YOUR COUSIN FROM BOSTON

SAMUE ADAMS





SAMUEL ADAMS

NOIGH





South Boston 2023

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AUTHORS NOTE



3 PM on a Tuesday. Rte 1 Package Store in Saugus.

Dave Matthews blares from a dusty boombox next to a pile of burned CDs. A man sits behind the counter flipping through the October edition of Sports Illustrated—from 2004.

Well not a man exactly. A man-child.

He's wearing a knockoff Celtics jersey—the kind they sell around North Station that's just off enough to be oh-so-perfectly right—under a hooded flannel. His unfashionably light-washed jeans blouse around a beat up pair of Timberland boots. Atop a greasy mess of strawberry blonde hair sits a backwards baseball cap advertising no team in particular.

And in his left hand? A bottle of Sam Adams beer. I place a pack of import European lager on the counter. He smiles impishly.

"You're not from around here, are ya?" says the man in an accent so thick I can't help but wonder if it's genuine. I admit that I'm not—it's my first week at the Boston Herald. I suddenly feel far away from my home in Indiana.

"Go grab a sixer of Sam from the storage freezer out back. Not the cooler—cooler's been on the fritz for the last uhh...couple years." I comply. Without warning, he lifts two bottles from my pack of Sam and cracks 'em open on on a well-worn dent in the counter. "One for me, one for you. That's Massachusetts sales tax." he says handing me a beer. "Now you're a local." I explain that I'm late for the Herald company picnic and can't drink with him in the store—besides, is that even legal?

"Buddy," he says chuckling. "I'm gonna teach you the secret to life... but it'll cost ya another Sam."

I never caught his name. But over the next six hours I managed to record his life story for a profile that never made it to print in the Herald.

'Cause we both got fired that day.

-MIKE DAVIES
Formerly of the Boston Herald



"I don't have any friends in Boston," I said. "No family here either."

"How do you know we're not related?" He replied. "Maybe we're cousins."

"Sure," I said, laughing.
"You're my cousin from Boston."

I asked once more for his real name. He asked if i was a cop. So we left it at that: I'd finally found my long-lost cousin from Boston.





AN ABSOLUTE LEGEND IS BORN.

He was born on a Friday at Carney Hospital in Dorchester during Game 7 of the 1984 Celtics title series against the Lakers. He wasn't due for another week or so, but as his mother liked to say...

"He didn't want to miss the game."

No father was present for the delivery, but a veritable parade of cops, firefighters, local politicians and ex-Patriots stopped by hospital to confirm they bore no resemblance to the newborn baby boy. And wish his mother well.







After setting a BPS school district record for most times repeating the fifth grade, he ended up at Bishop Westlake High School, home of the Fightin' Altar Boys (go Boys!).

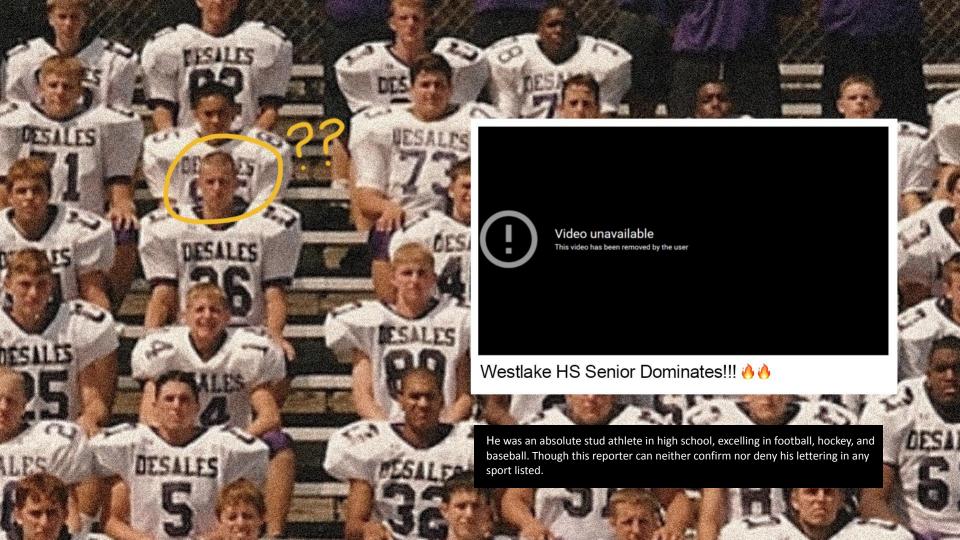
"He had an inside joke & nickname for everyone in class," said a former schoolmate. "Which is funny 'cause I never caught his." Nerds, jocks, preppies, and troublemakers alike recall him fondly—especially his legendary parties. "He made sure EVERYONE was invited. Even the teachers. That last part didn't go over so hot."

