

Writers commentary

Introduction

this commentary is my personal thoughts on why I chose specific stories and why the events were so impactful. General thoughts on each chapter.

Part 1

part 1 is my youth, my childhood and very early teen years. The book is broken into 6 parts as there were clearly different stages defined by significant events the picture included for part 1 is the pond I swam in and boated on and fished, one of my stealth camps was in the rocky area in the far back between this pond and another beyond it, part of a long chain of beaver ponds. Originally the 3rd version of the book had only 4 parts but after part 1 and 4 had so many additional chapters added I decided to break them up into 2 parts each making the book 6 parts overall.

0 A date that will live in infamy

originally the first chapter was an introduction with the heading "a long long time ago" and was a brief introduction with short paragraphs about various relatives and odd people who they knew and would set the stage for the chapters in this book, most of them did not appear in any stories in part 1 in earlier versions of the book. some were later moved to their own chapter such as Peggy-Sue Hilt. In the 3rd edition of the book I scrapped the original chapter 0 and started it when I was born and just gave a brief introduction as most of the people in the original chapter had been mentioned in different chapters, such as my Uncles Edward and James and Cousins Shawn and Chris who appear in a later chapter "a mailman who never went postal" giving some highlights about them as they appear.

6 Peggy-Sue Hilt

this story was not in the original first, or second, version of the book, Peggy was briefly mentioned in the old introduction but I decided to extrapolate a minor reference to give more details and show what my life was like at the time. You can see the early stages of some trends that would continue for years. Peggy Sue Hilt was on a documentary called Women Behind Bars many years later after her physical abuse killed her 2 year old adopted daughter, the inhuman nature of what she did got her a 25 year sentence and a documentary. When my mother saw her on TV she called me and asked "guess who I saw on TV" I said "I don't care" "Peggy! Your old babysitter!" she said, then I said "What she do?" "she beat a 2 year old to death! I can't believe it!" I then replied "you can't believe she did it or that she got caught?" In a flat monotone, my mother was silent a moment then started saying something but I hung up. There were no other kids around except my sisters so much of my time I spent wandering the woods alone.

8 Boywoman

this story is fucked up and scarred me for life but it also shows what things were like for me in 3rd grade and the crap way my family treated me, I complained I couldn't see and they told me to shut up, hit me and said I don't need glasses, and when I told them I was ass raped in 3rd grade they told me to shut up, hit me and told me never to tell them about it again. It also introduces the Aspurgers, maybe the guy wasn't raping my ass maybe it was just a burger he shoved up there? Anyway this sets the stage for a lot of later content as I have no social nuance at all, pure analytical logic driven thought, maybe my mother should have let my father name me Spock after all. As a result I don't go with any of the normal social bullshit everyone else falls for and it makes me but heads with a lot of people when they don't want me calling a spade a spade and I refuse to call it a mechanical agricultural device.

8 A family trip to pizza hut

misspelled hutt after pizza the hutt from spaceballs, shows more early trends in family dynamics, originally the only story to portray my grandmother and now the chapter seems a bit trite for what content is in it, but I chose to keep it in the book despite being redundant.

10 Crapshoes

this story was selected for several reasons, to demonstrate the total lack of confidence I had back then, some early bullying, my tendency towards solving problems in unconventional ways with whatever I have on hand, and to better portray my grandmother who was only briefly described in the pizza hutt chapter though I wanted to show what she was like watching me and my sisters, yeah I think the physical abuse from Peggy sue hilt was less evil than my grandmothers abuse. Around this time my parents also became much more abusive, they were just dicks earlier but by this time they were looking for any excuse to beat me down, this most likely a result of their own stress, they took it out on me. My mother had an affair with her boss, and it nearly ended her marriage when she was caught, and her boss fired her in retaliation for breaking off the affair. I also wanted to better portray the whole needing glasses thing, originally it was only mentioned as a fact in other chapters but this story takes place right in the middle of that mess, so many different things came together to make everything so much worse.

10 poor mans sugar

I did a maple sugaring story much later in the book, then planned another towards the end of the 3rd edition, I was comparing my maple projects to my fathers so I decided to make another very early on to describe his maple operation and more about the dynamics of the family. He hit me a lot, my parents marriage was on the rocks after my mother was caught in another affair and lost her job, the family was strained and both of them came from abusive families themselves so they started abusing me excessively to vent their frustrations. My father took out his stress by finding excuses to yell at me and hit me, if he shoved me over and I crashed into a table and the table moved he would hit me again and yell at me for moving the table, oblivious that I only did so because he had shoved me over in the first place yelling at me for something else. My mother would also yell but she also took out her stress with frivolous and reckless shopping sprees.

