



Priyanka Yaduvendu

Listen to Your Enchanted Silence



Chicken Soup for the Soul Fridays! – 12 True Stories to Make You Smile Today



Are you having a crappy day? Did your boss not give you the raise you wanted? Did you have a fight with your boyfriend? Whatever it is, there are a million reasons to complain.

As you went through your day, did anyone ever bring a smile to your face when you least expected it? Was he or she a stranger? Well, here are the top twelve reasons to make you smile today, taken from my blog <http://mypureintuition.com/> where I posted a *Chicken Soup Soul for the Friday* every Friday.

- 1) **Falling Out** -- “I had fallen out with a close friend and was not in touch with him for a while due to a misunderstanding. My perception of the situation was that he didn’t care enough to sort it out. I deleted his number from my phone thinking I’ll not hear from him.

After a long time, to my surprise, I received a text message asking me how I was and if I’d be willing to hang out with him when he’s back in town like the good ol’ days.

I realized my perception of the situation and him was wrong and that perhaps we shouldn’t immediately come to a conclusion. I must also confess it was really nice to hear from him because I did miss him.” – Rob

- 2) **One Stranger’s Act of Kindness at Denny’s** -- “Sometimes, you meet strange people and you have no idea why. Around this time of the year, about 8 years ago, I was

working at the Denny's on Berryessa in Fremont. I was in my teens and as irreverent as fuck and was only there because I had a paycheck coming in about a week and a half.

I was working the cash register when a very unconventional-looking person (read: a ginormous man w/five o'clock shadow in full-on drag with missing teeth and a cheap bleach-blond wig) sat down and ordered a coffee and a Grand Slam. The employees jeered at him and refused to serve him, and the customers stared.

I felt a lot of pressure not to help him either, but I always remember what my mother said about going with your gut. My gut said to help him, so I did. He plowed through his breakfast and came up to the reg to pay. He took out his credit card and I asked for his ID – his name was "Christina"* and his sex said "F" for female. I didn't say anything though, I swiped that card like nobody's business, smiled and thanked her like I would any other customer, and she gave me a \$7 tip for a \$10 breakfast. I was shocked at the insane tip, but she said, "Thank you for treating me with respect," and walked out.

I saw a movie last night about someone like Christina* and thought about her today. I wonder where she is; what is she doing? Is she alive? Is she well? As an adult, I know why we met, and I'm glad we did. She probably doesn't remember me, but I'm OK with that. Thanks for reading." – Ileana

*** Name has been changed to protect privacy of individual.**

Where is she today? After some research, it appears she has starred in a few roles in the entertainment business and is quite successful today. You never know how one act of kindness can affect someone!

- 3) **The Stranger at the Bookstore** -- "Recently, I was at the book store with a friend. We had gotten coffee and checked out some neat books. Once exiting the book store, my friend noticed a young man, probably in his late twenties hanging out in the book store. He looked to be a working professional or grad school student. He was strolling through the aisles, looking at the books. But he wasn't really looking at the books at all.

His face was twisted into an expression of despair. His hands were shaking and his eyes carried a dead, painful look. It was evident this guy was visibly shaken and we were afraid he was shaken to the point of being suicidal. He looked so disturbed that everyone else in the book store passing him by would notice, but not say anything. In fact, I was a little disturbed myself and told my friend we should just leave.

But my friend told me he had to go in there and talk to him, at least ask him if he is okay. So my friend went inside and asked him if he was okay. The visibly shaken guy was surprised at the question, but then nodded. My friend then asked him again if he was sure

and the guy smiled this time, reassuring him. He didn't tell my friend anything, but after my friend came back, we saw a slight smile forming at the corners of his mouth.

We never saw him again after that, but we hope he's doing well. Perhaps he had a horrible day, could have been a break up, lay off, anything, but sometimes offering a touching gesture or a few kind words can make a huge difference in a loved one's or in this case, a complete stranger's life." – Priyanka

- 4) Uncle, Why do Boys Have a Harder Time with Getting Married than Girls? --** "I was visiting my brother and nieces one long weekend. We live in different cities, so I fly a few times in the year to spend time with my brother and two nieces, aged around five and eight.

One day during the trip, my older niece and I went for a walk outside. Out of the blue, she turned to me and said: 'Uncle, I notice boys have a harder time with getting married than girls. Why is that?' I was taken aback and didn't know what to say as I myself am not married.

And then she asked me another question about why boys have a tough time expressing their feelings compared to girls. And she was dead serious about these questions! The only thing I could think of was how did my little niece know of such things at her age?!

It's strange and beautiful and amusing altogether to see how sometimes kids can say something so obvious yet enlightening at the same time. And I was tempted to tell my niece that all the scientists in the world haven't thought of the answers to her questions!"
- Rob

- 5) My Adorable Puppy Raja --** "I have an adorable puppy named Raja. Raja means "King" in Hindi. He literally is the king of our house, where his comfort is taken first priority over everyone else in our family. He refuses to sit on the floor, only on plush, fancy pillows that my mother forbids me and my siblings to sit on. But for Raja, everything is allowed.

