emails are from bots vs what percent of posts you read on social media (Youtube comments, etc.) are from bots]

Oddly, people are more aware and willing to believe a larger portion of their email interactions are generated by bots, scammers, or just "spam", but if you give those bots a profile picture and a Facebook login, those same people become COMPLETELY oblivious.

But despite all of these concerns, people are oddly afraid of technology when it comes to job loss. HOLY SHIT ALL THEM COMPEWTER MACHINES ARE GONNA TAKE ALL 'ER JERBs. Sure, the invention of the internet effectively killed Blockbuster. At its peak, Blockbuster had 84,300 employees, and apart from one hippy ass store in Oregon, NONE of those jobs exist anymore.

But it's worth noting that the biggest tradeoff for us as customers is time. At their peak, Blockbuster had 65 million registered customers. Let's say those customers would have spent, on average, 5 hours throughout every YEAR (or roughly 6 minutes per week) driving to and back from Blockbuster and looking around the store, only to find that they're out of the ONE fucking videogame you want to play. JESUS CHRIST, HOW THE FUCK DOES YOUR INVENTORY ONLY KEEP 4 COPIES OF MAJORAS MASK.

But that means customers would have spent **325 million hours** every year going back and forth to Blockbuster. That's time they could have spent doing something else. Time they could have spent working. If on average, those people make about $15 an hour, that's almost 5 BILLION dollars' worth of money each year. That collectively trumps the 2.6 billion dollars their employees would have made if they were getting an average of $15 per hour. Meanwhile, it opened up new jobs in the streaming industry. You could argue that the streaming industry causes consumers to spend even more money because it's much easier to access. That's a good thing if you care about the overall flow of money in the economy. It's a bad thing if you regret your impulsive decision to buy that Jillian Michael's workout video that you never used.

In the long run, losing jobs to automation is a GOOD thing. There was a time when people would have to spend all day scrubbing the house, handwashing and air-drying every article of their clothing, growing, and cooking all their own food, cleaning their plates. Now we have vacuum cleaners, washing machines, dishwashers, and microwaves. In one hour, you can accomplish things that used to take the entire day. After that, you can spend the rest of the day writing poetry, making music, or lord forbid, spending some time with your god damn kids. Hell, if you're REALLY bored you can get

a job selling vacuum cleaners, washing machines, dishwashers, and microwaves. You have more time to do whatever you want, and more freedom of choice in how you use that time. History has shown that the more we rely on science and technology, the more goods we can produce, and productivity is one of the primary factors that determines a country's wealth.

All of that being said, an increase in automation means an increase of demand for programmers. The reality is in 1820, only 12% of the world could read and write. Reading is pretty trivial and unnecessary if all you do is spend your life growing crops, taking care of your kids, and sustaining your own life. Prior to the invention of printing press, books were fairly rare and expensive. They were written by some of the most intelligent and wealthy people of their time. Nowadays even a jackass like me can write a book just so I can see how many times I can fit the word "PENIS" into a single page.

"PENIS PENIS PENIS PENIS PENIS PENIS PENIS PENIS PENIS PENIS PENIS"

I can write that line 30 times in Arial-12 using 1" margins, so the answer is 330 penises.

But as we move toward more automation, we also move toward a demand for more programmers. The fortunate thing is that programming is becoming easier as time progresses, which means those jobs will become more accessible to everyone. Eventually programming may become a skill like "reading or writing" that is just crucial to have, and a common part of everyone's experience.

Cryptocurrency:

We talked about technology, we talked about finance. Now we need to combine them and have a NICE LONG CHAT about cryptocurrencies. I'm going to focus primarily on Bitcoin, because it's the fucking OG to this shit and all the other cryptocurrencies are built with the same foundation in mind. I'll tell you in advance that I'm not making any recommendations on what to buy or what will "make you rich". I'm not a fucking YouTube video made by a 13-year-old with a dozen rocket emojis who somehow made 5 million dollars from his allowance money. My interest is in the technology, social, and economic side of things, as well as the possible changes that crypto brings. I frankly don't give a shit which cryptocurrency blows up and makes you entitled fucks rich, as long as one of them does. And to be fucking clear, I'm Michael Jordan bullish as fuck when it comes to cryptocurrency. If I wasn't, I wouldn't write an entire chapter about it in this book. But it's also important to be realistic about the fact that there's NO guarantee that ANY cryptocurrency will be worth more than the sweat on your grandpa's nut when the dust settles.

Some of these ideas ARE gonna be oversimplified because my goal is to make sure that even idiots like me can understand this shit.

What is Bitcoin?
Bitcoin was the first successful implementation of cryptocurrency. It was created by Satoshi Nakamoto, who must be a god damn ninja wizard from space because this dude created technology that arguably can change the face of the entire fucking world, and nobody knows who the fuck he is. Some people say Satoshi is a whole group of people, I like to think it's the golden girls. Some people think Satoshi is dead, but I don't buy that shit because I spent all of last March trying to get his crypto address with a Ouija board. Satoshi was NOT the first person with the idea for cryptocurrency. There were others who came before Satoshi, one example being Bitgold which was idealized by Nick Szabo. Hell, some people think Szabo is Satoshi. But what separates Satoshi from the others is that Satoshi solved a complex Computer Science problem called the Byzantine General's problem. More on that later. What you should know is that Satoshi was a fucking genius, and plenty of Computer Scientists, Finance/Economic Gurus, and Lawyers have all acknowledged that Satoshi needed a pretty deep understanding of ALL these fields to pull of something as massive as Bitcoin.

Ok but what IS Bitcoin?
Calm the fuck down. We'll get there but we gotta talk about money first. I know you think you know what money is, it's that green shit that rappers throw at naked women in music videos. Some pretentious dickbags like to use the term "fiat" currency. Fiat is just money that is "established" by the government. The American dollar is fiat. It's also the name of a fucking hideous Italian automobile. I'm all about keeping shit simple so instead of fiat, I'm going to just uses the term "money". I will never use the term "money" to describe crypto, and that's just to avoid confusion.

What is money?

Well, technically anything CAN be money. If you look at the history of human civilization, there are people who have used all kinds of crazy shit as "money". Tulip Bulbs, Stones, Salt, Shells, etc. No shit, there was a time when ONE fucking tulip bulb was worth more than a god damn house. At the end of the day, we as people all have to make a god damn decision about the things we're willing to give and receive payments for. Let's say I wanted to open my own cupcake shop and you come in after a hard day's work ready to stuff your fucking face, cause I got buttercream icing and sugary bread that's so moist you'd think it saw Ryan Reynolds naked. You slap a 20-dollar bill down on the counter and say SIR GIVE ME YOUR FINEST CUPCAKE. I can 100% legally say nah.. I don't fuck with American dollars, take that weak shit and GET IT THE FUCK OUTTA HERE. If you want these delicious-ass cupcakes you better shower me with some god damn bitcoin.

In fact, I can even LEGALLY pay my employees in Bitcoin if I want to. Hell, the first employee at Coinbase was paid in nothing but Bitcoin for 3 years and now he's worth about $300 million. That deal turned out to be a hell of a lot better than the dude who created the board game "Operation" and sold the rights to it for $500 and a job. After that, Milton Bradley and Hasbro turn around and made 40 million dollars off of it.

That being said, government laws are going to vary from country to country. But legally, and more importantly, LOGICALLY there's no reason why I can't only accept Bitcoin as payments. I mean at the time of writing this book, it'd be a pretty stupid business move to only accept Bitcoin, because most people don't have a convenient way to perform transactions with Bitcoin. If I alienate all my potential clients, then I'd probably lose a lot of business and go broke.

But still.. money also has physical properties. There are things that just make "better" money than other things. We COULD use gold as money, but then we'd all be lugging around a shit ton of heavy ass gold in our pockets. But fuck, we'd never need to do a leg day again. But let's be real, that's just not super convenient. There was a time when you could go directly to the bank and deposit your gold, and they essentially give you a receipt that says "Hey, you have THIS much gold stored with us at the bank".

These days we have the receipts and not the gold. That's like going to a car dealership and buying a picture of a Maserati instead of an actual fucking vehicle to drive around in. Keep in mind, American money wasn't ALWAYS backed by gold. We've been on and off with the gold standard more times than that dumb ass best-friend you have who keeps getting back with their ex because they've "finally changed and it's gonna be different this time". But one of the things that makes gold a good form of currency is that it's FINITE. Once all the gold on earth has been mined, you can't just shit more gold out of thin air unless you're Harry Potter. When things are rare, they're usually more valuable. Gold is considered "deflationary" because over time, the value of it INCREASES.

The U.S. dollar, however, is considered "inflationary" because there's no maximum to how much money the U.S. government can print out. If you have $1 million dollars

and they print out enough money to give EVERYONE a million dollars, your million dollars is nearly worthless. The more money they print, the less your dollar is worth. It's like the chlamydia, if everyone has it, nobody's special. After the pandemic we saw a lot of unusual spending to try to maintain the economy, and it's hard to really predict how much that might increase inflation.

If I went back to 1920 with $100,000 it would be worth a heck of a lot more money than it is today. Inflation is ALWAYS happening. That means if you shove all your money under your mattress and don't invest it in SOMETHING (whether that be stocks, crypto, a house, paying off your debt, etc.) you're ALWAYS going to be losing money to inflation.

How do we as a society use money?
Well, there are important things to note. Arguably the most important is that we use a shit ton of "ledgers". I'm not big on terminology, but this is one of those words you're gonna have to remember for the rest of the chapter because it's SO important to Bitcoin. Ledgers are just big long lists of transactions and/or balances. Even longer than the CVS receipt you get if you buy a stick of bubble gum. You really don't need to be a damn accountant to understand what a ledger is, so here's a very simplified version for dummies like me:

Bob's Ledger:

Transaction ID	Transaction	Account Balance
1	Open a Bank Account, Deposit $200	$200
2	Withdraw $50	$150
3	Deposit $100	$250
4	Pay Alice $10 for cheezburgers	$240

Alice could have her OWN ledger, and of course when Bob pays Alice $10, Alice's ledger will be updated to add $10 to HER ledger. There's also the concept of OWING someone money. For example, on the application "Venmo", you can request payments from your friends. So, if your buddy Elon owes you $50 cause he smoked all your pot, you can formally enter that transaction into a ledger to point out that Elon "owes" you money. Keep in mind, YOUR account balance is still going to be the same, and Elon's account balance is going to be the same UNTIL Elon actually pays you. But you still have a **record of debt**, someone "owing you money", which is also a very important feature necessary for ledgers and economic growth.

Now there are ALL kinds of ledgers. If you own a business, you have to keep track of ALL your expenses, the salaries you're paying, how much money you're making, any

loans you receive, hell you even have to keep track of all the office supplies because Becky from Marketing keeps taking them home and hoarding them at her house. HOW MANY GOD DAMN STAPLERS DO YOU NEED, BECKY?! The point is, there can be THOUSANDS of transactions that you need to keep track of.

So right now, who's maintaining YOUR personal ledger? Well, it's the fucking bank ain't it? They know EVERYTHING about your account and update your balance every time you put money in or take money out. They know about the monthly payments you make to MySluttyStepSister.com and that's just downright nasty. You have to trust the bank to accurately make changes and not tell anyone about your transactions, ESPECIALLY your stepsister. You can go online and even view your account information with your transaction history, which essentially is nothing more than looking at a ledger.

What's a potential problem with this?
Well, for starters there is always the potential for fraud. Historically, banks have engaged in some less-than-ideal business practices over the years. One classic example being the housing bubble in 2008.

I talked about the housing crash earlier, but to recap in a very oversimplified way, they loaned out a crap ton of money for people to buy houses. That's fine, they were making billions of dollars each year and mortgages are a GOOD thing because most of us don't have $300,000 we can pull out of our ass to buy a house with. Instead we can get a loan and make payments over 30 years. But banks weren't happy making billions of dollars every year, so they said HEY WE CAN MAKE EVEN **MORE** MONEY IF WE START LOANING MONEY TO PEOPLE WHO WE KNOW FOR A FACT ARE BROKE AND CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY US BACK. Of course, the banks don't really give a shit, because if people can't PAY those loans back, the bank can just foreclose on them. At that point, they get to keep the house along with the money. Eventually that blew up in their faces, WHO'DA FUCKIN THOUGHT.

tl;dr the bank does all kinds of crazy shit with your money.

Imagine if you had $1,000, then you meet ME on the street. I tell you, "Hey, I've got a safe at my house and I'm willing to keep your money here so nobody can steal it. In return, you can pay me $50 a year while I keep it safe."

And you see me, with my flashy tie and award-winning smile and think "Hey I trust this guy", then give me $1,050. The next day I find ANOTHER random person on the street and say "Hey. I've got $1,050. What I'm willing to do is let you borrow this money for now, and in return, you can pay me $1,200 in 3 months."

What I'm REALLY hoping is that you don't come up to me and ask for your $1,000 back within the next 3 months. You might come back to me and say "Hey, I need $100 of my money". But I don't actually HAVE that money, so I go out and find ANOTHER person who's willing to loan me $500. I give you $100 out of THEIR money to pay you

back and say, "Here's that $100 you wanted". To YOU that's proof that I'm trustworthy. After all, I just gave you back SOME of what appears to be your money.

This isn't *exactly* a Ponzi scheme because a "loan" is considered an asset. I gave out your $1,050 to someone, but they promised they'd give me $1200 back. That promise is worth $1200 because there's an expectation that they'll actually pay me. If they don't, we're BOTH fucked. But hey, at least we're fucked together. And bad debt DOES occur all the time in the real world.

That said, if I operated like this on a large scale, and wound up with a LOT of loans that are no good and decided to pocket all the money in circulation for myself, I'm pretty sure the FBI wouldn't spend much nearly as much time splitting hairs over the definition of a "Ponzi scheme" as an economist would when reading this book.

Still, this behavior is risky, and it IS good for the economy. We all benefit from it. I don't want to mislead you into thinking Banks are just evil, because they ARE necessary, and we all benefit from many of the services they provide. The investing and wheeling and dealing that they do with your money can actually be quite good for the economy. But it's just a fact that if EVERY one of us decided we want to withdraw everything from our bank accounts tomorrow, it would be a COMPLETE economic apocalypse. That's part of what caused the great depression. The banks don't actually HAVE enough money in their overall supply to pay everyone.

Banks use something called "Fractional Reserve". Basically, if you deposit $1,000 in the bank, they might be required to keep 10% of that money in cash ($100). Then they can take the other $900 and loan it out to other people. Keep in mind, banks are a LOT more regulated and better insured than I am, so you can probably feel confident that your money is SOMEWHAT safe. For example, when the housing crash happened, the government bailed out the banks to make sure that an economic collapse WOULDN'T happen. If I'm just an average joe who lost your $1,000, I certainly wouldn't be able to go to the government and say "Hey, can you give me $1,000? I need to pay Tom back and I lost it all his money because I'm an irresponsible fuckwad"

But let's ignore fractional reserve for a moment. What are your options as far as "WHERE you store your money"? You COULD just deposit it in the bank, and you'll be losing money each year due to inflation. You could put it in a saving's account, which at BEST it yields about 1% interest rate APY (you receive $10 a year for every 1,000 you invest per year).

But keep in mind, the banks will use that same money to loan to others. They could issue someone a credit card. The interest they charge on a credit card could be somewhere in the ballpark of 18%. If we're NOT including compound interest, the bank basically makes $180 a year for every $1,000 you borrow from them.

So to recap, YOU gave the bank $1,000
The bank loans that $1,000 to Kanye West (I hear he's struggling financially)

The bank makes $180
The bank gives you $10

Banks are making profit off this. LOTS of profit. And that doesn't even include the money they can make with compound interest. These are all profits that theoretically could be in my hands and your hands. What if, INSTEAD, you could just loan that money directly to Kanye West and YOU get the $180? Or hell, you fuck with College Dropout so much you'll give him a discount and lower the rate to 12%. That means Kanye saves $60, and you get $110 more than you WOULD'VE gotten with the bank as your middleman. Everyone wins. Except the bank, of course.

This is sort of the ENTIRE reason why Decentralized Finance ("DeFi") is such a revolutionary idea and could DRASTICALLY improve economic equality for EVERYONE. But we'll come back to that topic later. The point is that the bank is just a middleman shuffling around all of our money and making billions of dollars off of it. That's money that theoretically could be in your hands and my hands.

And the bank is just ONE middleman. If you go to the grocery store and buy a bottle of water for $2 using a credit card, there's a transaction fee. If you were paying in cash, you would just hand the money to the cashier. It's that fucking simple. But to use a credit card, you literally have PAY someone else like Visa or MasterCard just so you can "hand" your $2 to the cashier.

JESUS JUST TELL ME WHAT THE FUCK BITCOIN IS
Chill, Mary. What is the **most important** thing a bank does? They maintain those ledgers. Without that, NONE of the other stuff will work. There are too many people that use banks and too many transactions for them to know EXACTLY how much they owe you, or who has X amount of dollars in their account if they don't have ledgers. That's the literal fucking foundation for ALL of finance. But what if... WHAT IF!! We could maintain those ledgers without actually needing a bank?

Well, that's pretty much what Bitcoin does. At the end of the day, it's just a fucking piece of software that someone created. It's like Facebook, Instagram, fucking Flappy Bird and Candy Crush. But the person who created Bitcoin doesn't actually CONTROL the software, which is why it's "decentralized". All the computer code for Bitcoin is publicly available to ANYONE. Even YOU can make changes to it, but the only way changes will actually get accepted is if a large majority of all programmers who contribute to Bitcoin all agree that your changes make sense.

Let's say I send you 10 bitcoins (In my fantasies, I stripped through college and have that kind of money). Then it goes through the network, at which point computers are used to automatically update the ledgers. It keeps a record of EVERY SINGLE transaction and dates all the way back to 2009 when bitcoin was created. Now you're no longer trusting your bank to keep those records, you're trusting a bunch of computer wizardry that's not actually controlled by any one individual person or company. (Don't worry, I'll talk about the computer wizardry later).

Bitcoin has a finite supply, just like Gold. Once all of it has been "mined" there won't be any more. Which means that if we as society all elect to use bitcoin, the value of each bitcoin will increase over time. More importantly, that also makes it a potentially good way to counteract some of the money you're losing each year due to inflation. I personally think it's likely that crypto will overtake something like the US Dollar anytime soon, but it is possible for them to coexist in harmony.

It's all digital, so you don't need to carry around cash or gold, which is a pretty convenient feature for a "currency". And it fits with many of the other ideal properties of a currency. It's divisible, exchangeable, 1 bitcoin is always going to be equal to 1 bitcoin, and it's clearly durable since you're probably never gonna leave a bitcoin in your jeans and wash it by accident.

Most people want to get into cryptocurrencies selfishly because it's beneficial to them. They see MONEY TO THE MOON, want much rich quick doggo go quack quack. But there is actually another, more ethical and economic reason why we should all be interested in cryptocurrency. There are currently 1.7 billion people in the world who don't even HAVE banks. They are statistically more likely to be impoverished. Making sure those people get banked and have equal financial opportunities as everyone else is not only the right thing to do, but it also means more money for ALL of us because it introduces more people to the financial markets.

There are also countries that use their own form of currency, some of which are incredibly volatile (means the price goes up and down a lot). You've probably got the privilege of being able to go to the store to buy some milk for $3.74 today and then going to the store again tomorrow, only to find that it STILL costs $3.74. Fucking WHOOPTY DOO FOR YOU AND YOUR FIRST WORLD PRIVILEGE. But there IS a very real alternate reality where you could wake up tomorrow and find out that the value of the dollar is crashing and now that same jug of milk costs $17.57. Cryptocurrencies are an alternative for them that COULD be more stable. They also make it much more convenient trying to make transactions with people across the world. It cuts out some of the middlemen needed to do currency exchanges and online transactions, and has much faster speeds for making payments and exchanges across the world.

One weird and fucking oddly irrational hang-up people seem to have about Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies is that it's not tangible. Like it's not a fucking THING that people can hold in their hands. Bruh, its just a fucking list of numbers that are constantly changing. It's the same shit as your bank. There's literally NO reason why you can't have a Bitcoin ATM that prints out a piece of paper and decreases your account by a certain amount of money. Now you can sit on your ass with a coke and a smile and make it rain on all the fucking strippers you want. The fact is that there ARE cryptocurrencies that already have ATM's exactly like that. But the reason most people use debit cards and online vendors like Paypal, Venmo, or Cashapp is because cash is a fucking burden. That's old shit. Saying "Well Bitcoin must not be worth anything because it's not something I hold in my hand" is literally like me going back to the 1930's with a fucking iPhone and handing it to you, then you say, "Well this clearly isn't

a valuable phone it doesn't even have a fucking ROTARY for me to spin and dial a number". If you look at a groundbreaking technology that's far more advanced than the shit you currently have, then say it doesn't have any value because it… doesn't look like the shit you currently have, you need to reevaluate your critical thinking skills.

And honestly, that's the only explanation of Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies you really NEED. You don't NEED to know all the technical details behind cryptocurrency technology to use them. But I'm gonna make sure I explain those details to you because I care about you, and you asked nicely. But I can't make ALL the information interesting or funny, and if you find yourself getting bored and glossing over all the details, feel free to skip to the next chapter of this book. Not every fucking detail behind the technology is interesting to know about. All you REALLY need to know is that there are a LOT of benefits, and it's essentially just doing all the shit a bank does without the bank.

So, for real, what's computer wizardry behind Bitcoin?

Well, Bitcoin as I mentioned before, maintains a ledger. When I send you 10 bitcoins that ledger needs to be updated so that it removes 10 bitcoins from my account and adds 10 bitcoins into your account.

But how do we determine whether it was a valid transaction? Well, if you're familiar with checks.. you know those pieces of paper your great grandma uses to buy laxatives from the grocery store. Well, there are a few things that you need to write on a check:

1. You have an account number (e.g., 8675309)
2. You're putting in a dollar amount (e.g., $69 and 0/100 cents)
3. You have the person you're sending the money to (e.g., Jenny)
4. You have a signature

These things are ALSO all represented when you make a bitcoin transaction. The software identifies and verifies that you are the making this transaction in a secure way using cryptography. It takes your personal "private key" that only YOU can see and COMBINES it with information about your transaction. It converts that combination into an output that makes it virtually impossible for anyone to figure out what your "private key" is. This output is called your "public key" which everyone can see. For the record, both your "private key" and "public key" are just a combination of many random letters and numbers, similar to a password.

Your "public key" is then combined with information about your transaction (such as who you're sending cryptocurrency to, how much, etc.) and creates a digital signature that can ONLY be produced if the person who "signed it" has access to your private key.

Wait, real quick.. what is encryption?

We need a way to send messages and verify these transactions in a way that bad people can't see them. Encryption isn't the ONLY way to do this. For example, around 500 BC, a Greek ruler named Histiaeus grabbed one of his servants and allegedly

shaved off all his hair, then tattooed a message on the back of his head. They waited for his hair to grow back before sending him to deliver a message that the Persian army (which must have been moving slow as FUCK) was approaching to attack. The idea is that nobody would be able to see the message until the messenger reached his destination and they shaved his head again.

Encryption it's a way to take an input of data and sort of scramble it so it's difficult (but not impossible) to understand. An example of encryption is if you want to write a note to your friend in class about how hot Ryan Reynolds is, but you don't want your teacher to find out. You could both create a "language" where you change every letter in the alphabet to the right by one. Meaning every "A" in the sentence becomes a B and every B becomes a C etc. You can tell your friend that Ryan Reynolds is "TP IPU!!!"

If your teacher grabs your note and all they see is that you wrote "TP IPU!!!" on a piece of paper, they'll probably just think you're having a brain aneurysm, or that you suffer from some weirdly unique form of dyslexia. At face value, it's pretty hard to understand what "TP IPU!!!" means. The average person would have to sit down and put some time in to try to figure out how to decipher it. However, it's not THAT secure or difficult to crack if you try for a long enough time.

But for you and your friend it's SUPER easy to translate because you both know what the strategy is. Take "TP IPU" and move every letter to the left by one. Now you both know he is "SO HOT!!!"

Cryptocurrency uses a similar method. They use a cryptographic "hash function" called SHA-256. Hash functions are not exactly like encryption, because they're NOT designed be reversible. Let's say my hash function is to **multiply 2 numbers** and I give you the number **1200**. Now figure out what I used to come up with the number 1200.

It's hard, but not impossible. There are a lot of numbers that multiply together to get 1200. In fact, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 20, 24, 25, 30, 40, 48, 50, 60, 75, 80, 100, 120, 150, 200, 240, 300, 400, 600, 1200 are all factors of 1200. Without more information, I assume you probably couldn't figure out which of these I originally multiplied in my head to get 1200. And the number 1200 is only 4 digits long, which is drastically smaller than any real number that would be used as a hash. But this information gets stored in a "block" which is basically just like a single page in a ledger. You can keep track of 500 transactions in a single block, so your transactions might be in a group with MANY other transactions from many other people. This is probably the same way the bank maintains their global ledgers. You might have your own account with the bank, but the overall bank database has to keep a log of transactions for EVERYONE, not just YOUR transactions.

All of these "blocks" are tied together. You can think of it like a conga line where the person behind you has their hands on your shoulders. Meanwhile, YOU have your hands on the shoulders of the person in front of you. Unless the person in front of you is Ryan Reynolds, at which point you might be putting your hands a bit lower to grab those

juicy cheeks. But FUCKING CHRIST, BE RESPECTFUL THERE ARE KIDS IN THE ROOM, DOLORES.

The point being that because each of these blocks is tied together to the next block that follows it and the block that comes before it, they cannot be changed without screwing up the ENTIRE conga line. If you make changes to any ONE block in the blockchain, it will make changes to ALL of the other blocks.

So how do we verify that these blocks are accurate?

Well, every block in the blockchain also has a certain number associated with it. Going back to the example where you and your friend are passing notes to each other, all you're really doing is "shifting" the letters in the alphabet by 1 so that A becomes B, B becomes C, etc. But 1 was just a random number, you COULD'VE chosen to use 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, etc. **Let's call that number n.**

Say I give you the sentence "rcfgrva qvqa'g xvyy uvzfrys". I'm not going to tell you what the value of **n** is, you just know that you need to shift all the letters over by SOME number.

To figure out the value of n, you would have to keep on trying different "shifts" until you finally get a coherent sentence. Presumably you would start at 1, then try 2, then try 3, then try 4, etc. Once you finally get a result, you'll see that the value of n = 13 and the message is "Epstein didn't kill himself".

The blockchain kind of works like that. Again, keep in mind that I'm oversimplifying, and a hash function is much more secure and difficult to crack than our very simple "alphabet-shifting" algorithm. But there is SOME number, where if the computer can "guess" what the number is (and the computer **has** to do this by literally just GUESSING and putting in MILLIONS of random values until it finally receives the output "Epstein didn't kill himself") it will register to the computer that n = 13.

But if we only had ONE computer doing that, not only it would be super inefficient timewise (guessing these numbers is very difficult and can take a LOT of computation), it also would NOT be decentralized. In reality, the fact is that ANYONE can use their computer to do these computations for the blockchain. YOU can use your computer to do computations for the blockchain. You don't have to know how to program. If you can figure out how to set everything up, you can just leave your computer on and let it do all the work for you. And EVERY computer that does work for the blockchain will get their own copy of the blockchain that they can potentially make changes to. Now everyone's COMPUTER (including yours) is the "bank" in charge of verifying the accuracy of everyone's transactions and account balances.

At the end of the day, it's just a group vote. If there were only 3 people working for the blockchain, computer 1 would look at the data in their copy of the blockchain, which says "Epstein didn't kill himself". Computer 2 would looks at THEIR data, which says

"Epstein didn't kill himself". Then computer 3 looks at THEIR data and it says, "Epstein killed himself" and both computer 1 and computer 2 vote that computer 3 has invalid data and is a big fat loser.

But it's worth noting that if the blockchain only has 3 people updating the "ledgers", it's actually not very secure OR decentralized. If 2 out of those 3 people conspire against the other one person, and they have enough technical knowledge to feed the computer fraudulent data, they can very easily manipulate the "ledger" aka blockchain to say "hey, that other person owes us 2 million dollars". So, the MORE people we have using their computers to operate the blockchain, the more decentralized it gets and the harder it is to manipulate. If the blockchain is operated by 6 million people, you would need 3 million and 1 people to ALL conspire together to manipulate the blockchain, which is highly unlikely (yet theoretically possible).

This consensus mechanism was essentially how Satoshi solved the byzantine general's problem. The more computers there are, the more secure the blockchain is. It's easy to manipulate the blockchain if there's only 3 computers, but it's MUCH harder if there are 1 million computers. Once there's a consensus reached on which data is valid, ONE of these lucky computers gets to write to, and update the blockchain (aka ledger) with the blockchain that has the most work put into it.

Here are some phenomenal resources for more details about the technical aspect of it that put me to shame:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBC-nXj3Ng4
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_160oMzblY8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIDL_akeras

But this process is called Bitcoin "mining". Don't get it confused, Bitcoin mining is literally just leaving your computer on and letting it do all these computations for you. It obviously involves no real mining. It's called "mining" because there is one lucky computer (hopefully YOUR computer), which managed to guess the correct number first, and THAT person will receive a certain amount of bitcoin. This is NEW bitcoin, that has yet to be "unearthed" from the supply, and this is the only way to "unlock" more bitcoin. It's similar to how going into a mine is the only way to "unearth" more of the world's gold supply (which again, we noted there is a limited supply of both of these things. Once ALL the gold on earth has been mined, there will be none left. Similarly, there will never be more than 21 million bitcoins).

This act of guessing the number is called "Proof of work", because it proves that your computer dedicated its resources to computing for the blockchain. Or in other words, your computer is like an employee at the Bank. We see that the employee accepted a withdrawal from a customer and updated their account information. That means the employee must've been showing up to work and doing their job - here's your salary, bucko. Having these rewards for "miners" incentivizes people to mine for the blockchain. That being said, the more powerful your computer is, the higher your likelihood of being

able to update the blockchain. They actually have computers that were built for the SOLE purpose of mining cryptocurrencies. Your average laptop probably won't be super-efficient at making you a lot of money because you're up against a LOT of people who have LOTS of computers with LOTS of computation power.

This brings up two interesting questions:

What happens when all the bitcoin supply is mined? Will miners have incentive to keep mining?

The answer is that they will still receive parts of the transactional fees. The hope is that once the supply runs out, it raises the value of those fees and people will continue to be incentivized to mine. It's also not impossible that changes to the bitcoin network will be made in the future. It needs a LOT of support, though.

Also, if bitcoin relies on so much computational power, won't that generate a LOT of wasteful energy?

While it's true that Bitcoin can potentially require a lot of computational power if adopted on a more global scale, it can still theoretically be "more green" than using no crypto. The reality is that people who use their computers to mine cryptocurrency still have to pay their electric bill. If the cost of the electric bill is more than the amount of money that they get from mining crypto, they simply won't do it. It's in their best interest, and they'll make the most profit if they use the meanest, cleanest, biggie penis, greenest energy that they can. That's how they keep their bills low and their profits high.

In addition to this, "Proof of Work" is just ONE possible way of verifying transactions. Note that Bitcoin was the first real implementation of its kind. Bitcoin is the giant that all other cryptocurrencies stand on the shoulders of. Many of the newer currencies have the benefit of being able to take everything Bitcoin does great and on finding solutions for areas for improvement. Instead of "Proof of Work" we can use "Proof of Stake" which platforms like Ethereum, Cardano, and many others are moving towards and will be far more energy efficient than Proof of Work. You literally just put your cryptocurrency up into a pool with a bunch of other people. One user is chosen at random (but it takes into factor how much currency you've put in, how long you've put it in for, etc. so it's not entirely "random". Some people have a better probability of being chosen than others).

The person who wins will have the ability to update the blockchain and receive the reward. All other aspects of how the blockchain, signatures, etc. work are all either similar or identical to bitcoin. Honestly, there are PLENTY of issues with cryptocurrency at its present stage of evolution, but energy-usage isn't one of them. Energy-usage is a silly distraction from real issues, because it's a problem that has already been solved. Any coin using proof of stake will consume far less energy than the current financial industry.

