

Jacob Beck

Per. 2

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Myself

Well, I guess the best way to begin to know me is to know where I come from.

I have a mother and father, one brother, and a dog at home. I have always thought that I have had a pretty good family life, and for the most part, have always gotten along with all the members of my family. Me and my Dad are especially close. I respect his work ethic, sense of fairness, and general attitude towards life. He is someone I would be happy to shape my life after. I love my mom just as much as my Dad, however, he definitely clash more. We both have very strong personalities, and both tend to always think they are right and are very stubborn about it. As graduation has grown nearer, the clashing has somewhat intensified. To me, it feels like she is trying to keep control over my life, while I am ready to start doing things on my own. That's not to say that me and my mom don't get a long, because I love my family very much and I have a good relationship with everybody in it, but lately, there has been turmoil in that relationship. My brother has to be one of the most fun, brave people I have ever known. The child knows no fear. It must be something instilled in him by always trying to live up to every expectation I have had of him. We have had a happy childhood, running and playing in the outdoors during the summer, skiing during the winter. Out of everybody that I will miss when I go to college, I will miss his constant companionship the most. I trust him more than anybody else in my life, and he has always been a kind ear for me. My dog Abby is beautiful, lively, energetic, and basically, the perfect dog for me. We take her everywhere.

Just where everywhere is depends on the season. My favorite activities all center around the amazing outdoor play-place that Montana provides for

me. To me, winter equals only one thing, and that is skiing. Almost every weekend me and my brother are always the first ones up in the house, at the crack of dawn, loading our gear into the trunk and giddy with excitement about the day ahead. If there was one word to describe how I approach my recreational life, especially with my brother, it is crazy. Just skiing isn't enough. I have to be either going 100 miles an hour just barely under control, or back-flipping, or spinning 360's. Anything for an adrenaline rush. Summer isn't much different. I go cliff jumping and mountain biking, and hope to pick up kayaking this summer. The only thing that differs about summer is that I do take some quiet, reflection time: when I fish. I love to fly-fish. It's not the actual fishing that thrills me so much as it is the quiet alone time. It is truly, some of the only alone time I ever enjoy in my life. Not that I always fish alone. When my brother and dad both come along, the quiet peaceful feeling is gone; replaced instead by an ultra-competitiveness. Depending on the mood, either the biggest fish or the most fish wins. This competitiveness explain my interest in one of my other favorite activities, football. I am now done with my career in football, but I loved it while I played. I loved everything about it, from the preparation in the summer; the lifting, the running, the camps, to the actual practice. What I probably loved most about the sport though, was the mental battle I would wage with the person across from me each and every game. I truly believe that a person's attitude directly affects their performance. Thus, I would relish in attempting to get the person across from me to truly believe I was better than him, and deserved to win. I love to win.

When it comes to my personality, winning would probably be a large part of it. I have been ultra-competitive in everything that I have done since I can remember. My competitiveness has always been a driving force in everything I have done, not just sports. I think it is essential to want to win in life. I don't necessarily think that one must always defeat someone else to win. I just know that in whatever I do, I always want to win. Whether that means defeating a hill I am attempting to run up, a mountain I want to climb, a river I want to cross, a ski jump I want to hit, or, when necessary, human competition. This is probably the side of me most visible to those around me. If you talk to some of my friends who know me, but not extremely well, they would describe me as someone you can never win an argument with. I would agree that at times I can be overly stubborn, and it is definitely a fault I need to work on.

However, this is not all there is to me. My Grandpa Jim was someone I have always admired and held more respect for than anyone ever. He passed away when I was in the sixth grade, but before he did, I learned some of my most important lessons in life from him. I believe the most important quality I inherited from him was his spirituality. My relationship with God is of the utmost importance to me, and shapes the basic moral guidelines of how I live my life everyday. It has always been a relationship that I consider very personal and have not trusted many to share the intricacies of my beliefs with. I am distrusting of flamboyance in religion, and believe that before people preach their faith, they should try to come to a deeper understanding of what it means to them. Back to the morals that I was talking about earlier; I believe the most valuable virtues to live your life by are loyalty, trust, and respect. Honor those who give you friendship with these three things, and you will do just fine in life.

My short term goals are undefined as of yet. I know I want to go to college, but I also want to try the Peace Corps. I am not sure about where I want to go to college, mostly because I am unsure of exactly what I want to be in life. I know for the long term I want a job that leaves me above average in income, with a large family and a happy marriage. I want to be involved in my church and my community, and I want to not sweat the small stuff.

People make me smile. Sunsets make me smile. The first truly warm sunny day in the spring makes me smile. Simple things. I frown at people who hurry. I hate divorce and unhappiness.

Lastly, I am a very open person, so anything you ever want to know about me, do not be afraid to ask.