

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



Sunflower ([00:00](#)):

We are sitting on the steps of reflection eternal, on St. Paul Street, 2431 Barbershop and Natural Hair Salon.

Aaron Henkin ([00:12](#)):

How'd you get the nickname Sunflower?

Sunflower ([00:14](#)):

Just cause I love sunflowers and the color yellow is my favorite color. So, they kind of just go hand in hand.

Aaron Henkin ([00:22](#)):

You work a lot. You're always in here. You keep yourself pretty busy?

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Sunflower (00:25):

Yes. Well, I actually just moved back in this area a few weeks ago. I just miss it. I love being in here. Even if I don't have appointments, I can still just sit and relax and focus on moving forward in my business, like making business cards.

Sunflower (00:45):

Cynthia and Dwelling always have something going on. So it's always something that I could do with my time, other than just running home and I don't know ... I don't really watch a lot of TV, maybe playing Call of Duty or something, but I really like this atmosphere. It's home. It feels like home away from home. My daughter comes in here and she takes off her shoes. I have to get on her cause she shouldn't do that, but...

Aaron Henkin (01:12):

What do you say we play a game? I have a new game I created. I took some of my favorite questions I like to ask people and I got a special deck of cards printed and on the back of this deck of cards, it looks like a normal deck of cards, right, but on the front of each card there is one of my favorite questions I like to ask people. So, we'll play a game. I'll pull a couple of cards and see what happens, yeah?

Sunflower (01:39):

Yeah, I'm excited.

Aaron Henkin (01:42):

You want to shuffle them to ensure randomness?

Sunflower (01:45):

Sure. They're pretty cards too.

Aaron Henkin (01:53):

Pull the top card and read me what it says.

Sunflower (01:57):

What terrifies you the most? Religion.

Aaron Henkin (02:03):

Why is that?

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Sunflower (02:05):

People kill over religion. I really don't want any parts of it. I am-

Aaron Henkin (02:10):

Were you raised with like an organized religion in your family?

Sunflower (02:13):

Yeah, my grandmother is Christian. Very. I was in church. If there was an eighth day, I was there. Eighth day of the week, I was there. I was part of everything, but some of the most terrifying times in my life have come from individuals who were a part of a collective. You know what I mean? Not even to say that it's just religion terrifies me, but collectives. Groups of any group of people who decide that they don't like this person or they don't like that group and they retaliate for whatever reason. That's hate and anger and I don't like that. I just like to be me and my kids to be them.

Aaron Henkin (02:59):

When's your next appointment?

Sunflower (03:01):

I think my next one isn't until four o'clock. Yes.

Aaron Henkin (03:05):

You got time for one more card?

Sunflower (03:07):

Definitely.

Aaron Henkin (03:07):

Let's see what's next.

Sunflower (03:11):

What's the best thing that's happened to you today? Probably this conversation. I will say that because anytime where I can revisit my past, because that's something that I'm still working on overcoming or growing past, anytime I can think back on it and think about how I'm stronger now than I was a few months ago ... This is a good thing. I love working and stuff, but today, this was good today and I feel like I like to get my voice heard too.

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Aaron Henkin ([03:48](#)):

This conversation is the best thing that happened to me today too.

Sunflower ([03:53](#)):

Hey, that's good. Thank you.

Aaron Henkin ([03:55](#)):

Glad to know you.

Sunflower ([03:56](#)):

Likewise. I appreciate that.

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