That said, it IS possible to create applications and credit cards that allow you to walk into Starbucks and use Bitcoin to buy coffee (and they exist already). But Bitcoin isn't really designed for every day small transactions like those. Bitcoin is designed to handle about 7 transactions per second. Compare that to a credit card, which can handle about 5,000 transactions per second. But there are alternative proof-of-stake cryptocurrencies, such as ADA by Cardano that can theoretically reach up to 1 million transactions per second. If there's EVER a cryptocurrency that gets used casually every time you check out at the grocery store, it probably won't be Bitcoin. Bitcoin seems better fit to be a store of value, like gold. You don't bring a big nugget of gold into Starbucks, then put it down on the counter and say, "give me a Chai Latte". Why the FUCK do you always make my job more complicated, Becky?

So basically all this stuff is just a complex way of tracking payments and storing value?

Well, no. It's so much bigger than that, actually. Newer cryptocurrencies are capable of faster transactions per second with less energy usage. You can already see our society making movement toward mass adoption, such as being able to buy cars and baseball tickets with cryptocurrency. Many large investment firms are allowing people to make investments in crypto. Keep in mind, credit cards were first created in the 50's but you couldn't just pull up to any McDonald's and pay with a credit card until 2002. That's a pretty good indicator of how slow we are to adopt new technologies on a larger scale.

And these are just basic building blocks that could potentially lead the way to a MUCH bigger and much more robust cryptocurrency economy. I know you see that there are 80 billion types of cryptocurrencies on the market, and many of them might just be "get rich quick" scams. But there are also a lot of genuine competitors who are currently trying to race to be the first one that really shapes the future of the world. Just think of ALL the things you do with money. Buying stocks, opening a line of credit, buying insurance, paying taxes. People are actively working to make all of these things happen in crypto. You might see people refer to this as "DeFi" or "Decentralized Finance". Even the popularity of NFTs, where you can buy artwork with cryptocurrencies, shows different and creative ways that blockchain technology can be implemented beyond just "bank transactions". The truth is, there are MANY more creative ways of using Blockchain concepts that have yet to be dreamed up.

If you ever hear the term "smart contracts" just understand that they're basic computer programs built on blockchain technology that tell the computer how to carry out a transaction. You could think of it somewhat similarly to how a vending machine works. Nobody is TELLING the vending machine what to do, but it is understood in the vending machine's programming that if you give the machine a dollar, it will dispense the item that you select. There's a non-verbal understanding that the item will not be poisonous or expired; In most cases you can expect it to be cold, and you will receive any change back that you're owed.

These smart contracts make this type of Decentralized Finance possible. Note that the Bitcoin platform (again being the first of its kind) does not have smart contacts. However, many platforms like Ethereum DO have smart contracts and others like Cardano are adding them in.

As I stated, this also provides us with an opportunity to give the billions of people who don't have it already, access to something like insurance. If you don't have insurance and your house burns down, or if you get into an accident, you might be completely screwed for life. Insurance gives people a safety net that won't leave them, AND their children, financially devastated.

It also opens up the possibility for a more decentralized internet. Right now, a handful of companies control a vast majority of the internet. I could build a website and ask you to let me use your computer as a "server", and you could rent out your computer to me. Your computer will act as a server for my website whenever you're not using it. In exchange I'd pay you some cryptocurrency. You'll never notice a difference in your life, but now you're getting EXTRA money from me for letting me use your computer when you're not using it.

If we move towards decentralized apps, or "dApps" which are much more difficult to change, we can eliminate the "middlemen" who maintain and control these applications. For example, Uber is just an application that connects you with somebody willing to pick you up and drive you. You pay Uber, they take the BIGGEST chunk of the money to themselves and give the driver the crumbs leftover. Theoretically we could write an app that is decentralized and eliminates the middleman. You alert the application and say "Hey, I need a driver" and it connects you to a driver who comes to pick you up. The driver can get a BIGGER tip, you can pay LESS money. You both win.

Stop and take this in real quick, because it's entirely **POSSIBLE** that cryptocurrency is VERY much in its infancy right now. It is entirely **POSSIBLE** for us to move to a decentralized world where all the applications you use like Amazon, Facebook, Instagram, Uber, Youtube, Netflix, etc. the entire internet itself are ALL decentralized. Where people rely on decentralized finance for banking, insurance, investing, etc.

IF that were ever to happen, or even PARTIALLY happen, we could be talking about a multi-trillion-dollar industry. If you ever look at the price of crypto and think "Man, I missed my chance to invest in this" you're looking at it the wrong way. There's NO upper bound on how much crypto CAN be worth in the long-term future. The fact is that a fully decentralized world DOES have problems, mainly because it's very difficult to make changes to these programs and there's always the risk of bugs. But it is also UNDENIABLY a better world for everyone. It would eliminate a SIGNIFICANT amount of labor, resources, and it would remove a lot of middlemen from transactions which would result in more worldwide income equality than what we have now.

Alright, I've been fairly bullish here. I have lots of hope for the technology and it is honestly the stuff that a revolution can be built on. But here are some slightly bearish outlooks (followed by bullish comments I couldn't help but add on)

My biggest peeve at the moment might be Robinhood. Cryptocurrency (and currency in general) is not meant to be day traded. How seriously would we take the US dollar if one day it was worth 40 cents and the next day it was worth $1.20. Then after that, there were people just constantly trading them around all the time trying to profit off the changes?

That said, there's a fair argument to the fact that the day trading and speculation is undeniably drawing more attention to cryptos, which is good if you believe "there's no such thing as bad publicity".

Look, people are fucking weird, ok? In 2020 Canelo Alvarez had a boxing match with Liam Smith that generated 300,000 PPV sales. Less than 7 months later, Floyd Mayweather had a boxing match with Logan Paul that generated over 1 million PPV sales. What that means is that MORE people are willing to spend money on a match with a past-his-prime GOAT in a boxing match with a YouTube celebrity who's not even a professional boxer than watching 2 people who are in their prime and currently the best in the industry.

It means people don't give a shit about value or an authentic boxing match-up as much they care about flashy headlines and controversy. That has a VERY real effect on the economy, on our politics, on our social lives. It's the same reason why fake news sells more money than real news. It's the same reason why dogecoin, which was made as a joke, isn't inflationary, doesn't have smart contacts still somehow skyrocketed and gained a ridiculous amount of traction. It's why Blackberry stocks almost fucking doubled in 2021. Fucking BLACKBERRY. I didn't even know Blackberry still fucking EXISTED in 2021. What next, are you gonna sit here and tell me "Phones with cords" are making a hot comeback for 2022?

For cryptocurrency to be successful, it needs people to accept it socially. It needs the MAJORITY of people in our society to not be morons, and that's honestly a HUGE thing to ask from the same people you see in the 10-items-or-less lane with enough groceries in their cart to survive a fucking apocalypse. YOU'VE BEEN STANDING IN FRONT OF THE CASHIER WITH A THUMB IN YOUR EAR FOR THE LAST 10 MINUTES NOW. DID YOU REALLY JUST WAIT UNTIL EVERYTHING WAS BAGGED BEFORE PULLING OUT YOUR DEBIT CARD?! DID YOU NOT THINK YOU WOULD HAVE TO PAY, YOU FUCKWAD?!

Still, the most important thing the cryptocurrency community can do as a whole to move toward acceptance on a national scale, is to stop buying every time the price goes up, and to stop selling every time the price goes down. It's not a casino or pyramid scheme, it's revolutionary technology that has REAL life applications that can better the ENTIRE world. And fortunately, you still have the chance to be at the forefront of it.

For Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies to be accepted by the SEC as a store of value, we need to prove that they're not excessively volatile (in other words we need to prove that the value of a Bitcoin worth $40,000 today won't plummet to $20,000 tomorrow). Apps like Robinhood increase the volatility of cryptos. Day trading is increasing the volatility of cryptos.

The dumbest part is that LITERALLY everyone holding cryptocurrencies would become FAR richer if they could all just sit the fuck down and HOLD for the long term rather than day trading. They're all like people in fucking quicksand that won't just stop squirming around. (FYI: it's impossible to "drown" in quicksand the way it's depicted in movies, but it CAN be dangerous if you panic and wriggle around too much. **NEVER try to have someone else pull you out.** The easiest way to get out is to stay calm, spread out your body to increase your surface area, and "float" your way out. You know.. in case you ever find yourself in a Looney Tunes cartoon).

But the actual GLOBAL ADOPTION and social acceptance of this stuff is what can make a future for cryptocurrency more likely to explode. The $500 you made off doge isn't SHIT compared to the money you could make if you're holding coins that are used by a platform that eventually grows into a multi-trillion-dollar industry.

Just to be clear, if you own just 0.0001% of a trillion dollars that's 1 million dollars. But most people would be more excited to turn their $20 into $100 overnight and sell, because hey they're fucking morons.

This also seems like a convenient time to point out that the chair of the SEC has already confirmed that crypto is a store of value. Getting the SEC to side with cryptocurrencies is 100% possible if people act responsibly. I want to point out that Gary Gensler, the person that's in CHARGE of the SEC, taught an entire class on Blockchain finance at M.I.T. He understands this shit well, and he is very much still on the fence in his position on cryptocurrencies. He thoroughly understands the benefits and drawbacks of crypto. Any narrative that says the SEC is wagging their finger at cryptocurrency without giving it valid consideration is false. They **can** be convinced to embrace crypto readily, because they ALSO understand that there's a potential trillion-dollar-industry, and it's in their best interest to ensure that America is at the forefront if that ever happens. But WE are the ones who need to convince them. It starts with people being mature and making wiser investment decisions.

But crypto should still be viewed as **high risk and high reward**. That's not a bad thing. If you're investing your money in a well-diversified portfolio, you SHOULD have money in "low-risk low-reward", "medium-risk medium-reward", AND "high-risk high-reward" assets. I personally don't think there are any better prospects for high-risk high-reward investments than crypto because of the remarkable upside, the technology, and overall resilience it has shown so far.

But it IS speculative. I mean, even gold and fiat currency are speculative. It's worth noting that in 1849 when the California Gold Rush happened, merchants who sold mining equipment e.g., pickaxes and wheelbarrows made more money off the Gold Rush than the miners did. If cryptocurrency turns out to be a bust, the people who make the most money are likely going to be people who were "adjacent" to cryptocurrency rather than the people who are actively trying to get rich off coins.

ANY time you see a lot of hype over ANY "next big thing" you should really stop to wonder if there's an innovative way that you can profit off the hype rather than trying to profit off of the "thing".

Quick tangent that's gonna seem off-topic, but I promise it has a point. When I was a young lad, the internet wasn't really "socially" accepted by everyone. We didn't have Facebook, Instagram, Netflix, etc. By today's standards most of the websites were pretty boring. The VAST majority of the internet was mostly nerds with little-to-no social life (I know, I was one of them). Many older people didn't really care much about the internet outside of using it for business or financial purposes. There was even an entire stigma about how there are no "girls" on the internet.

So, what REALLY changed? Myspace. When Myspace got popular around 2005 - 2006, that's when the internet started REALLY becoming accepted SOCIALLY. That's when people started acknowledging, and actually talking about something on the internet in the cafeteria. That's when all the kids who were too cool to be cooped up in the house on their computer started becoming cooped up in the house on their computer. It was also the first time there was a clear transition from people using their screen names and anonymous avatars, to representing themselves online using their REAL photos and real names. I still remember seeing Superbad for the first time in 2007 and there was a line where he asks the 2 kids, "So, are you guys on Myspace?". At that time, that was a taboo and UNUSUAL thing to hear in a movie. Hollywood wasn't actively referencing or displaying the internet back then. Now if you see someone talk about "Facebook" or "Instagram" in a movie, it's the norm. They even have an entire movie ABOUT the creation of Facebook.

But that brings me to what is probably the biggest obstacle that crypto faces: Trying to compete with governments that want to ban cryptocurrencies. China announced that they were "cracking down on Bitcoin", which sent a lot of the markets crashing. The reality is that the regulation and banning is possible ANYWHERE in the world. However, it's important to acknowledge WHY China is 'cracking down on Bitcoin'. Because China has released their Digital Yuan which is fundamentally nothing more than a cryptocurrency that's NOT decentralized. In essence, that's saying that their issue with Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies isn't the technology itself. Their issue isn't the validity or privacy of digital currency. All of that is fine, as long as their government has the power to control it.

Let's be clear, NO government can fully "Ban" crypto. Decentralized Crypto will ALWAYS exist and be a valid form of currency among anyone who's willing to accept it

as a payment. But what governments CAN do, is make it so their legal businesses aren't allowed to accept any form of cryptocurrency other than their own. Being able to reach acceptance of cryptocurrency on a global scale would be MUCH harder and take MUCH longer if governments are resisting it. Still, some of the most incredible minds of our time are working to create new innovations in crypto and improve on these features. Programmers who believe in crypto are ALWAYS going to continue making these decentralized apps, and it only takes **ONE** MySpace to break through barrier of making the internet socially acceptable to everyone.

Alright, that was all a cool story for dramatization, but I lied a little. I'M FUCKING SORRY. By 2000 there really wasn't a significant gender gap between men and women who use the internet. However, men are statistically more likely to use the internet for longer periods of time (26+ hours each week). That might make the internet seem more like a sausage fest of geeky losers. My perspective is also biased because I commonly visited websites the geeky loser men frequent. I would argue that Myspace opened the door for Facebook, but obviously Facebook took off in ways that Myspace never could and normalized having an older demographic of people use social media. There's also an INCREDIBLY important invention that I conveniently ignored: Smartphones. They made the internet more accessible to EVERYONE at all times of the day. There's really no ONE thing that made the internet immediately soar in popularity because the internet, like all technology, is something that evolves slowly over time.
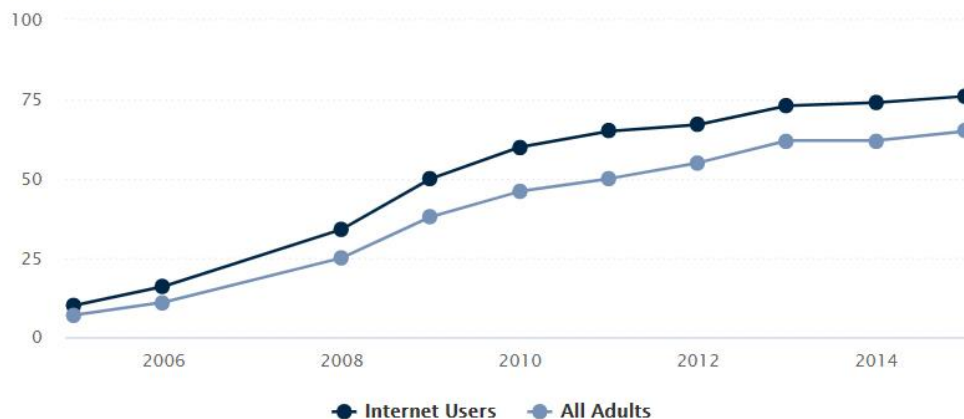
Here's a quick breakdown:

2005 – 2008: Myspace gains traction
2008: Facebook surpasses MySpace as most-visited social media Website.
2011 – 2015: Largest spikes in iPhone sales

% of all American adults and internet-using adults who use at least one social networking site

Don't get too caught up in the hype of crypto because frankly, it's impossible to peg down which of the thousands of competing platforms, or apps will still be around in 20+

years. Nobody in the 90's could've really predicted that Amazon, an online bookstore would take over and practically monopolize half the industries in the world. Frankly, if people get scared away from cryptocurrency, it's because they had a bad experience where you told them to buy, and they lost money. The process of moving toward these changes is going to take much longer than a couple months, or even years.

The unfortunate reality is that as of now there are 4,000 cryptocurrencies and people are spreading their money across all of them. If everyone just got together and put all their money into ONE cryptocurrency, literally everyone would be drastically richer. But people always want to pick the "every person for themselves" mentality rather than do what's most beneficial for themselves, which is to do what's best for EVERYONE. It's a mindfuck, innit.

Which brings me to my next point. There's currently no crypto ETF. Why do you want a crypto ETF? It's exactly like I said, there are hundreds of competing platforms and no way to be 100% sure that they will be around in 20+ years. An ETF basically gathers all of them into one big bucket (metaphorically). If the price of one goes up, and another goes down, they cancel each other out. You're betting on a GROUP of cryptocurrencies, rather than just ONE.

Generally speaking, an ETF is the "safer" way to invest your money and get slow, consistent gains with less volatility. That doesn't mean ALL ETF's are good. You can have an ETF with the worst 20 altcoins you can find on r/cryptomoonshots and it's absolutely worthless. But if you can gather up a bunch of the BEST ones that are most likely to succeed and put them in an ETF, the outcome is much more likely to be positive.

How do we get an ETF?

Win over the SEC. See my previous comments.

Decentralized apps are great in theory but they're more complicated in reality. In general, the most difficult part of decentralizing this stuff is trying to update the software, and it could take a long time, if ever. It's entirely possible someone could write a piece of software with an incredibly hazardous bug in it and fixing it will be a pain in the neck.

Also, in theory everything is supposed to be decentralized, but even in this intermediate stage of decentralization, we just see changing of middlemen. Instead of us interfacing with bankers to maintain our money, we now interface with apps, which give a portion of the profits to the creators of the app every time you try to do a transaction. Asking "Which one is "better"?" really depends on the tradeoff between how much you're paying them, versus how secure you feel your money is. (I don't mean "secure" in terms of "hacking" but "secure" in the sense of volatility e.g., "How certain do you feel that your $10 today will still be worth $10 tomorrow?"). But as crypto becomes more common, it may be inevitable that those fees will increase and we'll just be stuck with more of the same.. or worse.

I'm incredibly optimistic about the possibilities that can come from crypto, but at the end of the day it's the actions of the people and SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE that determine whether any of it actually has value in the future. In a sort of hyperbolic analogy, we could have a scientific breakthrough like a cure for cancer, where the underlying science, math, engineering that all goes on behind the scenes are revolutionary and ABLE to make the world a better place; But it's absolutely useless if everyone refuses the cure and people just sell it back and forth to each other in hopes of getting a profit, rather than using it for its intended purpose.

As of now, even the safest cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum should be considered fairly high-risk with high reward potential. Bitcoin is more like "Gold" and still has plenty of value, but if you believe in the future of decentralized finance and applications, then you probably want to invest in cryptocurrencies with smart contracts.

Confidence

As I said in the introduction, this is book is the coming-of-age, tearjerker feel-good cult classic romantic comedy that I wish I had when I was younger. Some of you assholes reading this right now are already that cool kid with 6 pack abs, a Kim Kardashian booty, and eyes shaped like fucking almonds with no self-esteem issues. Well ain't you just fucking special with your genetic jackpot of an existence. This section is for the people who DO need to work on their self-esteem, but you should read it anyway. This section mainly focuses on romantic relationships, but these same fucking principles apply when it comes to just making friends and becoming a fucking social butterfly.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself; I was born with bilateral microtia and atresia, which more-or-less meant I didn't have ears. So, you could say I was deformed, deaf, and had a speech impediment. I had 30 surgeries between the ages of 5 and 13 with over 8 scars in various places on my body. I was also a fat fuck that went to over 13 different schools, got made fun of a lot. So, needless to say my self-confidence wasn't through the roof.

I want this book and chapter to be gender neutral, but I am giving my experience as a straight white cis male. I didn't care too much about popularity, but I loved girls and I honestly never thought I'd find a relationship. I think most of us just want to be loved, and it's hard to perform well in school, or even in life when you're depressed. When I was 21, I had never been kissed. By the time I was 22, I was making out with an average of 20 different people each month. What happened? You know that scene in Space Jam 1, where at half-time bugs bunny pulls out a bunch of bottles of "Michael's Secret Stuff" and the whole tune squad starts doing slam dunks? That shit.

Honestly though, it's just confidence. If you go through life thinking you're ugly, then every negative interaction you have with someone validates that belief. If you go through life thinking you're attractive, every positive interaction validates THAT belief. Both of these are examples of confirmation bias, but what YOU want is the second one.

Look, it wasn't an overnight change, but I want to put something into perspective for you. There are 7.5 billion people in the world, and at least **1 BILLION** of those people are probably valid candidates for you to be in a relationship with.

Imagine being in an arena. Most of us have probably been to some kind of large concert in our lives. Imagine a thousand-plus God damn people all cramming their way toward the front of the stage so they can a better glimpse of the boogers hanging out of Ariana Grande's nose, while some claustrophobic idiot is getting bounced around in the mosh pit and crying out loud to a live rendition of 7 rings.

Just really take the time to imagine a god damn concert in an arena that's COMPLETELY sold out. Imagine EVERYONE is whatever gender(s) you're attracted to. Think about the THOUSANDS of people on the floor, the thousands more on the 1st level, the 2nd level, the 3rd level. They're packing EVERY God damn seat in the stadium.

I REALLY need you to visualize every single fucking body in that arena. Pull up a fucking google image if you suck at visualizing. Chances are the god damn capacity of the arena that you're visualizing holds a MAXIMUM of 30,000 fucking people.

A BILLION is another 33,000 of those individual fucking stadiums, EACH of which are completely packed with 30,000 people. These are ALL with people that you could potentially be with. That's more stadiums than the fucking number of people crammed INTO that stadium. 30,000 is a fucking DROP in the bucket compared to the 1 billion people out there who you could potentially be dating. Don't EVER think that there's nobody out there for you, and don't EVER think that just because someone DOES like you, that you can never do better than that person. It is just a fucking MATHEMATICAL FACT that there will always be someone out there for you.

You have flaws, but the more you date, the more you realize that EVERYONE has flaws. That cute cashier that you secretly stalk on Instagram has panic attacks a couple times a month and is fucking TERRIFIED of ketchup. That sexy motherfucker in your chemistry class that caught you staring at them for an awkwardly long time before you looked away and tried to pretend you were staring out the window like a dolt? They're anemic and shit out 10 buckets of diarrhea if they accidentally eat dairy. Lily Allen? Hot and talented as fuck with a sexy ass British accent. She also has a 3rd nipple, and it's a beautiful nipple. These are all REAL things, and I'm not shitting on anyone. I actually think it's kinda fucking beautiful that no matter what YOUR shit is, you're not the only one that HAS shit. Maybe you're not the height you wish you were, maybe you've got a weird mole that you're self-conscious about, maybe your penis is travel sized. At the end of the day, none of that shit matters.

I think in some cases, a driver of depression is romanticizing what your life would be like if SOMETHING was different than it is. For example, people who grow up without a father figure might blame their personal dysfunction on not having a parent. They might think, "If only I had a dad, I would've been able to play basketball with them and they'd teach me how to fix cars". Or whatever other stereotypical gender-biased shit you expect your pops could have done for you. Eh, maybe. Maybe you would've had a dad that was a deadbeat or just doesn't know how to do ANY of that shit. But sometimes romanticizing "what could've been", is what puts them into a state of depression or feeling like they missed out.

Maybe you don't like the way you look for whatever reason, and you go through life thinking that people are viewing you or treating you differently because of your appearance. That may be the case, but maybe those people are just assholes to everyone. If you're constantly in your head thinking about everything and everyone around you, and too obsessed with what things would be like if they were different, it's just going to pile up and overwhelm you emotionally.

There are two types of confidence: internal & external. External confidence is fucking fake. External confidence is like being in the Matrix; It feels exactly like the real fucking deal, but it's not. External confidence is that Michael's Secret Stuff that wears off after a while. You can buy a brand-new outfit, buy a fucking Ferrari F60, dye your hair and get a new haircut and any of that shit MIGHT make you feel confident…. Temporarily. It

wears off after a while, but it's a fucking placebo. Here's the fucking thing about placebos: if they fucking WORK and HEAL YOU then YOU'RE NOT FUCKING SICK.

(Full disclaimer: there are studies that show that placebos CAN cause actual physical changes. Never underestimate the power of the human brain, just BELIEVING you're sick can MAKE you sick. The point I'm trying to make is that this is something that you CAN control and understanding THAT is the first step to being able to use it to your advantage).

INTERNAL confidence is the shit you want. Core fucking confidence. The ability to be confident no matter WHAT you're wearing, no matter what you look like, what you own, the REAL fucking deal, Holyfield. No lie, when I was working on my confidence, I would go to the mall wearing pink Hello Kitty pajamas by myself. I looked fucking ridiculous, but I could still talk to girls and receive interest. Sometimes I received MORE interest because I stood out and I clearly wasn't afraid to. I'm not saying you need to do ANYTHING that extreme, but hey it wouldn't fucking hurt.

The obstacle you need to get over is FEAR. Fear of rejection, fear of humiliation, fear of failure. My spirit guide Karamo once said "Failure is not the OPPOSITE of Success, it's part of it". You have to confront your fears to get over them. You can't be afraid to fail. You NEED to fail in order to learn how to succeed.

Side note: If we all watched Queer Eye, the world would be a better place. Seriously, if you want to be a better you, you should watch that show. Pay attention to the fashion, grooming, & most importantly, self-help tips they offer. If you can master THAT, you can do anything.

I remember the first time I did any kind of solo public speaking; I was in a drama class in high school, and we were all responsible for memorizing and performing Shakespeare poems. I was an awful student for a number of reasons, and I slacked off when it came to memorizing it. Turns out, we would be performing our poems in front of the ENTIRE school. Apparently having people spend time in class learning shit wasn't important. In the middle of the school day, EVERY single class stopped what they were doing, and we all went to the courtyard for our live performances. I got on stage all by my lonely and belted out, "LOVERS AND MADMEN HAVE SUCH SEETHING BRAINS….". After that, I forgot literally EVERY other fucking line of the poem and stood there awkwardly on stage for about 3 minutes with sweat dripping down my back and a crowd full of teenagers staring at me in silence (along with every girl I had a crush on).

For at least a couple years I was HORRIFIED of public speaking. I would have nightmares of people laughing at me naked on stage as I yell "LOVERS AND MADMEN HAVE SUCH SEETHING BRAINS..."

But as I mentioned earlier, I'm also Deaf and I have a lisp because of it. So, it was more like me slurring loudly in my best Daffy Duck voice, screaming "LOVER"TH AND MADMEN HAVE THUCH THEETHING BRAIN'TH"

But eventually I forced myself to break out of my shell. I started by trying to sell copies of my Rap CD and rapping for people I didn't know in public areas. I went on to

do Stand Up Comedy and won a few local competitions. To this day, I've done hundreds of performances of SOME kind for strangers. The truth is that there are plenty of performances that went well, and plenty that have been horrible. But I'm no longer afraid of public speaking, and I've had people tell me I'm a good public speaker. However, that wasn't always the case. When you try something and fail, you realize "Hey, I'm still alive. Sure, the shit didn't go as well as I wanted, but it doesn't matter". THAT'S when you can assess what you could do better next time and make corrections that will make you successful in the future.

The confidence to speak publicly and personal confidence are related, but they're different things entirely. I want to help you find PERSONAL confidence, and it starts with being yourself. Now when I say, "Be yourself" what I really mean is, be your BEST self. We're fucking humans; We experience a wide range of emotions from positive to negative. If your partner cheats on you, you'll probably be fucking depressed. Hell, you might even end up sitting in your bathroom tub bawling your eyes out while 2 pounds of black eyeliner run down your face while XXXTentacion is blasting at full volume in the background. Obviously, you're being YOURSELF in that moment, you're not fucking faking those tears to impress someone. But if you're going on a first date with someone, that's not the YOU that they need to see.

When are you your BEST self? I'm sure you have at least ONE person, whether it be a friend, a sibling, your parents, or even your grandparents who you are always open and honest with. Someone who you talk to and NEVER need to stop to think "Oh, maybe I shouldn't say this.." or feel like they're going to judge you. Think about who that person is and how you act around them. THAT is your best self.

I became socially conscious of this when I was hanging out with my best friend from middle school, and I noticed that I always came up with the funniest jokes, had the most intellectual conversations, and my personality was overall more positive and fear-free when I was just hanging out with him. The best part is that you KNOW you have the capacity to be that person, all you have to do is capture yourself in that moment and learn how to bring that person out when you meet new people. If you can treat EVERYONE you meet as if you've known them for years, you can build STRONGER connections with people in a shorter amount of time. I'm not saying you should throw a fucking hug on a stranger and make jokes about how big your last poop was on the first date. Use your god damn discretion. Just let your fucking guard down a bit and don't be afraid to look goofy or say what's really on your mind.

Here are some rules of thumb for interacting with confidence. Don't fish for compliments & don't shit on yourself. You may think your face looks like Bilbo Baggins' left foot, and that's fine. You don't need to verbalize it to everyone you see. Even self-deprecating humor is often a bad idea. Most people who use self-deprecating humor do it too much and don't know when to use it. I'm sorry but nobody wants to hang out with someone who is constantly saying, "MAN I REALLY LOOKING FUCKING UGLY TODAY, DON'T I?!" all the time.

The only 2 ways to respond to those comments are with sympathy or by saying YEAH YA FUCKIN DO. If people are giving you sympathy, you're not coming off as

confident. And you SHOULD be confident. You're a gorgeous sultry snack that everyone wants a bite of. You're some fucking Dunkaroos dripping in sex juice, and don't let ANYONE ever tell you differently.

Another rule of thumb: don't go dishing out compliments all day every day. Compliments are fine if they're sincere. You see someone rocking a pair of jeans and they're looking fabulous, and you just HAVE to let them know, then go for it. You'll probably make their day and spreading positivity is always the shit. However, you should NOT be giving people compliments under the assumption that somehow it will make them like you more.

Too many people throw out compliments as conversation starters but aren't sincere. I once went to a job interview wearing a suit, and a girl who was also interviewing for the position said, "You look nice". Then ANOTHER girl who was interviewing for the job walked in the room and that SAME girl says to her, "I like your necklace". She proceeded to do the same thing with at least 3 different people who walked in the room, and she literally just opened up every conversation with, "I like your purse, I like your hair, etc.". And every conversation died faster than Ned Stark in Game of Thrones. It's BLATANTLY obvious at that point that nothing about what she's saying was sincere or rooted in any kind of DEPTH.

Body language is another big indicator of confidence. Whenever you're doing something, stop and imagine seeing someone standing or sitting in the exact same way that you're currently standing or sitting. Ask yourself "Do I look awkward right now or do I look **comfortable**?" If someone's sitting on a couch and they're laid back with the arms out, they look a LOT more confident than someone who's hunched up and bent over, tapping their foot rapidly while staring at the floor and clearly trying not to touch anything. Just be conscious of the way that you move and how your body exists.

I'm a proponent of online dating. Walking up to someone you don't know is a complete crap shoot. They may be idiots, they may have different interests and hobbies than you, they may not know how to hold a conversation, they may even be batshit insane and want to skin you alive so they can wear you over their genitals while they parade around in a feather boa.

The benefit of meeting someone through an app is that you can get to know them before meeting them. At least when I was still dating, people actually wrote fucking profiles and talked about themselves. You could get a good idea of what their hobbies were and whether or not they had a fucking sense of humor. Shit like tinder where all you do is swipe left or right depending on whether their face looks symmetrical kind of loses ALL the benefits of online dating.

The reality is you can meet a wider range of people, which increases the probability that you'll find the right match for you. It also saves a LOT of fucking time not having to play 21 questions with every fucking person you meet. You're probably gonna google them because you're a creeper. We all are. You can communicate with them before you meet them, and that allows you to determine whether or not they're emotionally unstable LONG before putting yourself at risk of being face to face with them. All of these things ensure that you're not wasting time on someone who isn't worth it.

When you take photos of yourself, fucking smile. Look I'm not that creepy dude trying to catcall you in the street; Don't smile for any of those fuckwads. But when you're taking photos and trying to depict yourself doing things in life, especially with friends or family, SMILE. I don't care what gender you are, and honestly men are often the ones who need this advice the MOST. I don't care WHAT your teeth look like, you could be a meth head with only 3 rotting fucking corn kernel teeth, one of which is hanging off your gums trying to hold on for dear life like Mufasa off the side of pride rock. You still look more confident, approachable, and beautiful if you fucking flash them pearly yellows. If you're taking a photo with your sibling, don't be fucking afraid to put your arm around them. Look normal, be comfortable, and act confident. For the love of God don't post creepy selfies of yourself just staring into a webcam. Use photos where you're actually doing something, being with others, and experiencing life. 10/10 times, happiness is fucking BEAUTIFUL.