I was upset about something earlier this week and Raja, who is usually hyper, just stared at my face and simply nestled in my lap and quietly studied my face. I don't think I see such unconditional loyalty and love from human beings and it filled me with so much happiness.

It amazes me every time how Raja can intuitively sense our family's moods and shower us with his quiet and well, sometimes, loud kindness. Feel blessed to have him in our lives." – Priyanka

- 6) **Anonymous Caviar Donation at Homeless Shelter** -- “There was an anonymous person who donated a \$1000 dollar can of caviar to a homeless shelter. The five-star chef who works at the shelter (He volunteers there) was surprised, but did his best and made an amazing treat so that all the people in the shelter can enjoy something that the wealthy buy in the thousands.

Some may say that the anonymous donor could have given three months’ worth of food with that money...but I disagree. Everyone at the shelter took the caviar as a once in a life time experience, and have received a memory that might last a lifetime. A little girl who resides at the shelter with her mom, said she feels like a Princess. Everyone deserves a little luxury sometimes.” – Aratarson

- 7) **Unleashing Your Unlimited Potential** -- “A friend of mine left this on my desk this morning. I liked it so much I decided to scan it & share. You shouldn’t let others opinions limit your potential, there is always going to be someone who disagrees with your actions.” – Orlando Brittan

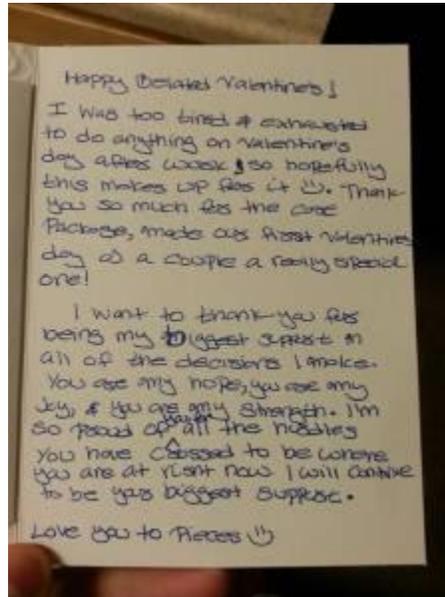


- 8) **Life is Precious** -- “Yesterday my wife saw the body of a dead man who walked right outside our neighborhood. We talked about how precious life is, the importance of enjoying it, and to experience as much as we can while we’re here. Today’s lesson is to live in the present and take initiative to get the most out of life.” – Federico Robinson
- 9) **Queen** -- “I saw the movie *Queen* twice. In the movie theater. The coming-of-age movie with Kangana Ranaut who was absolutely fabulous in the movie. In a nutshell, the coming-of-age movie is about a Delhi girl who decides to travel to Europe on her honeymoon alone after her fiancé walks out of the marriage two days before the wedding.

From beginning to end, the movie made me and everyone else in the theater laugh and cry. Later in the movie, her fiancé decides to give their relationship another shot. But in the ending, when she returns to India as a changed person, she returns the engagement ring to her possessive, controlling fiancé, reclaiming her identity. The whole audience then erupted in applause at the theater.

I was really surprised because the audience was mixed, with families, couples, and youngsters. I was happy that a story about a simple girl coming into her own touched people's hearts. It made me proud that we as a society were becoming progressive and understanding that a woman has an identity of her own besides being a mother, sister, or wife." – Priyanka

10) The Note and Birthday aka Hanukkah! -- Here's a note Federico Robinson's lovely wife Keerthana wrote for him on Valentine's Day. And even more touching is for his birthday recently she showered him with gifts every single day for a week until his birthday. In his words, "I felt like it was Hanukkah!"



11) Don't you know who I am? -- "I don't care how famous or rich you are, the phrase "Don't you know who I am?" cannot effectively be delivered in sweat pants and a weathered t-shirt, standing at the omelet station in a breakfast buffet. Especially when no one even knows who you are saying it to. The omelet chef? You look and sound like an ass. Now move, so I can get some more dragon fruit and pineapple." – Ginger Welsh, Experienced this while on Vacation

12) Daring Moments! -- "A college friend and I met up for dinner after ages. We had our dinner and talked about everything under the sun – from relationships to the food on the menu. It was an intense, profound conversation. The kind where you bare your heart and talk about your fears and what you want from life. I've known him for a long time and he is a thorough gentleman and incredibly caring and won't think twice to help you out.

He's also shy, especially around girls. He is not the type to put himself out there or approach a woman. It's just not his style. As we left our tips and headed out, he confided

in me that he thought the woman dining next to our table was gorgeous. I turned my gaze to the woman at the table next to us and nodded my head in agreement. Then, he said something completely unexpected. Something I would've never thought he would do! He wanted to head back to our table and compliment the woman!

I watched from afar as he approached the young woman with sweaty palms and a red face. I saw his lips move and then the woman smiled shyly. He ran back to where I was standing and gave me a bear hug. Though it may seem so simple and not a big deal for others, it was clearly a daring moment for him.

I was proud of him for stepping out of his comfort zone. He had been telling me for a while that he wanted to take charge and seize the moment in his life. These tiny steps lead

to gigantic milestones over time. And for the record, he sure seized the moment in style.” – Priyanka

www.PriyankaYadvendu.com