Your Cousin was rarely seen in halls of Westlake without his best friends at his side:

Matty, 2-time All American hockey star

Billy, 2-strike juvenile offender

Meghan, Your Cousin's kid sister





"I'd trade all of my tomorrows for one single yesterday." — Janis Joplin

"If there is something you want, go for it, because you may never have the chance later on in life to get it, especially love!"

"I can't believe that we would lie in our graves, wondering if we had spent our living days well... dreaming of the things that we might have been..." — DMB

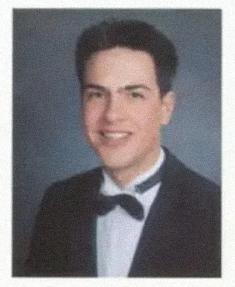
"If you hold on tight to think is your thing, you you're missing all the rest



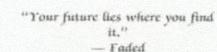
Your Cousin From Boston



Lori Lange



John Lewis





Tracy Lop

"Live your life to it's f

"Best six years of my life."

HIS FIRST SAM

Summer. Cape Cod. 199—look he was 21 okay?

Matty's ex-girlfriend's field hockey teammate's uncle forgot to lock the beach house in Dennis during his divorce. So the boys had a party.

Your Cousin had beer before. But he didn't love it. Domestic light beer always tasted... Skunky? Bland? Piss-watery? Is that a word? So Matty poured him a chilled Boston Lager in one of the Uncle's prized Perfect Pint glasses.

And it was music to his mouth.

Your Cousin tasted freshly baked biscuits. Toasted crackers. A slight, malty sweetness and an intoxicating floral aroma. It had body. It had bite. This was beer. No, this was better than beer.

This was Sam friggin' Adams.

Your Cousin's no beer connoisseur. But this magic elixir of barley, hops, malt and spring water spoke to him. It wasn't about the alcohol or the party or even the ingredients. It was poetry in a bottle, signed by its author: Jim Koch.

And then the cops came. F!@& Matty



Your cousin, everyone's got one

Optimist

UR Favorite

Really LOVES Sam Adams

Crazy (just a little)

Octoberfest is his favorite

Underdog

Sox (as in the Red Sox, part of his DNA)

In it to win it!

Not afraid to try things

Funny as hell

Rad

Open minded

More than a feeling (great song by Boston)

Big hearted

Over the top (sometimes)

Shipping up to Boston (also a great song)

otally down for a good time

One meatball short of a grinder (yeah that's a saying)