When dating, finding someone with compatible interests and a decent fucking personality are more important than looks. If you're not into hiking and fishing and shit, then don't set your hopes on dating someone who is. I'm into nerdy shit like Harry Potter, drinking beer, eating food, science, and playing boardgames. So, I went onto a dating website, and found a girl that was into Harry Potter, drinking beer, eating food, science, and playing boardgames. Then I married her.

There's another saying that means a lot to me and it's, "You can't change others, you can only change yourself". You can always make the choice to GET into hiking and fishing and shit, but that's your fucking prerogative. Between the ages of 18 - 19 I had lost about 100 pounds. I'm not saying you need to lose weight. There's SOMEONE out there who's gonna love every part of you even if you're dummy thicc. But if the person you want to date is ONLY into skinny people, you PROBABLY can't CHANGE their level of attraction to you. What you CAN do is lose weight and become the type of person they're attracted to. If they're into redheads, you can't CHANGE the fact that they like redheads, but you CAN dye your hair.

There are always things that are going to be out of your control to change, or maybe you just don't WANT to change those things about yourself. If that's the case, move on and find the next person. I promise you there's ALWAYS going to be someone more attractive, who's a better match for you than the person you're pursuing. Obtaining core confidence is another thing that you have the power to control, and confidence (not cockiness, there's a difference, you fucking narcissists) is a trait that LITERALLY everyone gravitates toward. The death knell for most people when it comes to finding a relationship is becoming obsessed with any **one individual** person who doesn't feel the same way about them. You put all your fucking eggs in one basket, then when it doesn't work out you end up being shit out of luck.

MOST people don't want to be with a stage 5 clinger. My advice to anyone that's casually dating is to ALWAYS be pursuing multiple options. You can HAVE a favorite, there's nothing wrong with that. But until you come to terms of AGREEMENT with someone that you will be exclusive with them, and they will be exclusive with you, you should constantly be playing the field and exploring your other options. It gives you a

chance to be 100% certain that there's nobody else out there that you'd rather be with at that moment. It also shields you from becoming entirely dependent on THEM feeling the same way about you. Your happiness should NEVER rely on someone else's opinion of you. When you're only pursuing ONE person, it causes you to get into your head and think, "It's been 2 hours, why hasn't this person texted me back?". The minute you start showing your hand and messaging them, "What's wrong? you haven't responded to me" you're showing signs of instability and a codependency that many people run from. If you're texting with dozens of people, you're too distracted to care that ONE of them hasn't texted you in the last 2 hours.

Being in a relationship can be another form of external confidence (the bad kind). If you're experiencing depression, or even baggage from a previous relationship before going into a new relationship, you're often going to bring those insecurities along with you. Even if you get into a relationship and begin feeling happy and more confident in yourself in the beginning, the minute something goes wrong, you will immediately feel like your happiness and confidence is being threatened. I repeat, your ability to love yourself should NEVER be dependent on whether or not your believe that this other person loves or likes you.

I've got a few more pieces of advice I'd like to share with respect to dating. Firstly, put some fucking effort into being a good communicator. If I text someone saying *"OMG you're not gonna believe wtf just happened. I was at the bar, 3 shots of Jack Daniels in, and apparently someone slipped roofies in one of my drinks. I woke up the next morning in the middle of a park on a bench covered in urine with my underwear on my head, lying next to a replica painting of the Leonardo Da Vinci's "Creation of Adam". Except the painting was of ME reaching out and touching index fingers with a naked portrait of Betty White"* and the only thing you reply with is "lol thats crazy" you just killed a fucking AMAZING conversation and deserve to die alone in a house full of cats that will legitimately resort to eating your fucking corpse alive once you stop feeding them.

Secondly, I strongly, strongly encourage that if you go on a first date with someone that you do so in a competitive environment. That can be an arcade, a bowling alley, a bar where there's billiards and a dartboard, a putt putt golf course. Anything that promotes a competition between you and your date.

It makes it fucking easy to break the ice, hold a conversation, and eliminates the awkwardness that usually comes from meeting a new person. You'll be physically engaged in doing something, and you really just need to be able to talk shit. Do NOT be a complete asshole. Be like a bratty older brother or sister that messes with their younger sibling but still loves them. My motto is "Be a sore loser, a bit of a cheater, and brag when you win".

In some cultures, it's normal to hug a complete stranger. America is not one of those cultures. A competitive environment also allows you to subtly break the touch barrier in a way that's more socially acceptable. ALWAYS start small (e.g., a handshake, a high five) and work your way up. If you're losing, you can playfully use your shoulder to nudge them out of the way while playing an arcade game. Even minor touching builds

trust and comfort with the other person and is a crucial part of escalating your relationship with each other. If they don't seem like they're reciprocating, then back off. If someone seems uncomfortable with that type of physical interaction, give them space. Creating new relationships are difficult to navigate, but ultimately good communication and being able to speak honestly and candidly in a grown-up way is sometimes the best thing you can do.

Often we try to project ourselves as perfect and try to ignore our mistaks. We try to avoid acknowledging our shortcomings and failures altogether because we're afraid of other people noticing them. Which brings me to a concept that I call "Breaking character". Right now, you might be thinking "HEY IDIOT, YOU JUST COMPLETELY MISPELLED THE WORD 'MISTAKES'. Well, you know what, F YOU, YOU JUDGMENTAL DICKWAD, I DID IT ON PURPOSE M'KAY. Breaking character is about **acknowledging the fucking elephant in the room** when something isn't working and not PRETENDING you didn't just fuck up. People who fail to do this are usually people who lack confidence.

For example, I've seen 2 people who, in the MIDDLE of a conversation, just ran out of shit to say and they both just pulled out their fucking phones and proceeded to avert eye contact and begin scrolling through their texts. Don't do that shit. Breaking character is about acknowledging when shit gets awkward. Instead, you can just pull out your phone and say out loud, "*Okay now I'm going to pull out my phone and pretend to text someone while avoiding contact until I think of something to say.*" You might even get a laugh out of them, and by acknowledging it as an unusual social habit that many people often do, you become more genuine and don't lose any credibility in the other person's eyes. By NOT acknowledging it, that person might even be slightly more skeptical about conversing with you on a consistent basis on the false pretense that you're not an interesting person.

NOT breaking character and failing to just acknowledge "Hey yeah, I just fucked up because I have NO idea what the fuck I'm doing" is how you end up like me, in high school, spending 3 minutes on stage in complete silence with the entire school staring at you and the sweat running down your back while you try to remember the line in the poem that comes after, "LOVER"TH AND MADMEN HAVE THUCH THEETHING BRAIN'TH.."

What I just did is called a callback. It's a pretty common technique in Stand-Up Comedy. The idea is just to make a reference to a joke that's been told in the past. It doesn't even have to be YOUR joke, as long as you AND the person you're talking to both get the reference. When I told you that story a few pages back, I made a conscious effort to repeat the phrase "LOVERS AND MADMEN HAVE SUCH SEETHING BRAINS" multiple times in hopes that it would burn into your memory. It's already a pretty weird phrase, which made it easier to remember.

Knowing how to USE callbacks is one of the easiest ways to get people to laugh in a casual conversation. Most people enjoy laughing, and the ability to make others laugh will absolutely make others enjoy being around you more. I told you, HAPPINESS IS FUCKING BEAUTIFUL. So, it's also worth being conscious of things that make people

laugh. I encourage anyone to watch standup comedy frequently; Pay attention to how humans respond to humor. Standup comedy is a very weird platform because laughter itself is often a reaction to surprise. When someone says, "tell me a joke", that person is now WAITING to be surprised which makes it harder, if not impossible to catch them off guard. That's like someone saying, "Throw me a surprise party on Saturday" then you throw them a surprise party on Saturday, and they go "Nah, I wasn't even surprised".

The weird thing about making people laugh is that it really isn't always about saying something that's funny. Take, for example, this verbatim quote from John Mulaney's "Kid Gorgeous at Radio City". If you've already seen this stand up special or you're familiar with John Mulaney, I strongly suggest pretending you've never heard of him for a moment. Just read this the way you would read any regular email or text that your grandma sent you:

"I went to college. For the whole time. Holy shit, right? I just got a letter from my college, which was fun 'cause mail, you know? So, I opened up the letter and they said, "Hey, John, it's college. You remember?" I say, "Yes, of course." And they said… how did they phrase it? They said, "Give us some money. As a gift". "We want a gift, but only if it's money." I found this peculiar. You see, what had happened, New York, was that when I was a student, I had paid them tuition money. Every semester, two semesters a year, for four years. I don't remember exactly what it was, but rounding up, back in 1999 dollars, it was about $15,000 a semester, two semesters a year, for four years. So, it was about $30,000 a year for four years. So, it was about $120,000, okay? So roughly speaking, I gave my college about $120,000. Okay, so you might say that I already gave them $120,000 and now you have the audacity to ask me for more money?"

Now maybe it's my subjective opinion, but I would argue that there's MAYBE one joke in that entire excerpt. Even THAT'S being generous. So before moving onto the next paragraph, I'd encourage you to review the excerpt above one more time and just take a GUESS how many times the audience laughed during that bit.

In actuality, the audience laughed a total 11 times throughout that bit. Then after the last line, there was even an APPLAUSE break on top of it, which qualifies for 12 times in my book. Now I'm not trying to insult John Mulaney, I've listened to that exact Stand Up Special more times than I can count. I genuinely enjoy it. Also, to be fair, this was just a set-up bit before he got rolling with some real jokes. But it really highlights the point that it's not WHAT he said that made the audience laugh 12 times, but it was HOW he said it.

His timing, his confidence, the way he delivers his words, ALL those things often determine whether people laugh. Those things are much more important than whether or not what you've said is "funny". Things like timing and delivery can really only be learned through watching others and being analytical of what they're doing, which is why I encourage people to watch more standup comedy if they want to improve on their social skills.

Crowds are very herd minded. The whole "laughter is contagious" trope is definitely true. It's MUCH harder to make a small group of people laugh than it is to do standup in

a theatre with hundreds, or thousands of people. That's especially true if they're people who've paid to see you. Unfortunately for you, your experience will probably always involve playing to a small group of people (e.g., your friends, family, or a date). The fortunate part is that you probably already have some rapport with them. Winning over strangers on the street and making them laugh is MUCH more difficult than making your coworkers or your grandparents laugh.

I've seen many comedians struggle a LOT with small rooms of people, and the ones who know how to win over a difficult room ALWAYS do it by breaking character, which I spoke about earlier. If you just go on stage and start telling the jokes you wrote, it doesn't matter how good the jokes are, they're not going to be as effective at making people laugh as just having a conversation with those people. When a joke DOESN'T do well, the easiest way to recover is to just say "Yeah, that joke sucked". But you don't have to TRY to be funny, if you surround yourself with comedy and just act naturally, it will happen.

We're at the point where I need to say some things about sex. This might get awkward for you, but it IS necessary. Tupac has a line where he says "Mama never told me stop until I bust a nut", which means that when Mama Shakur told Pac about getting jiggy she wasn't pussyfooting around with that birds and the bees bullshit. She gave Tupac the kind of sex education he needed if he was gonna grow up and bang Madonna with only one testicle. But since this book is sort of aimed at the "college" demographic, that's the kind of talk that we need to have.

Let's get this one out the way even though it's obvious; There's nothing wrong with having sex. It doesn't matter what your gender or orientation is, if you like someone and everyone is a fully functioning adult that consents to it, then do whatever kinky shit you're into. Be safe, be considerate, be responsible.

It doesn't matter how many sexual partners you have, and don't EVER let anyone tell you that it's too many or not enough. It's your world and everyone else is living in it. Just use some fucking protection. And I mean REAL protection, none of that "pulling out" bullshit. If you're not mentally, emotionally, AND financially ready to have kids, don't fuck up the rest of your life and career by making them. You've got plenty of time in the future to do that shit. You also need to be adamant about using protection because it's not worth getting STD's. If you find out that you HAVE an STD, there's nothing wrong with that, but it is something that you should communicate with your sexual partners about.

Communication is really the thing that people struggle with most, but it's the most important part of ANY relationship, even a short-term sexual one. Don't be afraid to ask your partner questions. I PROMISE that being mature adults and communicating with each other honestly and openly will always be the best way to navigate ANYTHING in a relationship. I'm not here to give you an anatomy lesson, but hey internet research is always one click away. And as much "research" as I do on Pornhub, I guess you could say I'm a bit of an expert on this subject.

Seriously though, if you're a person that uses any kind of sexual toys anally you need to be careful. I've heard stories from many of people who work hospitals, and you

would not believe the number of items that stuck in people rectums on a regular basis. We're talking shampoo bottles, snowglobes, even dildos. This may sound like a joke, but it isn't. If a dildo doesn't have a SHAFT on it, it's not meant for anal play, and it's a good rule of thumb not to use ANY household object that is not specifically designed for that purpose.

This next part SHOULD go without saying, but so many people fuck this up that even if I DO take the time out to write this, it probably won't change anything. But seriously, DO NOT fucking have kids with someone because you think it will save your relationship. If your partner was abusive or cheating on you before you had kids, they're not going to suddenly become loyal and accountable once they have kids. If they tell you that they will, they are lying. Chances are, they're just gonna be a shitty partner that you're stuck with for life. It's more likely that you're just going to end up saddling yourself with more responsibilities, along with one or more kids who grow up with at least one deadbeat parent.

If you have a strong preference for the gender of your child, hey maybe consider not having kids. Or just adopt. I've never understood it, but I've seen parents love their baby less based on whether it has a penis. And I've never really understood that, because it stems from an idealization of wanting to do gender-based things with your child as they grow up.

These gender roles are ingrained in us from a young age. If you look at the "girls" section of a toy section, you'll see easy bake ovens, toy vacuum cleaners, baby dolls. The "boys" section has power tools and guns. You'll see a plastic baseball bat in the boys' section, but if that plastic baseball bat is colored pink, it goes in the girl's section. Then parents say, "I want a boy" or "I want a girl", nah if I ever have a kid, I'm teaching them to play sports, fight, and spit bars REGARDLESS. Their gender shouldn't dictate how you raise them. Whatever their thing is, is my thing. If they want to do ballet, I'm putting on a tutu and lacing up these pointe shoes, whattup.

Another topic I want to speak on is miscarriages. I want more people to be aware of the fact that miscarriages ARE quite common. Somewhere around 20 percent of all pregnancies end in a miscarriage. That's roughly 1 out of every 5 pregnancies. People should be aware of this so they're not caught off guard if it happens, and nobody should ever feel ashamed if it's something that happens to you.

The suicide hotline was created by a priest when he heard about a 13-year-old girl who killed herself because she got her period. The girl saw the bleeding and thought that it meant she had a venereal disease. Sexual education and communication are incredibly important things to have, but it's also incredibly taboo to many people and families. If you don't have anyone to speak to about these kinds of topics, I strongly suggest trying to find a Planned Parenthood near you. Many of them have free birth control, as well as therapists available. They can also refer you to one if they don't. Don't ever feel shy about trying to seek out help regarding any topics surrounding sex from these people, because they literally CHOSE to get into this career specifically so they could help people like you.

Brain stuff
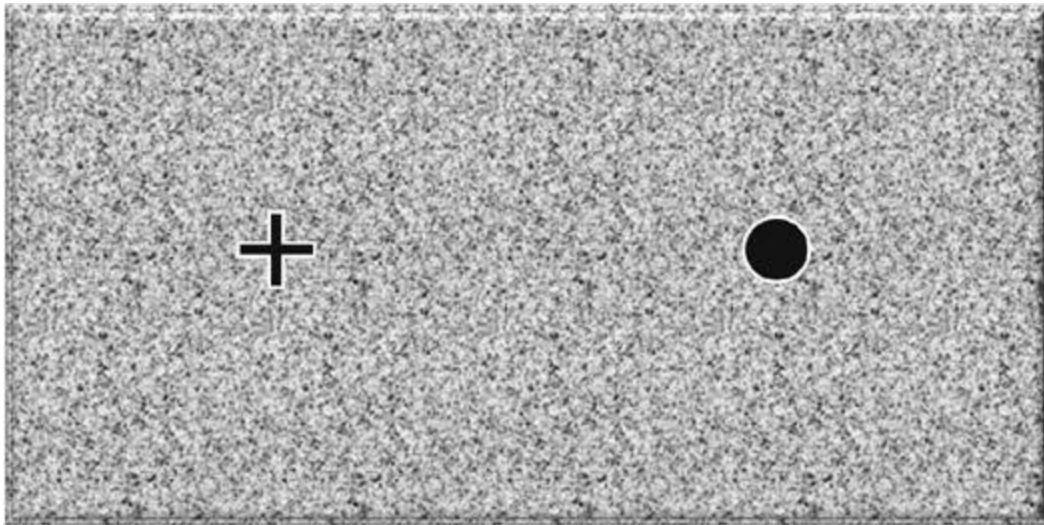
The human brain is some fucking crazy shit. Use your hand to cover up your left eye and focus your right eye on the plus sign. Move your head closer and away from the image until the black dot eventually disappears (you may have to try a number of different distances, but it will probably happen when the image is about 12 inches away). People use the term "optical illusion" but really, they should be called brain malfunctions. You have a blind spot, and you've most likely gone your entire life without noticing it's there. Notice that when the dot disappears, it isn't just pure nothingness. Your brain literally fills in the image based on the surrounding information. You see the same pattern SURROUNDING the dot in place of where the dot SHOULD be.

If the light in your house is ran on AC power, that means SOMEWHERE there's a big ass magnet, and it's spinning around in a circle really quickly, kinda like a carnival ride. And that magnet essentially attracts electrons and causes them to oscillate back and forth. This generates a current which connects to your house and powers your electricity. To YOU it looks like your light is always on until you turn it off. The reality is that when those electrons are oscillating back and forth, they actually come to a stop for a brief moment. Which means that even though you don't SEE it, the light in your house is constantly flickering on and off. But you don't SEE it flickering, you just see one continuous light. You can stare at the fucking lightbulb until you go fucking Ray Charles in the eyeballs, your brain won't actually process the information correctly to inform your senses that the light is constantly turning off.

Understand that EVERYTHING you interact in the world is the direct result of your brain processing billions of interactions with atoms and waves. Pigeons can independently perceive flashes at about 100 Hz and dragonflies perceive it at rates faster than that. It's evidence that different species perceive time differently, and it's likely that different humans could perceive time differently as well. So maybe the reason you always sucked at baseball is just because you process time at a faster rate than others, and never could line up your Louisville slugger with that ball quick enough.

I sort of imagine the human brain being a computer that's constantly taking mental snapshots of every moment in time. Some people just have brains that are like a really fast computer that takes snapshots every millisecond. But if your brain slows down, you might perceive time as moving slower, because you're taking fewer mental snapshots. BUT SERIOUSLY, there's no credible science behind that WHATSOEVER, it's just a thought I had when I was high. If I were a scientist, I would need to test my hypothesis. So, I'd probably do some trials with people sober and have them try to swat as many flies as they can for 30 minutes. Then I'd get them high the next day and measure to see how many flies they can swat, then see if there's a significant difference. Then after gathering all the data, I could produce results that successfully conclude that I'm a fucking moron.

That's just a joke, though. I don't want you to get that confused, because there's a lot of crazy information here grounded in REAL science. For example, the faster you move PHYSICALLY, the slower time passes. So, if I took two twin babies and one of them stayed on earth and the other one got sent flying through space at the speed of light (assuming he doesn't crash into a meteor and explode into a million pieces or get obliterated by rogue particles) then after 50 years, the baby who was traveling at the speed of light would be SIGNIFICANTLY younger.

A similar kind of illusion to the one before, is if you go onto google and type in "Chuwa Francis Oyvind Kolas" (I'm not about to use his work without permission). You should see a photo of a bunch of girls holding a turtle who is probably either pissed off or terrified for his fucking life, it's hard to tell. If you look at it from a far distance, it looks like a NORMAL photo, but when you zoom in, you'll notice that the photo ITSELF is COMPLETELY black and white. Just based off a few lines, your brain is capable of filling in the missing information and causing you to see color where there isn't.

We use terms like "Red", "Blue, and "Yellow" to describe colors, but the truth is that it's possible that you & I don't even SEE the same colors. Every time I see a firetruck, I might be seeing what YOU consider to be purple. But hell, as long as I spend my whole life being told the color of a firetruck is "Red", then we're in mutual agreement that we're gonna call that color "red" regardless of whether or not what our brains interpret "red" as exactly the same thing.

You might think that shit smells bad and looks disgusting, but that's because shit is rife with bacteria that can be harmful to human health. Biologically our brains have evolved to send signals of disgust that stop us from eating it. However, if you were a dung beetle, you'd probably be wafting that shit up your nose daily and salivating over it like it was a juicy triple quarter-pounder burger fresh off the grill topped with bacon and cheese. Notable fact #1 Dung Beetles have a strong preference for herbivore poop. Fact #2, I don't even like Bacon. Which just reinforces the fact that food isn't inherently GOOD or BAD, but rather that our brains all sense and perceive the world through our senses differently.

The point I kinda keep circling back to, and want to give you awareness of, is that the way you perceive the world isn't necessarily indicative of what's actually there. It's just

the way your brain is constantly INTERPRETING information about what's actually there. Bees and Butterflies see far more colors than you can see. Pythons and boas see in infrared, which means they can SEE when the heat in someone's body is changing, which allows them to detect prey. If you damaged the right part of your brain in just the right way, you could lose your ability to see, smell, hear, feel, or frankly, do anything.

You may already know about Phineas Gage, but check this out anyway. Phineas Gage was a railroad worker who had an accident at his job. A god damn 3 ½ foot long iron pole went RIGHT through his fucking cranium. I shit you not, the dude fucking survived. That's actually not the fucking surprising part of the story. Humans are REMARKABLY resilient, and it can be harder to kill someone than you think. There are people who have taken fucking shotgun blasts to the god damn face and still lived. Really fucking think twice about that shit if you ever plan to Kurt Cobain yourself. If you already hated your life, you sure as hell won't enjoy it any better with half your jaw hanging off the side of your cheekbone.

Let's get back to the story about Phineas, though. He survived this giant fucking pole going through his head, which caused him to become more difficult to work with, more profane, and lacking respect for his colleagues. Now it's important to do some fucking responsible reporting here and note that this story has been historically exaggerated to state that Phineas suffered permanent damage and turned into a violent, brutal monster, and none of that shit is true. His brain WAS able to recover over time and since most of the damage was to white matter in the brain, and not grey matter, he was able to recover from some of the damages, and eventually able to function normally in society.

However, the evidence emphasizes that the damage was largely to his left frontal lobe, the part of his brain the was associated with decision-making and emotional processing. It gets taken for granted today that we understand that different parts of the brain are responsible for different processes. However, at the time there were plenty of scientific debates about whether the entire brain functioned as one. But the fact of the matter is that this injury DID have an impact on his decision-making ability.

We still live in a society that leans heavily on the idea of "free will". When someone commits a crime, they're put on trial. If someone is put on trial, they have to be held accountable for their actions because committing that crime was a CHOICE they made. There are some neuroscientists who aren't convinced that free will exists at ALL, and who more or less suggest that people who commit crimes just have brains that were wired to be that way.

I'm not going to get into the philosophical debate of free will vs determinism, but you can look it up and research arguments for both sides. You don't HAVE to choose one or the other, there's an entire spectrum of beliefs in between. But historically, our society used to believe that MOST of the choices and moral decisions we make are something we do through free will. However, as science continues to evolve it's constantly pushing us more toward the deterministic end of the spectrum. In other words, science is showing us more and more that many things that happen are just the result of "cause and effect".

Think about alcohol for a second. When you drink alcohol, it blocks the chemical signals, or the "communication" between cells in your brain and can cause your behavior to change. All it takes is 3 Irish Coffees and your grandma's up on top of the bar twerking on the bartender and trying flash everyone in the entire club. If you drink a LOT of it, it impairs your brain to the point where you're more likely to make less-rational decisions, and in some cases may lead to violent behavior. If you drink even MORE, it can inhibit the parts of your brain that are responsible for movement. This may cause you to struggle with balance, or it may lead to blurred vision. Drinking even MORE interferes with brain receptors and blocks the process of making memories, which leads to blackouts. So even though you and your body may still be somewhat functioning (awake walking, talking, etc.) you'll wake up the next morning and have NO memory whatsoever of what was going on when the part of your brain that makes memories was blocked.

You'll also probably have a severe hangover, and the most common cause of this is dehydration. If you want to get white girl wasted at a party make sure you're always double fisting with a gallon of Fiji water.

If you've never been drunk or under the influence of some other drug (e.g., medical drugs such as strong painkillers), it may be harder for you to imagine what it's like. But when you're under the influence of ANY type of drug, it's very obvious to you that your brain is functioning in a much different way.

But what if your brain just got stuck like that, and you were essentially that way forever? When someone gets wasted and does something stupid, it's easy to argue that hey, it's still their fault because they were sober and unimpaired when they chose to drink. But WHAT IF someone were just BORN in a way that they had similar interferences in between the communications in their brain that caused them to behave impulsively or irrationally? What if someone was unknowingly exposed to a chemical that caused them to behave impulsively or irrationally?

For a long time there has been speculation that excessive exposure to lead (paint, contaminated water, etc.) at a young age may affect your brain development in a way that results in learning disorders like ADHD, a lower overall IQ, and ultimately may cause an increase in crime. So, in other words, maybe that murderer isn't a murderer. Maybe they possibly just shoved a number 2 pencil up their nose too far as a kid and it altered their brain chemistry forever.

Being serious for a second, there are many scientists who argue that this is false, because lead-exposure is often the result of living in a low-income area, and there could be a LOT of reasons why living in a low-income area leads to an increased probability of committing crimes.

What you may hear is "correlation doesn't equal causation". Just because there SEEMS to be some connection between two events doesn't mean that one event caused the other. For example, statistics have shown that the number of pirates has DECREASED over the last 130 years. During that SAME 130 years, we also have statistic evidence that global warming has been INCREASING. CLEARLY this means that if we want to FIX global warming, we need more pirates.

But OBVIOUSLY we all know that the number of pirates has nothing to do with global warming. And, as much as I want to see a million sexy Johnny Depps with running around in eyeliner and sword fighting with Orlando Bloom, it's probably not worth potentially getting murdered by a handful of boat thieves in Somalia who saw this statistic and took it way too literally.

But it poses an interesting question. What if scientists COULD prove that lead exposure causes increased crime levels? For starters, it's sort of our societal responsibility to remove the lead from those areas. But also, if someone commits a crime, because lead exposure interfered with their brain development, is it REALLY their own fault that they were exposed to lead at a young age? At least from my view, I would think "of course not", but our general criminal justice system doesn't work that way. As a society, we don't VIEW crime that way.

The idea of lead causing crime is just a hypothesis, and there's not nearly enough evidence to support it. However, Neuroscience is still a relatively young field, and there are still many things we don't know about the human brain. However, there is a LOT of evidence that points to the simple idea that if you change someone's brain, you change THEM. However, as a society and in law, we focus more on the idea that everyone's making these choices for themselves, and that they have brains that are wired to make reasonable choices.

Take for example, a case involving a 40-year-old man who was married, and his wife noticed that for the first time ever, he began becoming overwhelmingly interested in child pornography. He also solicited prostitution from a young woman, which is something he had never done before. After going to a neurologist and getting a brain scan, they discovered that he had a massive brain tumor. After the neurosurgeons removed the tumor, the man's behavior seemed to return to "normal".

Even more notable, 6 months later, his pedophilic behavior returned. He went back to the doctor, and they discovered PART of the tumor they removed had been missed during surgery and was now regrowing. After removing the remaining tumor, his behavior returned to normal once again.

There's a process called "chemical castration" which is becoming an increasingly common punishment for male sex offenders. These are an injection that cause a part of your brain (the pituitary gland) to stop making a hormone that binds to cells in your testicles to release testosterone.

The word "castration" makes it sound a hell of a lot more severe than it really is, considering it's reversible and it's nothing more than a shot that lowers your testosterone levels and significantly reduces your sex drive. Some people opt to have it done willingly and report being "happier" having no libido.

If you're outraged because receiving a shot to reduce testosterone seems like a severe underreaction to criminals who have committed rape or are having sexual acts with underage children, you probably should be. But there's also an untold story about how science and our society hasn't progressed enough to recognize and cure these behaviors as treatable mental disorders and chooses instead to fall back on

pseudoscience and inefficient medicine. This is historically what we've ALWAYS done until we science actually makes the breakthrough necessary to make us look at past civilizations and say "Oh yeah, THOSE people were using LOBOTOMIES on people with EPILEPSY? Lewl they must've been fucking STOOPID".

But everything I've discussed is to emphasize that our thoughts, attractions, emotions, decisions are largely all things that are to some degree, predetermined by all those bits and bobs rattling around in our heads. As humans, we're the only species on the planet to stop what we're doing and try to figure out how our own shit works. It's like if we created a robot with intelligence, and then it opened up its own brain and picked it apart to try to understand how everything operates. It's important to understand your brain, how to optimize it, and also to understand the shortcomings you have order to fucking make better decisions.

Humans are largely impaired by their emotions. You can look up the Ultimatum Game for more details, but the short of it is like this:

Let's say I stop a black impala on the street and meet 2 brothers named Sam & Dean Winchester. For some fucking reason they look like brooding Abercrombie & Fitch models carrying shotguns, but that's not important. I tell them I have $100 to give them, but first they need to decide how they're going to divide it up. Dean has to propose an amount between $0 and $100 of money to give Sam. Whatever amount is left over from that $100, Dean can keep it to himself. Sam can either ACCEPT Dean's offer, in which case they BOTH walk away with money, or Sam can reject his offer, in which case neither of them will get ANYTHING. They only get ONE shot at this, so there's no negotiation. Dean COULD be fair and split the $100 down the middle 50/50 so they each get $50. But Dean's a bit of an asshole, so he says, "Okay Sam, you can have $20, and I'll take the other $80". Sam can be a whiny bitch sometimes, so Sam turns down the deal and now NEITHER of them have anything.

This was a REAL experiment conducted with strangers that found when one person was offered less than $20, they would usually turn down the offer. When they were offered less than $30, half of them turned down the $30. Rationally speaking, ANY amount is better than the $0 you get if you turn them down. So, it's not RATIONAL to turn down any amount greater than $0. When someone turns down $20 or $30, they're basically compromising their own benefit out of spite for someone that they'll never meet or see again. It's an EMOTIONAL decision to turn down the money, but it's a BAD decision, because now you have $0 when you could've had $20.

It's also good to know the basics regarding how your memory works. Storing memory is easy, retrieving memory is hard. Just think about the very first paragraph of this book. Chances are, even if you tried your damndest, you probably couldn't recite what I said verbatim. But if you go back and actually READ the paragraph, it's highly likely that the words will be FAMILIAR to you. At the very least you can say "Oh yeah, I remember reading this". Which means that the information IS stored in your brain somewhere, otherwise, how would you know that you've seen it before? Your brain is even TELLING you, "Hey, yeah I've got that information here somewhere", But when

you ASK your brain to recall what color shirt you were wearing 8 days ago, that piece of shit is always too busy thinking about cute kittens and queso to give you anything useful.

Just think about ALL the things that are FAMILIAR to you. Every face you might've seen before, every book or movie you stumble across and you just… *kinda* remember that you've read or seen it once a few years ago. That's a LOT of information, and a lot of it is idle, doing absolutely nothing in your head until you need it. It would be overwhelming if you were constantly remembering ALL of those things, all of the time. But still, memory retrieval is incredibly useful in so many facets of life that you should know some tricks to optimize it.

There was a psychological study where people were shown flashcards with words, and they learned these words while submerged underwater. Afterwards, those people were tested on land and tested under the water, at which point they were asked to RECALL those words. What they found is that the subjects were able to recall the information better when they were underwater. In other words, humans can recall things better if they're in the *same environment where they learned those things*. Meaning if you take an exam in the same classroom where you learned the material, you'll probably do better than if you took it in a completely different classroom. If you can control your studying environment, study where you'll be taking the exam.