11 Shopping Vacation

just more family dynamics and my mothers financial recklessness. I made so many of these trips that I felt I had to put one in the book, I also decided on it to detail more of my analytical thinking like the board games, we did play games like that from time to time and thats how they all went, originally I was going to have an essay chapter called "life lessons from games" comparing lessons from strategy games and board games, but decided it would be a mental fart in the book so just put elements into this story since those games only got played on those trips. I also chose the chapter to portray some relatives that were referenced elsewhere.

12 odd to the nutcracker, an Obligatory Christmas Story

just about every TV show ever has had a Christmas episode or special, even star wars has a Christmas special, though its been called the worst half hour on television and all the actors were really really high on coke while it was being filmed. So I decided to write a chapter about what Christmas was like, I could have done one earlier which I have less clear memories of, I could have done one later, the worst was when my paternal grandmother died on Christmas eve. I decided to write one from the year before the funeral one. The only existent video of my childhood with me and my grandmother interacting showed her being a bitch to me though not as bad as she normally was, it was on a VHS tape my father recorded with a camcorder uncle Randy gave him. The tape may or may not exist anymore, my parents had it last and if given a chance I would destroy it out of pure hate for my maternal grandmother.

12 sisters ugly pageant

this one will be brief since much of it would overlap with the shopping vacation (riding on the floor packed in with the luggage), there isn't much in the story that isn't detailed elsewhere, but I did want to tell the story about my first attempt to run away and go more into detail what I meant when I said I grew up sleeping on the floor and needed glasses but my mother insisted she couldn't afford anything. I resented my parents for spending a small fortune on this bullshit trip, and many others, while I had no bed at home and couldn't see more than a blur and was getting hit all the time.

12 Raising Turkeys

this was to show my early interest in farming and rural life and more family dynamics, I also felt it important to show more about them than just a cartoonish view that they were nothing but yelling insults and punching, they were horrible dysfunctional people but not purely defined by a couple bad traits.

12 The dancing Zombie, an Obligatory Halloween Story

after deciding on the obligatory Christmas story I decided to write an obligatory Halloween story, I had many to choose from, trick or treating as a little kid and the schools annual costume parade, the cheap homemade costumes I had, or later Halloweens such as the one when I was 14 and Sonja invited me to a party in Ogdensburg, I went with my latex zombie mask and made an ass of myself when it was a church party and I had no idea costumes were frowned upon, she was also embarrassed by not telling me. I could have also done ones about my time giving out full size candy in the falls and my own costumes, like the time I made a kimono and wore sandals and my katanna as a samurai and was well thought of by the neighborhood, I could have done the disastrous ones in Massena where I did the same stuff but was overwhelmingly despised by the suburban people. I decided upon the one when I first got that zombie mask and went to the one and only school dance I went to. Between the age of 9 and 12 I needed glasses but was denied them, it wasn't until just before this story took place that I was finally given them because several teachers started threatening my parents with social services that I was finally given a pair but was given over sized glasses that I was expected to grow into because they resented having to pay for them at all.

13 All Change

this story was selected because my early stories mostly revolved around my family, later high school stories feature the kids at school but they are mostly absent in the early stories. so I included a story earlier that showed my dickish friends (like how butters thinks Cartman is his friend on south park), then in all change they go from being dickish friends to just being dicks, then it gets worse from there. I had tossed out all the toys and stuff long ago by this point, but a radio controlled car was something that was still cool, they were very uncommon and very expensive at the time the story takes place and only rich people or tech geeks like uncle Randy would have something like it.

13 Bikes Bagels Bullets Porn and Turtles

this shows my middle school years, family dynamic and what I was like then and what I thought about back then, also an early example of my wandering backwoodsman spirit. Considered in chronological order I was clearly unhinged (with thoughts of murder or suicide and clearly emotionally disturbed) from all the abuse and suffering I was enduring.

Part 2

This was not a break in the original format but was added after the initial part 1 became too large compared to others. I could have broken up part 1 when I became a "teen" which would have put "all

change" and "bikes, wow thats a long title" into part 2, but I decided to break up the original part 1 where I "graduated middle school" and incorporated the summer vacation between 8th and 9th grades into the high school years.

