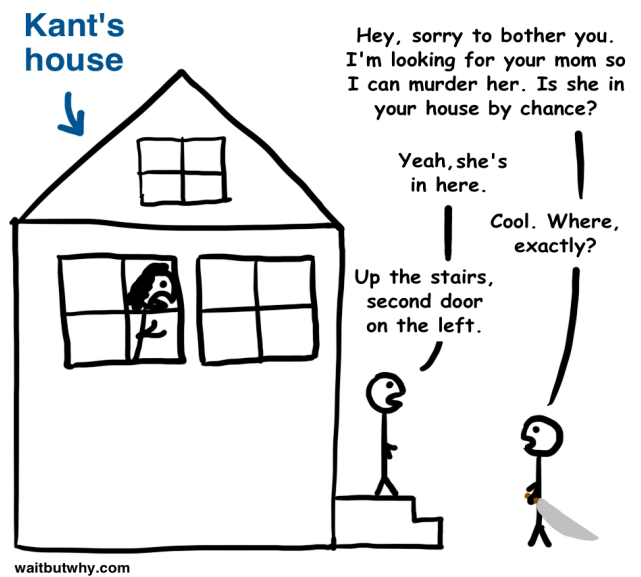


Soulful Songs and Stories

With a song and your stories, we co-create a soft place for hard conversations and a brave space for personal and spiritual growth.



#21: Pants on Fire: Can You or Kant You?

Hi Soulful Song Lovers and Story Tellers,

The basic truth of the human condition is that everybody lies. The only variable is about what. —Dr. Gregory House, *House, MD* https://youtu.be/g7tYt_oNTs8 00:09

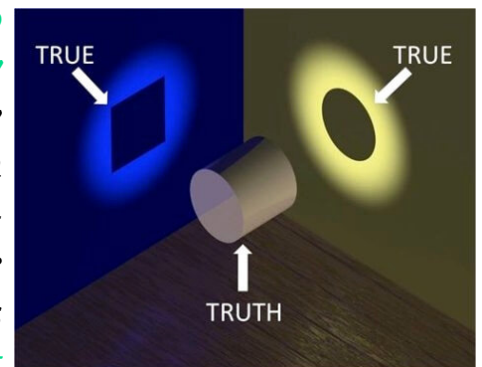
“Lying,” Prettymuch <https://youtu.be/IAQ6BxfY6Qs> 3:24

I had the fortune or misfortune to learn how to read fluently starting at the age of three. So I had read maybe 150 books by the time I hit first grade. And I already knew that the teachers were lying to me. —Alan Kay

“What Did You Learn In School Today?”

Tom Paxton/Pete Seeger <https://youtu.be/tHI5NlID6aU?t=42> 2:05

Immanuel Kant (1724–1804) proposed that there are no conceivable circumstances in which lying is morally acceptable. He argued that morality is rooted in our capacity to make free, rational choices and that lying is, in effect, an assault on morality because it aims to undermine this capacity. Kant also affirmed that the moral law demands that we treat others as ends in themselves, whereas lying involves treating others merely as means. **According to John Stuart Mill (1806–73), an act is morally obligatory only if it creates the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people, relative to its alternatives.** Because there are circumstances in which lying serves the general good more effectively than truth telling does, we sometimes have a moral obligation to behave dishonestly. —www.britannica.com



“How to Spot a Liar,” Pamela Meyer, TED Talk

We’re lied to 10 to 200 times a day, and tell a lie ourselves an average of 1 to 2 times in the same period.

https://youtu.be/P_6vDLq64gE?t=16 18:18



“Little Lies,” Fleetwood Mac

<https://youtu.be/uCGD9dT12Co> 3:38

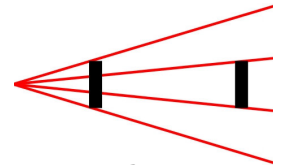
I think we’re all the same. We just base our truths on different sets of lies being fed to us. And we believe them with our whole selves. —Sarah Silverman

Lies are the termites in the house of democracy. —Olivia Ward

For the great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie—deliberate, contrived, and dishonest—but the myth—persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic. Too often we hold fast to the clichés of our forebears. We subject all facts to a prefabricated set of interpretations. We enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought. —John F. Kennedy, commencement address, Yale University, 1963

“Lie To Me,” Depeche Mode

https://youtu.be/k-KF4oe_rxE?t=33 4:21



Santa Claus. The Tooth Fairy. Virgin Birth. I am not a crook. Iraq was actively pursuing an atomic weapon. I did not have sex with that woman. The election was stolen. The check is in the mail. I am not a racist. We don’t prioritize profits over safety.