Secondly, "jogging your memory" is a real thing. If you're trying to remember some details about the 6th grade, like when you played footsie with Suzy on the playground, you'll have an easier time remembering the color of her toenails if you start looking through photos in your 6th grade yearbook. Especially if for some reason there's a picture of her toenails in it. But more importantly, seeing things that are RELATED to the memory that you're trying to recall makes it easier for you to retrieve that memory. If you can tie your memories to physical objects, or even take in more information about your environment(s) when trying to remember something that you'll want to recall in the future, you'll have a much easier time remembering it.

Humans are used to structures that simplify information. It's pretty difficult to memorize, "Four trillion, one hundred and eight million, six hundred and seventy-five thousand, three hundred and nine."

And it's easier, but not a WHOLE lot easier to remember it as the number:

4,108,675,309

But it becomes significantly easier when you split it into chunks. For example, trying to remember the phone number: (410) 867 - 5309

You even KNOW that you're supposed to use a "rhythm" when you store the phone number in your head. You use that SAME rhythm when you're trying to recall that number. You're also breaking it into 3 sets of smaller, easier to remember chunks rather than trying to store all the digits at once.

This number becomes even easier to remember if you LIVE in the 410 area code because it's easier to associate the number with something (it's actually the number of my former drug dealer in Baltimore).

And it's even EASIER if your name is Jenny.

Acronyms are your friend. You should use them as a mnemonic for ANYTHING you want to remember. It's an easy way to condense a lot of information into a small chunk, which makes it easy to unpack in the future.

For example, here's a list of SI prefixes. You'll probably need to know these for many science classes:

Prefix	Factor
Peta	10^{15}
Tera	10^{12}
Giga	10^{9}
Mega	10^{6}
Kilo	10^{3}
Base *(Note: anything to 0th power = 1)*	10^{0}
Deci	10^{-1}
Centi	10^{-2}
Milli	10^{-3}
Micro	10^{-6}
Nano	10^{-9}
Pico	10^{-12}
Femto	10^{-15}

You could try to memorize the list above, or you could recognize that there's a clear pattern, and make an acronym using "PTGMKBDCMMNPF".

"Part-time gigolo might kiss badly dressed customers. My micro-nipples peek freely"

It doesn't matter what it is, as long as you can remember it. You also don't have to memorize all the factors; you can just remember that it starts at 10^{15} and the exponent decreases by 3 for each prefix. You DO have to remember that deci, centi, and milli, are the exceptions, where the exponent is decremented by 1, and not by 3.

If you struggle with "Deci/Milli/Centi", which are some of the most common SI units, it's worth noting that "Deci" means ten, such as in the words "Decimal" or "Decade". In other words, 1 meter is 10 Decimeters. Similarly, "Milli" is the prefix found in millennium, which is every 1,000 years. So, 1 meter is 1000 millimeters. You COULD also think of "Centi" as in a "Century", or 100 years. But the most intuitive way to think of Centi is in "cents". I think to most Americans, it's clear that that that $10.34 is 1034 cents. Conversely, 10.34 meters is also 1034 centimeters.

I also highly suggest using acronyms to come up with passwords that are reasonably secure. You can take easy-to-remember phrases and condense them. According to Forest Gump, "My mama always said life was like a box of chocolates".

You can turn that into a password, "Mmaslwlaboc". For the most part, it IS a random string of letters, but it's a far easier password to remember than a randomly generated string of letters. Password security is a huge deal, and the safest thing you can do is have a different password for **EVERY** website you visit. But it's really not possible to remember every password on every website you visit if all your passwords are random letters that don't MEAN anything to you. As someone who is a programmer, I can tell you it is RIDICULOUSLY easy for a programmer to set up a legitimate looking website and steal a password from you in the process. If you're using the same passwords for every website, I strongly advise you start getting more creative with them.

One final way to improve on your studying techniques is to use what's called "spaced repetition". There are apps that support this, and I suggest you search YouTube videos for details. The general idea is that you should try to recall a memory, and then EACH time you recall that memory again, you increase the amount of time before recalling it again.

For example, here is a fact:
*if you survey **23 people**, there's a **50% chance 2** of them have the same birthday.*

Day 1 (Tomorrow): Force yourself to recall the fact above
Day 7: Force yourself to recall it again
Day 16: Force yourself to recall it again
Day 35: Force yourself to recall it again

It's important that you ACTUALLY put in the effort of forcing yourself to remember this information with **no help.** It doesn't work if you look back at this book and then go, "Oh yeah, NOW I remember that!"

Religion

Alright, we're about to dive into some hot-button shit. Like your 3rd removed cousin's aunt on your mother's side, some of you aren't gonna be with us much longer. There's a giant elephant in the room that needs to be addressed, and I'm not talking about your mom's hypothyroidism. Let's go back to this idea of imagining yourself living in a world where you've never encountered civilization. You have no way of knowing why the sun rises in the morning or why it sets at night. You don't understand HOW everything was created, and if you have any understanding of what death is, you don't know WHY people die. Wouldn't it be fucking sweet apple pie in the sky convenient if you could slap a band-aid on all those questions and prance around in a god damn field with a basket full of daisies and a Cheshire cat smile slapped across your smug little face?

It's a tendency that humans have. Back in the day, people would take a photo with an old camera, and they might see some human-like figure in the background before yelling, 'ERMIGERD ITS ER GHERST!!!!'. No, no.. it's not a ghost. Calm your tits, Tiffany. A person with reason and an understanding of how cameras work could tell you the mechanics that cause a photo to be out of focus, or how having an extended exposure time might cause a blur to appear in the background. There's also a human tendency called "pareidolia", which causes people to see human faces in inanimate objects even though they're not really there. Pareidolia has produced such classics as "I saw a man in the moon" or "Waiter, there's a Jesus in my toast". Evolutionarily, it makes fucking sense that we would be predisposed to look for, and identify other humans or animals in our surroundings, because it would've historically increased our odds of survival one way or another. However, those who don't understand these rational explanations tend to immediately jump to "there must be some supernatural reason for this".

Historically it's been problematic in several ways. One example is the various witch hunts, which have led to somewhere between 40,000 and 100,000 people being killed. Witches would be blamed for unknown diseases, food shortages, unpredicted weather changes. As much as the Salem witch trials get dramatized in America, they actually only resulted in 19 people being murdered. However, they did kill 2 dogs. Cause you know, there's nothing more horrifying than a coven of corgis practicing black magic.

This kind of thinking also opens people up to be easily manipulated by people who truly understand the phenomena. In the early 1500's, Christopher Columbus was stranded in Jamaica where some of the natives had fed him and his crew for 6 months then halted his supply; probably because they Columbus and his crew were fucking welfare queens that wouldn't leave. Columbus had an almanac that was able to predict the next upcoming lunar eclipse/blood moon, so he requested a meeting with the leader of the natives and told him that God was unhappy with their treatment of Columbus & his crew and that God would make the moon "inflamed with wrath". Low and behold, the moon turned fucking red, and I assume the natives literally shit their pants in fear before giving Columbus & his band of merry men all the food they could shove down their gullets.

tl;dr Columbus was a royal douchebag.

It's something we do, it's something we've always done. If people are going to bed and hear an unexplained rustling, people suspect their house is haunted. Chances are it's just your stalker ex outside doing hidden tiger crouching dragon in the bushes with a pair of binoculars on checking to see if you're banging someone else yet. It almost makes sense that when confronted with the vast number of things that were unexplainable at the time that when someone said, "HEY GUYS, WE MURDERED THAT CARPENTER THAT WALKS ON WATER AND NOW HE'S A ZOMBIE THAT'S COMING BACK TO SAVE US", that someone else replied and said, "yeah, ok that sounds about right".

Religion makes it easy to ignore the unexplainable. Remember that your life is vastly different than the millions of people who lived before you. There was a time when your entire family could die of starvation or just flat out shit themselves to death after drinking a hot glass of milk. Science & Medicine were not as evolved as they are today. Remember that you will most likely never struggle in life as much as your ancestors did. During the Roman Empire (roughly Circa 0 A.D.) 1 out of every 5 children died before turning 1 years old. If you were lucky enough to make it 10 years old, you had a solid shot of living until your late 40's or 50's. People 65 and older only made up 3% of the population. These days someone dies at God damn 80 and people say, "Oh, it's a travesty. He was so young". He was God damn 80 you greedy bastards. Humans were not designed to live for fucking eternity. He was wearing diapers, a hearing aid, and had a fucking confederate flag trucker hat on his head. It was well past time that pop-pops be on his merry fucking way.

If you think about it, it's a bit fucking weird that we manufacture ideas of an afterlife, or a "Heaven" and "Hell" to find comfort in living. Most of us don't have to manufacture a pre-life where we all just sat in some kind of purgatory full of baby souls that just came fresh off the conveyor belt to be later stored inside some fetus in our mother's wombs. That idea is ridiculous. The fact is, we've ALL experienced what "not living" is like because we've spent most of human history not living. You've literally been "not living" for billions of fucking years before you ever experienced what it was like to be living. Yet, we all exist with some inherent fear of going back to that state.

Returning to the topic of how the human brain works, I've already pointed out that, more or less, you ARE your brain. If I manipulate the part of your brain that creates memories, for example by giving you a ridiculous amount of alcohol, I can prevent you from creating memories. If I manipulate your hormones the way scientists do with chemical castration, I can remove your sex drive, and in the case of criminals, maybe make them significantly less likely to commit a sex-related crime. If Phineas Gage takes an iron rod to the left frontal lobe, it changes his personality (however exaggerated the stories may be). And there are plenty of drugs that affect your behavior in varying degrees from antidepressants to caffeine, and I think that MOST people (even religious people) seem to understand and accept that.

But it's impossible to believe in free will if you accept that we're **ONLY** the result of our brain chemistry. There must be SOME aspect of decision making that is independent of everything else (e.g., a "soul") for people to be accountable for their actions. If you believe that we're ONLY the result of our brain chemistry, then we're all

just essentially constantly changing computers that are programmed to behave a certain way in response to our environments (I mean that metaphorically, not literally. We're obviously not robots, but we're pretty damn close).

There's no scientific proof of "souls". There's a reason you'll never find any conversation of "souls" as being part of the human experience in any reputable 21st century medical textbook. There is honestly a LOT more scientific evidence that everything we do is just a direct result of the way our brains are wired to react.

If it IS the case that human behaviors are ONLY the result of our brain chemistry, there are a lot of environmental things that will affect your behavior. For example, if you grew up and ALL your older siblings were weebs, I'm guessing there's a strong chance you wind up being an adult virgin trying to make a career playing videogames on Twitch. But every person you interact with has a brain EXACTLY like yours that's also programmed to work a certain way. Every object you see and interact with was either placed there, or created by someone, with a brain that works the same way as yours.

Your brain is able to change in response to people and things you interact with, but the WAY that it changes is still the result of how your brain was wired on day 1 and how it evolved over the course of those interactions. You have no control over which environment or people you encounter, just as they have no control over whether they encounter you.

You can "choose" to read this book or ignore it, but that "choice" is based on all the people you've interacted with up until this point. It's based on how your brain was wired to respond to the ideas and information they presented you with, and GIW they presented it. And the information THEY presented you with was nothing more than the result of all the people THEY interacted with up until that point, and they responded based on how THEIR brains were wired to respond to those ideas and information.

But it's all just the result of cause and effect.

In essence, IF it is the case that human behavior is only the result of our brain chemistry, then the future is predetermined. That means there's only ONE possible outcome for all of the decisions that you're ever going to make. If free will DOESN'T exist, then there simply can't be any such thing as divine judgment. If you grew up as a child in a house that exposed you to lead, and that affected your brain chemistry in a way that impacts your decision-making, which later led to you committing a crime, it doesn't make sense that a God who supposedly put you in that house would hold you accountable for a choice that was always beyond your control. That doesn't disprove the idea that a "Creator" exists, but it does disprove the idea of divine judgment. Or even judgment from a legal perspective. Judgment can only be passed **ethically** if the person being convicted has a CHOICE in their actions.

Religion makes sense if you lived in a world surrounded by questions and absolutely no explanations. However, in a modern society that has science and shit, there's just no room for believing that the earth is flat or that people lived at the same time as dinosaurs. This isn't the god damn Flintstones, Betty. Nobody who owns a god damn

iPhone and has google in their pocket should walk around believing that Samson was murdering 1,000 Philistines single-handedly with the jawbone of a donkey.

I'm aware that not everyone interprets the Bible literally. At that point you're just fucking cherry picking "The word of the lord", and frankly I'd have MORE respect for you if you stopped trying to play both fucking sides of the fence and jumped straight into the batshit deep end with your tinfoil hat on, telling other incels on 4chan that you believe science is a government conspiracy invented by democrats and that the earth is really only 6,000 years old.

Logical arguments often need a foundation to start from. These are logical "axioms" that I referred to at the beginning of this book. If someone is religious and says "I'm opposed to same-sex marriage because my religious text says it's a sin" then their foundation is that (a) God exists, (b) the religious text they're referring to is the word and will of God, and (c) their world perspective adheres to God's will.

I don't have to AGREE with that foundation myself to accept it as the foundation of their reasoning. What that means is, sure you CAN use religion as a foundation to justify your bigotry. There's NOTHING illogical about that until someone disproves God, OR until someone proves that the religious text you're reading from is NOT God's will. But now you are logically REQUIRED to use every part of that religious text to inform your world perspective. If that SAME book clearly states that premarital sex is a sin, then what you CAN'T do is cheat on your 3rd husband with the pool boy and then spend all of Sunday claiming that gay people are ruining the sanctity of marriage.

I've also always found it odd that Americans don't believe in arranged marriages. The perspective seems to be "HOLD UP, you're telling me that your parents are going to pick the person that you're going to spend the REST OF YOUR LIFE WITH?! THAT'S CRAAAAZZYY".

Meanwhile, those same people will spend the entire lives just blindly following whichever religion they were born into and never explore any of the others. It's one thing to commit to someone you're gonna spend the rest of your life with, but MOST people are betting an ETERNITY potential damnation based on the hope that your parents picked the right one for you.

This isn't about Christianity, the Old, or New Testament. To me, it's all different flavors of the same Kool-Aid. I'm only focusing on Christianity because I'm an American, where it's the most prevalent religion, and it's also the one I was born into. My fucking middle name is Christian (seriously). I'm also not claiming that there's no God. That's well above my paygrade. If you want to go on believing that we were all created by omnipotent deity that watches you every time you're giving your dangle the old 5 knuckle-fist bump or taking a girthy deuce on the chamber pot, then more power to ya. I personally classify myself as agnostic, because I think asserting that there's no God without sufficient evidence is equally as ignorant as claiming there IS a God without evidence. At the very least you can classify it as "unlikely enough that it's not worth considering seriously". Frankly, I don't think it matters what you believe in as long as people act like decent fucking human beings.

But the issue is when people begin using religion to spread negativity rather than using it to spread positivity. I lived in Alabama where anti-socialist bible thumping rednecks is the fucking State Bird and never once heard ANYONE quote "*Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise*". That shit sounds like the god damn slogan of a Bernie Sanders rally if you ask me.

If you read the paragraph, *"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be"* and think, "hey, that seems like a pretty good indicator that we should be raising taxes on people who have excess money and help people who can't afford medical treatments by paying for universal healthcare", then you're cool by me.

Especially considering that according to data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation (OECD), the cost of health insurance in the United States is significantly higher than **anywhere else in the world**. Out of top 50 most developed countries in the world, as indicated by the human development index, America is the ONLY country listed that does not offer universal healthcare to its citizens. It's pretty clear that the system we have is broken.

Taiwan has universal Healthcare. An American student named Kevin Wozneat who visited Taiwan and needed to visit the E.R., where he claims he was swiftly given IV fluids, blood tests, and an ultrasound before being treated and discharged. He didn't even qualify for Taiwan's National Health Insurance and his hospital bill still ended up being only **$80 in USD.** Even when accounting for the conversion rate, the cost of this treatment works out to be much less than 1% of the average yearly Taiwanese salary. Meanwhile, the average cost of insulin in America for one-month costs more than 4 times this amount.

But here's a fucking story for you to share with your little organic sperm samples when you tuck them into bed at night. I met an old ass religious white lady who was dripping in diamonds. I can also assure you them shits were real. Bracelets, rings, fully decked out, not to mention a fucking diamond necklace with a fucking pendant of a god damn cross. She COULD'VE given that fucking money to somebody who might fucking need the shit to eat or live, or even the give it to AN ORGANIZATION that does something useful like teaching young midgets with goatees how to perform Mixed Martial Arts. They're gonna fucking need it due to constantly being bullied for having goatees. BUT NO! Instead, she spent all that money on worthless, useless fucking rocks so she could be iced out like she just came out of a lil uzi music video while simultaneously funding a god damn industry that preys on emaciated kids risking their lives on a daily basis to do slave-labor for minimum wage. Well, THAT'S just Jesus-y as fuck, innit?

The other issue I have with religion is when people use it as the fucking framework of their mindset. The problem is when religious people use the Bible as a way of telling women they're inferior, and meant to be submissive or domesticated, or claiming that gay people shouldn't have the same rights as a man and a woman, or even insinuating

that one puff of the devil's lettuce will damn you to an eternity of hell, where you'll be double fisted by wolverine on steroids. I won't have it. It assumes that you can ignore the necessary progress we still need to make in science. Too many people feel that we can destroy the planet and wipe out the entire human race via pollution and it's all good cause their daddy's gonna step in and fix the mess they've created. It denies evolution and all the scientific proof that God didn't just rub his nipples in a counterclockwise motion where *POOF* Adam and Eve made incest babies until eventually one day a somehow infallible God admits "aw, I fucked this up", then sends a 40-day flood to wipe out the population and restart.

"God" is the response to every unanswered question we have. The problem is that when we think we HAVE all the answers; people stop investigating the questions. There would be no need to figure out why the sun rises in the morning and sets at night if we sincerely believed the Greek God Helios dragged the Sun into the sky with his flying chariot every day and pulls it back down at night. Historically, the more we gain knowledge and an understanding of the universe, the more we start getting real, scientific, and mathematically valid answers to all the questions we were previously throwing the "God" band-aid on top of. At that point, "God" becomes a concept that's constantly receding, which only exists until we're eventually intelligent enough to stop needing it. If you really want to retain the idea that God exists, you need to stop using it as your catch-all low-hanging fruit answer to every god damn question that you can't figure out on your own.

Let's do some critical thinking here. For a significant amount of time, normal people were prohibited from even being ALLOWED to read the bible. Even if they could, in 1820, about 200 years ago, only 12% of the people in the world could read and write. That means 88% of the world population was illiterate. That means for over 1800 years, people were looking to ministers to educate them on something that they had no ability to educate *themselves* on. This allowed people in power to utilize religion as a way of getting people to commit millions of murders on their behalf via warfare. It was used as a tool to keep slaves submissive to their masters, and the spreading of Christianity was the basis of manifest destiny which encouraged Europeans to ultimately commit mass genocide against Native Americans and claim U.S. territory as their own.

Depending on how old your parents and grandparents are, it's entirely possible that your grandmother's grandfather was alive during that time frame. We take for granted how recent those times are, but if a human can live to be 100 years old, then the year 1821 was only TWO people ago. TWO PEOPLE AGO. Two people ago, we were living during illiteracy & slavery, back when doctors were still putting leeches on people because they thought 100% of all illnesses came from having too much or not enough blood, bile, or phlegm in your body. They had a fucking MEDICAL system based on the elements of Earth, Wind, & Fire. Earth, Wind & Fire aren't even real god damn elements. They'd be just as well-off wheeling their Ebola patients into the god damn emergency room and sending them home after playing them "Boogie Wonderland" on a god damn record player.

They were primitive idiots. Here's a newsflash, we STILL use leeches for medical treatments. We're STILL primitive idiots. We STILL have a vast number of gaps in our

scientific and medical knowledge that need improvement. In the 1820's, they weren't thinking "Man, we don't understand medicine or science at ALL, we've still got a long way to go". They were thinking "We're some fucking Doogie Howser god damn geniuses because we have far more scientific knowledge and technology than those idiots in the 1620's did". I'm not trying to belittle the progress we've made, because we HAVE made progress. But that's no reason to lose sight of the fact that progress still needs to be made. Becoming conscious of your own ignorance is the first step to combating that ignorance. You can't fix a problem without first fucking identifying that there's a problem that needs to be fixed in the first place.

Funnily, that's the first step of Alcoholics Anonymous, which is a prime example of how religion continues to reflect in medical progress even into the 21st century. I'm speaking about AA directly, but this same idea extends to NA and other similar groups.

Addiction is a mental illness that needs to be treated by doctors and scientists. We literally still have a court system that will respond to DUI's or other alcohol-related and drug-related offenses, knowing that these are patients with a mental illness that should be getting medical treatment, only to send them to a group whose only answer for how to fix alcoholism or addiction is "BELIEVE IN GOD".

I've been in AA; I've read the chapter to the agnostic. At the end of the day, AA is just a placebo. If you take a pill and believe strongly enough that the pill will work, it MAY work. But statistically, a placebo only works for about 50% of the people who take them. AA itself claims that its success rate is about.. 50%. And frankly we can do better than 50%.

But there is also data that suggests that AA's success rate is even lower, and that the number is closer to 25%. There's a slogan for you, *"AA: Almost as effective as placebos".* The truth is probably somewhere in between. People in the program will argue that if AA doesn't work for you, it's because you didn't try hard enough to commit yourself to the program. Look, if I have a heart failure and get a heart transplant and then die afterwards, and the doctor's reasoning for WHY I died was because I just didn't try hard enough to BELIEVE that the new heart was going to work for me, then that's just really shitty treatment and not medically acceptable.

Part of the issue of religion is that we have such criminally low standards for it. We have MUCH higher standards for what we're willing to accept from Science & Mathematics. If a plane falls out of the sky and kills hundreds of people, it's because the engineers or pilot drastically fucked up and someone needs to be held accountable. Only if a death was caused by religion is it acceptable to say "Well, I guess the laws of physics were just working in *mysterious ways*".

You know Neil Degrasse Tyson? He once considered becoming a male stripper. However, he saw several dancers come out on stage with jockstraps soaked in lighter fluid and they set their crotch regions ablaze while the song "Great Balls of Fire" played in the background. He opted out of stripping and decided to tutor math instead. That sounds like a joke, but it's 100% true. He's also credited with saying "The good thing about Science is that it's true, whether or not you believe in it" and frankly, that should also be true of ALL medical treatments.

The point I'm getting at is that since the mid-to-late 1800's, we as a population haven't progressed as much as you most likely think we have. That's because the 1800's wasn't really that fucking long ago. I could've said the 1600's, the 1400's, the 1200's, 1,000 A.D. but the reality is we as humans don't tend to conceptualize large numbers well. You instinctively probably don't feel THAT much more removed from the 1800's than you do from the 1200's, but that's completely ignoring that there's a fucking 600-year gap between those times. The distance between 1200 and 1800 is 3 times greater than the distance between 1800 and 2000.

Your understanding of numbers only gets more flawed the higher the numbers get. On an abstract level, Million, Billion, & Trillion are all just big ass fucking numbers. Most people will read something like "40 billion dollars" and imagine it as a Scrooge McDuck swimming pool of money without actually thinking about how the quantity 40 billion relates in millions, or even thousands. You don't have that kinda RAM built into your fucking brain for that shit. Even when we say, "1 billion", you're talking about an already large as FUCK number, 1 million, being multiplied a THOUSAND fucking times. A "Billion" is a fucking massive number. It should be written in all caps and read in a Samuel L Jackson voice, **BILLION**. If all you did with your life from this day forward was fucking count at a normal-but-quick speed, you would most likely DIE before you ever get to a **BILLION**. Like legit just count out loud to 100 right now just to see how quickly you get sick of that shit.

If you're a visual person think back to that image of being at a concert stadium and literally being a claustrophobic wreck inside a shoulder-to-shoulder ocean of fucking humans, surrounded by 30,000 people filling every inch of the God damn floor. Every seat in the first, second, and third levels of the fucking stadium all overflowing with bodies. That's only 30,000 God damn people. You would need another 33,000 of those SAME stadiums each packed with humans just to reach a fucking billion people.

It's important you have a grasp on that number so you can slap on your fucking perspective goggles when I say there are over 3 trillion God damn planets in the observable universe alone. At least 40 fucking **BILLION** of those planets have the *exact same conditions* that made life possible on earth. They call it the fucking Drake equation; He wrote that shit around the same time he recorded "Views" which is why that album turned out so wack.

Let me just fucking repeat that since your mind probably isn't as blown as it should be right the fuck now. 40 God damn **BILLION** planets in the fucking *observable* universe alone have the EXACT SAME CONDITIONS that made life possible on Earth. You'd have to be pretty God damn dense to understand that 40 **BILLION** planets ALL have the same conditions that created life on Earth yet believe that Earth is the ONLY god damn planet with life on it.

Now when I say "life" or "aliens" I'm not talking about fucking little green Martians that abduct cows from some town nobody's heard of in Kansas to probe their rectums with a giant machine that looks like Dr. Robotnik's Jet Drill. Frankly, I don't give a shit what kind of life it is. They don't even have to be fucking humanoids. It can be a planet full of one-armed octopuses, except if it only has one God damn arm then we'd have to

call it a monopus, which sounds like some kind of vaginal ointment. The fucking point here is that it is mathematically and scientifically fucking naive to believe that in this endless and continually growing universe, that the only form of life is on this ONE God damn planet.

Of course, that "40-billion" figure is also assuming the minimum expectation that all life in the universe needs the same conditions that organisms on earth need to exist. A human like you will almost CERTAINLY die within 90 seconds if I just threw you up into outer space, and even if someone was standing right next to you, they wouldn't even be able to HEAR your terrified fucking screams because sound doesn't travel in space. But that's cause your genes are just weak af. Water Bears aka Moss Piglets can technically survive in space and go decades without food or water. However, it's worth noting that even though Moss Piglets can live more than 100 years without water, they DO need to be reintroduced to water to reanimate, so it's fair to say that it's a necessary key to life.

But it's just one more thing that most religions fail to acknowledge. The religions that DO acknowledge space and life outside of earth are more modern and generally considered cults e.g., Scientology. It's just another thing religious people will one day grapple with before choosing to ignore it in efforts to further compartmentalize their beliefs in the same manner that they did with evolution and the age of the earth. Don't you think it would be important to acknowledge in at least SOME capacity that there is a universe that exists outside of Earth? The fact of the matter is they **didn't** acknowledge the universe because there was still a lot of information that humans at the time didn't know. We no longer have that excuse in our society. I just can't wrap my mind around putting my money and faith into organizations that need to continually adapt their story to fit the narrative that science is currently writing.

Again, I'm not here to argue that God doesn't exist. They must've had a team of 30 God damn Johnny Cochran lawyers putting that case together. You mean to tell me if I have cancer and pray, then end up beating the cancer, that it's divine intervention; Yet, if I pray and end up dying it's God's will? Well fuck, you can't reason your way out of that one. If it looks like an apple, it's an apple. If your logical foundation is "if it doesn't look like an apple, it's also an apple" then it's impossible for anything NOT to be an apple. There's that old atheist trope that praying to God is the same as praying to a milk jug. You could pray to a milk jug that you beat cancer, if you're successful then YAY you have a magic omnipotent all-powerful milk jug. If you die, it was the will of the milk jug, that fucking asshole. It doesn't really matter WHAT you're praying to, it's just a fucking logical loop that doesn't prove or disprove anything.

People have a confirmation bias, in which case if ANYTHING positive happens after a prayer, then they attribute that success as proof that their faith is correct. The reality is that positive things happen, and negative things happen to everyone. Bad things happen to people who pray and good things happen to people who don't. The act of prayer itself has nothing to do with it. It's just a FACT of statistics that **there are more religious people are dying EVERY DAY than there are people dying who are atheists**. That doesn't mean that being religious will make you MORE likely to die, that would be a fucking stupid conclusion to make. It's just a FACT that people die every day

REGARDLESS of their beliefs. It's also a fact that MOST people on earth ARE religious in some way, therefore MOST of the people who die on any given day just happen to be fucking religious.

I'll say that I think it's weird that people don't go through life attributing EVERYTHING to God's will. "Let me pray that when I go to the grocery store that their entire food supply has not been depleted today, and let it be God's will that they'll even HAVE food for me to purchase", or "Let me pray that when I go to work, the company hasn't just completely gone under and costed me my livelihood", or "Let me pray that when I open my phone and try to go online, the entire internet hasn't shut down and lost every piece of data (photos, memories, etc.) that I've ever stored".

These are ALL normal things that you interact with on a consistent basis, yet you're so used to having them at your disposal that you take for granted that it's entirely possible that you could wake up to a massive crisis involving even the most mundane luxuries in your life. They're highly UNLIKELY to result in crisis, but that's only because of millions of people are coordinating and working together, ensuring that everything operates correctly. Often because of everyone's own financial incentive. The love of money is the root of all evil, yet it's also the root of a lot of good, too. Regardlless, it has nothing to do with whether you PRAY for these things to work out in your favor. Usually, thoughts and prayers don't come for mundane things, they're used for times of uncertainty and when people feel powerless over a situation.

I mean if you were on an airplane and for some reason HAD to jump out of the plane, and you're forced to make a choice between jumping out of the plane with a parachute or jumping out of the plane with a prayer, you've gotta be pretty fucking dense to pick jumping without the parachute. Even if God IS real, I'm pretty sure he'll be the FIRST one to greet you at the pearly gates "Like why the hell didn't you take the parachute, you fuckwit?!"

But even in those situations where you feel powerless, it doesn't really make logical sense to pray to God. There are two possible perspectives of time. Either God is AWARE of everything that has ever happened and everything that's going to happen in the future, or God experiences time like the rest of us and the future is not predetermined. If God doesn't know what the predetermined outcome of the future is, then clearly God is not all-knowing, which means the only reality that a God can exist in is one where the future is predetermined. There's a 3rd scenario where God is aware of every possible outcome but just hasn't made any decisions yet, at which point God is just a perpetual argument between you and your partner about what you want to eat tonight, "I don't fucking know, where do YOU want to go?"

Let's say you get on an airplane and pray that your flight doesn't crash. God is an all-knowing, all-powerful being, and if your plane was going to crash, that's a decision that's ALREADY been made. For that plane to NOT crash would require God to admit that the future that exists was a mistake, which means God's initial decision to crash the plane was wrong. Just the very NOTION of God making a decision in response to your

prayer completely undoes ANY possibility of God being infallible. That same logic applies if you're praying because your grandma wound up in the E.R. with 7 gunshot wounds due to her involvement in gang activity and she was caught set tripping in the wrong neighborhood.

When your grandma gets better and you attribute that success to God, it's simultaneously a slap in the face to the dozens of people who spent 8+ years in medical school and put in the time and effort to make her better. And even THOSE people wouldn't be capable of helping her without learning from the experience and mistakes that come from over 5,000 years of documented medicine.

I understand wanting to think that there's some light at the end of the tunnel when we die. I also understand that there are things that can't control that they want to believe that somebody fucking can. The only thing you CAN do is attempt to do right by as many people as you can and hope that good karma repays you. But even karma is not some mysterious thing where if you're a good person, good things are magically going to happen for you. In general, if you're a nice fucking person who genuinely has compassion for others, other people are going to see that, and in return they're going to be nice to you. If you talk shit about someone and they punch you in the face, that's not magical negative karma being dished out to you by the universe, that's just a god damn natural response to you being an asshole.

However, cutting religion out of society can be fucking dangerous as well. That means we stupid ass homo sapiens are in charge of assessing and determining for ourselves what the fuck is ethical and what isn't. It's something I have to grapple with while writing this. A genuinely good person doesn't need religion to put training wheels on their fucking ideology, but a fucking asshole does. Without fear, there's nothing to really stop them from doing asshole shit. The last thing I want to do here is write some fucking great replacement manifesto that sets off some extremist who utilizes my views to cause harm. That said, EVERY ideology can be utilized to cause harm. When it comes to scapegoats and their god damn body counts racked up throughout history, religion as a whole is still EASILY the all-time reigning, undefeated champion of the world.