14 Full Time Hours

my first official employment, how that went and more crappy family dynamics, plays a role to show how my mother exploiting me didn't come out of nowhere and she might not have intended it but fell to temptation when she could gain at my expense. I was one of only a handful of kids in the youth employment program to actually last the whole summer, most quit after less than 2 weeks.

15 Ice Storm 98

originally going to be 2 or 3 chapters, with one being Florida then the other the ice storm, then I was going to make the Florida trip 2 chapters, but then I decided the shopping vacation and fuck you king tut would make a lot of the content redundant and I didn't want to seem like the book was all about bitching about my crappy family, so much was redundant since one trip riding on the floor in back with the luggage, sleeping on the floor in a hotel and being treated like crap dragged around as an afterthought would be the same as any other trip, I went to so many places like that that it may as well be done as copy and paste over and over with only slight changes. I felt there was enough of that already so I condensed the Florida stuff to be a small part of ice storm 98. Ice storm 98 in itself shows more family dynamics and events that show what I was like back then.

15 Midnight in a snow filled ally

this was one of the times I ran off to hide after being beaten, shows more about my teen years. I was wrong about the time line, I was only just turned 15, not 16 at the point of this story. I recall my father still driving the crappy van when this even takes place, and he had a new truck when I was 16. in sisters ugly pageant I describe my first attempt to leave and then more than a few times I mention thinking of just walking away. This was the most successful of those failed efforts back then.

15 a mailman who never went postal

I decided to include this for several reasons. Stories before it show my parents lacking for money. After this story they had new vehicles, reckless spending on crap, and their vacations were more indulgent including resorts, cruises, time shares, etc. They had inherited a lot of money but then pissed it away very quickly. The events in the story were also the last time I saw many of my cousins, aunts and uncles. My Parents got a taste for spending and when the money ran out and their creditors were calling and bankruptcy was imminent they exploited me as a way to keep the good times rolling. this goes to human nature like when friends of mine got pay raises and had a little flexibility in their budgets they would immediately use it to finance more stuff they never use (like a \$2000 electric bicycle, an elliptical machine, ATV, etc) using the little bump in their paychecks to make the payments for stuff, never having financial flexibility and always clawing for more and on a precipice since one small hiccup could bring them to ruin. My own way of doing things would be to pay down debts so that I would have a greater disposable percentage of future income. I have seen many people make the mistake of squeezing every cent as it comes in and they must always have that income, and they never get their finances in order, any setback then becomes a catastrophe that spirals downhill fast. This is a turning point since my family got a taste for fancy things and it plays a role in future stories. Around this time I was less about bizarre outbursts like I was when I declared myself king of the undershorts in "all change" and was more of a bitter and depressed self mutilator who wore a bandanna and trench coat and had a "pft whatever" attitude when I wasn't riding an adrenaline fueled berserk rage, having good emotions at this time were rare because I had almost nothing good in my life.

15 staying in uncle aunts trash pile

oh how I love to recount the horror stories about this deranged piece of human garbage. Originally I mentioned this event briefly in another story and had a story dedicated to him/her much later on with half the chapter being an introduction. I decided to heavily edit that later story and move most of the introduction to an earlier time and make it into a story of its own. My uncle was the center of 2 stories all dedicated to him, I am fairly sure he was the original source of the q-annon conspiracy since he is just that kind of clownshitfullofnuts crazy.

15 Fuck you king Tut

this was yet another horrible story that shows what I was like and what the world around me was like, I also wanted to illustrate that my being angry and depressed as a kid was damn well justified, the story was originally featuring my father having a van but he had just recently bought his truck, it was not relevant to point out the financial change in version 2 of the book but in version 3 with the whole inheritance thing being a chapter in itself and a major change to explain how they could afford it I had to edit it to no longer show them as the destitute credit whores they were before that money.

16 Battleground and hardened

somewhat redundant with midnight but it shows more of what my teen years were like, the bullies I recall most were Paul Bagly, Tony Holmes, Zak Knight, and TJ Stay. TJ, Tony, and Zak were friends in elementary school, then around 4th grade they became dickish abusive friends. To put it into a comparison I was like butters on south park cartoons and they were like Cartman, these kids were from dysfunctional single mother households. After these kinds of experiences I was never bothered by dickish behavior from anyone, I would ignore it or use wit to throw it back at people, like when I was wearing a kilt in Massena someone yelled “hey harry putter wheres your wand?” and I replied in a fake Irish accent “surly tis only a fag who would be asking to see another mans wand”.