Truth, like light, is blinding. Lies, on the other hand, are a beautiful dusk, which enhances the value of each object. —Albert Camus

Why couldn’t I have realized / The gravity of telling lies

Whose weight now shows upon your faceless mound —Gregory Porter, “Don’t Be a Fool”

When you have something to say, silence is a lie. —Jordan Peterson

You cannot lie in the kitchen. —Anthony Bourdain

I’m a poet, and I like my lies the way my mother used to make them. —Aleister Crowley

If you want more songs about lying:

<https://spinditty.com/playlists/Songs-About-Lies>

<https://ultimateclassicrock.com/songs-about-lying>

<https://www.ranker.com/list/songs-about-lying/ranker-music>



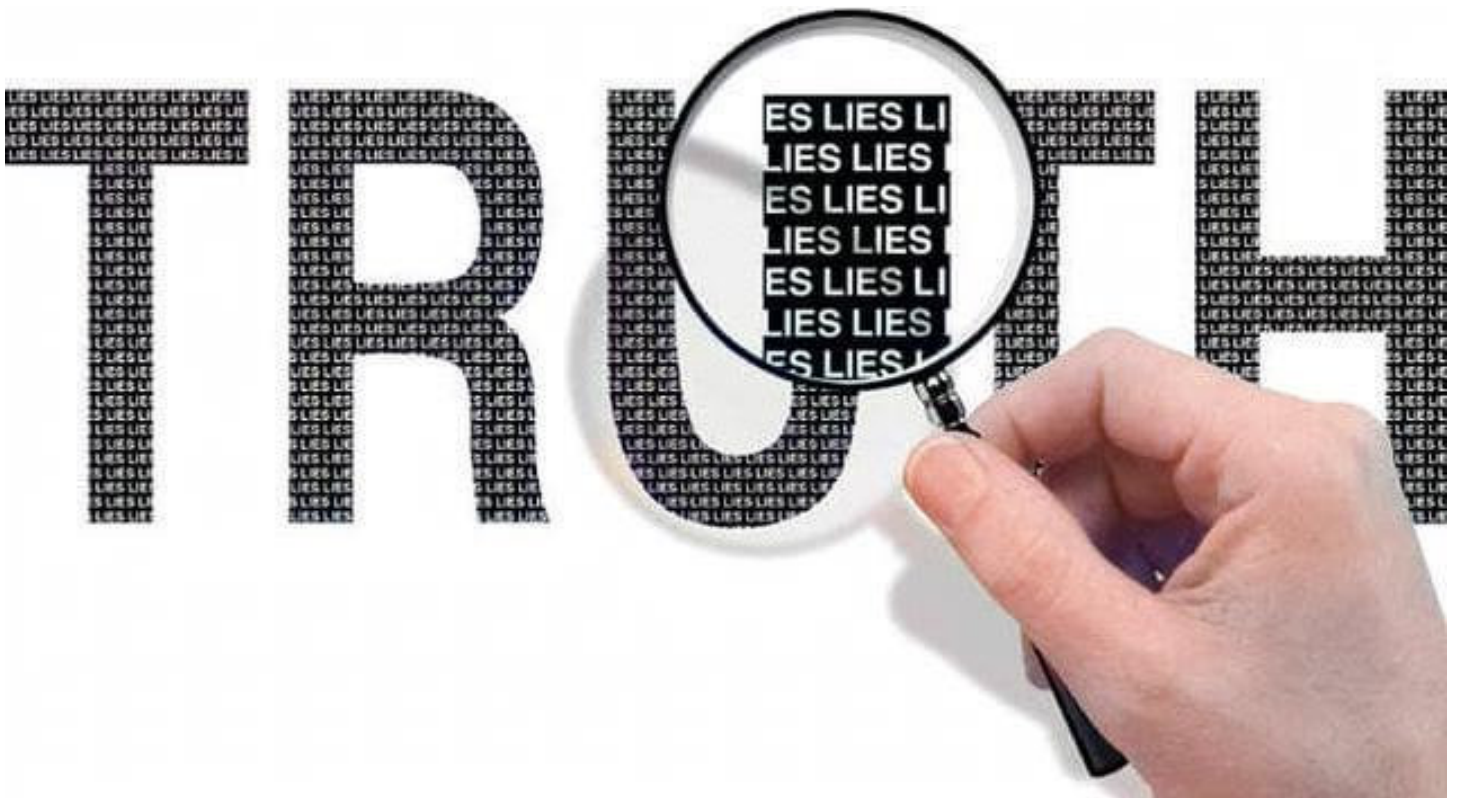
If you want more stories about lying:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/lying/lying_1.shtml

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-nature-deception/201906/is-it-always-wrong-lie>

<https://www.inspiringquotes.us/topic/8113-lying>

<https://www.scu.edu/ethics/ethics-resources/ethical-decision-making/lying>



Music to relax and think about whether lying is a black and white issue, or if there are 50 shades of gray in between.

