

## Janitor

On the first day of my new job, I stared up at the school building with apprehension. It was time for me to enter the work force, as my mother was having a hard time making ends meet between her Social Security checks and part-time job. I had always felt that anything would be better than working fast food, but now I was beginning to wonder.

Inside, my new co-workers awaited me. I had seen them around my school for years, but had never given them much thought. Now I was going to be one of them. I was greeted by my supervisor, a stocky man with a mullet who introduced himself as Brian and immediately began telling me about the ins and outs of my new job. We headed toward the gym, where we would be cleaning the locker rooms. As soon as I saw the toilets, my heart sank, for I was sure that soon I would be bent over them, scrubbing away at weeks of unmentionable filth. He flashed a grin. "That's ok, I'll get the toilets, you can mop the floor." Maybe this job wouldn't be so bad after all.

My fellow custodians, Brian, Diane and Smitty, quickly brought me into their fold, showing me all the "tricks of the trade," and even opening up their lives to me. Although he never complains, Brian puts in at least sixty hours per week and spends weekends doing odd jobs to support a wife, four daughters and an ailing mother-in-law. And Diane wakes up at four-o'clock every morning to take her two daughters to daycare and get to work by 6:30am.

One day Diane and I were waxing a floor when I unwittingly asked her about the father of her children. With a pained expression she said, "He became addicted to cocaine and committed suicide." I later met her daughters and was amazed by the way this family had been able to overcome loss to become the model of a loving, caring family. I felt privileged to learn the most intimate details of this woman's life, a woman whom – I am now ashamed to admit – I had ignored a few months before.

When I had been working at the school for about three months, I was on my way to clock in when two boys stopped me in the hall. "Hey man, do you skateboard?" one of them asked. Before I could say anything the other interrupted, "Of course he doesn't – he's just a janitor."

I kept the answer to myself, and as I walked away to begin yet another day as a janitor, I couldn't help but smile. I realized how easy it is to become the object of someone else's judgments. But I didn't mind. I knew that my fellow custodians and I were much more than just janitors; we are real people with real lives, sometimes with very touching stories to tell. And some of us even keep a skateboard in the mop closet.

# Colins Big Thing And Other Essays

**TD Snyder**



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**An essay towards demonstrating the immateriality and free agency of the Soul: in answer to ... "A philosophical enquiry into the physical spring of human actions," ... by S. Strutt, and ... "A philosophical enquiry concerning Human Liberty," ... by A. Collins** Samuel Strutt, 1760 **The Miracle of Man** Jim Howard, 2017-01-31 What Is a Man Biologically we are animals homo sapiens But men are different born with consciousness reason free will notions of morality and other characteristics of what we call human nature Why are we different Were we created by God or are we just accidents of nature Are you a child of the King or just a child of King Kong This is a book of apologetics for laypeople It looks at arguments for the existence of God and especially at those arguments that can be drawn from human nature It argues in plain language with illustrations and humor that we cannot explain human nature without God that men are miracles

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