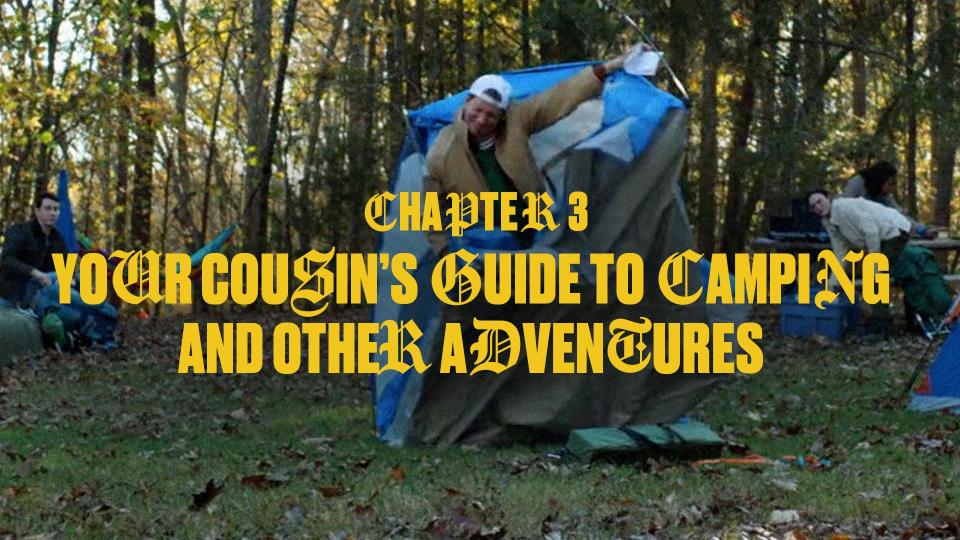
Vever gives up





Apparently there's nothing here to share, that was just good advice his uncle gave him one time.

Next chapter...



YOUR COUSIN LIVES BY ONE RULE:

SAY YES. TO EVERYTHING. ALWAYS. He isn't content with sitting idle for too long. His glass half full, try-anything-once

attitude gives him a zest for life and one that takes him on many wicked adventures.

And gets him in plenty of trouble.



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6:45AM JULY 21/20 00-0000 002 ADAM #10329 CLERK

COPY 17.50 12-PK BOSTON LAGER 17.50 12-PK SUMMER ALE 7.59 BEEF JERKEY 3.75 CHIPS 221.34 MDSE 1.86 CITY 4% 2.90 STATE 226.10 *TTL 240.00 CASH 13.90 CHANGE

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT AL'S =ALL SALES FINAL=



YOUR COUSIN LIVES BY ONE MORE RULE:

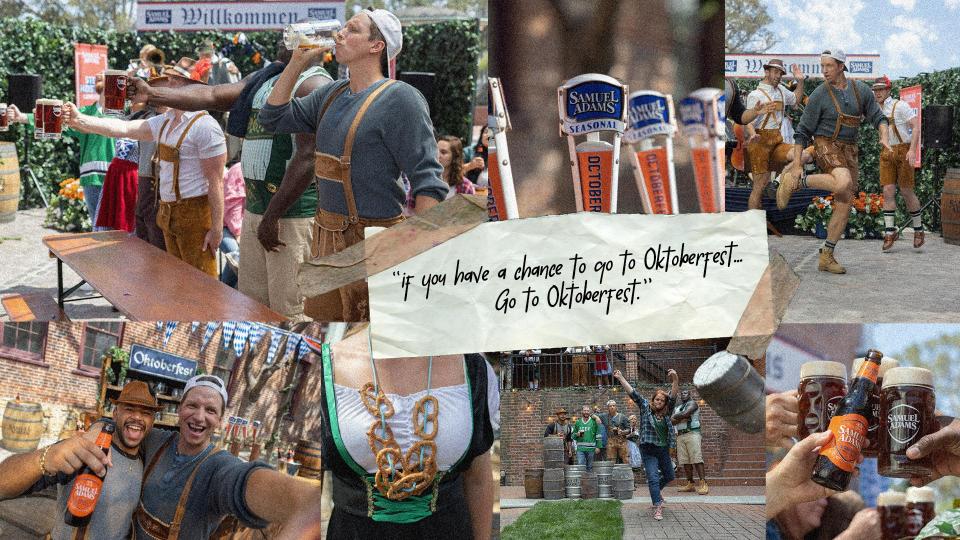
INVITE EVERYONE EVERYTHING.

The party's more fun when more people are there. And strangers? They're just new friends you haven't met yet. Folks warm up guick when you toss 'em a beer.

This policy's been known to get him in hot water—nobody should bring a +6 to a wedding. But he can't help it.

Life' about the people we share it with. Why not share it with more of 'em?





YOUR COUSIN LIVES BY ONE -OK THIS HAS TO BE THE LAST-RULE:

AND AN OPEN BAR TAB.

A German folk festival full of silly hats, lame dances and big ol' beers? He's open to that.

An MIT-backed robotics lab across the river? Sign him up.

Non-alcoholic beers? Pride parades? Mexico City? He'll check it out.

His most memorable adventures occur when he's a **fish out of dirty water.** So he keeps himself open to anything—no matter how "uncomfortable" you'd think Southie guy with a high school education might be.