A theme that recurs a lot in this book is probability, because at the end of the day probability is often the most rational way to make your decisions. And there's no rule that says you CAN'T be religious and still believe in probability. However, if you believe that there's a God that's willing to influence the behavior of anything at ALL, then the probability of those things happening is different than their probability in a world where there is no God. If I flip a coin and it's a 50/50 shot at heads or tails but there's some possibility of a divine intervention that will cause it to land on heads, then clearly the probability is no longer 50/50.

It's especially problematic if people believe that they have added favoritism from the lord, because it distorts their view of probability. Someone can easily develop a gambling addiction, or just walk into a casino and make one bad decision that loses them more money than they can afford to, all because they thought winning $500 one time at the slot machine meant God was giving them a sign that they should bet it all on the roulette wheel. People don't think as rationally about their chances when they think the big man upstairs is answering to help pay for grandma's medical bills.

Humans are already really bad at viewing things through a probabilistic lens. 25% of all car accidents are caused by someone texting and driving, yet many people will still knowingly text while driving and think, "Hey, it'll never happen to ME". Those same people will buy a ticket to the lottery where they have a 1 out of ~14 million chance of winning and say "YA NEVER KNOW IT MIGHT JUST BE MY LUCKY DAY".

I understand that gambling isn't usually condoned in religion, but it's important to be objective about the way that individuals in our society actually behave and interpret religion versus the idealized and flawless lives that we would all live if we were perfect. The stock market is much more of a "grey area" than a casino but can also just be an extension of gambling.

Probability is much more than just coin flips and "gambling". If there's a category 5 hurricane scheduled to hit your city, a religious person may feel more at ease with staying at home based on the false sense of security they get from the belief that God would never let anything bad happen to them or their house. If scientists inform the general population that wearing masks will reduce the probability of you contracting a virus like COVID, a religious person may say they don't need to wear a mask at all because they feel they're protected by God.

The odds of dying in a car crash throughout the course of your life is about 1 out of 107. That increased risk of dying is a tradeoff that we have to make if we want the convenience of being able to travel to places of entertainment or employment. For most of us, we think that the tradeoff is worth it. The likelihood of dying in a plane crash once you board a plane is somewhere around 1 in 8 million. You're actually MORE likely to die in a plane crash than you are to win the lottery. But as a society, we have to make our decisions based on that probability. We can't just say "There's a chance of dying in a plane crash so it's a bad idea to fly planes". We have to rationally consider the alternative methods of travel, such as driving that same distance on the interstate. Driving is often considered even riskier than flying, so flying is the better choice.

It's the same idea when you look at data showing that people are significantly more likely to die from COVID than they are from getting the vaccine. Despite this data, many people prefer to take their chances with COVID. When drugs are approved by regulators like the FDA, it isn't that the drugs always have **no risk** involved, but rather that the risk of NOT using the drug is simply greater than the risk of using the drug. Some people don't like the idea of rationalizing discussions about death because

they're emotionally attached to the topic. However, as I've shown earlier in the example with the "Ultimatum Game", people make worse decisions when their emotions are involved. Emotional decision-making is what leads to more deaths.

While we're in the realm of spirituality, let's talk about Karma. I want to emphasize that Karma doesn't exist as some unseen governing force in the universe guaranteeing that good things will happen to you if you're good, or bad things if you're bad, but it does exist with respect to your interactions with others. It may seem like I'm splitting hairs here, but there's an important distinction between believing that there's supernatural forces in the universe guiding your life versus simple cause and effect, and that's sort of the point of this entire chapter.

For example, if I see you on the side of the street crying and I offer to give you a ride, you might be thankful and want to do something nice for me. Maybe your car broke down, and we have a fun conversation in the process, which leads to us becoming close friends. One day in the future you buy something nice for me on Christmas because you've always been grateful for that day when I helped you out. In this scenario, something good happened to me because I did something nice for you.

Alternatively, it's just as likely that I offer you a ride and you say, "No thanks" and turn down the ride; At which point we never see each other again. Or maybe you accept the ride, say "Thanks" then we both go about our separate ways, and that's it. You're in no way *obligated* to do anything nice for me. Fuck it, let's go in the COMPLETE opposite direction. Let's say I offer you a ride, but it turns out you're actually a serial axe murderer and end up decapitating me and using my skin as your lampshade. It's a highly unlikely scenario, but it is completely within the realm of possibilities.

But the ONLY thing that's 100% certain is that assuming you're probably not an axe murderer (which, despite the irrational fear of strangers you have from watching way too many horror movies, is a pretty safe assumption to make statistically), then your chances of something good coming out of that interaction from a purely mathematical standpoint is at least a tiny bit more likely than it is if you were to ignore them altogether. It would be fair to say that mathematically, being a good person leads to a higher probability of good things happening to you. Of course, you could also say that me getting murdered is also more likely than it would've been if I had just ignored you, and you would be right. Picking up strangers on the street not only increases the probability of good things happening to me, but it also increases the probability of bad things happening. Probability bleeds into a LOT of things in life. But assuming you have some level of reasonable judgment with respect to who you're picking up, the realistic probability is that it's more likely that something good or neutral will happen than it is that something bad will.

Same idea: If you're an asshole to someone for no reason, they're probably not going to like you. Maybe they go to their friend who you're interested in romantically and they tell them that you're a dick. You ask out the person you're interested in romantically and they decline because of the way you treated their friend. A bad thing happened to you because you were mean. It wasn't magic, it was just a domino effect.

So, to recap, Karma is real, but it's not some supernatural force in the universe promising good things or bad things based on how you act. It's just a natural progression that happens socially when you're kind and respectful to others. If you have the chance to live a happy and drama-free life of giving and receiving positive energy in your interactions, why wouldn't you?

Ethics

This sort of brings me to an interesting topic. How the FUCK do we survive without religion? How are you supposed to know the difference between RIGHT AND WRONG if you don't have a book to casually ignore when it tells you watching porn is a sin? HOW THE FUCK DO WE SURVIVE WITHOUT CHRISTMAS BRO.

First off: fuck you, I still celebrate Christmas. Everyone should celebrate Christmas. I don't care if you're Atheist, Muslim, Agnostic, Jewish, or otherwise. Sure, Christmas is a capitalist money grab that takes up WAYYY too much of the calendar year. But Christmas was just a holiday Christians ripped off from pagans and made popular. It's like how Zuckerberg stole Facebook from the Winklevoss twins. They just added a bunch of cool features and made it more divisive.

There's no reason why Christmas needs to be centered around religion. I get that "Christ" is the name, but who gives a shit. "Laughter" is in the word "Manslaughter", that doesn't mean I should start my next stand-up comedy bit by blowing someone's brains out on stage. *"Hey, how'd your comedy set go last night?" "Not gonna lie, I killed".* January 1st is also seen as a day of celebration for Christ getting circumcised in Eastern Orthodox Catholicism, but we don't let a little Jesus foreskin stop us from celebrating the god damn New Year's DO WE?!

But when it comes to morals, the basics are fucking obvious. In most fucking scenarios you can assume that murdering people is frowned upon. Funnily enough, we as a society seem okie dokie with murder when it comes to waging wars that involve killing anywhere from thousands to millions of innocent civilians. Violating the 10 commandments is cool as long as it helps the economy grow and the gays aren't getting married. #SupportTheTroops #NotTheGayOnesTho

I mean honestly, the fucking crux of ethics is as simple as "Try your best to not do shit that's mentally or physically harmful to others". It's REALLY fucking simple. Don't steal because hey, that person might also be struggling with some shit and need that money. Stealing makes sadbois. Don't cheat on your wife because hey, you made a verbal fucking agreement with someone you allegedly love to be exclusive. Cheating on that person will fucking cause them pain. Don't touch someone inappropriately without their consent because that's an invasion of their space and could cause them mental distress. Chastising people or actively trying to demonize them in society will ALWAYS lead to someone, somewhere committing physical violence against a person of that demographic, whether they're different due to their race, gender, sexuality, disability, age, economic class, and there's a shit ton more. And Ripley's believe it or fucking not, that also includes straight, white, cisgender, able-bodied males.

How fucking hard is it to just NOT be an asshole to people who are different than you? It honestly blows my mind how many people seem to struggle with just being a decent fucking human that can interact with others in a healthy way on a day-to-day basis. The reality is that the majority of those fucking people are religious. Once again, I'm not implying that religion, in ANY WAY *causes* these people to be pieces of shit. I'm saying that there are many people who are pieces of shit, and statistically 84% of the world's population is considered religious, so it's safe to say that somewhere in the ballpark 84% of people who are pieces of shit are also religious. What I AM implying, however, is that religion doesn't do a tremendous job of stopping people who are pieces of shit from being pieces of shit. And in some cases it even goes as far as enabling them.

The reality is that there's always going to be someone, somewhere coming at you with negative energy. ESPECIALLY if you're constantly posting on a platform that has a high probability of being the therapeutic release for a 15-year-old incel whose dad just beat him with the buckle off his 10 gallon hat and passed out while drinking a handle of Jack Daniels. Not surprisingly, that kid takes it to the YouTube comments section to say LAWL UR MOM'S A CUNT, U MAD BRO?! As well as some other comments that, believe it or not, me - a guy writing a book that has a "fuck" and "god damn" of Guinness record proportions, doesn't feel comfortable writing.

The fact of the fucking matter is, we as humans all want some kind of fucking acceptance from others, and those comments can be hurtful. It can also be fucking enraging, but I PROMISE YOU, your life will be far better off if you avoid people like that, and heated conflicts with anonymous strangers at all costs. That may mean turning the other cheek at times when you usually wouldn't. If that's too difficult for you, then limit the amount of time you spend on fucking social media or avoid certain sites and people altogether. I understand that there ARE plenty of toxic ideas out there that need to be confronted and dealt. However, arguing with people online is one of the most ineffective ways of making that change.

The way I see it, there are a lot of people with average & below average IQ's that think they're smarter than they really are. These people generally have a dick measuring contest with people dumber than them and saying "Well, at least I'm smarter than Bob, so I must be pretty fucking intelligent". Ironically, these are the FIRST people you'll hear bashing other people's intelligence. If you've never fucking noticed, that is NOT a trait that geniuses have. Stephen Hawking never rolled up in his wheelchair with his text-to-speech synthesizer saying "BLACK BODY RADIATION IS PRODUCED BY BLACK HOLES YOU FUCKING RETARDS" beep boop beep. Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear to be bright until you hear them speak. I'm not saying that people who are truly geniuses are saints, but they usually evolve a god damn level of a maturity & humility that transcends the need to call people faggots on the internet.

Then you have people who slightly above average IQ. Unlike average and below-average people, they generally know EXACTLY where they stand in the spectrum. In

the U.S. education system, it really isn't that fucking hard to graduate with a 4.0 and a bachelor's degree in mathematics. If you look at it historically, a massive chunk of our knowledge of mathematics really comes from just a handful of people. Just because you can replicate problems and regurgitate formulas doesn't mean you are ANYWHERE near the level of someone like Leibniz, who was capable of revolutionizing mathematics by creating calculus from scratch. It's the difference between being able to follow a cooking recipe and being able to invent a cooking recipe. If you're in that "above-average" range, it won't take you very long before you're WELL aware of that fact. It really takes a certain level of intelligence just to be able to say "Hey, my DNA really isn't that fucking special" in the first place.

The final tier of intelligence is those fucking geniuses like Leibniz, and I have no fucking idea what they do because I'm not one. But they're also massively outnumbered by idiots, and idiots in power, so someone like Galileo would be convicted of heresy by the Pope for proclaiming that the sun DOESN'T revolve around the earth. He wound up under house arrest until he died of the fever, so I imagine it'd be best to fly pretty low under the fucking radar.

I'm NOT saying that all conflict is bad. If you can have a calm, rational discussion with someone who believes something that is completely the opposite of what you believe, you SHOULD. You can both easily grow from that experience. There's a clear line between ignoring someone because they're a blatant troll that can't be rationed with versus cutting people off because they just express a belief in something you disagree with.

However, most online arguments are shouting matches fueled by "who can get the most fucking likes and support for their arguments". Neurologically, people who are responding emotionally do not think as rationally as they would when they're calm, and only a rationally thinking person is likely to truly consider an opposing person's view. The other issue is that trying to get through to people one by one is time-consuming and you can make a much bigger impact if you invested all the time you spend arguing with others into making money, working on yourself, and following through on a goal that can have the same impact in a more profound way on a larger scale.

In some ways I think people are just addicted to drama and hate. If you see 2 news articles and one says, "LOOK AT HOW BAD THIS POLITICIAN WHO DISAGREES WITH YOU FUCKED UP TODAY" and the other one says "Nonprofit organization raises 1 million to help children in 3rd world countries" DON'T FUCKING LIE TO ME, YOU'RE CLICKING THE FIRST ONE. Let's be fucking real, I am too. But that's a major problem in our brain chemistry, and we need to be aware of it. It's also a major problem that Fox, CNN, EVERY news outlet knows that shit. They're fucking BUSINESSES and a business has one fucking goal: get your money.

There's no money for them in positivity, the money comes from stirring up drama. That's why a large majority of news broadcasting is solely based on fearmongering. You can literally find blooper reels of news reporters pretending to struggle to stand up during a tropical storm while some random civilian is casually walking behind them in the background as if it's just any regular ass day. It's a fucking artificially created circus,

and that's hugely problematic. The American people SHOULD be lobbying for a single federally funded news source that is obligated to report with as little dramatization and bias as reasonably possible. It should be REQUIRED that any news source reporting with dramatization intended to cause outrageous debate with the purpose of dividing the country provide disclaimers that their product is satirical. Real news is going to be fucking boring as shit and half these idiots will never watch it, so the ratings are gonna suck, I promise you that. But it'll be fucking real, and people won't be blatantly misinformed.

But when it comes to reality, there are always more shades of grey than just "Murder: is it good or bad?". I mean, if I gave you a revolver and a chance to go back in time to when Adolf Hitler was a kid knowing what you know now, you would most likely be doing the world a favor by killing him. Sure, you'll be murdering a child, but you'll most likely save the lives of anywhere between to 6 to 16 million Jewish, Polish, Ukrainian, Slavic, disabled, gay, & more people in the process. Considering Hitler was pretty fucking evil, it's not that hard of a decision to make.

There's a popular ethics thought experiment, the "Trolley Problem" where you imagine there's a trolley (for our purposes let's just say a train) on a railroad track and you see that it's currently heading towards a group of 5 idiots who happen to be standing in the way. Apparently, they like to hang out on railroad tracks and are completely fucking oblivious to their surroundings. Anyhow, there's one more fucktard standing on a different track, for whatever fucking reason, taking selfies of themselves with dog ears on snapchat. You happen to be near a god damn lever, and if you pull the lever, it will change the train's path on the track so it will no longer be heading towards the group of 5 idiots oblivious to their surroundings, but instead it will be going towards the fucktard with the dog ears on snapchat. Essentially if you pull the lever, you'll save the lives of 5 people, but be directly responsible for the death of that 1 person. If you do nothing, your inactivity essentially doomed all 5 of those people. But dog ears will probably be grateful as shit that you didn't fucking murder him. You don't know anything about these idiots other than they're apparently all fucking dumb & deaf and have no clue that there's a fucking train coming their way, blowing its horn at a billion decibels.

Given that you don't know anything about these folks, I think most people who have some connection to the value of human life will choose to kill the 1 person to save the 5. It's the ethical fucking thing to do. Keep in mind that this is different than the Hitler scenario, not only because of the drastic difference in number of lives you'd be saving, but also the one person who you're effectively going to kill is most likely an innocent person with no intent to execute mass genocide.

Let's just be honest though, neither of these scenarios will ever happen to you. This is just mental masturbation bullshit. 99% of the time you can probably assume murder is a bad thing. But if I say, "If you chose not to have kids, you will save the lives of 5 people" would you opt to not have children? It's the fucking ethical thing to do, but you REALLY like fucking, and for whatever reason you have a biological need to have a clone of your specific DNA existing in the world.

One thing that really fucking bums me out about our society is the overwhelming number of people that just spit out 4 or 5 babies, all of whom go to school because that's what people are fucking supposed to do. They hate it because their parents never instilled any REAL interest for education in them, and they say stupid fucking shit like "I was never good at math" rather than taking the initiative to learn to educate these fucking cretins they brought into the world and teach their kids to do something fucking productive with their lives. Then all 4 or 5 of those God damn kids all go on to make another 4 or 5 babies and do the exact same shit and it's just a vicious cycle of existing where the human population is not working towards any god damn goal other than just to sustain their own god damn lives as long as possible to fuck and make babies without being fucking miserable in the process.

The world population was 3.7 **BILLION** in the 1970's. By 2020 it reached almost 8 fucking **BILLION** people. It MORE than doubled in the span of 50 God-damn years, and that's fucking horrific. You don't have to be fucking Einstein to know that those numbers are growing at an exponential rate and are NOT sustainable. That said, if the pandemic taught us ANYTHING, it's that far too many people have no fucking idea how exponential growth works.

The God damn problem with climate change or pollution isn't JUST about fucking recycling. If only 2,000 fucking humans lived on the entire earth, they could ALL afford to drive 18-wheel gas guzzlers and throw fucking baby diapers into the god damn ocean every day of their fucking lives. They wouldn't produce a FRACTION of the pollution that 8 billion of the most well-intentioned environmental protectionists, snipping every plastic ring off their soda cans and wiping their ass with wash cloths instead of toilet paper will. Yes, many of the waste-disposal habits people have are fucking problematic, but they're not nearly as problematic as just the sheer fucking number of people creating waste.

Let's say everyone on earth threw ONE plastic bottle into the ocean. For ONE single person to match that amount of waste, they'd have to throw about 292,738 plastic bottles into the ocean every day, starting from the day that they're born, and then every day of their life for the next 73 years. That's only 7.8 billion plastic bottles, which is FAR less than the number of plastic bottles that actually end up in the ocean every year.

Let's be clear, I don't support ANY form of population control that isn't ethical. Even a natural disaster. I have NO desire to see anyone suffer or be deprived of life. There are ethical ways to approach population control. In America alone there are more than 400,000 kids in the U.S. foster care system. Rather than popping out more babies of your own, how bout you think about someone other than your fucking self for once and consider fostering or adopting one. If you ARE gonna have children, there's no VALID reason for having more than 2 kids. There's a massive difference between linear growth and exponential growth. Overpopulation could LITERALLY lead to the extinction of the entire human race, which would result in the death of over 375 times MORE people than even the highest approximated death tolls of the holocaust. This is a massive fucking issue that needs to be dealt with immediately and seriously.

*** Note that an Economist, Thomas Malthus, saw that the population rate was growing **faster** than the food supply, and predicted the food supply would run out, leading to famine. He was **wrong** because he did not predict the technological advancements that*

allowed us to maximize our food production. When we discuss whether we might exhaust natural resources due to population growth, there's also always the additional factor of science and innovation. Increasing our funding and emphasis on these increases the probability that we'll come up with innovations that can bail us out before it's too late.

Now don't get me wrong, there's some small silver lining to overpopulation. More people means more consumers, and the internet really gives ANYONE the ability to benefit from that. I'm writing this stupid ass book, and if I were to try to go to pass it around to people in my city, I'd probably only reach about 100 people a day and most of them probably won't give a shit. One or two might buy a copy and probably never read it. Alternatively, I can connect to the internet, where I now have access to BILLIONS of people all over the WORLD. This is a huge deal because now I can get THOUSANDS of people to look at my book who won't read it.

But larger populations also tend to lead to a much higher standard of living for everyone. A larger labor force produces more goods, which means a better economy. It's also worth noting that the more people we create, the higher quantity of Einstein-level geniuses we end up with. That means we're more likely to produce innovations in technology. Of course, it goes both ways. We also end up with an excess of people who are on the opposite end of the spectrum as far as intelligence, but the benefit of 2 Einstein's is certainly worth the tradeoff.

But we need balance and organization. I honestly wish I could be more diplomatic about this subject, but religion IS a massive hurdle that prevents us from addressing the issue of overpopulation rationally. Abortion is a primary hot button topic these days. It's important to understand that 90% of abortions are done before the 13th week of pregnancy in the first trimester, long before babies feel pain or have a functioning brain. If I'm currently alive and my brain stops working, I'm dead. I don't give a shit if you piss on my corpse and chop up my body parts then hand them out to trick or treaters. Do whatever the fuck you want. If someone tries to stop you, show them this paragraph. Tell them I said it's cool.

If that baby were to be BORN during the 13th week, it would be dead. My opinion is that arguing that a fetus is alive in the first trimester is ridiculous. If an abortion is performed during the 3rd trimester, it's usually due to complications that would otherwise kill the mother. I feel like that's a choice that the mother should have the power to make. There's also NO humane argument for claiming that a woman who was raped should be obligated to carry their rapist's child to full term.

Whether or not you agree with that stance, the reality is that nobody would have to be pro-abortion if we were all pro-contraception. All people, regardless of gender, need to be equally responsible for handling the population crisis. It needs to be a top priority of our government agenda to curb this crisis, and in an ethical way, immediately. There is nobody who should be able to feel like they can't access condoms or birth control. Vasectomies should be far more common than they are. Women should not be seen as the only people responsible for birth control. The glorification of parenthood, where our society is ingrained to ask every dating couple "So when are you planning to have kids?" needs to stop. It's so normalized in our society that I can anecdotally tell you

about a pair of 13-year-old kids who lost a child and then adamantly asked the doctor, "What happened? We were hoping to start a family". Frankly, their parents should be reported to CPS.

The ethics of suicide are just another facet that most of us choose not to grapple with. The reality is we have incredible medical advancements that allow us to live for longer periods of time. But every time I go to a grocery store and see someone who's well into their 90's who is barely able to walk, talk, or do the most mundane of things I really question why we all cling to life for so long. I understand sticking around if you feel that you're still physically and mentally capable, but people will live to be 92 and pass away, and many times their families treat it like it's a tragedy. For fucks sake, they were 92. They were on every medicine known to man and half their body parts have been replaced by machines. They've been a cadaver that's barely able to function for the last 3 months. WHAT is that magic age where everyone is willing to say, "Ah yeah you know this person lived a full life and I accept that"?

Even if it isn't a factor of old age, if someone simply just doesn't want to live anymore shouldn't that be THEIR right to choose? Don't get me wrong, I do think that anyone contemplating suicide should be required to go through extensive therapy and work with licensed psychologists and psychiatrists before being able to just off themselves, but the reality is that people commit suicide regardless. About 800,000 people die of suicide every year and they shouldn't be required to blow their own brains out or jump off a 100-story building if there's a more humane way to die.

The other thing that doesn't get talked about enough is that suicide is fucking hard. Between 1989 – 1997, only 34.5% of the people who attempted suicide through some form of jumping died. Firearms are the most effective way to kill yourself, but even 17.5% of people who tried kill themselves with a firearm survived. I'm pretty sure if you were upset about your life before trying to kill yourself, you're definitely not going to enjoy it more after a shotgun has blown off half your face and left you looking like Sloth from the Goonies. Drug poisoning is the most common form of attempted suicide, but it's also one of the most ineffective. An article on NIH reports that out of 421,466 people who attempted suicide through drug poisoning, only 5 percent of them died. If we can develop and execute a more humane form of suicide, why wouldn't we?

Euthanasia is illegal throughout the United States, but it's perfectly legal to take your dog or your cat to the vet and have them put down. Oddly enough, assisted death is one of the very few areas where we as humans have more compassion and mercy for animal lives than we do for our own.

On a slight tangent, I'm not a vegan nor is my aim to convince you to be vegan/vegetarian. I'm all for the fucking Rafiki circle of life shit, but if you're an active meat-eater let's acknowledge that shit needs to die EVERY single day for you to keep living your life. Let's say that the only thing the population eats is cows, and a single cow can make 860 meals (which is a reasonable estimate). We'll also assume that none of it goes to waste. 8% of the world's 7.7 billion people are vegetarians/vegans, so let's just call it an even 7 billion people who eat meat. All of those 7 billion people eat, on average, 2 meals per day. That means 16.3 million cows would die EVERY day to sustain the human population, a population which keeps growing exponentially. That

means every year 5 **BILLION** cows would have to die each year to feed the world's population. It doesn't take a fucking mathematician to deduce that the only way we don't run out of animals to eat is because we're actively breeding them for the sole purpose of killing and eating them.

The point being that there's no natural progression to that shit whatsoever. In case you haven't figured it out, I prefer to lowball the shit out of my numbers because it emphasizes the point even more. MOST animals we eat aren't as large as cows. If you were to assume that a single chicken could be made into 5 meals and do the same math as above, you'd find that **1 TRILLION, 22 BILLION** chickens need to be killed every year. You can take those facts and interpret them however you want. You could argue that eating smaller animals, such as chickens, is even LESS ethical than eating cows, because well over a trillion more would have to die each year to sustain the population. On the flipside, if ALL we ate was cows, they'll eventually produce enough methane farts that send our entire existence into fucking oblivion, which is probably where the fuck it belongs.

Ultimately, going vegetarian or vegan is without a doubt the most ethical thing to do. I try to minimize the amount of meat that I eat, but I'm an absolute fucking hypocrite because I still eat far more than I should. At the end of the day, it's just important to have an objective awareness about the big fucking picture here.

On the flip side, Burger King rolled out the meatless impossible burger and promoted the shit out of it. A pissed off vegan filed a lawsuit against the company because they were cooking the burgers on the same grill as the meat burgers. Let's say hypothetically that lawsuit was a success, and the owners of Burger King said, "You know what, this was a bad economic move and we're going to get rid of the impossible burger because it's not financially worth the investment". That would mean that the vegan who filed the lawsuit would immediately be responsible for **BILLIONS** of animal deaths and almost certainly be responsible for killing more animals than they ever would've caused if they had spent their entire life eating nothing but meat. People get way too caught up in trying to fight the battle that they end up losing sight of the war.

When a massive corporation is backing your cause, whatever the fuck that cause is, you should be making a concerted effort to make sure they stay on your side. You can encourage them to improve on their process, but outright rejecting the help of allies or attacking them because those allies only agree with 80% of your ideals is irrational and counterproductive. It's the same emotionally guided decision-making as shown in the fucking ultimatum game.

New topic. Things that are obvious.. aren't always that obvious. Unless you look up video footage from Gary Coleman in the early 90's, it's hard to emphasize how much he looked and sounded exactly like a 10-year-old child. But he wasn't a 10-year-old child, he was an adult in his 20's who had a kidney disease that caused him to stop growing. He's also a human being who should be entitled to the same opportunity to find love from society that everyone else has. But how do you defend an adult who doesn't have a similar disability being in a relationship with him? The truth is it's just not possible for someone to be physically attracted to Gary Coleman without being physically attracted to the appearance of a 10-year-old child. Are you now condoning pedophilia?

And of course, Gary Coleman is just one concrete example. There are certainly other people in the world who may fit into the same category, whether it be due to a similar kidney disease, dwarfism, an issue with their pituitary gland, or maybe they don't have ANY kind of birth anomaly and just generally look significantly younger than they actually are.

The most harmful aspect of pedophilia (apart from anything that has to do with non-consent) is that there is an attraction to a person whose brain is not fully developed. Only an adult with a fully developed brain should be considered mentally capable of giving consent. Gary Coleman in his mid-20's was an adult, and many would argue that he's informed enough to make decisions for himself. Funny enough, he got married and age of 39 was robbing the cradle with a 22-year-old.

But that brings up an interesting question, is 22 old enough for a 39-year-old? It's actually pretty reasonable to argue that it isn't. How do you even ethically DECIDE how to apply laws regarding age such as consent, or when you can buy cigarettes, alcohol, or guns? It does seem stupid that in America, an 18-year-old can enlist to join the army but can't drink until the age of 21. Meanwhile, in countries like Germany you can purchase alcohol and drink at the age of 16.

At the end of the day, all these decisions are best left to science and data. A lot of the laws we have today are left-over remnants from a more-primitive world that was doing its best, but on some level, they were just throwing a lot of shit at the wall and hoping some of it sticks. Now we have more resources and a better understanding of how the brain develops over time. The reality is brain development persists into your 20's, and in some cases, your early 30's.

Lawmakers need to lean on people who are experts in their fields and make decisions based on THEIR recommendations. The reality is that too many of them "go with their gut" or more often, make their decisions based on what their voters will think rather than use data and expert recommendations.

For example, if you're concerned about forest fires it seems like COMMON SENSE that if there's a fire you should put it out. Wrong. Some fires are good fires, that serve the purpose of taking out all the leaves, branches, and twigs on the ground. When we try to put out EVERY little fire, all those leaves/branches/twigs pile up, which turns the entire forest into fuel for a fire that can be CATASTROPHIC. Many forest experts say that we should increase the number of "prescribed fires" and let wildfires burn when it's safe to do so. Yet politicians have a hard time convincing their supporters, who are breathing smoke on a frequent basis, that we need MORE fires.

Equality

"WHOA BUDDY please tell me I'm not about to get a dissertation on equality from a cisgender white male who doesn't identify as a porcupine". Now hold your gosh darn horses, skippy. Just because I do awkward high fives after watching episodes of Dawson's creek and my favorite food seasoning is mayonnaise does NOT mean I'm not an expert on social relations.

Let's be real. I'm not. However, I'm assuming that if you're reading this, and you've made it this far into the book, you have some interest in a different perspective. I find it hard to believe ANYONE would make it this far and think "I agree with 100% of the idiotic bullshit this guy has been saying" and I don't expect you to. All I have are my dumb ass opinions, coupled with the occasional facts.

When talking about perceived differences between any 2 populations, it's important to have the right mental model. You can read up on the "central limit theorem" in statistics, which will throw a lot of terminology at you and say something like "*the sum of many different independent random variables tends towards a normal distribution*". To dumb it down and focus on what's important, all it means is that ANYTIME you're making a generalization about a trait for a large population of people, it's going to have a bell curve shape, similar to this:
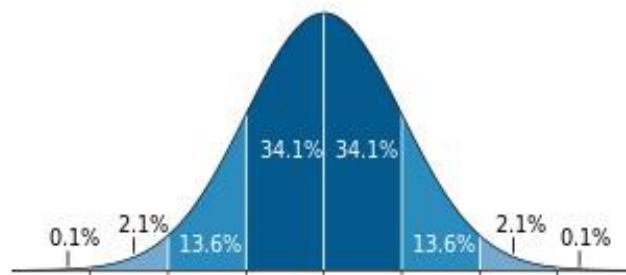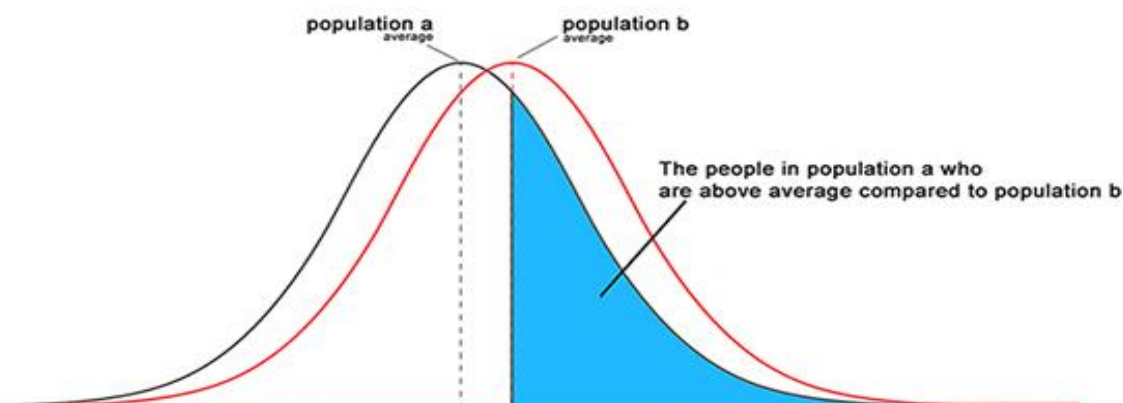

This bell curve applies to more things than you can probably imagine. Height, athleticism, birth weight, academic performance, IQ, shoe size, overall interest in getting a nipple piercing. You name it.

Male height, for example. The large majority of the population (68.2%) is close-ish to the middle. For a male, the dead center is roughly 5'9". If you're a male that's about 6'3", that puts you in the 13.6% section to the right. But only 2.2% of the world's population of men are taller than 6'6", and an even smaller portion is 7' or taller.