16 Survival Training in Canada

this was another aspect of my experiences I wanted to talk about, originally in version 1 I had a chapter called Fenian that was a series of short stories little more than a description from many events with no cohesive narrative but I chose to scrap it and make a single story with some of them as hints in the story and make it about one of the bigger events. Similarly I scrapped gardening then and gardening now chapters which were like Fenian, I call them mental farts and they were disjointed talking about a topic rather than an event. Instead I put more garden descriptions into event stories describing more about the settings, like my gardens when I lived in the falls, then my 4 acre homestead and my work on a later homestead. The school was the Alba wilderness school by Lanark Canada, formerly camp Cliff-Mar (was owned jointly by the Clifford and Martin Families, the Clifford's were the ones who kept it and had a survival school there). Just put some basic how to into my way of doing things, more apt to make what I need than buy stuff.

16 My First Car

a follow up after the training, just another story I liked to throw in, I also wanted to point out another trend in the family, since my grandmother pulled some financial shit on my mother, then my mother basically pulled the same shit on me.

17 Last Date with Jen

this was the last date I went on with Jen or anyone else, my social life was fairly normal at 17, even for an abused social outcast, I had a few friends and was dating, and I had more thoughts to long term relationships and the future. While I had very few good things in those years I did have a few.

17 Heidi

I chose this story because I mentioned this dog a few times elsewhere but she was not directly in any other stories, my later dogs were featured in later stories and I wanted to make one for my first. It also breaks up an otherwise crappy time period. I was left behind on a few shopping vacations around that time so I made a story about what it was like when I was left alone, choosing typical stuff that happened around that time.

18 the nonconformist janitor

I wanted to portray more of my crappy early jobs and the hellish situation I lived in. I think it says a lot with the way Chris suckshisowndick Benware would ridicule and insult me for choosing classes over a \$2 an hour (\$1.30 take home) sub minimal slave job when they overlapped briefly. Also wanted to show what the last days of high school were like. Like everything else in this book everything here is true, having no social nuance I bluntly say the things that people are not supposed to talk about and call a mechanical agricultural device a spade. A lot of my accounts can to an extent be verified, I went to the cops about Bevin's BS with that bat and they refused to look into it because "as a teacher he knows better" and thats all the proof they needed to ignore what I said, and there was no video or picture evidence to back up what I said, but years later he was arrested and lost his teaching career because he was giving beer to his students and "as a teacher he knew better".

Part 3

a distinct change in many ways, a big one, I chose a picture from my hiking days for it, hiking was cheap and fun. Part 2 ends when I graduate high school and am forced into a system of abuse and exploitation as an adult.

18 Living in the leech field

this shows what life was like as per official employment, when I told people about being forced to work for less than minimum wage online in web forums they would ask "how is that possible" and either thought it was a lie or that I was handicapped in some way (like down syndrome) or was a Mexican working under the table. I was on disability for depression and Aspergers and had a mother who would exploit it any way she could because she could for her own benefit. I tried to leave but couldn't, people would ask how I couldn't and insist I went along willingly, I most certainly did not, I knew I couldn't do anything and was broken and chose my fights when I could, but wouldn't fight if there was no hope, instead I worked to escape it.

19 nineteen and working

more about my time under my families control, I was struggling to survive and doing what it took

19 Hard Tack and Rice

shows what life was like back then, probably why I stockpile such large amounts of preserved food now. "I've known hunger before and I don't want to know it again". Also shows more about how desperate I was back then. Couldn't get stamps because my mother already got them under my name and as a representative payee she could spend them "for me", so would brag to people that I was mentally handicapped and unable to shop for myself. To which I held a great deal of animosity towards her but the circumstances forced me to internalize it which caused even more fucked up personality traits.

20 Wandering in the swamp looking for food

more stories about my crap past struggling to survive, I mentioned I was fat because of the side effects of those drugs, but starvation and then lots of walking made me balance it out.