He's a typical guy from Boston. But he'll surprise you every time...



A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF THE ONE RULE YOUR COUSIN FROM BOSTON LIVES BY:

- 1. It takes a lot of smarts to be this dumb.
- If your invitation got lost, win 'em over with Sam Adams. <u>Beer brings everyone together.</u>
- You can be a fan of any sports team in the world—as long as they're from Boston
- Dress for the job you want—in a flannel hoodie, backwards cap and Timberlands.
- Fun comes first. Wait no—family comes first. And family includes friends.
- 6. There's no problem that can't be solved with a round of Sams.
- Never overstay your welcome. Make a joke, make friends & make an exit.
- 8. Remember who pays the bills around here (mom & Sam Adams)
- 9. Never start something you can't finish
- 10. Always have a 10th item when you list things







Like every Bostonian, sports are a big part of Your Cousin's world. Whether he's playing 'em, watching 'em, or serving his lifetime suspension from TD Garden for chirping Lebron.

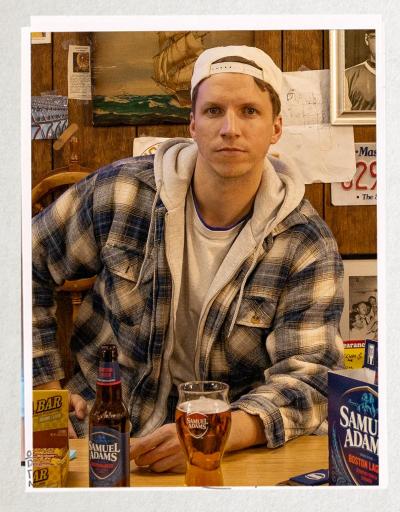






"Is it on the green?"





I asked him what was on his "bucket list," so he gave me a list of things he'd "like to collect in a bucket."

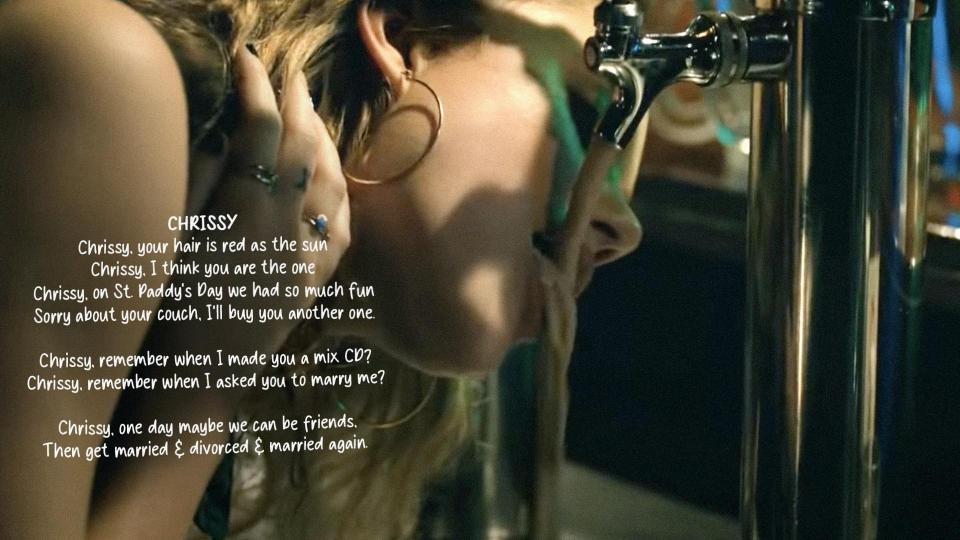
I didn't correct him.

- 1. A winning scratch off
- 2. A lock of Tom Brady's hair
- 3. Every Sam Adams beer except for George Washington Porter
- 4. Sand from M Street Beach where Crissy and I had our first date
- 5. My stepdad Larry's tears
- 6. A smile from Bill Belichick
- 7. Love from all my friends and family
- 8. The perfect joke that makes everyone laugh and no one feel bad
- 9. A bitcoin
- 10. My real dad



He was once married to a girl named Chrissy. They got divorced, then remarried, and quite possibly divorced again. Can't be sure—I couldn't hear him over the sobbing.