But notice that even though there's only 15.8% of people on the "extreme" right end of the spectrum, the extremes are REALLY extreme. Lebron James is only 6'9 *(nice)*, so he's in the 2.1% on the right, but if you saw him in public, he would STAND OUT.

Meanwhile, if you're comparing TWO populations, where one population is a higher "average" than the other population, then it looks something like this:

population a
average

population b
average

The people in population a who
are above average compared to population b

*The above model shows 2 populations (e.g., men and women). Each population of people has their own bell curve. One important thing to note is that when there is a **large** difference in the "averages" between the populations you would shift the red bell curve further to the right. When there is NO difference in the "averages", these bell curves will be directly on top of each other.*

If we say that "men" are population B and that men are, on average, taller than women, it will look like the picture above. Notice that even though men ARE generally taller than women, the section shaded in blue shows that there are still a LOT of women who are **taller than the average male**.

It also shows that the most extreme end of the spectrum for women really isn't that far off the most extreme end of the spectrum for men. Sandra Elaine Allen was recognized as the tallest woman in the world and was 7'7. That makes her taller than Lebron James AND Andre the Giant. In fact, 7'7 is the billed height for Gheorghe Mureșan, the tallest NBA player **ever**. Often, being "elite" in population A is still considered "elite" by population B standards.

This model is important because it represents a LOT of our reality.

Women, on average, are more feminine than men. That means women are population B in the above model. But the blue area shows that there's a LARGE number of men that are more feminine than the *average* woman.

Men, on average, are more athletic than women. That means men are population B in the above model. But the blue area shows that there's a LARGE number of women who are more athletic than the *average* man.

When we make generalizations about any 2 population groups, such as "men are stronger than women" or "women are more feminine than men" it's important to use the

mental model above. Far too often, people think of these generalizations as being "binary". Man strong, woman weak. Woman feminine, man masculine.

This model applies to more than just men and women. It also applies when we discuss racial differences, or populations from different locations in the world. For example, many people hear *"Alabama"* and think of incestuous super-religious conservatives. I'm currently living in Alabama, and those people certainly exist. I've seen them with their rat tails buying tobacco dip at Walmart with dozens of "don't tread on me" bumper stickers in the rear windshield of their F-150's. But there are also some VERY liberal people in Alabama. Far more liberal than me. In fact, the blue area above shows the number of people in Alabama who are MORE liberal than average.

The reality is that it's difficult to have a constructive dialogue about *any* topic that elicits emotion because it's much easier to just mindlessly accept that you're right and that the other person is wrong than it is to do a thorough analysis of your actions and ideology. The quick emotional reaction will almost always outweigh the drawn-out rational thought.

Just as an example, Neil deGrasse Tyson posted a very poorly timed tweet only a couple days after a mass shooting, stating:

"In the past 48hrs, the USA horrifically lost 34 people to mass shootings.

On average, across any 48hrs, we also lose…

500 to Medical errors
300 to the Flu
250 to Suicide
200 to Car Accidents
40 to Homicide via Handgun

Often our emotions respond more to spectacle than to data."

Now you probably can't even imagine the backlash he received from that tweet given that he posted it within 2 hours of a very publicized mass shooting that was still fresh on everyone's mind. Most of the responses to that tweet were pretty negative, however, what very few people were saying was.. he has a point. People have a habit of getting attached to any one news story at a time, especially in the event of a tragedy. Rationalizing things is viewed as insensitive, but rationalizing is the best way to come up with solutions that actually fix the problem. Retweeting "thoughts and prayers" rarely accomplishes anything. This is a recurring theme in our society. People care more about flashy headlines and shit that's "trending" than they care about the facts, and that leads to irrational thinking.

Lung cancer kills more than 3 times the number of people that breast cancer does. Yet, in 2015 lung cancer raised $92 million dollars and breast cancer raised $460 million dollars. I'm not here to do an "all lives matter" campaign for cancer, I think it's a fair argument to say, "hey, a leading cause of lung cancer is smoking, and if you get cancer because you chose to smoke then that's your own fault". And while I don't know the statistics for the number of lung cancer cases minus the smokers, I absolutely agree. But the answer behind "Why" breast cancer gets so much more funding is simply because it's a BRAND. It's easy to advertise and say, "HEY EVERYBODY, DONATE FOR TATAS, ON WEDNESDAYS WE WEAR PINK". It's catchy, has a more targeted demographic, and has a PR team that made sure that there was a recognizable image to make it mainstream for viewers like you.

Whether it be regular liberal news outlets or comedic liberal news shows such as "The Daily Show" with Trevor Noah or "Last Week Tonight" with John Oliver (both fantastic programs), you see very minimal representation when it comes to people with mental disabilities, mental illnesses, physical disabilities, dwarfism, native Americans, or basically any minority group that isn't currently trending in the news stories. It's only when there's a shooting against Asian Americans that there becomes a liberal media focus on Asian Americans.

In fact, pick ANY minority group you can think of. If you can't think of the flag or slogan that represents their role in the fight for "equality", it's because they don't have a "brand" inside of your brain, and they're generally ignored in the conversation of equality.

And because they don't have a brand, those demographics don't always fit the weekly headline that everyone's talking about. That means discussing them on your news show could draw lower ratings. But if we're basing the way we distribute equality awareness based off who's going to draw the highest TV show ratings or who has the best brand for their product, that's just not equality. It's also not the "woke" perspective that liberals often want to pat themselves on the back for having.

[poll for people "What people think of most" when they think of minorities] out of Women, LGBTQ, Black People, Latinos, Asian, Native American, Men, Disabilities. Note native americans are an underrepresented community in wokeness

Left-wing social media "trending" equality is not *real* equality, and often it isn't grounded in having any DESIRE for real equality. One example is when Colin Kaepernick came out in 2018 with a Nike ad after being blackballed by the NFL. Many liberals touted Nike and Colin Kaepernick as if they were heroes. I wonder if the people who actually spent their lives making Nikes in sweatshops feel like their employer was on the right side of social justice.

It's amazing how easy it is for a single marketing scheme to make everyone who claims to be on the side of equality ignore the evil shit the company has done. Suddenly everyone wants to applaud them for being benevolent because they ran a commercial.

Don't get it twisted; Nike's directly responsible for creating the same conditions Kaepernick was supposedly protesting. We're just ignoring one form of racism to support some celebratory false image of "overcoming" another form of racism.

The point is, if you're a proponent of real equality, we need a better strategy and a more rational, calculated way of thinking about things than just following the trending themes and what's going to get you the most likes on social media. It's easy for people to skeptical of the shit they disagree with. But most people absolutely suck at being skeptical of the shit they agree with.

Look, analogies are kind of my thing, so if you're not already aware there is an NBA videogame series which has its own in-game currency. It's called virtual currency, or "VC". This is a cash grab, because the goal is to incentivize players to pay real money to buy in-game coins so they can upgrade their in-game characters. In other words, people are paying REAL money to improve their characters in game.

When NBA 2k18 came out there was a lot of backlash and bad publicity because people who paid for the game were upset that they were charging VC each time they wanted to give their character a haircut. THIS IS FUCKING RIDICULOUS, YOU'RE TELLING ME I HAVE TO PAY **REAL** MONEY TO GIVE MY PLAYER A HAIRCUT?!

Not only that, but you have to pay again and again, each time you want to change your player's hair without being able to see what it looks like first.

When NBA 2k19 released, they responded to the backlash and they admitted "HEY YEAH SORRY THAT WAS REALLY STUPID OF US, WHAT WERE WE THINKING". VICTORY! They PROMISED they would no longer charge players VC for haircuts.

Then when NBA 2k20 came out, GREAT NEWS!! They held true to that promise, and they STILL no longer charge money for haircuts. WE ALL FUCKING WIN, ONE POINT FOR THE LITTLE FOLKS!!

However, here's a list of random things that still cost VC:

- Online-game celebrations
- Offline game celebrations (before game)
- Offline game celebrations (after game)
- In-game shoes
- Out-of-game shoes
- In-game shirts/pants
- Out-of-game shirts/pants
- Suits, which are only shown in brief cut scenes
- In-game accessories
- Out-of-game accessories
- Random items that boost your performance for a few games
- Different dribbling styles

- Different crossovers which are somehow a different transaction than dribble styles
- Different types of layups
- Different types of dunks
- Different types of jump shots
- Any type of stat boost

And much, much more.

So, in other words, just about EVERYTHING in the game costs VC. It's literally riddled with microtransactions at every turn. They've actually added MORE of these types of transactions in comparison to NBA 2k18. The ONE and only thing that is free is the fucking haircuts.

Everything else costs money.

But at least the HAIRCUTS are free. I can finally rock a neon green mullet while windmill dunking on Kyrie Irving. The problem is, people focused on the SYMPTOM, not the disease. They focused on fucking haircuts rather than focusing on the fact that videogame companies are using hundreds of microtransactions to upcharge people for practically EVERYTHING they want to do in the game. They cut one head off the hydra, and it came back with 3 more heads and now even MORE shit costs money.

And that's exactly what it looks like when protests and/or riots happen and the solution is to remove a statue, rename an NFL team, or spray paint BLM on the road in BIG ASS LETTERS. Meanwhile, we do nothing to fix the actual systemic issues and mind frame that created all these problems in the first place. We need to focus more on the disease and less on the symptoms.

But the reality that's nearly impossible to get everyone to see, is the fact that the **disease is a part of YOU.** Don't think you're fucking special, it's a part of me, too. The difference is I'm willing to acknowledge it and work on it. Most people, INCLUDING liberals, adamantly refuse to make corrections to their tribalist nature because they refuse to admit that it even exists in the first place. That ignorance is part of why the disease spreads.

We REALLY need to go back to basics and hammer in the foundation here. Let's take a step back and talk more about human psychology first. An experiment was done where they took out a piece of paper and drew 3 vertical lines of slightly different lengths. They showed this piece of paper with 3 lines on it to a group of test subjects and they asked the test subjects "HEY DUMBFUCKS WHICH LINE IS THE LONGEST LINE OUT OF THESE 3". Now, you've gotta be thinking, "holy shit if only I had questions that easy on my linear algebra exam, right now I'd have a god damn PhD in astrofucking".

Here's the thing, though. Everyone in the group was an actor in the experiment. They all knew exactly what was going on, except for ONE person. It was like the most

boring episode of Punk'd ever. EVERYONE in the group **purposely** picked the wrong god damn line. WHY? Because they're all assholes. MORE IMPORTANTLY, the one person who was NOT in on the experiment had no idea what was going on. All he saw was that everyone else in the group picked the SAME line. He saw that everyone else in the group picked the WRONG line. Now unless he's got googly eyes and glaucoma, I'm pretty sure he's capable of looking at lines and telling which one is the longest. He KNEW what the right answer was. However, I assume that out of fear, not wanting to look stupid, or simply not wanting to isolate himself from the group, he eventually caved in and did what everyone else did. He picked the wrong god damn line.

The point here is that people imitate the behavior of those around them. Especially in a group setting. If you were a kid in elementary school trying to fit in with the popular kids, and they're all bullying someone saying, "SUZIES GOT A BIG BUTT" then there's a pretty solid chance that you joined in on it. I don't personally think that makes you an inherently bad person. You probably felt bad about it. Hell, I bet you probably liked Suzy's big butt. But hey, kids are stupid, evil little sin vessels with no souls. That still doesn't justify being an asshole. Being aware of this human tendency in yourself makes it far easier to correct the behavior.

Next thought. The day after MLK was murdered, A 3rd grade teacher conducted an experiment with kids in her classroom where she separated her students (who were all of the Caucasian variety) by those who have brown eyes and those who have blue eyes. The students with blue eyes were given favoritism and were constantly told they were superior to those in the class who had brown eyes. Before long, the blue-eyed kids were making fun of the brown-eyed kids. Since they were 3rd graders, I can only assume their insults were something along the lines of "HA HA YOU GOT DOO-DOO EYES". Highbrow stuff. This resulted in arguments and two kids ended up getting into a fight as a result. The kids with blue eyes also tested better and were considered better students, while the poo-eyed kids performed worse in class. It makes you wonder, "Where the fuck were their parents during all of this?". But hey, it was the late 60's so they were probably all high on LSD and half-naked at a Simon and Garfunkel concert.

A similar study was done at a summer camp full of white boys in the 50's. The boys were all split into 2 different groups, called the Eagles and the Rattlers. Initially neither group was even aware that the other group existed. They ate together, lived together, bonded, and then they were later put against each other to compete in various competitions e.g., tug-o-war, baseball, treasure hunting with prizes for the winners and nothing for the losers. Eventually, animosity grew between the two groups. This escalated into insults, burning each other's flags, ransacking each other's camps, and finally, physical violence that had to be broken up by the researchers. Each of the groups took a survey at the end of the study, where they gave their opinion of the opposite group. In their surveys, they stated negative things, such as claiming the people from the opposite group were all "sissies, cowards, bullies, or bad losers". However, both teams said positive things about their OWN team in this survey.

The recurring theme here is that humans are naturally inclined to conform to group behavior in order to fit in. Whenever people perceive themselves as **part of a group** and others as **outsiders to that group**, it generally leads to negative feelings about those outsiders. After enough time and competition, verbal and physical altercations tend to arise.

Let's keep going. This time we'll talk about how we perceive "authority" in an experiment from Yale, which involves 3 different roles: a teacher, a student, and an experimenter. In this study, they strapped someone known as the "the student", into a fake electric chair. The student is an actor and knows that the electric chair is fake. The teacher, however, has no idea that it's fake.

The teacher asks the student a series of questions. If the student gets the answer wrong, the experimenter tells the teacher to press a button which will send an electric shock to punish the student. Every time the student gets an answer wrong, the experimenter increases the voltage of the electric shock. He then tells the teacher to push the button and shock the student again. They continued to increase the voltage again, and again. Each time, the student (an actor) screams out in pain begs the teacher to stop. The experimenter tells the teacher *not* to stop and to keep going. They do this again and again repeatedly, WELL beyond the point where it would have killed the student if the electric chair were real.

A similar experiment that's well-known is the Stanford Prison Experiment. They essentially created a prison system in the basement of the Stanford psychology building and pulled 24 random male participants, who were predominantly white and middle-class, off the street and appointed 12 of them to be guards and 12 of them to be prisoners. These were ordinary people who initially had no negative feelings toward each other. The experiment was supposed to last for 2 weeks, but they had to stop it within 6 days. Within 6 days, the guards who were in power had become abusive. Prisoners were stripped naked, deprived of sleep, and forced to use plastic buckets as toilets. Some of the prisoners rebelled violently, others became hysterical. The group with authority became more aggressive, and the group who perceived the guards as having authority eventually became more submissive and helpless.

One more experiment that I think is interesting to talk about is regarding the bystander effect. University professors hired an actor who found an area that was populated with people. He pretended to be injured and dying in the street. The result is that the larger the number of people who were standing around and not doing anything to help him, the less likely any individual person was to actually do something about it. It should somewhat make sense to you. If you're the ONLY person there and you see someone dying, you may feel responsible for doing what you can to help them. However, if you're in a crowd full of people, you're much more anonymous and nobody's

going to blame YOU if that person dies. There's also a factor of wondering what all these other people might know about this person who's supposedly dying if none of them are doing anything to help.

I just threw a lot of studies at you. You should be responsible and look all these things up for yourself for full details. You will **absolutely** find critics of the methodology behind these experiments. Many of the psychology experiments that you'll find from the past are considered unethical by today's standards. The BBC conducted a replication of the Stanford Experiment and found the opposite result, that the prisoners ended up overpowering the guards. Philip Zimbardo, the director of the Stanford Experiment claims that the different results were due to many significant differences in how the experiment was conducted. Again, science is not about doing an experiment once and blindly accepting the results of that experiment as fact. Scientists are responsible for trying to replicate or refute each other's works so that we can determine what things do or do not appear to be true 100% of the time.

It should be obvious how all of these things tie into racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, or any other form of prejudice. It's human nature to be a part of a group because humans are social creatures. We thrive on relationships with others. It's also human nature to look down on people who aren't part of your group. If everyone in your group says they dislike someone, you'll most likely dislike them as well. We tend to want to fit in with our peers.

If you identify as a "liberal" then "liberal" is your group. It's highly likely that if you filled out a survey about conservatives and liberals, your survey would have many similarities to the surveys that were filled out by the Snakes and the Rattlers. It's not "woke", it's just another form of tribalism. It's also far easier to execute this type of prejudice against a target that's easy to identify. For example, a white person walking down the street can readily look at a black person and identify that they're black. This makes it easier to categorize them as an outsider to their group.

However, it's far more difficult to identify someone based on their religious preference. The only exceptions are if they choose to tell you their religion, or if their culture involves wearing clothing that makes them easily identifiable. This is part of why during the Holocaust, Jewish people were rounded up and forced to live in the same area. Isolating a group of people makes them much easier to identify. These areas were called "Ghettos" far before it became a common American slang term. Germany used IBM punched card machines to compile genealogical information from state and city records, as well as local graveyards. Germany was better educated on people's heritage than some of their own people were. In other words, there were many people who did not even KNOW they had Jewish Ancestry until they were rounded up and forced into these ghettos.

Almost EVERY time there has been a grossly heinous act that has happened in history, it can be summarized in 2 steps.

Step 1: Establish yourself as part of a tribal group with unequal outsiders
Step 2: Justify doing something heinous because you believe it's necessary for your own safety, or because the outsiders will do something worse.

In other words, step 2 is just "fear". Fear was used to justify the internment of 110,000 Japanese men, women, and children. 75% of which were born in America, which means at least 82,500 American citizens were put in concentration camps under the guise of.. protecting American citizens. Fear was used to justify the atomic bomb that killed 200,000 people. Which were mostly civilians, including many children. Fear was used to justify the wars and killing of "savage" native Americans that ultimately ended in their genocide.

Remember those 2 steps. They're important. I'll come back to them briefly.

When you view Nazi Germany through the lens of these psychology experiments, you can see all of these ideas combined into one. The Jewish population being demonized, people developing ideas of racial superiority, civilians acting as complicit bystanders to horrific genocide, and soldiers committing murder because they're conditioned to submit to people who they perceive as having authority. The infamous Nuremburg Defense pertained to Nazi soldiers claiming that they were just "following orders".

Most of these examples involve subsets of white people displaying prejudice against other subsets of white people. This seems to imply that prejudice at its core has little to nothing to do with race itself, but rather that race is just an easy way to identify if someone is part of your "group" versus someone else's.

You might even be tempted to interpret these examples as evidence that white people are inherently evil. But tribalism exists everywhere. For example, slavery has been around for well over 5,000 years. It appeared in the earliest civilizations of Sumer, Babylonia, China, and Egypt. Virtually every ethnic group on the planet has both owned slaves and been slaves at some point in their history. Wars have been waged by tribes from ALL ethnicities. Class division is what led to the Rwandan Genocide in Africa that led to 800,000 people being slaughtered over 100 days. Native Americans have undoubtedly been a highly persecuted people, yet some Native Americans owned slaves as well. Juneteenth is now a federal holiday that celebrates emancipating the last slaves in America on June 19th, 1865. However, slavery continued in Native American territory for another 9 months after June 19th. There are still 21 to 46 million slaves today in various countries across the world, yet in American culture, we don't really discuss them nearly as much as we discuss slavery in the past.

But, to go on a tangent, none of these details change the fact that white Americans are responsible for their role in slavery and how it was implemented. America is most unique in that it took slavery and made it excessively racialized. In the antebellum south, to legally be considered white you had to have less than 1/8th or ¼ African ancestry (depending on the state). Those laws allowed some slave owners to rape and have children with their female slaves, then make money by selling their own kids into slavery. Those laws are why even to this day, white America looks at MOST people who are 50% white and 50% black and categorize them as black. Yet that person is almost never categorized as white. I'll return to the topics of slavery and race in the next chapter.

Back to the topic of tribalism. My personal interpretation of all this information is that all humans are inherently a tribalistic species. Dividing into groups and discriminating against other groups is part of our natural biological evolution. It's garbage DNA left over from being evolved from animals. Don't believe me? Jane Goodall documented a 4-year war between two groups of chimpanzees in the 70's. It was later confirmed that this wasn't just one isolated occurrence, meaning that chimpanzee societies in their natural state do occasionally wage wars against each other. We're all just tribalistic monkeys that have a lot more evolving to do. If it weren't all so fucking depressing, I'd have a pun-filled dad joke here about gorilla warfare.

The psychology experiments I listed were not unique individuals with psychological issues. In fact, most of those experiments involved explicitly testing their subjects to make sure they had no psychological issues prior to conducting the experiment. These people were all exactly like you and me.

Saying "Humans are inherently prejudiced" is equivalent to saying, "I am broken". You can either choose to just deny the fact that, given the right surroundings, you would have the capacity to do awful things while doing nothing to fix yourself. Or you can use your awareness of your own shortcomings as a roadmap to navigate you away from danger. I choose to do the latter. Socially, everyone wants to be part of the "I don't have a prejudiced bone in my body!" camp, which is just horseshit. The minute you identify yourself as an American, a non-American, a conservative, a liberal, a white person, a black person, a straight person, a gay person, a man, or a woman and you start viewing people outside of that identity as morally, mentally, or physically inferior to you, you've completed step 1.

Now all it takes is someone to convince you that doing something bad to those outsiders is in the best interest of your safety, or if you DON'T do something bad that those people will do something even worse. Now you've completed step 2. People who deny their problems can't solve them. There's a reason why acceptance is the first step of the 12-step program. But it's much easier to complete only 2 steps.

This shit where people use social media and start blocking or unfriending anyone

who has an even moderately opposing belief to theirs, while isolating themselves in a bubble full of people who share similar beliefs, has the exact same effect of dividing people into tribes and pinning them against each other. You see people on the left going further into the extremes of the left, and people on the right going further into the extremes of the right. You see a rise in extremist ideologies of women against men and a rise in extremist ideologies of men against women. You see a rise in extremist white groups and a rise in extremist black groups. Whatever the example is, we're completely burning the bridges that allow us to have rational discussions with people on the other side. The people who aren't exactly like us. That is inevitably going to lead to the same types of behaviors we've seen in all the preceding examples. Many people are fully aware that these echo chambers exist, but they do nothing to change it. The reality is that we've been doing this for over a decade. Nothing has improved, we have only gotten more divided as a people.

Part of the issue is that many of us just have this expectation that everyone else is seeing the exact same things that WE see. We expect others to already KNOW things that we know and be aware of the same headlines that all OUR friends are talking about. But the more we isolate ourselves from others, the more differently our worlds begin to look.

One example of this is a TikTok video I saw that has audio quotes all playing back-to-back. It went something like this:

Joe Biden: "Neither Barack Obama nor I support redefining from a civil side, what constitutes marriage"

Barack Obama: "I believe that marriage is a union between a man and a woman"

Hillary Clinton: "I believe that marriage is not just a bond, but a sacred bond between a man and a woman"

Donald Trump: "No, I'm all for guys that like men, but it's just not my thing"
Donald Trump: "I will do everything in my power to protect our LGBTQ citizens"

What's REALLY important to note is that EVERY quote above is 100% real. These are all words that were actually said by Biden, Obama, Hillary, and Trump in some form of public and political speech.

In a way, it's not entirely that these words were even taken out of context. The first 3 quotes came at a time when there was much less social acceptance for gays and gay rights. You could argue that the candidates were simply saying what they needed to say to get elected. You could also argue that people change. Maybe their views have evolved on this topic over time, and our society as a whole has certainly changed over time.

But at the end of the day, what really matters is that if I'm someone who supports gay rights and I hear these quotes, it is NOT unreasonable for me to think that the first 3 candidates oppose gay marriage. It is NOT unreasonable for me to think the last one supports it. If you hear someone say "I support this political candidate" it's entirely possible that you're both looking at the same person and seeing COMPLETELY different people. Your judgment of that person comes from the belief that THEY are seeing the same things that YOU see, which in almost **every** case is entirely false.

A liberal news outlet could just as easily flip this around and show the OPPOSITE:

Donald Trump: "I'm opposed to gay marriage" - in a 2011 Fox interview with Bill O'Reilly

Barack Obama: "I favor legalizing same-sex marriages, and would fight efforts to prohibit such marriages" - in 1996 while running for Illinois state Senate

Again, ALL of these quotes are 100% real. So, do you believe the first set of quotes more or do you believe the second set of quotes? Chances are, you believe the quotes that align with whatever your political beliefs and views of these candidates are. That's kind of the WHOLE problem. They're ALL real, they're ALL the exact same example of candidates flip-flopping to gain political favor. If you think one set of quotes is better than the other, you're failing to recognize your own tribalism.

There was far more "trending liberal" outrage over Donald Trump's inhumane detention facilities for immigrants than there is over the EXACT same detention facilities that continue to exist under Biden. There wasn't nearly as much outrage over Kamala Harris telling Guatemalan immigrants "Do not come" as there would've been if Trump said the same thing. It's fucking great that they changed the logo on the box, but it's still the same nasty ass Kellogg's cornflake circumcision cereal.

It is worth noting that, for many liberals, Biden was never their "ideal" choice. Biden was the compromise that liberals were told they had to make because any candidate who supported liberal policies such as streamlined immigration, universal healthcare, universal basic income, free college, etc. were deemed too radical to be electable.

But if you're just constantly blocking people who have beliefs that oppose yours, then neither of you is seeing this contradicting information. You both end up living with this type of lens where you're just constantly being fed soundbites that don't have any nuance to them and lack context.

This is something we especially need to do with our family if we disagree with them. Even if you don't have a GREAT relationship with your family, you still have that tribal connection with them that psychologically makes them more likely to listen to your thoughts and not view you as an outsider. As much as it may pain you to do so, if you're getting into an argument with someone about a heated topic, even if you strongly disagree with them, sometimes you need to hear them out and say "Hey, that's a good fucking point". Hell, say that even if it isn't. There's a neurological concept called an

amygdala hijack, and basically it causes people think more irrationally in the middle of an argument. On a neural level, it reacts as if we're being threatened. It doesn't matter if that threat comes from opinions or facts that we would otherwise rationally agree with. At the end of the day your emotions override your ability to think reasonably.

But when we express ourselves and our views are appreciated, these defense chemicals decrease in the brain and dopamine neurotransmission activates the reward neurons making us feel empowered and increasing our self-esteem.

In other words, flattering someone's ideas in the middle of a debate will make them more likely to view your own ideas as rational. So next time you get into an argument where you and your grandpa are yelling back and forth about taking down a confederate flag, try to hit him with the "Hey, you been working out? I see you with the big old biceps looking swole AF, you been getting GAINS".

The fact is that there are different types of privileges and inequality, and it's important to talk about them from every angle instead of only advocating for the people that identify the same way you do. It's also important be critical about your own privileges, and no matter who you are. If your perspective is "I don't have any privileges", then you're still viewing the world in a way that's rooted in the same self-absorbance that causes inequality in the first place.

There's no arguing that a gay, black woman in America has an absurd number of disadvantages in life. She doesn't have the privileges that you have if you're straight, she doesn't have the privileges that you have if you're white, and she doesn't have the privileges that you have if you're a man. But as an able-bodied person, she may have privileges that someone in a wheelchair doesn't. She could come from a wealthy background, which gives her privileges that someone who is lower-class doesn't have. She may be attractive, which gives her privileges that someone who is unattractive doesn't have. Even if she's unattractive and lower-class in America, that could still mean she has some privileges that someone from a third-world country doesn't.

Hell, NOBODY ever talks about period privilege. No, I don't mean menstruation, though women don't get nearly enough credit for going through life while bleeding from their genital area every month. I mean just the fact that you're alive in 2021 is a privilege for SOOOO many reasons (eh, minus the COVID). Just one example is the fact that in the 1800's it took 6 God damn months to travel on the Oregon Trail from Missouri to Oregon, all while praying to God that your horse doesn't get stolen by bandits. Or that your entire family doesn't die of dysentery. These days people get BIG MAD the minute their airline says their plane is going to be delayed by 6 hours due to weather conditions. WELL FUCKING BOO HOO FOR YOU, DREW. There's a strong chance that they delayed your flight so you wouldn't PLUMMET OUT OF THE FUCKING SKY AND DIE A DEATHLY DEATH IN A FIERY CRASH, YA DOLT.

Truth is that most commercial airplanes are well equipped to handle adverse weather and almost every commercial plane has been hit by lightning at least once. But

still, someone somewhere clearly determined that the risk of sending 100 people out there isn't worth it right now. So, you should probably just find a seat at the gate and sit the fuck down, shut up, and eat your god damn Cinnabon.

But seriously, nobody really acknowledges or cares about a conversation regarding "period privilege" because it's something we ALL have. Just like Americans rarely ever have discussions about their own American privilege. Most people don't bring up privilege to create awareness of their OWN privileges; They just want to point out the privileges of others, so they can create ANOTHER tribalistic dividing line between themselves and THOSE people to assert some sort of mental or moral dominance over someone else. Which in and of itself, is the inherent issue that CREATES inequality.

Privilege is too often talked about as if it's binary. You're either the caricature of a middle-aged wealthy straight-white businessman, which means you're privileged, otherwise you aren't. But if there's anything to be taken away from the book it's that nothing is binary. For some reason humans try to force everything to into categories of good and bad. It's a lot easier than dealing with all of the complexities and thinking that comes with reality and nuance. People don't want to spend time getting a full understanding of a topic as much as they want a news headline that will tell them in ONE sentence who they can be angry at.

I acknowledge that I have all the privileges that come with being a straight, cis white male. However, I'm also Deaf. But even if I were to look at "Hearing" as a privilege that I don't have, that's still just a way of thinking that's far too binary. The ability to hear definitely has FAR more privileges, job and social opportunities than not being able to hear. Most of which you probably never make any effort to think about, because deaf stories rarely ever get representation in the news. But there ARE still privileges that come with being deaf. For starters, when my asshole neighbor is mowing the lawn at 6 a.m. in the morning, I can sleep like a baby.

Being attractive in our society is CLEARLY more beneficial than being unattractive. For starters, you have more choices in partners which can lead to better financial opportunities. Attractive people are statistically happier. But being unattractive also has privileges. Someone who's attractive might be sexually harassed more often or viewed as less intelligent. Not dealing with that is a privilege unattractive people have. That doesn't change the fact that attractive people are MORE privileged, but it's okay to acknowledge that there are occasionally some privileges to being in an unprivileged group.

If you're in a dark, public alley at night and you see a black person living their life, and you're threatened by their presence, despite having no reason to believe that they're a threat to you other than the color of their skin, hey guess what? that's pretty fucking racist.

But if you're a woman in a dark, public alley at night and you see a large middle aged white man living their life, and you're threatened by their presence, despite having no

reason to believe that they're a threat to you other than the fact that they're a man, hey guess what? That's kinda the same thing.

There's no denying that minorities make up a disproportionate number of people in prison. That's a problem that needs to be resolved. At the same time, I've personally never seen anyone imply that there's an issue with the fact that 93.2% of inmates are male.

There are some privileges that come with being a woman, such as being perceived as less of threat in your everyday existence. Some of those privileges may even come from the same patriarchal system that oppresses women. As a whole, it's far easier for a woman to make a living off her physical appearance than it is for any other gender on the spectrum. That's clearly only because women are, and have historically been, marketed as sex objects in the first place.

Yet, even in that divide there are more subdivides. For example, the fact that black women generally get paid less money to appear in pornography than white women do. If you're a woman, there's nothing wrong with believing that it's in your own best interest to take advantage of a corrupt system and making money off it. All I'm suggesting is that we should be more aware of nuances and our own biases. Often our identities are too important to us for us to be truly objective about them, especially in the heat of an argument.

It's clear that being a woman is far more difficult than being a man for more reasons that I can count. Periods, pregnancy, general sexism, unwanted advances (verbal and physical), inequality in job opportunities. I would even argue that on average it costs more money to simply exist as a woman than it does as a man (Pads, birth control, bras, fashion aimed at women is often more expensive, etc.). There are plenty of other examples that fly under the radar. For example, it is waayyy easier to piss in a porta potty if you're a dude, and that's something I'm grateful for every time I go to an outdoor concert or renaissance festival.

Economists have managed to put a financial value onto limbs. That is to say that if you're at work, and some freak accident causes your right (or left if you're left-handed) arm to be cut off and torn to shreds, you can be compensated for that arm: 208 weeks' worth of paychecks.