22 My Time as a Fetish Porn Star

I was unsure of including this story or not, I don't regret this event but am ashamed of it, its really fucked up, I wanted to tell it because it shows how desperate I was for praise from anyone, even the devil himself, and how desperate I was for money. I also show how I got some later traits and have a different outlook than most of my friends on the topic of porn and prostitution. This chapter also pairs with non conformist janitor as I mentioned there my minor talent as an artist. I did nothing for years afterwards then made that drawing of a bald elf chick in my politically wrong style for an example of being a mediocre artist.

23 Sleeping in a Grave yard

just a short adventure story, how hiking is cheap.

24 Sisters Move

more family dynamics, I showed what they were like early on and this is what they became later on, I also show trends that the apple doesn't rot far from the tree, and that people don't change.

24 the 500 mile loop

this was chosen because it was kind of a personal record, I walked 500 miles in a single week, I had time available and nothing else to do and was pushing myself hard. It leads into the next chapter where it was slightly mentioned as the reason I was nominated vice president of the outing club at SUNY Canton, everyone saw me as an outdoors workout and health food nut. This story tells how these things go, I am so busy I don't bother to eat and just ride from one sugar high to the next till the jobs done.

24 El Vice Presidente

more adventure stories, I tried to have friends but had to avoid getting close to anyone, this was in the original book and I thought about scrapping it but decided to keep it with expansions.

25 Grandmas Kids

my mothers store, a more detailed look at my living conditions in 2007, how I was exploited for free labor, my work still at the grocery store, I never tried to trade up unless it could free me from the cycle of shit, if I left I would just have the same crap at any other job, figured I would stay and put up with crap since I could get free food from the trash. Also lots of local history, small town gossip, culture, politics and economics, a window into the world around the town at the time. I had to work very hard to survive on scraps. Its also a lot of self reliance philosophy.

25 high falls loop

this is a lead in for the ranger school, I did that trail 4 or 5 times (I don't recall exactly, and not sure to count the times I did the cranberry lake 50 which used a large part of the high falls trails). Its just a solo hike, the shortest time I did this trail was in 4 hours, the rest were more casual taking a night in the leantwo. Earlier hikes like the sleeping in a graveyard story show my lack of outdoor gear, but by the time I did this trail I had a reasonable selection of used gear, much of which I paid for through ebay and paypal, I scavenged junk and sold it online and also for a while did fetish art and was paid via paypal, to keep my parents from finding the money I never transferred the funds to the bank, just turned around and bought stuff on ebay without my parents knowing. This story also leads into uncle aunts camp story.

25 Midnight canoe pot party

this was an adventure story and I thought things were turning around, a few weeks later these same

people who had accepted me would arbitrarily shun me with a turn around of about 50 minutes (literally they were cool with me at the start of a class then I was a shunned pariah after class) and I had no idea why at the time. I later learned my mother was behind it. I discussed the impact and their long term effects. After I had an attitude of fuckit, if I'm a pariah no matter how hard I try then whats the point? I never shut up and I pulled whacky shenanigans for the fun of it. Had I known the truth I never would have done any of that crap, it was a desperate attempt for fun to make up for how much pain I was feeling on the inside.

25 Mothers Media Robbery

more bullshit family dynamics, I considered scrapping this one but decided to keep it in with some serious editing.

25 Me and Trish

the one friend who didn't abandon and shun me at the ranger school I thought of her like a sister I didn't hate. She dropped out half way through and I was totally isolated and alone the rest of the time at the ranger school. She tried again the next year and worked with me on one of the tribes projects when the school sent the class to help. Thats when she told me why I was shunned, then I contacted the director and he confirmed it, then I confronted my mother who's only explanation was that "you were never supposed to know", no apology or even a reasonable explanation, then she dug at me for challenging her crap.

25 Uncles Aunts Camp

more family dynamics and another turning point, towards the end is the first time I really stood up for myself against my father, he was unsure what to do, I had 2 college degrees and a better paying job than he ever did and I was starting to have some confidence and self respect and not taking crap as easily anymore.

26 The 1915 Red Pine

I decided on adding another Ranger school story, the first logging site I worked on was a lab at the Ranger School, where everyone put into practice what they learned over the course of the year so far. It runs concurrent with "Uncle Aunts Camp" as UAC covered a span of about 8 months.

Part 4

this was another distinct turning point, I had 2 college degrees, and a good job, was accomplishing stuff left and right, I made a lot of mistakes of my own but I was breaking free, my mother would say "we don't like the person your becoming" when I stood up to them. I was also finally developing a social life they didn't control, they kept trying to reassert control but their ability to do so was waning.