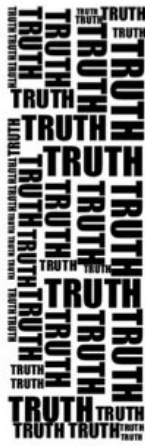
“Until the Real Thing Comes Along,” Sammy Cahn, Saul Chaplin & L.E. Freeman/JD Allen <https://youtu.be/geDfaiFyRME> 5:05

“A Chloris,” (arr. Cor Anglais, [English Horn] & Orchestra), Reynaldo Hahn/Albrecht Mayer <https://youtu.be/c9iIsqjzAmE> 4:05

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands,” Nina Simone <https://youtu.be/Q6SkrZPKMCE> 3:13

“Nocturne in A-Flat Major, La Murmure,” Maria Szymanowska/Nancy Fierro <https://youtu.be/-KYKP8KILLw> 2:40

“What A Wonderful World,” George Weiss & Bob Thiele/ Jon Batiste <https://youtu.be/9542BuRlq6k> 4:54



To be true to myself, to be the person that was on the inside of me, and not play games. That's what I'm trying to do mostly in the whole world, is not bullshit myself and not bullshit anybody else. —Janis Joplin

If you're really successful at bullshitting, it means you're not hanging around enough people smarter than you. —Neil deGrasse Tyson

“Hymnal Blues,” Sonny Stitt <https://youtu.be/PKvtmyrIRDw> 6:10

Parable of the Burning House

The Lotus Sutra contains a famous upaya story about using the expedient means of white lies to rescue children from a burning building.

...At that time the rich man had this thought: the house is already in flames from this huge fire. If I and my sons do not get out at once, we are certain to be burned. I must now invent some expedient means that will make it possible for the children to escape harm. The father understood his sons and knew what various toys and curious objects each child customarily liked and what would delight them. And so he said to them, ‘The kind of playthings you like are rare and hard to find. If you do not take them when you can, you will surely regret it later. For example, things like these goat-carts, deer-carts and ox-carts. They are outside the gate now where you can play with them. So you must come out of this burning house at once. Then whatever ones you want, I will give them all to you!’ “At that time, when the sons heard their father telling them

about these rare playthings, because such things were just what they had wanted, each felt emboldened in heart and, pushing and shoving one another, they all came wildly dashing out of the burning house.

The father subsequently presents each of his sons with a large bejeweled carriage drawn by a pure white ox. When the Buddha asks Shariputra whether the father was guilty of falsehood, he answers.

“No, World-Honored One. This rich man simply made it possible for his sons to escape the peril of fire and preserve their lives. He did not commit a falsehood. Why do I say this? Because if they were able to preserve their lives, then they had already obtained a plaything of sorts. And how much more so when, through an expedient means, they are rescued from that burning house!”

“Truth No. 2,” Patty Griffin

Patty Griffin, Live from Mountain Stage <https://youtu.be/YPpcifP5Ir4> 4:18

The Chicks, Live from MMXVI Tour <https://youtu.be/I77wzMi42do> 4:35

You don't like the sound of the truth
Coming from my mouth
You say that I lack the proof
Baby, that might be so
I might get to the end of my life
And find out everyone was lying
But I don't think that I'm afraid anymore
I say that I would rather die trying

*Oh swing me way down south
Sing me something brave from your mouth
And I'll bring you pearls of water on my hips
And the love in my lips, all the love in my lips*

This time when you swung the bat
And I found myself laying flat I wondered
What a way to spend a dime
What a way to use the time, ain't it, baby?
And I looked at my reflection
In the window walking past and I saw a stranger
I'm just so scared all the time
Makes me one more reason why the world is dangerous

*Oh swing me way down south
Sing me something brave from your mouth
And I'll bring you pearls of water on my hips
And the love in my lips, all the love in my lips*

You don't like the sound of the truth
Coming from my mouth
You say that I lack the proof
Baby, that might be so
Tell me what's wrong with having a little faith
In what you're feeling in your heart?
And why must we be so afraid
And always so far apart?

*Oh swing me way down south
Sing me something brave from your mouth
And I'll bring you pearls of water on my hips
And the love in my lips, all the love in my lips*