Now the question is, are we all equal?

Consider that a woman on average, makes 5% less than a man in an absolute identical profession with absolute identical qualifications. If Jim, who makes $16 an hour and works 40 hours a week, loses his arm at the factory and it gets ripped to shreds (FUBAR as one would say), he would be compensated a gross sum for that arm: $133,120.

However, Emily, who also works at the factory, her arm is only worth $126,464. That means that Jim can afford to pay Emily for her arm, cut it off, have it sewn onto his own

body Frankenstein style (and let's be honest, his new arm's better for fapping, too). The funniest part? Emily now has no arm and Jim would still profit off this entire ordeal $6,656

Equality!

Even better, if Jim goes to a local McDonalds, where they pay their employees $7.50 an hour, he can afford to chop off BOTH the McDonald's employee's arms. He'll make a significant profit AND have a total of 3 fricking arms. HOW BAD ASS IS THAT?!

If you have an issue with inequality, or an issue with ANY politics whatsoever, you can always get out and join a group where you can be an active contributor to society. Be directly responsible for making whatever change it is you want to see in the world. You can also donate money to those organizations. However, many people will just feel that's just too much work. At which point, the very fucking bare minimum you can do in your life is vote.

People have literally bled and died fighting to make sure you were able to vote, because THEY clearly felt it was that important. It doesn't matter if you're black, if you're a woman, if you're gay, or even just a cisgender white male. If I could dig up and pile the corpses of every person in front of you who ever died so that YOU could have the right to vote, first you'd have to climb over a fucking Kilimanjaro sized mountain of dead bodies and then you'd pull your ass up to the polls and vote.

One of the first things I mentioned in the book was how we SHOULD be looking for holes in our own arguments. It's the same way that cybersecurity people employ hackers to hack into a system to find the security vulnerabilities. Far too often I see people who support equality but do so in a way that's harmful to equality. For example, when liberals championed the slogan "Defund the police", or even "All Cops Are Bad". This is just cutting off your nose to spite your face.

A republican candidate filmed a campaign ad of herself walking through the slums of Baltimore. She asked local residents, who were living in a crime-ridden area, if they want to "defund the police", because liberals say we should "defund the police". They all said resoundingly said "absolutely not, that's fucking stupid". Of course, they did. These are people who spend every day of their lives in a community where violence and illegal activity is common. They understand that there is a practical NEED for having police around for safety.

Some liberals will try to justify these slogans by saying "Well actually, what we REALLY mean is we just want to replace sections of the police force with qualified specialists that can deal with mental issues and such". Which is fine, but the republican candidate ISN'T walking around asking these people "Do you think we should replace sections of the police force with qualified specialists that can deal with mental issues and such?".

The narrative **anyone** from the outside of your liberal bubble is going to get is, "liberals want to get rid of police". That's just an objectively bad slogan that is more harmful than helpful. But many liberals close themselves off to having objective conversations that don't fit the "trending" narrative. When people get too close to a subject emotionally, they don't stop to think about the most rational solutions.

Case in point, the COVID pandemic didn't fully affect Americans until mid-March 2020. The murder of George Floyd happened 2 months later, on May 25th, 2020. This was a time when scientists still did NOT have much information that could tell us about how contagious or deadly the virus was going to be. There was no idea of how long it would be until a vaccine was created, or how many people would die to the virus. The trending liberal agenda was to go out and protest in large crowds at the worst possible time, during the height of the pandemic. Hospitals were still largely unprepared and there was serious concern about the rise in COVID cases overwhelming the medical staff, which would ultimately lead to more people dying in Emergency situations that had nothing to do with COVID at all.

Police Brutality is a serious issue that needs to be dealt with. Somewhere around 1,100 black people are killed by police each year at disproportionate rates. However, we already had data at the time that showed black people are ALSO disproportionately more likely to die because of the virus. The trending liberal agenda became, "lets protest the killing of black people while we continue spreading a virus, so we can be directly responsible for killing even MORE black people".

But that's not a conversation you can have with people who are emotionally charged after a widely publicized event. Especially following a video that undeniably shows 8 horrific minutes of a white cop unjustifiably murdering a black man over a $20 piece of paper. But people aren't interested in saving as many black lives as possible. They're just interested in some form of symbolic retribution that has historically never led to systemic changes. This is yet another example of emotions leading to poor rationality.

Race/Equality Pt II.

This brings us to our next topic. You might be thinking "HEY DUMB ASS, YOU COULD'VE JUST COMBINED RACE AND EQUALITY INTO ONE CHAPTER" and yeah, you're probably right. But there's no way I can write a book that touches on just about every topic of interest and not talk about race. It's a huge part of everyone's life whether they want it to be or not, and there's a lot of misinformation that I want to clear up. "Equality" was just the groundwork for this chapter, and a lot of this content actually applies to many of us REGARDLESS of race. But race is just too big and important of a topic to NOT have its own chapter.

Before we even discuss race and racism, I need to make sure we're all on the same page. I'm going to start with a brief crash course history lesson. This isn't a history book, so I encourage you to read up on these topics if you need more details.

Here are some things you may already know:

1) Slavery has existed in many countries and has taken many forms. In some cultures, slaves could work their way to freedom. In the U.S., this was obviously not the case, where even the children of slaves were destined to be slaves on a racial basis.

2) Prior to slavery, there were many "indentured servants". They were mostly Europeans who were given food, shelter, and free transportation from Europe to the U.S. in exchange for doing free labor for a certain number of years. In some cases, they were promised 50 acres of land after indentured servitude was complete. There's a fine line between indentured servitude and slavery. Often, slavery is considered a "lifetime" sentence. But if an indentured servant dies before they ever complete their servitude, which was very common back then, I personally consider that a "lifetime" sentence.

The first Africans to arrive in America were treated as indentured servants, similar to how white indentured servants were treated. From that, slavery evolved over time. For the purposes of this discussion, I consider all forms of this to be "slavery".

3) Americans did enslave Native Americans, even before they enslaved Africans. However, many Native Americans died of European diseases. Native Americans also knew the land better, and that made it easier for them to escape. There are many reasons this didn't work the way the European settlers wanted it to. So, they traveled to Africa and purchased African prisoners in exchange for weapons, tobacco, rum, and other goods.

4) It's important to note that in the earliest stages of the slave trade, Africans viewed the people they sold into slavery as criminals and prisoners of war from rival tribes. We spent a lot of time talking about tribalism in the last chapter. It's possibly the same way

YOU might view someone who's currently imprisoned for some heinous crime. You probably don't care much about their "rights" or humanity. If someone offered you a million dollars to take them off to some foreign land, you probably wouldn't bat an eyelash or ask many questions.

I say that because there's a narrative (usually pushed by racists trying to defend slavery) that "black people sold their own people into slavery". This completely misses the point that there was no comradery or "brotherhood". They were not selling "their own people", they were selling rivals. Racism as YOU know it today, did not EXIST back then. Many of the Africans who were taken onto slave ships had never even SEEN a white person before.

However, as the demand for slaves grew, leaders of kingdoms increasingly saw this as an opportunity to get rich off the slave trade. More wars ensued, with an increase of raids that led to more people being taken captive.

5) American slavery wasn't that long ago. People are alive today with grandparents who were enslaved. Black people were enslaved in America much longer than they've been free.

6) Many ship captains tried to pack in as many captives as they could below deck in an incredibly unsanitary environment that caused many to die of disease. Others were thrown overboard for being sick. About 20% (roughly 2 million) of the captives died before ever actually reaching America. That means about 1 out of every 5 captives could expect to die before ever reaching land.

7) In 1860, about 7.4% of American families owned slaves. However, that number includes the 20/35 states that had outlawed slavery and it downplays how important slavery was in the South. In the top 7 slave-holding states, the percentage of families owning slaves was over 25%. The numbers are roughly the same percentages of Americans who, today, hold a college degree.

America also had 20 million immigrants between 1880 – 1920. That means quite a lot of people immigrated to the U.S. after slavery ended. *(Still, many of the countries they immigrated from also had slavery at some point*). It's important to be objective about history because it's incredibly complex with a lot of nuances. The way these events get framed in arguments today ignores a lot of the complexity involved.

But even for white people who DIDN'T own slaves, many of them RENTED slaves. Slaves were treated as inferior throughout society. Even many the poorest white southerners SUPPORTED slavery. It gave them legal and social status that allowed them to be above another class of people. It was NOT only the south that benefited from slavery. European countries and even the northern states that opposed slavery benefited from it. America as we know it was built by slaves, and it would not be the economic powerhouse it is today *without* slavery.

8) There is a lot of conflicting information on this subject. It's important to note that slavery existed in America for nearly 250 years. There is no single picture of slavery that is accurate. Slavery evolved from mild to severe. In 1624 - 1625 some Africans worked under indentured servitude contacts like anyone else, and their children were born free. In the earliest years, it was possible for someone who was black to own property, and in fact, own slaves. This is evidenced by Anthony Johnson, who some sources have reported to be the "First slave owner in the U.S." (this is inaccurate for a number of reasons). However, Anthony Johnson WAS a black, former indentured servant, who was legally given ownership over another black man for life.

Still, any argument that "black people owned slaves" is ridiculous and designed to be deceptive. The OVERWHELMING majority of people who owned slaves looked like mayonnaise. There WERE some instances of black people who owned slaves with the intent of economic profit. However, the MAJORITY of black people on record who owned slaves did so with good intentions (e.g., a husband purchasing his wife for her protection).

In 1662 laws were passed stating that a child born to a slave mother is a slave, and in 1670 when it was declared that "all non-christian servants shipped to the Virginia Colony are declared slaves for life". You can see how these laws changed over time; they were not immediate. This allowed slavery to evolve into what it eventually became. But labor during these years was still mostly a combination of poor white and black people working for (and treated badly by) wealthy landowners.

Recall earlier when I said some indentured servants were promised 50 acres of land? That worked out well in the beginning because many of the European indentured servants died before they could ever GET that land. But eventually, they began getting immunities to the local diseases and living longer. This system needed to change. In addition to that, the poor black and white laborers would occasionally work together to revolt against the wealthy landowners. The most notable of which being Bacon's Rebellion which some argue was one of the most significant turning points that led to slavery as we discuss it today.

In response to these things (remember, North America was still under English rule), laws were passed that stated only white people could vote and own land (many poor white people couldn't afford land anyway). Laws were also passed to prohibit black people from owning firearms, ensure that slaves could not learn to read or write, and preventing white people from being employed by black people. These were all ways of dividing black and white people so that poor white people and poor black people wouldn't unite and revolt against the wealthy landowners. This caused slavery became more focused on race. After the invention of the cotton gin, slavery, as well as the treatment of slaves, continued get worse.

9) Treatment of slaves varied from slaveowner to slaveowner. Slaves were viewed as expensive property, so intentionally killing or starving slaves was uncommon (let's

not forget that 2 million of them died before ever arriving in America). However, instances of whipping, rape, or having families broken apart (e.g., husbands, wives, children) and selling them off to others were common.

10) I have no idea which apologist came up with the argument that the civil war WASN'T over slavery. It's the dumbest fucking narrative ever. When South Carolina declared their secession, they stated verbatim it was because of *"an increasing hostility on the part of the non-slaveholding States to the institution of slavery".* How fucking stupid do you have to be? Yeah, it was over the states' rights. The states' rights to own slaves.

There's more misinformation regarding history that I want to address, and sometimes it's grounded in half-truths. For example, it is a fact that Abraham Lincoln was a Republican, and that the Democratic party formed after the civil war. The Democratic party when it was first created supported slavery, and they opposed African American rights. This fact has been used to by Republicans in debates to convince others that Republicans today are on the right side of history while Democrats are not. It's important to note that both political parties have changed their alignments throughout history more than once. The political views of the democratic party today are the polar opposite of what they were in 1870.

Let's ignore the labels "Republicans" and "Democrats" for a moment. Slavery has ALWAYS been a southern-backed institution. Prior to the Civil War, the VAST majority of slaves and slaveowners lived in the **South**. The North BENEFITED from slavery, but almost all the cotton used in industrial production was grown by enslaved workers in the **South**. The people who fought in the confederate army, fought for the **South**. The people who fought to MAINTAIN slavery, fought for the **South**. The democratic party that formed, the democratic party that supported slavery and opposed African American rights, mostly consisted of white people who lived in the **South**.

Here is a list of the 14 states that had the most slaves prior to the civil war and the political party of the president they voted for in 2020 (An election that was incredibly controversial and divisive with the highest participation rate since 1900).

State	# of Slaves in 1860	Presidential Vote (2020)
Virginia	490,865	Democrat
Georgia	462,198	Democrat
Mississippi	436,631	Republican
Alabama	435,080	Republican
South Carolina	402,406	Republican
Louisiana	331,726	Republican
North Carolina	331,059	Republican
Tennessee	275,719	Republican
Kentucky	225,483	Republican
Texas	182,566	Republican
Missouri	114,931	Republican

| Arkansas | 111,115 | Republican |
| Maryland | 87,189 | Democrat |

Most of these states fought on the confederate side during the civil war (Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri were unaligned)

Out of the 3 states listed above that voted Democrat:

Virginia - Voted republican 11 out of 12 presidential elections prior to 2008
Georgia – Voted republican 8 out of the last 10 presidential elections

Which makes Maryland the ONLY state to consistently vote for a "Democrat" president on this list. So, it's very clear that the people whose ancestors fought to maintain slavery, the STATES that fought to maintain slavery, are CURRENTLY voting for Republican presidential candidates.

This is the list of States that fought AGAINST slavery in the civil war and the party of the president they voted for in 2020:

State	2020 Political Party
Maine	Democrat
New York	Democrat
New Hampshire	Democrat
Vermont	Democrat
Massachusetts	Democrat
Connecticut	Democrat
Rhode Island	Democrat
Pennsylvania	Democrat (contested)
New Jersey	Democrat
Ohio	Republican
Indiana	Republican
Illinois	Democrat
Kansas	Republican
Michigan	Democrat (contested)
Wisconsin	Democrat (contested)
Minnesota	Democrat
Iowa	Republican
California	Democrat
Nevada	Democrat
Oregon	Democrat

In 2020 we see that 16 out of 20 states that fought to free slaves in the civil war voted for a "Democrat" president.

This seems like an obvious point. Yet somehow, I've seen this misinterpretation MULTIPLE times where people will say "Republicans fought to free the slaves" as if that

has any meaning in 2021. It's used to deceive people because it's 100% true. That's like me saying "8th graders were listening to the Backstreet Boys", which is 100% true if we're talking about 8th graders in 1993. But 8th graders in 2021 probably don't give a shit about the Backstreet Boys. They're too busy watching Lil Nas X give lap dances to the devil with the kind of choreography that even Beyonce's taking notes on. Today, the only people listening to the Backstreet Boys are single parents who spend their Friday nights at karaoke bars while a drunken bachelorette party of 30-somethings with dick necklaces all do a tone-deaf rendition of "I want it that way".

Slavery is a common topic, but not as much gets said about what happened AFTER slavery. In Africa, many of the slaves being sold off were men. This left them with a smaller male population and ultimately it made it easier for European countries to conquer and colonize those areas.

In America, it's important to note that we didn't go from slavery one day to no slavery the next day. The emancipation proclamation was issued and set to free all slaves January 1st of 1863. But it wasn't until June 19th, 1865, when the last slaves were freed (excluding Native American territories which continued another 9 months, as I've mentioned earlier).

When slavery was "outlawed", the slaves were not given property, resources, or tools to fend for themselves or make a living. Many of them continued to work for the same plantation owners who enslaved them, doing the same work they were already doing, on the same land they were already doing it on. The only difference is that it was under a legal contract that said they would get to use SOME of that land for themselves if they give the vast majority of the crops they harvest to the landowner.

However, the landowner would charge high interest rates. In some cases up to 70% interest. Many sharecroppers were indebted for the rest of their lives. Since this land was rented, the land continued to belong to the owner when the sharecroppers died. That means the landowners, who did nothing but… own land, had the ability to pass down property and wealth to their children. Meanwhile, the sharecroppers who harvested the land were often only allowed to keep what they needed to survive. Those sharecroppers passed down nothing to their children.

Data from 2019 shows that about 30% of white people received an inheritance while 17.1% expecting an inheritance in the future. Meanwhile 10.1% of black people receive an inheritance and only 6% expect an inheritance in the future. Overall, this is a difference of about 31%. Even today, white people are statistically far more likely to benefit from generational wealth.

It's worth noting that many sharecroppers were white. However, African Americans were about 15% of the population and 33% of sharecroppers at the time. For black people who chose NOT to be employed under these undeniably unfair conditions, they could be arrested for being unemployed, and they were imprisoned. Once imprisoned,

criminals don't have the same rights as free people. That means prisoners could be forced to work for free, which is just a continuation of slavery.

It's important to note that these laws criminalizing unemployment were targeted directly at the black population. Anyone who was white and unemployed could just take a vow of poverty and was commonly spared from having to do labor. That criminal system continues to this day. Black people continue to be imprisoned at a disproportionate rate while prison laborers make between 12 to 40 cents per hour for their work.

In some cases, black people DID find opportunities to prosper following slavery. One example is Tulsa, Oklahoma where an oil boom drew a larger population of people to Tulsa. Segregation still existed, but the oil boom provided many financial opportunities to the residents and gave many black citizens the opportunity to save money. This also gave them the opportunity to invest in their own black businesses. Before long, they had their own economy that was so successful it was nicknamed "Black wall street". This caused resentment from local whites who saw the nearby black community prospering.

One day, a black man named Dick Rowland stepped into an elevator with a white woman on his way to the segregated bathroom. There are many conflicting reports regarding what happened in the elevator. It has been noted that the elevator was faulty and that some believe it caused Rowland to trip and grab onto the woman to prevent a fall. Others say he stepped on her toe. Regardless of what happened, she screamed, and the white store clerk reported the incident as an "assault", which elevated the community claiming that Rowland had raped her.

The result was that Rowland was arrested. Soon after, a mob of angry white men assembled with the intent of lynching him. Black men from the area arrived to protect him. Before long, the encounter escalated to guns being fired. The white men, being more heavily armed, and with additional support from the local police, decimated the city. They deployed a machine gun at the top of a hill and fired into a black church, killing the people inside. They dragged black men out of their homes to shoot them in the street. Mobs smashed in windows and kicked in doors to loot the black businesses. As many as 6 airplanes flew over the area dropping dynamite on the entire area. Homes, law offices, hardware stores, and more were all destroyed. 10,000 black people were left homeless, with 35 blocks being destroyed and over (what's valued today as) 33 million dollars of property being lost. 6,000 black residents were arrested.

What's sort of odd is that the white woman in the elevator left town after the massacre and left written instructions not to press charges against Rowland. Rowland's case was dismissed, and Rowland left town as well. To this day, historians have no idea what happened to these two after they left.

Still, segregation continued up until the 1960's and still largely impacts the way our society looks today. There continues to be many "white neighborhoods" and "black neighborhoods". Non-white citizens are likely to live in lower-income areas at a rate that

is disproportionate to the overall population. These areas are more inclined to have worse school systems and higher crime rates. It's important to highlight that America has been incredibly slow and bad about making progress. The institution of slavery didn't "die", it's just a cockroach that's had its head chopped off but continues to writhe around to this day.

So now that we've got all that background out of the way, let's return to one of the hot button issues that has been dominating headlines for a while now. Police brutality. Police brutality is not something that has a single solution. Frankly, there are a LOT of things that need to be fixed in our justice and societal system. The following list of thoughts applies to ALL races, because police brutality affects everyone. But as we've seen, U.S. history had led to black Americans being disproportionately represented in lower income and crime-ridden neighborhoods, which is makes this a race issue.

1. Nobody should be getting locked up if they're not an actual threat to society. For years, many people were arrested for marijuana convictions and now half the country is openly selling it. Everyone from the federal government to Wall Street is reaping the rewards. Meanwhile, there are still people in jail TODAY for holding or selling marijuana when it was illegal. People still get arrested for it in states where it's NOT legal.

Weed is just one example of a petty crime that was treated far worse than it ever should've been. There are many others. The U.S. has the HIGHEST incarceration rate in the world. At the same time, the fact that the prison system also has an entire built-in infrastructure to keep people in prison and profits off legal slave-labor from inmates is an entirely issue in and of itself that needs to be resolved.

When people get locked up, children grow up without parents. That can lead to lack of authority figures and/or financial struggles due to one or more of their parents being out of the picture, or even struggling to get jobs because of their past convictions. That can often lead to kids turning to the community around them. If the community around them involves gang activities, there's an increased chance of those kids becoming involved in violence and real crimes. Whether that be because they simply don't have some older figure informing them of the consequences, or because of necessity due to a lack of financial opportunities.

There's also something to be said about sexual education and the overall mind frame this country has when it comes to families. The fact that it's socially acceptable to have kids at 18 years old or younger and have multiple kids before getting a stable income or even a stable marriage leads to the same issues. There is a combination of people having kids who are not old enough to have the mental maturity needed to raise those kids, as well as people just making poor choices and not using protection. Then there are people just having kids because that's what you're "supposed to do" at a certain age. It's also problematic because people who are young often don't choose ideal partners when it comes to who they should commit to have a family with. Having kids at a young age gets in the way of building wealth, especially for those of us who don't have family to inherit wealth from.

2. Police should only be involved when it's necessary. Police shouldn't even be dealing with petty marijuana convictions, minor traffic offenses, etc. Those jobs should be reserved for a completely different group of law enforcement officers that don't have guns. They can have tasers, a nightstick, full body armor with the riot helmet for all I care. Whatever the fuck they need be safe. But they don't need the ability to murder someone with a finger. Hell, maybe even start police officers OFF in this unit without guns. If they prove that they can do their job efficiently for non-criminal activities, you can promote them to a position where they can have a gun and respond to more dangerous crimes with a much bigger salary.

There are simply lower-risk situations where it would make sense to have an unarmed division of police in their early years until they've proven themselves responsible enough to carry. Again, I'm not suggesting we take guns away from ALL police officers. I'm suggesting police with experience, who have proven themselves responsible, being allowed to carry guns in high-risk situations. Police without experience, who haven't proven themselves responsible, can do their jobs without guns in low-risk situations.

Note: it's not my job to speculate on what is or isn't a high-risk situation. That's something that data scientists and experts in those fields would need to determine mathematically. The same way the FDA assesses whether the risk of taking a drug is more beneficial than the risk of not taking it.

Any argument that states that police officers CAN'T do their job without guns is immediately dispelled by the fact that it's already been done in 19 countries.

Per Wikipedia:

In nineteen countries, the police do not carry firearms unless the situation is expected to merit it: Botswana, Cook Islands, Fiji, Iceland, Ireland, Kiribati, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland excepted), Vanuatu, U.S. Virgin Islands.

These countries exhibit gun-homicide rates markedly lower on average than countries with armed police forces. Their police forces commonly adopt a philosophy of policing by consent.

But also, police officers should be getting fat paychecks. It IS a difficult job. It should be a salary big enough to make people actually WANT to be police officers. More money tends to attract higher quality candidates.

Police officers are currently a catch-all for too many things. If there's an issue with someone who has a mental illness, we should send out a medical professional who is trained to deal with people who have mental illnesses. If someone is a user of drugs, they should be getting help from a rehabilitation facility. We rely on police officers for too many different tasks. Everyone benefits from more specialization.

3. Police officers shouldn't be knocking down doors to enter someone's home. That should only be something orchestrated by the FBI after a thorough amount of investigation and concrete evidence shows proof that a much larger infrastructure exists.

4. Police officers need to be held accountable in court. If someone commits murder, they should be charged for murder. There are certain scenarios where it's understandable that a police officer could "lose their training" if they feel their life is at stake. If shots are being fired, then it's reasonable for a police officer to fire back. I understand that if we use that mentality, it's statistically inevitable that someone will get shot who shouldn't have. But police officers are humans, too and deserve the right to live as well. However, there are far too many instances of people getting murdered due to excessive force or firearms in situations where they're not warranted. George Floyd, Michael Brown, Philando Castile, Walter Scott, Tamir Rice, etc. are all widely publicized examples of this. In all these cases, the police officers should be convicted of murder because they committed murder.

5. Bodycams are already in effect, but they should be mandatory for all police officers. If it doesn't already exist, there should be a department that routinely reviews bodycam footage, and officers should get consistent feedback on their interactions on how they respond to certain situations. This is most large corporations develop their employees. If the department sees an officer doing something that is even somewhat unnecessary, it should be pointed out and improved upon. If police officer A sees police officer B doing that unnecessary thing, they should talk to police officer A and tell them that it's their responsibility to communicate with their partner in the field and discourage that behavior. Everyone needs to be held accountable for preventing these things from happening, not just the individual.

6. If a police officer has even one incident where they do something reckless that clearly shows that they're not fit to police, even if it doesn't lead to someone dying, then they should lose the ability to work as a police officer. They can go flip burgers at McDonald's or something. Cut their salary and put them in the unit of police that aren't allowed any weapons. They can put down orange cones at traffic accidents. However, they shouldn't be allowed back into the field with a gun ever again. Many of the officers who have committed the high-profile murders had clear signs in their past showing that they were not fit to be police officers. Those murders could have been prevented if someone had stepped in and removed them sooner.

7. Race and implicit stereotypes are large factors. You can give people all the sensitivity training in the world, but racial attitudes in this country are so deeply ingrained that watching videos won't do much to fix it. We need more police officers who are minorities. We need police officers who actually live in the communities that they're protecting. One large issue is that *everyone* is willing to say, "We need more hispanic/black/female/etc. police officers" but there aren't nearly as many hispanic/black/female/etc. voices saying, "I want to be a police officer".

Be the change you want to see in the world.

We've established that everyone is inherently tribal. It's the reason why when we were kids, jocks hung out with jocks, goth kids hung out with goth kids, cheerleaders hung out with cheerleaders. Evolutionarily, it was beneficial for us to form our own communities, and outsiders to that community were often considered a threat to your resources.

There was even a time when people in the U.S. were racist toward Italian and Irish immigrants. Italian and Irish immigrants predominantly lived in high-population low-income areas which also bred gang activity and violence. But that kind of racism never stuck because it's incredibly difficult for a white person to look at an Irish or Italian person and know for a fact that they're Irish or Italian. That allowed Italian and Irish people who were NOT associated with gang violence to live their lives without being subjected to stereotypes from police officers and the rest of our society. Those stereotypes can lead to employer discrimination, rejection from society, and cops who believe that responding to a report involving a black male is more of a threat than responding to a report involving a white one.

Unfortunately, there are many other factors. Media depiction is a massive one that I've already addressed in a previous chapter. But solving all of these things takes work that most of us don't want to put in. A few things YOU can do as an ally is vote, participate in activist campaigns, donate to activist campaigns, and put money into buying products from local businesses with non-white owners.

Also, make more interracial babies. They're taller, more intelligent, and have increased lung capacity, which will be useful when they need to navigate through all the smoke caused by forest fires that inevitably become more frequent because their grandparents didn't believe climate change was an issue.

Protests and riots need organization, leadership, and a willingness to follow that leadership. Rioting and tearing shit down without coordination or clear objectives is never going to effectively improve anything. When looking at figures like Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, they were leaders who had polar opposite approaches with similar goals. Martin was the good cop and Malcolm was the bad cop. It was the presence of Malcolm X and militance of black nationalists that ALLOWED Martin to say, "Comply with the good cop, and you won't have to deal with the consequences of the bad cop".

Below is a shortened quote from Dr. King himself (read Letter from Birmingham Jail for the full quote):

The other force is one of bitterness and hatred and comes close to advocating violence. It is expressed in the various black nationalist groups that this movement is [fueled] by frustration over racial discrimination. [They are] people who have lost faith in America, who have repudiated Christianity, and have concluded that the white man is an incurable devil. I have tried to [tell them] there is a more excellent way, of love and

nonviolent protest. I'm grateful that, through the Negro church, nonviolence entered our struggle. If this philosophy had not emerged, I am convinced that by now many streets of the South would be flowing with floods of blood. I am convinced that if our white brothers dismiss us as "outside agitators", millions of Negroes, out of frustration and despair, will seek solace and security in black nationalist ideologies, a development that will lead to a frightening racial nightmare.

When discussing ANY form of progressive movement, there are many roles that need to be filled. Politicians, business owners, activists, consumers. There is a desperate need for great leaders, and it's important to have non-violence and peaceful protest. However, there's also a place for rioting and the threat of organized violence. But there is no benefit to unorganized violence that doesn't have a clear demand or suggestions for action. Making real changes in a broken system (whether that be regarding race, gender, sexuality, or any other movement) it requires explicitly saying **"If you don't meet our demands, we will have no choice but to act directly"** (whether that be through boycotting, political campaigns, or through violence).

COVID-19

I've had plans of writing this book for some time, but for a while I would just dabble with this book and write down random ideas and interesting discoveries as they occurred. I certainly didn't plan to have a section about COVID-19 (which I'll call COVID from here on out). But the pandemic was a major event, and there are some thoughts I wanted to include.

The first of which is that a global pandemic can absolutely happen again in your lifetime. There will inevitably be another pandemic eventually. Whether that be now, 100 years from now, or 200 years from now. It's not unpredictable, I'm predicting it now. Epidemics and pandemics happen all the time.

Secondly, when a global emergency happens, it's important to understand that people are fucking stupid. When the Bubonic Plague swept across Europe, Christians targeted Jews and accused them of poisoning the wells. Then they proceeded to murder thousands of Jews, many of which were burned alive. Any 21st century scientist could've said, "Hey, yeah that's not true, just take some fucking antibiotics and wash your ass, you'll be fine".

But at the time, Christians noticed that not as many Jews were being as affected by the plague (which is possibly because Jewish law requires washing your hands many times throughout the day). But to the Christians, it made PERFECT sense that it was all just an evil plot to poison the wells. The fact that fewer Jews were dying of it was EVIDENCE to that theory. Like I said, people are fucking stupid.

Which is why it's important that during a global crisis, we let the THOUSANDS of people who are EXPERTS in their respective fields determine the best course of action. It's also important to know WHO the experts are (pun intended?). Your primary care physician may be EXCELLENT at their job, yet still be completely unqualified to discuss ANYTHING about epidemiology. Being a doctor doesn't make you a pandemic expert. If the CDC says social distance and wear a mask, then social distance and wear a fucking mask. Then swallow 100 milligrams of Viagra because it's REALLY not that hard.

As of June 2021, Johns Hopkins reports that 3.9 million people have died from COVID globally. We've done this exercise before; Take a moment to picture yourself at Disney's Magic Kingdom. It's fucking crowded and the parking lot is littered with cars. People are overflowing in every gift shop and crowding every section of the park, from Frontierland and Adventureland to Main Street and Tomorrowland. Yet there's still ANOTHER sea of people that you have to wait behind for another hour or 2 for EVERY ride you want to go on. Now picture all of those people dead, with nothing but cadavers littered around the castle. Magic Kingdom gets on average, 57,500 guests per day, so 3.8 million dead people is another 65 Magic Kingdom's full of corpses. But hey, at least you can get on the 7 dwarves roller coaster in less than 30 seconds if you can just figure out how to operate the damn thing on your own.

The twin towers filled to the same capacity as they were on 9/11 would each need to get hit by planes and collapse EVERY single day, 365 days of the year, for about 3 1/2 years in a row to reach 3.9 million.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation reports that those numbers are underreported in almost every country and believe that the actual number of people killed by COVID is 6.9 million. So, throw in another 66 Magic Kingdoms. I only stress this because people are really bad at visualizing the actual body count when they see numbers. I can say "1,000 people died", but most people would feel a lot differently if they physically SAW 1,000 people being carried out one by one and stored in the trailer of a refrigerated truck. If you REALLY want something concrete, you should empty out all the contents of a 1,000-piece puzzle onto your coffee table. You'll be quick to learn how bad your perception of even a number as small as 1,000 is.

And there's more evidence to support the idea that COVID deaths have been underreported. Per the CDC 2,854,838 Americans died in 2019. The CDC also reported that in 2020 approximately 3,358,814 Americans died. That means 503,976 more people died in 2020 than people who died 2019. The CDC reported that in 2020 COVID was responsible 343,323 deaths which means there's an excess of about 160,653 deaths that were never accounted for.