26 Hunting with my Inbred twin brother in law

I hardly talk about my youngest sister except when she was really little, she ended up marrying a guy who had a lot in common with me, in high school when I left my parents were treating her kind of shitty when I wasn't around, she had some troubled times herself but then she became less of a bitch and I no longer had issues with her. I wanted to tell a story about them since they were not represented much. They are some of the few people in my extended family that I don't hate, but I had to cut ties with them because I couldn't keep in contact with them.

26 Chapman road

I decided to include this story because it shows work conditions with me and the crew, also the first logging site I oversaw. This is also one of the reasons I am banned from going into Canada, as the crew

went over the international boarder daily and at my Boss' instructions we never bothered to report it.

Glenmeal

This is one of the sites my crew worked on when I was working for the Tribe, it covers a span of time including the scouting trip, the logging work to prep the site, and the work done with the Ranger School class of 2009 to help plant seedlings. Its also the last time I saw Trish as she was in the ranger class of 2009, she told me why I had become a pariah at the start of the main classes for 2008, I confronted my parents afterwards when I found out what they had done.

26 Udaho

this ones named for a rez joke and the way people talk there, I heard several variants of the joke with the punchline being some rez girl saying Idaho meaning I da Ho (as in I'm the hooker/slut). There were a lot of odd adventures and misadventures in this 2 week span so I felt I would put them together as a single story. Its also a turning point where I rebel against everything my family values (their hording). I had another couple stories I was going to tell but decided they were too redundant with this one.

27 Trash Collection

what I was like and what Massena was like when I was there, I was ridiculed but shrugged it off because I just didn't give a fuck. This is out of order as it happened just before the end of season party.

26 Mad as a Hatter

I felt like adding this story since some parts were fun, just more work shenanigans.

26 Last Straw

the family conflict comes to a head and a final confrontation with Kristina, I never spoke to my bitch elitist sister again after this and there was a terrible rift in the extended family. It was also the last straw and I stopped trying to have any relationship with my extended family, I had been standing up to them and hoping they would change but they would just try to beat me down more, it became a battle of wills.

27 The Scholarship

another adventure story and showing what I am like, I don't care much about money for its own sake, I only value what I can accomplish with it.

27 End of season Party

this was an infamous party that became somewhat of a work legend, as I only had half a beer I am the only one who remembered everything afterwards, those guys worked hard and got a long 3 year project done, lots of tree planting, lots of logging, research, seed collection and preservation, boss would have celebrated by doing nothing, they were just the grunts who did the work and got looked down on for their social status, I felt like half the office looked down on me much of the time because I was more apt to hang out with the grunts than be a smug elitist and join a gym and show off with status symbols like owning a treadmill and a riding mower. I spread some of my own wealth around to show the logging crew that I valued the work they did. This is chronologically out of order, it happened about 2 months before the scholarship. Those guys worked hard and they played hard.

27 the great misunderstanding

another turning point, I was fighting on too many fronts, I became over confident and tried to deal with the resurgence of crap from my past head on, and I was broken by it. I had other stuff I might have included but decided to scrap. the end paragraph where I said I hid most of the following winter hiding

in a closet with my house boarded up shows how badly I was broken.

28 The late night kickathon

I briefly describe the broken state I was in after the great misunderstanding, I decided to make a chapter to describe just how broken I was by it. I had a youtube channel at the time and made some odd videos for something to do. I was unable to sleep for days so would work to exhaustion so I could pass out. I also stepped up my martial arts training, then for something to do I decided to try to give a roundhouse kick to every telephone pole in town, just a goal to work on, made a video of it for youtube (it no longer exists). Oddly when I was at my worst mentally I was at my best physically. No Massena cop wanted to cross me, none of them thought they had what it would take to take me down in close quarters so they only investigated BS anonymous calls in force (at least a dozen cops together), I was not crazy so I was civil with them though they usually didn't deserve the consideration (most of them I met were total shitheads). Then again I don't fall for the Jedi mind tricks and their smug dick swaggering had no effect on me so I call out their BS when they are making up the rules which just pisses them off when I point out technicalities, the only other people not afraid of them are career criminals used to smuggling their way out in their own way. For the most part cops these days are just happy to leave me alone because I am more trouble than their time is worth when I start poking at technicalities and they just don't want to deal with me, plus I don't actually do anything illegal.

