

## Life's Most Difficult Lessons

Written by {ga=riverburns}

Sunday, January 27 2013 6:00 AM - Last Updated Friday, January 25 2013 11:55 AM

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On the surface, Brian Gale is the type of person that you assume has a pretty good handle on things. He's an MBA and a CEO, pretty big letters in both cases, but that's just the present tense. At St. Ignatius, Coach Chuck Kyle demanded a lot out of his defensive end. The high standard is all about the school, that some of us know mostly as a football factory, but the standards exist in the classroom and all other walks of life.

After learning football and life from "Chico" Kyle, new challenges awaited Mr. Gale in the Ivy League classroom and on the field for the Harvard Crimson.

With all of that education, including a Masters' program at the University of Chicago, he reminds the world that some of life's lessons come from the most unlikely of places. In Brian's case, it comes from his children.

From the heart-warming story of everything that he's learned from 6 year-old son Logan to the difficult tale of living life without their daughter, Peyton Kimberly Gale, Brian shares his experiences in

Good Job, Airplane!,  
an autobiography of sorts that he wrote with

[Erik Cassano](#)  
of this very site.

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Brian shares stories of some of his own life experiences and brings us to the workplace, at ID Images in Brunswick, where Brian tries to keep an open ear with his employees because he is always open to the idea of making things better. He likes when things are better at home too, better for Logan and better for everyone he loves in this world.

Though he offers good advice for the work-place and indulged me with the potentially never-ending conversation about sports when I spoke with him on the phone, this book is all about the family.

That's because Brian is all about the family, even his extended family at ID Images.



This book is a gift to Logan, a token of gratitude for being a great son and a good friend. This young man may never understand how he was supposed to feel, or what he was supposed to say to Brian and his mother, Kelly, when he heard the news that his baby sister was gone.

Logan asked questions about everything, and he still does, but Brian had no answers for Logan.

How do you explain a stillborn child to a child too young to understand mortality?

Heck, 34 years of experience hasn't given Yours Truly the type of insight that it takes to handle that very real subject.

Logan and Brian grow together from this experience, and everything else. Logan is a brilliant young man, based on the stories told in the book, including the catch-phrase that inspired the title.

After Peyton, a Disney trip fell into the lap of the Gale family, and what a great way to get away from the challenges of day-to-day life without Peyton, whose life was taken from her, two months before it was supposed to begin.

A potential nightmare for parents of young children has to be air travel, because no one really

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wants to be responsible for a screaming child in cramped spaces, but that's the way it has to be sometimes.

On this trip, to Logan's satisfaction, the plane made it from Cleveland to Orlando.



Good Job, Airplane! It's something that's whispered at the end of flights for Brian now, but certainly has an increased meaning for Gale these days. It means that everything you do or don't do in life makes a difference, everyone makes an impact.

It's simple, yet so complex.

That's a fairly profound statement to be made by a toddler.

Last summer, when a Miami basketball team we don't like talking about struggled, a child became famous with his words that were mocked in our part of the world.

"Good effort, good job," the child repeated in an enthusiastic tone. We get so caught up on winners and losers, and who can be the edgiest or snarkiest guy on Twitter.

Whether the kid's words were mostly mocked the viewing public, or possibly absorbed by a player or two, he made an impact.

Of course, we don't care for the players he was honestly just trying to support, but it was a good gesture.

People like me, quite removed from childhood and also removed from any interaction with America's youth for a while, are cheated out of the lessons that we can learn from the innocent, uncorrupted mind.

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