Still, maybe there's a rational explanation for those deaths. Obviously, population is constantly growing. You should always expect SOME increase in deaths each year. Many people lost their jobs or worked remotely, which meant people were driving less throughout the pandemic. I would expect that to mean less car accidents and less deaths from car accidents. But despite the fact that people drove less during the pandemic, the number of car accidents actually INCREASED by 8% from 2019. One might expect that the pandemic would cause an increase in suicide rates. But the number of suicides actually went DOWN compared to 2019. Overall, I'm not going to speculate WHY these are the case, but they're evidence that human intuition isn't always correct. That's why data is important and should guide our decision-making.

But regardless of the origins of COVID, the number of zoonotic diseases (diseases transmitted from animals to humans) has been increasing over time. Scientists knew this BEFORE COVID. Humanity continues to cut down forests across the earth as we move into those locations. One example is in West Africa, where there used to be a forest covering the location where the countries of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone meet. Civil Wars caused hundreds of thousands of people to leave their homes in hopes of getting away from those wars. Those villagers fled into that forest and cut down most of those trees to make a life there. Keep in mind, this area that they cut down is also where many wild bats were already living.

Researchers believe that an 18-month-old boy from this area who died after being infected by bats was the first case of the 2014 - 2016 Ebola outbreak. Per the CDC, "The Ebola virus soon spread to Guinea's capital city of Conakry, on March 13, 2014." By March 23, 2014, there were 49 confirmed cases and 29 deaths. Over the duration of the epidemic, EVD spread to seven more countries: Italy, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

A virus like Ebola that causes severe symptoms and often kills the host before they can spread the virus to others is less deadly on a global scale than something like COVID. COVID has shown that people will continue doing everyday tasks while having symptoms and elect not to do basic things that prevent spreading e.g., wearing masks or getting a vaccine. Viruses are just another game of probabilities. I think it's safe to say that people are more afraid getting Ebola, a virus that kills 40% of its hosts, than they are of getting COVID, a virus that kills about 2% of its hosts. And that part of why Ebola killed 11,323 people and COVID killed over 4 million.

There has been an increase of deforestation and humans moving into areas where there are species that host pathogens that can be dangerous to humans (Bats, flies, etc.) It's really not that hard of a concept to understand. If you go out into the woods, there's a much higher probability of you getting bit by a tick and getting Lyme disease than there is if you don't go out in the woods. The same idea applies to contracting a Zoonotic virus like COVID or Ebola. The only difference is that Lyme disease isn't contagious, and you're not gonna spread it to everyone in your family.

When it all comes down to it, everything is about math and PROBABILITY. If 1,000 people go out into the woods, there's a higher probability that at least ONE of them well get bitten by a tick than there is if only 10 people go out into the woods.

And it's a double whammy because the more people that exist on the planet, and the more crowded our cities are, the more likely these viruses are to spread from human to human. Having an overpopulated world when a viral outbreak happens is like sitting a pool full of water when lightning is striking.

COVID was always going to kill however many people it was going to kill, because humans really didn't do a great job of stopping the spread of the virus. People reacted EXACTLY how they would've reacted if the virus was twice as fatal. It's like we KNEW that there was a criminal with a weapon; We didn't know what kind of weapon it was, but we chose to go in without a Kevlar because we felt "pretty confident" that the shooter had a BB gun. When COVID first hit, the only thing we knew was "There's some new shit out there, and it's bad". That was the only thing we had to inform our decisions. If the day ever comes that there's a pandemic capable of making the entire human race go extinct, that's all the only thing THEY will have inform THEIR decisions. And looking at our decisions, we made many extraordinarily bad choices.

And don't get me wrong, it's not that people didn't take it seriously. At first, people actually took COVID VERY seriously. Hence all the people flocking to grocery and gun stores to buy up a ridiculous amount of the supply of ammunition, toilet paper, bleach, and hand sanitizer. It's not that people didn't take it seriously, it's simply that they have no idea what the fuck to do and their actions end up being more harmful than helpful. People literally bought up latex gloves in by the dozens to the point where doctors and nurses working directly with COVID patients (and therefore the ones most likely to be infected by COVID) ran the fuck out of supplies. What the pandemic taught me more than anything is that people are just INCREDIBLY bad when it comes to thinking about the best way to survive.

And COVID isn't the only example of this. The colonial gas pipeline was hacked in 2021. The news reported on it and people started flocking to gas stations. Then the news reported ABOUT people flocking gas stations, which caused MORE people to flock to gas stations. The result was that gas stations that WEREN'T EVEN SERVED by the colonial gas pipeline had a gas shortage because people manufactured their own gas shortage.

Let's just PRETEND that a Zombie Apocalypse happened. To start with, we'll say that there's one infected city near you that has 20,000 Zombies. What COVID showed is that the VERY first thing everyone would do in a Zombie apocalypse is freak the fuck out and rush to the gun stores to buy up their own lifetime supply of guns and ammunition. Cool.

Let's say that you're ONE of the lucky 674 million or so people who got your lifetime supply of ammunition, because you're a PREPPER and you don't take shit from no one. But guns are sold out EVERYWHERE, which means the other 7 billion people on earth don't HAVE guns to defend themselves against the zombies. Why? Because you and the other 674 million hoarders bought way more than you need. But who gives a fuck about the people who didn't act fast enough? FUCKING DARWIN BITCH, SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST. FIGURE OUT WHY DONTCHA.

That's fine. Those 20,000 Zombies are gonna go out there and do what the fuck Zombies do. So, let's say EVERY zombie on average infects 2 people per day. That means tomorrow there's going to be 40,000 zombies.

Day 1: 20,000 zombies
Day 2: 40,000 zombies
Day 3: 80,000 zombies
Day 4: 160,000 zombies.
Day 5: 320,000 zombies.
Day 6: 640,000 zombies
Day 7: 1.28 million zombies
Day 8: 2.56 million zombies
Day 9: 5.12 million zombies
Day 10: 10.24 million zombies
Day 11: 20.48 million zombies
Day 12: 40.96 million zombies
Day 13: 81.92 million zombies
Day 14: 163.84 million zombies
Day 15: 327.68 million zombies
Day 16: 655.36 million zombies
Day 17: 1.31 billion zombies
Day 18: 2.621 billion zombies

Day 19: 5.243 billion zombies
Day 20: 7 billion zombies

20 days. That's how long you have before every single human on earth is a zombie. It doesn't matter how many cans of soup or how many shotgun shells you have stockpiled in your basement. If you've somehow managed to live for 20 days, you're not going to live for much longer because the sheer number of zombies just makes statistically impossible for you to defend yourself for much longer. They're fucking hungry, and it is statistically inevitable that one of them will find you and make you food eventually.

And if you had paid the fuck attention in math class you would understand exponential functions well enough to know why on Day 15, only **4.68%** of the earth's population was infected by zombies, yet 5 days later it was the entire fucking world.

You would've had a BETTER probability of survival if you had worked together with other people to ensure EVERYONE had guns. That way, you'd have as many people as possible equipped to defend themselves against the zombies. It's a hell of a lot easier for 7.6 billion people cooperating with each other to take out 20,000 zombies than it is for YOU and the other 764 million people all acting in your own self-interest to try to take out 7 billion zombies.

Look, this is just a fun little example to think about. I clearly don't believe in Zombies. I also assume that zombies can't really fly around the world infecting each other, which limits their spread to areas that they can walk to. If you get to an island, you're safe. Unless they can swim. But viruses are real, and people can fly wherever the fuck they want and infect whoever they want, which lets viruses spread in a way that zombies can't.

In a way, this is all an extension of the economic idea that people should do what's best for the group rather than act in their own self-interest. This directly impacts the economy because millions of people dying substantially reduces the supply of labor.

There's something about human survival instincts that really aren't prepared to handle long term disasters. I've lived in both Florida and Alabama, and if there was a category 5 hurricane coming, most people in those areas have been through the drill enough to know how to handle that situation. There's some semblance of panic buying, but people have seen this situation enough to feel confident that they'll be able to find water somewhere. It's not as excessive as panic buying is during an unexpected emergency. More importantly, if people know that all they have to do is sit inside their house and stick it out, there might be one or 2 assholes who drown because they wanted to surf at the beach, but the vast majority of the population will either evacuate the area or stay inside their home until it's over.

Many people get an adrenaline rush, which triggers the fight or flight response. This may even happen many times throughout the night, but at the end of the day, the fear

they have is relatively short term. If a hurricane came that lasted for 6 months, and they had all the supplies to stick it out and stay home for 6 months, I'd argue that most people would cave and start going outside before month 2. People are much worse at doing the things necessary to avoid a slow and boring death than they are at avoiding one that happens quickly.

Some people don't want the government to tell them that they need to wear masks, and frankly, I agree. I would prefer less government intervention and more freedom for people. It'd be great if we could rely on people to be courteous and have consideration for others. But the reality is that COVID has shown that many people are unable to do that. I'm sure most teenagers want more freedom when their parents tell them they can't stay out past 9 pm, but if they're constantly vandalizing shit and putting others at risk every time they stay out past 9, then it's the parent's job to enforce that curfew. If you can't be the responsible adult in this scenario, then the government has to be.

People outraged by masks are people that are perfectly capable of putting on socks, underwear, pants, and a shirt each day. And it's truly for everyone's benefit because those are often the last people you want to see naked. Yet somehow those people viewed wearing a mask for the better of a society as more of inconvenience than the things that they're used to doing every day.

The thing that stuck with me the most about economics is that I look at a lot of things as tradeoffs. Wearing a mask comes at a price. Not wearing a mask comes at a price. The price of having to wear a mask is the inconvenience of having to put something over your face. Maybe it also makes it a little bit harder to communicate with people. But overall, it's a very low cost.

The price of not wearing a mask is potentially infecting yourself and spreading the virus to others, which perpetuates the spread, which makes you one part of a long chain of infections that will possibly kill someone somewhere.

When rationally weighing the costs of wearing a mask versus not wearing one, it really just isn't even an interesting debate, because the cost of wearing a mask is practically nothing. You can breathe fine. The only people who genuinely have breathing problems that would make it a huge inconvenience to wear a mask are people that genuinely have breathing problems that would hospitalize or kill them if they were to catch COVID. In this scenario, the mask is still the better option.

Let's just forget about COVID for a moment. Let's also pretend that police don't exist. If you got a random phone call from a criminal and they said, "I have a hostage here, and I'm going to kill them. The only way you can save their life and stop me from killing them is if you wear a hat everywhere you go in public for a year". You hear some screams in the background, so you can't prove that it's NOT all staged, but at the very least it sounds somewhat believable.

It's just some really weird thing that they're asking you to do. It doesn't really matter WHY they want you to wear a hat. And you have no way of tracing where they came from, so you can't be the alpha superhero you think you are and take out the villain. And since there's no police, there are no authorities to contact.

If this criminal, that you can't identify, was threatening to kill this person, that you don't know, and said, "Give me all the money in your bank account or I'm going to kill them" then that's honestly a difficult decision to make. If you don't give them all your money, someone might die, which is a high cost. But giving someone all the money in your bank account is a high cost, too.

But if all they asked you to do was wear a HAT for a year, it's an incredibly simple thing to do that comes at practically no cost at all. All you really lose is your "freedom" to not wear a hat. So, would you wear a hat everywhere you go for a year to POSSIBLY save the life of ONE PERSON who you don't know, and someone who, frankly, you can't even prove exists in the first place? What if instead, the criminal was a suicide bomber threatening to kill 100 people? What if it was 3.9 million people?

Psychologically, it's weird how inconsistent human empathy is. Let's say I tell you about a kid who's living in Madagascar and doesn't have any food. I ask you to give me $75 to help feed them for a year. Eh, maybe you say yes or maybe you say no. Maybe you think $75 is too much for me to ask for charity and tell me to fuck off.

But if that same tiny toddler showed up on your doorstep, their height no higher than your hip, looking emaciated with torn and tattered rags of clothing and with tears welling up in their eyes as they weakly mumble "PLEASE, I'm starving and if you give me $75, I can survive for another year".

Eh, maybe you tell the kid to fuck off, too. But statistically, more people are likely to respond and donate money in the second scenario. But honestly, it was always the SAME scenario as the first. Sure, I used some more adjectives and buzzwords to trigger your emotions, but rationally speaking your decision to donate should probably be the same regardless. But actually visualizing what's going on changes your thought process, which is why Sarah McLachlan videos are so fucking depressing.

Fun fact: in Madagascar you can buy about 50 small onions with $3. That means for $75 you can buy about 1250 onions which is roughly enough for 3.4 onions a day every day for a year. So technically a child could eat for a year off only $75, but that kid's gonna have some rank as fuck breath.

If another pandemic happens in our lifetime, it's fairly important to understand how testing statistics work. Far too many people don't understand this concept, and it CAN actually be pretty counterintuitive.

Let's say you took a COVID test, and they said, "There's a 5% chance you'll get a false positive" (meaning there's a 5% chance that the test will TELL you that you have

COVID even though you DON'T). However, if you actually have COVID then it will accurately tell you that you have COVID 100% of the time.

You MIGHT be inclined to think "Okay, so if the test TELLS me that I have COVID and there's a 5% chance of a false positive, then there's a 95% chance that I actually have COVID". That's wrong.

And to better explain that idea, here's a picture
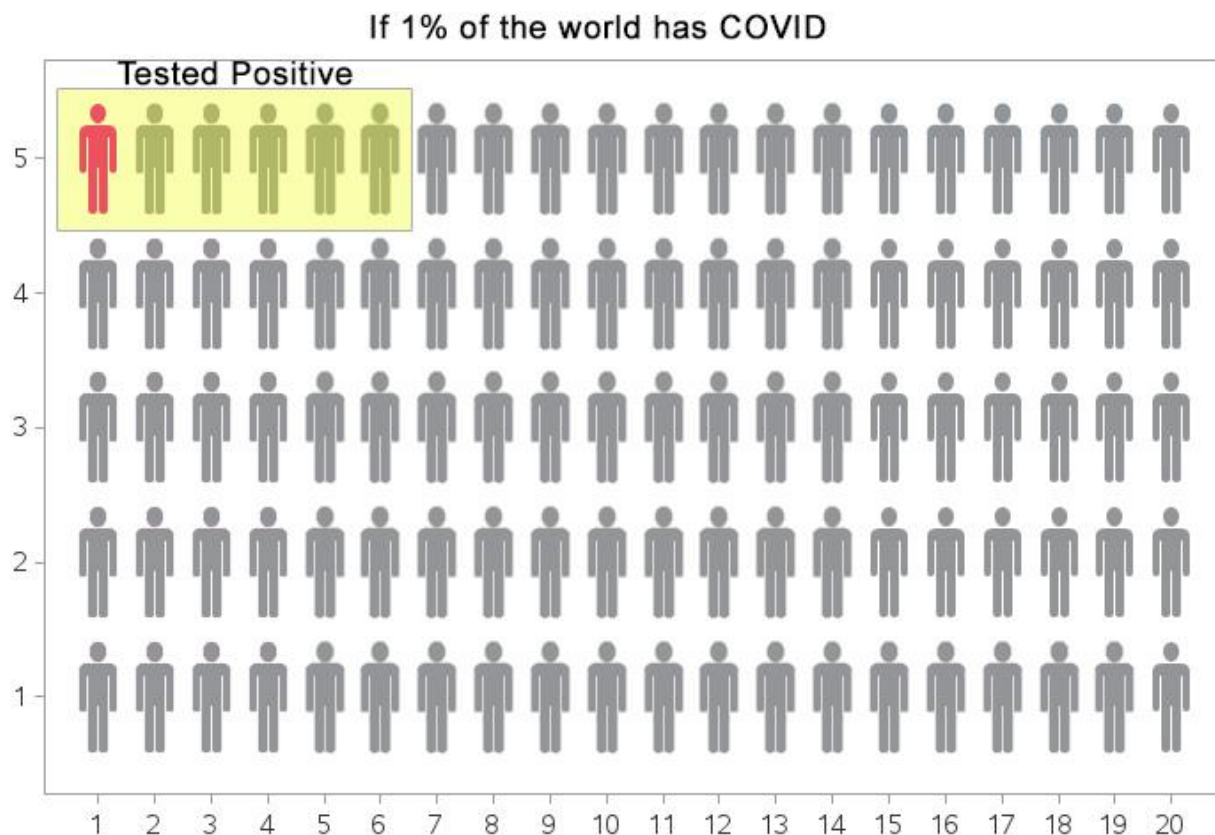
Let's just simplify and imagine that this picture represents the ENTIRE world population. That means that there's only ONE person in the world who has COVID but EVERYONE in the picture decides to get a COVID test. Having a 5% false positive rate means that about 5 of those 100 people will be told by the test, "You have COVID" even though they don't. 1 person will be told that they have COVID, and they WILL actually have COVID.

So, if you're ONE of those 6 people who gets a COVID test that comes back positive, what are the chances you have COVID? It should hopefully be obvious from the picture above that the chances are 1/6. That means there's a 16.7% chance you have COVID. That is much, MUCH lower than if you thought there was a 95% chance that you'd get COVID.

But there are also MANY other factors to consider. For example, if you work in a hospital directly with COVID patients you're probably more likely to have been exposed

to the virus. If you're showing symptoms, the probability that you're actually sick may also be higher, but you can easily have symptoms from something else. Regardless, this concept is called Baye's Theorem, and I highly recommend checking out videos from 3Blue1Brown on YouTube who does a fantastic job of explaining it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZGCoVF3YvM

But it's also a good thing to be aware of OUTSIDE of a pandemic. Let's say you're on a Jury where someone is in a court battle with their former boss. For whatever reason you have to determine whether or not the employee is guilty of committing a crime. Knowing that, the most convincing evidence is that there's a positive result on the employee's drug test. It's important to know what the rate of false positives and negatives ARE for that evidence, and more importantly what they really mean. Otherwise, the jury might think there's a 95% chance that the employee was doing drugs. In actuality, that chance MAY be a 20% or lower.

3Blue1Brown also has another great video called "Simulating an epidemic" that I strongly encourage checking out. To really simplify, it illustrates that as long as humans have a communal spot that they all travel to and interact at (e.g., grocery stores, schools, or that strip club you go to when your spouse is at the grocery store and your kid is at school), then it's inevitable that the entire population will eventually get infected with the virus at some point.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxAaO2rsdIs

Of course, the rate that everyone gets infected is determined by human behavior and the contagiousness of the virus. If people use methods like social distancing to slow the spread of the virus, it can buy the scientists more time to develop a vaccine and fewer people have to die. Still, that depends on people being willing to take the vaccine in the first place.

The logical next topic of discussion is fucking vaccinations. If you're antivax as a whole (meaning you're against the flu, rubella, polio, etc. basically any vaccine that has years of data and research backing it up), well first off, congratulations. Somehow you have miraculously managed to print a copy of this book onto your large intestine and read over 150 pages of it with your head up your ass. Secondly, I'm fairly certain that there's nothing I can say that persuades you to see a different perspective, so now's a good time for you to take a potty break. Don't forget to wipe the shit off your nose.

However, if your vaccine concerns only have to do with the COVID vaccine (or in the case of a future pandemic, whatever the "new" vaccine is), I actually don't think that having those concerns are entirely unreasonable. When the vaccine came out, plenty of people posted videos or reports of someone dying or having an adverse reaction to the vaccine. That seems like a good reason NOT take the vaccine. In fact, one example is the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which got paused when there were 6 cases of women experiencing blood clots as a reaction to the vaccine.

I'm not claiming that there WAS a correlation, nor am I claiming that there WASN'T a correlation there. I know just enough about basic statistics to know that someone somewhere did the math for how often this TYPE of blood clotting is expected to occur in women of the age that it occurred to, and mathematically found that these 6 cases were an unusual result in that population. Otherwise they wouldn't have paused production. But rationally speaking, there were over 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine distributed. The fact that there were 6 cases out of 6.8 million that triggered a halt of the ENTIRE production of that vaccine SHOULD be a sign that things are working exactly how they SHOULD be working.

And the fact is, you CAN'T guarantee that things are working exactly how they should be working. I think it's perfectly reasonable to think that the governments and manufacturers of vaccines have a financial incentive to rush a vaccine into production. This could cause them to cut corners that could intentionally or unintentionally cost lives. When a brand-new vaccine comes out, I think you absolutely SHOULD be somewhat skeptical and question the legitimacy of it. Literally one of the first things I mentioned in this book is how science is MEANT to be questioned.

There is always going to be a possibility for corruption. Especially when money and politics are involved. Years before the vaccine, Pfizer was involved in a 2.3-billion-dollar settlement for fraudulent marketing. At the very least, that's evidence that Pfizer is not above unethical behavior. To be clear, this lawsuit was because Pfizer's "Bextra" was approved by the FDA to be used as pain relief for arthritis. However, Pfizer attempted to also market it for uses that were not approved by the FDA, such as pain relief after a knee-replacement surgery. This is what led to the lawsuit.

However, trying to cut off all science and medicine and saying "I'm never gonna take the vaccine" is not a rational solution. Nor is the solution to just accept everything you're told blindly without any form of skepticism or research. On some level, it's the responsibility of the science and medical communities to be incredibly transparent to everyone else about the data. People need clear communication and direction from the experts. It's times like this when we most need credible and intelligent news sources, but not many of those exist.

For the record, the numbers I'm about to use pertain to the American population because it is easier for me to find this information as opposed to finding global data. These same principles apply regardless of which country you live in.

People need to understand that the choice to take the vaccine is NOT a tradeoff of "Should I get the vaccine" versus "Should I be completely healthy". It's a tradeoff of "Should I get the vaccine" versus "Should I get COVID". You're required to choose one or the other, "Neither" is just not an option.

As of June 2021, Johns Hopkins reports there have been 33.5 million reported cases of COVID along with 602,000 deaths. I'm going to be VERY nice to people who are

skeptics about the vaccine and pretend that the number of cases of COVID are underreported (which I do believe they are) and pretend that there have actually been 50 million cases of COVID in the country (which is much higher than the 33.8 million that Hopkins reports). Plenty of people may get COVID and just not report it.

I also believe that there have been more than 602,000 deaths due to COVID but AGAIN I'll be nice to people who are skeptics and pretend that it's only 602,000.

So, in this sort of simulated world (which is more based on fiction than data) there are 600,000 people who have died from COVID and 50 million people who have contracted COVID. That means there is a 1.2% chance that you will die if you get COVID.

At the same time, there have been 319 million vaccines administered worldwide. There are 150 million people who are fully vaccinated. Once again, giving skeptics the advantage, I'm going to only focus on the 150 million people who have been FULLY vaccinated. VAERS, the system for reporting data related to the vaccine has received 5,343 reports of a death after a vaccine.

To be very clear, that's NOT 5,343 deaths CAUSED by a vaccine. This is just saying that there are 5,343 who have gotten a vaccine, and at some point in the near future, died. But, ONCE AGAIN if you're a skeptic, I'm willing to give you ALL the rope in the world here. Let's pretend that all 5,343 deaths were CAUSED by the vaccine.

That means your chance of dying from the vaccine 0.003562**%**

So, to reiterate, your options are either COVID or the Vaccine. Your options for your grandmother are COVID or the vaccine. We don't live in a magical world where COVID doesn't exist, and you don't have to choose. If THAT were the case, then clearly, it's a better choice not to take the vaccine.

But COVID does exist, and you have a 1.2% of dying from it
The vaccine also exists, and you have a 0.003562% chance of dying from it

That means you are about 337 times more likely to die from COVID than you are from the vaccine.

And that is AFTER I've given vaccine skeptics ALL kinds of advantages in the numbers. If I were to look at the 319 million vaccines administered in the country rather than only the 150 million people who are FULLY vaccinated, which frankly makes a lot more sense, you are 716 times more likely to die from COVID than you are from the vaccine.

Covid may have long-term effects. Hell, the vaccine may have long term effects. But the reality is that there is plenty of scientific data that shows that if vaccines have ANY severe consequences, they generally occur within 2 months.

"Long-term" is also just an ambiguous phrase. Is 58 years long-term enough? The measles vaccine wasn't created until 1963. In other words, if you got the measles vaccine when you were a baby, nobody has ANY idea what the fuck will happen once you turn 60 years old but that's a pretty ridiculous way to look at it.

tl;dr get the vaccine.

Misc.

I'll be honest. I wrote this section because I put together several random ideas. Some of which I thought were cool, and some of it's just stuff I think you should think about. However, I couldn't figure out an appropriate way to integrate them into any of the previous chapters.

Sticking with the binary gender spectrum here. Let's say I tell you "I have 2 kids, and one of them is a boy."

What's the probability that the other one is a girl?

If you say it's 50/50, you're wrong. There's actually a 66% chance that it's a girl. The reason for that is because I didn't tell you anything about the order in which they were born.

If I had 2 kids, there are a total of 4 possibilities:

Possibility	First Child	Second Child
1	Boy	Girl
2	Boy	Boy
3	Girl	Boy
(Ruled Out)	~~Girl~~	~~Girl~~

I've already told you that one of my kids is a boy, so the possibility of Girl/Girl is ruled out. That leaves 3 possibilities left, and in 2 of those possibilities I have some combination of Boy/Girl. Hence, the probability of it being one of those is 2/3

But if I told you my OLDEST child was a boy, then that would rule out possibility 3, where my first child was a girl and my second child was a boy. Only THEN would be 50/50.

It's a little confusing, but it's really more of a language thing than a math thing.

When it comes spatial organization humans really don't utilize vertical space very often. If you're running out of room for your items, stack things on top of each other. The world is constantly getting more populated, and when interstates and parking lots get

crowded, it seems inevitable that we're going to have to resolve that with more parking garages and bridges.

The first step of innovation is having the awareness to identify a problem. You could go to any restaurant in the 90's and see a bunch of idiots like me banging on their ketchup bottles to try to get it out. People even went as far as coming up with elaborate MacGuyver solutions like poking it with a knife. It really doesn't take a fucking genius to say, "Hey, this would be a lot easier if we just turn this shit upside down". Paul Brown invented the upside-down ketchup bottle and made 13 million dollars. Of course, there's more to it than just turning the shit upside down. It took him over 111 prototypes before he could create a valve that would allow you to dispense ketchup without making a mess, and of course none of that means anything if you don't patent your work.

I would really like to see our society give up on glorifying celebrities and historical figures. Start just appreciating the people that we live with now. Even in the education system, focusing our studies on the OG's of arts like Shakespeare, Robert Frost, Beethoven etc. is great if the goal is to reflect on what was going on at the time and the way that they created art. However, it doesn't foster an "I can do this" mentality from students or give any opportunities to modern artists because those positions in history are well established and irreplaceable.

Mark Landis is an artist who created art forgeries and then pretended to be a wealthy donator who was donating those artworks to museums. By doing this he's been able to scam museums into displaying about half a million dollars' worth of his art. One of his motivations was to prove that he's just as good as Vermeer. Yet despite this, by his own admission, he's never been able to sell a painting for more than $800. If Shakespeare were born 2021, there's a high probability he'd just be some indie filmmaker in Seattle who nobody gives a shit about.

Infinity is a mindfuck. The infinite monkey theorem is a fun thing to think about. The idea is that if you got a monkey and gave the monkey a typewriter, then let the monkey just randomly hit keys on the typewriter for an infinite amount of time, it would eventually type every play written by Shakespeare ever. Assuming that the time is truly infinite, and the typing is truly random, it would reproduce every written work that has ever been created or written ever, including this comment in typing now. So not only would a monkey at some point eventually type every single Harry Potter book verbatim, but it would also write all 7 Harry books back-to-back in order. The only real restriction is whether the monkey is bounded by something that would make the task impossible. Like for example, if there was a broken "e" on the keyboard. But the monkey would still write "Gadsby", which is a 50,000-word novel that never uses the letter "e" (the most common letter in English). In essence anything that's even remotely possible, no matter how improbable, will eventually happen (but again this requires a truly infinite amount of

time. You and I would be dead long before we ever see anything interesting occur).

The total amount of integers between negative infinity all the way to positive infinity

(e.g., -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3… etc.)

is actually the SAME as the amount of numbers you would get if you started from 0 and count all the way to infinity.

(0, 1, 2, 3… etc.).

Even weirder is that there are MORE rational numbers (0.1, 0.01, 0.001 etc.) between 0 and 1 than there are integers between negative infinity and positive infinity.

Despite how hard math seems, a vast majority of it just boils down to an increasingly complex versions of addition or subtraction.

For example, 3 * 2 just means I'm adding together three twos (e.g., 2 + 2 + 2)

3^2 just means I'm doing multiplication of 3 * 3 which is 3 + 3 + 3

$\frac{9}{3}$ is just asking "How many times can I subtract 3 from 9 before I reach 0"

(9 − 3 − 3 − 3 = 0) so the answer is 3.

Logarithms are just how many times you would recursively do a division before it reaches 1. For example, you could use a function f(x) = x / b

where b is the base

For example, $\log_2 8$

f(8) => 8/2 = 4

f(4) => 4/2 = 2

f(2) => 2/2 = 1

3 recursions completed. Note that the log base is just the factor that we're continually dividing by. *(If you didn't understand this one, don't worry about it. It's just repeated division which, as I mentioned, is subtraction)*

I'm a fan of rap battling. In 2009ish, there was a rap battling league called Grind Time, which marked the first time that rap battles made a real online impact and started getting well over 10,000 views. Relative to the overall rap battling scene, Grind Time didn't last very long. It died and disappeared pretty quickly. But it did spark an explosion of popularity in the rap battling scene, and now it's not uncommon to see battles get millions of views on platforms like KOTD and Smack/URL (which was still around before 2009 but was more of a local-DVD thing).

I looked at the top 75 viewed rap battlers and found that about 52, or 70% of them had established themselves around 2009 and 2010 either through GrindTime or a similar platform. In other words, over 10 years later, 70% of the "top" battlers are all people who got their foot in the door when the rap battling scene first took off.

This is particularly interesting to me because before the rap battling scene got big, there was really only about 200 or so people doing it. Once the scene got bigger it grew from about 200 battlers to THOUSANDS of battlers. Versetracker lists over 23,000 battlers.

When there were only a couple hundred battlers, it makes sense that a handful of them are pretty good out of a couple hundred. But once the scene grows to the point that there are over 20,000 brand new battlers, you would expect that you would see a LOT of new talent emerging and getting popular. Statistically speaking, it's more likely that the top 10 most talented battlers ever are going to be in that group of 20,000 people rather than the top 10 most talented battlers being in that group of 200. Yet somehow only about 23 people from those 20,000 people made a significant impact.

There are some interesting parallels between that and the early stages of any kind of "free market competition". For example, the internet is much, much bigger now than it was in the 90's and early 00's and there are certainly more websites and programmers now than there were back then. Not to mention, programming is more powerful and easy to do now than it's ever been. However, a LOT of the biggest companies today are those that got their foot in the door early. Per Wikipedia, 64% of the top 50 internet companies were founded on or before 2005.

You could also use this sort of lens to look at all the emerging competitors in the cryptocurrency market.

Let me just stop you here to say, my methodology here is AWFUL and I know it is. That's why this comment is just some random shower thought at the end of a stupid joke book and not an article in a scientific journal. I mean, in the context of rap battles I'm looking at people with the most views, so of COURSE a battler who's been around a long time has had a lot of battles and earned a lot of views. However, I've seen more evidence of this pattern to feel that the point still stands (which is NOT good reasoning, intuition is wrong all the time).

But still, I believe these people and companies are all able to establish and brand themselves early, and that makes it more difficult for upcoming competitors to get into the scene. Especially when people see all kinds of competition and it becomes more about speculation over the brand than the substance being offered. Or hey, maybe I'm just making up sorry ass excuses to try to justify why nobody ever watched my rap battles.

It's hilarious to see American news outlets freaking out when there's a job shortage and then simultaneously opposing immigration. If American citizens aren't accepting a job at McDonald's for a rate of $8 an hour, it's because they know they have a better opportunity somewhere else. They clearly don't need the job desperately enough to

accept a wage at the rate that's being offered. If employers need labor, maybe stop trying to build a wall designed to keep out the people who are coming to the country seeking employment and the opportunity to make a life for themselves the same way immigrants have done for hundreds of years.