Part 5

another turning point, I was broken and could no longer fight on so many fronts, I had to fall back, reorganize, reassess, I made some hard choices as the situation was untenable and I was in way over my head, I also had nothing left to lose.

28 First week on the farm

fleeing to hide in the woods, most coworkers who looked down on me for hanging with the grunts thought I would never make it on the new farm, it was outside their contemplation to live like I was, too used to their conveniences and soft lifestyle (Tony David congratulated me that spring and told me he lost a bet since I made it all winter), I told them it was more in line with what I knew than living in town could ever be. The chapter also shows how I was comfortable and confident at it, my crap life actually making me best suited to it. It also shows more of what I was like, being shattered and broken by the great misunderstanding. I fled to hide in the woods.

28 Rambo?

I decided to heavily edit some early off grid stories. This is to describe the farm a few months in as I was living there early on, Tom Lake would remark about the movie "First Blood" where colonel Traughtman comments that Rambo could eat things that would make a Billy goat puke, Tom would say that I eat things that would make Rambo Puke.

28 Strippers Glitter and Guilt

another adventure story, was going to have a few other points of interest but they were largely redundant, the big one is that it had been years since I saw movies or TV at this point, and even then my collection was out dated, it would show my reintroduction to TV and distracting myself with it, my social dynamics with friends now that I had some, still busy at work and the one time in more than a 20 year stretch that I saw a naked woman (topless anyway). This story is not in chronological order.

28 Business tripping

another adventure story, I asked some friends what some of my craziest stories were when I told them about the book, one of them suggested this one so I included it.

29 Ceol

very short story taking place on the first off grid winter, meant to describe what that was like, Ceol was a feral kitten I sort of had the first summer and fall, I fed him scraps then got dry food I fed him when I saw him, when the weather got really cold and my tiny cabin was over heating he would come sit near me but still feral, till I pet him and he became a friendly cat, never learned to use a litter box, instead would meow at the door to be let out when he had to go.

29 El Whacko De Smasho

a story of the first spring on the farm and the huge difficulties I encounter

29 watersports

2012 was a bad year locally, we had a terrible drought, and it was worse regionally. I dealt with it like the old saying: when the going gets tough, the tough get going. I was only further hardened by the experience, I also wanted to share a few mini stories about that time as per work and my friends there. There was also a bit of an overlap going from the farm being just a crude camp to being fairly developed, I wanted to fill in the gap.

29 Overnight unemployment

another minor turning point, my job craps out, I walk into town and I am fine with it, most people can't contemplate it but my life so far made this a comfortable normal for me. This also shows a turning point in my job as the economy is crapping out.

29 Immune to Healthcare

my last attempt to have anything to do with the system, how I became desperate enough, then how I refused to tolerate bullshit, and how I responded.

29 The Wild Man

just some crazy stories close together getting by in a small town setting.

29 Thanksgiving with the Lakes, An Obligatory Thanksgiving Story

After writing Obligatory stories for Christmas and Halloween I decided on doing at least one holiday story for each big holiday, I didn't need one for Easter as my Grandfathers funeral could technically be considered one. For the thanksgiving holiday story I decided on the one from 2012 when I had a truck and my friend invited me over, I decided on this one because I felt so out of place and the experience was so alien and weird compared to my past experiences.

30 hang the fuckers

this is when the farm really starts to get going, I have lots of firewood, basic buildings established, a system of water, sanitation, travel without a vehicle, alternatives to utilities, huge gardens, the problems I had and how I dealt with them, some work stories, this was 2013 and also the last time I was employed anywhere.

31 Do quit your day job

my job craps out for the final time, got worse and worse, I can never go back to work for anyone, my degree wouldn't translate to any other local job and I would have to abandon my farm to look for another in that field, better to stay on my farm than move, its the safer option since I fortified myself into a kind of security I made for myself after being shattered and broken. Shows local culture, social settings, economy, and getting by on my farm. I was asked why I don't take a min wage job as they are

common, they are too much like my past jobs before I worked for the tribe and the way people talk down to me reminds me of that past, after being broken I am more likely to respond with a fight or flight adrenal rush and become aggressive (like someone treats me like crap so I tell them off and get fired) I am unemployable now, but living on my own farm making my own living means I don't need to be.

