

Handgun Monologue # 1 of 2
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The skill that you learn when you learn how to protect the ones you love is going to be the most valuable skill you've ever learned in your entire life. If you're carrying concealed, you are carrying for a very good reason and most likely it is to protect the ones you love. Now, 99% of the time you'll be doing this for pretty much no reason. I mean, you won't have any outcome where you are protecting the ones that you love and that act actually helps someone out and saves their lives. But that 1% of the time when you use this information and something actually happens, you'll increase the lifespan of yourself and of the ones you love by another 40 happy years. Before I go any further with this, and I do give you some of the techniques and secrets and reveal to you some of the ideas that have changed and shaped my ability to read people in the way that I do, I want to tell you that one of the biggest realizations that I've had learning this is that most of this knowledge that I'll have is useless. And when I say that, I don't really mean that you can't use it. What I really mean is that you can't count on it. You can never say to yourself that "well, I've taken all the precautions that I've needed to take and I'm perfectly safe. One of the biggest lessons that you learn is that you're not perfectly safe. In fact, you're never perfectly safe. And if you're not okay with this, then you can't wake up to the reality that you're never actually safe in the first place. Having a firearm on you only gives you the illusion that you are safe. Having the ability to use that firearm effectively is the only thing that will make you safer. Just being here you already know that you're vulnerable. You already know that you're going to die someday. The surest way to make sure that you always give away the upper hand and the person who's attacking you, or going against you – or your opponent in any way – always has the upper hand is to **think** that you know what's going on; to think that you know every piece of the puzzle. If you think you know every piece of the puzzle, you'll always miss out on one or two pieces.

If you think you know every piece of the puzzle, and the other person knows that you think that, then they have an advantage over you. And using this knowledge, but also hiding the knowledge, are two of the most powerful skills that you will ever learn. I've done martial

arts for quite a while – not nearly as long as some people have done martial arts– but I’ve done it for quite a while for my age and everyone who has ever started down the path of truly studying full-time martial arts with the intent of attempting to master this skill set has realized one very very humbling thing. And that is, we suck at martial arts. There’s always somebody – and you’ll never know who it is – who’s better than you are. You won’t know until you’re on the ground and they’re on top of you. And right then when they’re standing over you, and it’s too late for you to do anything, you’re happy that you learned that lesson in an environment where you are in class and nothing negative is going to happen.

One of the biggest mistakes that people make is that they learn this lesson a little bit too late. They learn that the people they think they understand –they think they’ve sized up–are the people who are most likely to have the upper hand, enough to take advantage of you. Reading body language effectively is like playing chess. All the pieces are always exposed. The only thing you don’t see is what’s going through the mind of the person you’re playing. Just like in chess, and also just like in poker, you never really play the game. What you want to do is play the person across from you.

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