I’m curious, did you have a nickname when you were a kid?

Yes. When I was a kid, I was called Sue or Susie Q.

Susie Q.

Susie Q. And sometimes they would just shorten it to Q. So some people, some aunts and uncles of mine, called me Q.

Interesting.

Isn’t it funny?

Many people who have your name or maybe their name’s Susan or just Sue, for some reason it’s common to give them the nickname Susie Q. And I have no idea why we call people named Sue Susie Q. Do you have any idea?

Well it’s an interesting question, Andrew. But a little research revealed that Susie Q was actually a dance that was introduced in 1936. So it was popular way back in the day and it came from a famous dance club called The Cotton Club in New York City. And it’s a dance of African American origin.

So your nickname is originally a dance? That’s so cool!

Yeah. That’s pretty cool because actually I was a dancer as a kid so that makes a lot of sense.

Very fitting.

Yeah. And how about you, Andrew? What was your nickname as a kid?

Well, my nickname wasn’t as cool as yours. Actually it made me a little sad. Because…

Oh no!

When I was a kid I had very big ears and I still think that I have big ears. Well, some people say I just have a small head and my ears are regular size. I don’t know which is true.

I have never noticed. I wouldn’t never look at you, Andrew, and think “Oh that guy’s got big ears”.

Well, some of my friends did when I was younger and they would call me Dumbo.

Oh my gosh! Now, for our listeners, maybe explain what Dumbo is.

Right, so Dumbo is the name of a Disney movie that also is pretty old, probably from the 50s or 60s and it was about an elephant with very big ears, Dumbo the elephant. So because I also had big ears, they would call me Dumbo.

Just like the elephant.

Just like the elephant, yeah.

But Dumbo also, those big ears allowed him to fly, right?

It’s true, yeah. He’d also fly. Something I was never able to do with my ears.

Well I guess I meant that they became an asset for Dumbo so…

It’s very true, so there’s a good aspect to the story.

Yea, you’re a good listener.

There we go.

Ok let’s bring it up to the modern time, these days.

Ok.

Do people still call you Q?

No, they don’t. In college, I was called Sue Bee, Sue Bee like the honey. There is a brand of honey that you could put in your tea. It’s a sweetener. And the bottle is the shape of a bear and it’s called Sue Bee honey. And this was a nickname at university, at one point people shortened that to Bee, just to Bee. [Ok]. Every time I get a nickname they drop off the Sue and they go for the other one. So a lot of my old college friends will still call me “Hey, Bee!” even though I don’t have a bee in my name at all. And then a more recent one, I was doing a show with one of my best friends in New York and our group name was Sueki and the DJ.

Sueki and the DJ?

Yea, and I was Sueki.

Ok

Because some people called me Sueki, that was a nickname and then it shortened that to SueK.

SueK.

SueK. So people would say “Hey, SueK!”. That’s weird!

Suzanne, you have some very complicated nicknames.

Right? They’re weird! They’re very weird!

All of them have two stages.

Yeah.

I guess your friends are really lazy. And they wanna make it as easy as possible to call you something.

I don’t know. I find it endearing because I feel like it becomes a slang word. You know how when we speak, instead of saying “Oh yeah totally, totally, I know what you mean”, sometimes I’ll say “yeah tots, tots”. It’s like it becomes part of the vernacular, part of the everyday vocabulary so I find it ok.

I like it. I think both of those are good nicknames.

Thanks. Yeah. They’re fun. And what about yours? More current nicknames?

Yes. So my nicknames now are more variations of my name because well, my name is Andrew, two syllables, Andrew. But it’s easier to just cut this into one syllable I think. So most of my family calls me Drew. Just Drew.

Ok. That’s cool.

Actually to be honest, when I was an elementary school student, I was called Drew sometimes also because Andrew is a very popular name and there were two Andrews in my class. Another student also had the same name. So he was Andrew and I was Drew. This is how we would distinguish ourselves.

Nice.

My family calls me Drew but a lot of my friends call me Andy. From Andy, some of my friends, some of my close friends, you can push the bottoms of your close friends and get away with it, right? Maybe you can’t do that to acquaintances or people you don’t know well but your closest friends you can tease them a bit. So some of my closest friends call me Blandy.

No way!

They mix the two words together, Bland and Andy.

Why would they say that about you?

I think they know I want to be a funny person and if I’m acting kind of boring, they can call me Blandy.

It’s really funny. Just because it’s a funny word, you know.

So occasionally I get called this and it always makes me laugh and try to be an entertaining and funny person all the time.

Well I think you’re entertaining.

Awesome! Thank you. I appreciate it. Before we finish, Suzanne, I just wanted to talk quickly about a very common nicknaming pattern that you’ll hear Canadians use a lot, especially hockey players. If you watch a hockey game, after the game, they always do interviews with the players and the other hockey players never call somebody by their name. For example, if the hockey player’s name is Justin, the other players will always call him Justy. They’ll cut the name in half and add a “y”.

I’ve never heard the word Justy in my whole life.

Or if the hockey player’s name is Nick, they’ll call him Nicky.

Ok.

Anything, you would be Suzy, I would be Andy. I do this with all my friends, too. For example, I did an interview with one of my friends Marshall for the Culips podcast. And during the podcast I called him Marshall. But when I hang out with him, I always call him Marshy. I never call him Marshall.

That’s funny. Marshy.

When you call somebody this nickname, when you cut their name in half and add a “y”, it kind of shows that you’re close to this person. You’re close enough to this person that you can use this nickname. And this is very common in Canada. I’m not sure if other English speaking countries do this or not but a lot of my friends use this nickname pattern.

Yeah, I think we use that in the US as kids. Like I called my sister whose name is Stephanie, I called her Stephy.

There you go.

And even my boyfriend’s name is Olivié, I call him Oly.

There you go.

But in The US, a common way of making a nickname, but more current, it’s kind of maybe in the last ten years is to say the person’s first initial, so to call you A. What’s up, A?

Right.

What’s up, S? What’s up, J? You know. To say someone’s first letter, it’s more within the high school or you know the kind of twenty something crowd.

You hear younger people using it.

Yeah. It’s very common. So maybe in the comments section of this post, you guys can put your Canadian nickname and your American nickname. So take half your name and put a “y” and make your hockey Canadian nickname. And then you can take your first letter and be a cool high schooler in the US.

Or if you want me to give you a nickname, just let me know, and I’ll think of something funny for you.

We could definitely come up with some fun nicknames.