31 freelance

I did a story about my time as a freelance fetish artists, and I made a lot more money and had some fame as a self reliance writer, I decided to include a story about doing that, and how it all came to an end.

32 Gimme some sugar

just a look at what living on the farm is like, I show some adventure stories but day to day work on the farm is not represented. This is me working long hours to make what I need rather than buy it.

Part 6

another new break in the book, originally the time off grid after leaving Massena was a single part but it became long compared to others and I decided to break it up into 2 parts, the divide is where I bought a much larger lot. It was hard to place where the divide was as I had bought it in March of 2015 but didn't actually move onto it until a few days before Halloween, and for over a year I was dividing my time between the 2 lots. I decided to make the divide as the day I had the deed to the new place.

32 Moonshine camp

another mini turning point, I raise enough resources to move to a much larger and better lot and build a vastly superior homestead. This shows the early stages and that I start to have more confidence to take on big goals and ambitions again but am tempered by experience, and I see a potential war coming again, nothing as bad as the past ones, but I am no push over anymore.

33 choking the chickens

this is another gap filler on the farm, I had described the new farm when there was nothing then when it was fairly developed, I wanted an intermediate story, also its the first livestock I had on the farm and some local color. I also wanted to put something between the moonshine camp story and the feud story.

33 Back country drug dealers and feuds

the war that I alluded to in moonshine camp, and some developing stages of the farm. I am no longer someone to be fucked with. thanks to the PTSD I am stronger, that which does not destroy me only makes me strong.

33 Lights Camera Auction!

Another story to add to the book, showing the farm a few months after chokin the chickens, also doing the whole auction thing and making deals

35 furburgers

this is another gap filler, as the events are better descriptions for leading into future stories, and its also an odd time when I got a lot of something done all in a short time, mastered a new skill that I only dabbled at previously. While I got more furs after this I had a 2 week span that I was getting 1 or 2 furs a day. There is a significant time gap between LCA and FBS, LCA was in the late spring of 2016 and FBS was in late fall of 2018, so a time jump of 2 and a half years. In LCA I had a very strong social

network, however by FBS most of that network was gone, many of my friends had retired and were too far away to see regularly, others no longer ran on the same circles. I had a lot of past work friends who just never had time anymore, Bob's store was a local hub but after the Martins took it over that was pretty much over, they replaced the staff mostly with members of their church and they were not that friendly to anyone but Amish and Mennonites. The farm was much more developed but I was getting more and more isolated, in the next chapter one of the last significant social connections I had flopped out which was another huge hit. From that point on I would regularly go weeks or months without speaking to anyone at all and as technology changed I was pushed even further from society as newer technology was not available at all to me (with everyone going to broadband internet and streaming services the tv towers were decommissioned so the at last the airways were all static unless a fiberoptic or cable line was available. Dish and hughes net were not viable options and I was in a cell dead zone. I would cling to what was left but things were fizzling away faster and faster making me more of a hermit.

36 a walk into the dark

a rift with my old boss and more settings of my self reliant extremism and a bit of an adventure story that includes things outside what “normal” people would consider. Also shows what its like living on the sweat of my own back and being tempered and hardened by hardship.

36 I haz a Bunny

another adventure story and philosophy, self reliant farm life and social dynamics

37 Winter in the North

I didn't want to finish the second edition of the book with I haz a bunny, instead I decided to conclude that edition with a story about concluding the book, a 4th wall kind of story showing winter life on the homestead in isolation.

37 how sweet it is

this is a chapter to show how far the farm has come, I had done a maple sugaring story already at my old place, and the new place is far better set up, this is also the 3rd maple story since I had one about my fathers maple operation too.

37 Plandemic

another story since there was so much to talk about, I largely laugh at how people are acting, this is a walk in the park for me and I am almost completely unaffected by it. To put it best “some of us were crazy before it was cool”. Also more observations about what people are really like and how they interact with each other, the general theme that people suck.

37 neighbors

another general story about life off grid on the farm and the stuff that happened on a single day. I chose some of the content as a closure for the book, at least until a few years go by and I am write even more chapters. As is some people who I recounted may not be all that flattered by my portrayals of them but I said before everything in this book happened as I described it, I am not altering anything to make anyone look good or bad, its a lot about basic human nature and the way people interact with each other. I chose to portray certain people in the last few chapters as the events corolate in a way to earlier chapters showing similar individuals to myself.

37 Doggonnit

a general story I planned but am not going to include yet.