He Tweets about her fondly.

Your Cousin from Boston ② @cousinfrmboston · Oct 27, 2022





Your Cousin from Boston

@cousinfrmboston Follows you

Hmu: 1-617-829-1984 / Boston / Beer Fanatic | / | / | / | / max bench 240 / Class of '06 FOREVER / DM to buy '98 Mercury Sable, midnight navy w/ power steering

Your Cousin wants to be famous on social media. But he's so, incredibly bad at it.

His memes are crudely Photoshopped. His videos are a cringe parade of screwups and misguided advice. And while most young men want to show themselves #balling in the lap of luxury... Your Cousin lives with his mom, drives a crappy car to crappy jobs, and pool hops with his friends.

But that's what makes him such a damn good follow!

He says what's on his mind. He wears his heart on his sleeve. He's self-deprecating to a fault. Honesty. Humility. Pathos. And a good laugh or two.





Your Cousin from Boston @cousinfrmboston · Jan 22
I am now the official spokesperson for overdraft kings

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Your Cousin from Boston @cousinfrmboston · Apr 20, 2022 · · · When I said 'working on my summer six pack' I meant beers. The bod's already got 8.

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Your Cousin from Boston ♥ @cousinfrmboston · Feb 12 Really need this 4-way parlay to hit #sb



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He asked if we could play a drinking game called Never Have I Ever. "I don't know the rules," I said. "I've never played before."

He shook his head and put down one finger. "You're already winning," he replied.

I've recorded his responses to the best of hazy memory:





NEVER HAVE I EVER...

1. BEEN A PITCH MAN

"I'm a beer fan." he said. "I love Sam Adams. But I'm no corporate shill. You won't catch me spinning a sign."

2. BEEN MEAN.

"I mean well." he corrected. "Even if it doesn't always come out that way."

1. OFFENDED PEOPLE

"I'll rip on your mom. I'm unfiltered. But when it comes to jokes, I prefer to be the butt. Which how your mom..."

2. BEEN DEPRESSING

"I drive a '98 Mercury Sable." he said morosely. "I get lonely. I get my heart broken. But this isn't Angela's Ashes." Maybe he reads a little more than old magazines behind the counter...

3. SAID PAHK THE CAH IN HARVAHD YAHD

"Harvard Yard isn't a parking lot, so that doesn't even make sense." he noted. "I'm not a broad Boston stereotype. I don't say WICKED every other word. Just once in a paragraph or two."

4. BEEN A CRIMINAL

"I'm just a guy with a bunch of outstanding parking tickets. Is that illegal?" I replied that it is. But Your Cousin insists he's not a real criminal, just a little mischievous.

MOVIES, BOOKS, & OTHER BOSTON POP CULTURE

A comprehensive list of great films, books, podcasts and other musings to help get in the world of Your Cousin From Boston.

GOOD WILL HUNTING

Your Cousin says it's his favorite movie

THE DEPARTED

Your Cousin's real favorite movie

ALL SOULS by Michael MacDonald

This book's a bit of a bummer but if you're new to Boston, give it a whirl!

OLD DIRTY BOSTON PODCAST

There's a ton of great jokes in these stories

@ONLYINBOS

A Boston-centric meme account full of hilarious nuggets

BREWBOUND PODCAST

Beer industry podcast with great bev-alc insights

QUENCH YOUR THIRST

Sam Adams founder Jim Koch's autobiography. Must read.

DOUBLE DEAL PODCAST

Another one that's chock full of great stories





CLOSING TIME

As closing time approached, I couldn't help but ask him: Why?

Why does he refuse to grow up? Why is he content working a dead-end job and living at his mom's basement? Why does he drink beer at 2 in the afternoon?

He held up an old Polaroid from Fenway Park—smiling in the stands sat Your Cousin, his mother & kid sister, his best friends Matty & BIlly, and a few out-of-towners they'd invited to pose for the shot. They cheers-ed plastic cups and Sam Adams to the camera.

"That's why," he said. "This is what it's all about."

In an instant—I understood. It's about love. It's about friendship. It's about spending what little time we have together instead of chasing things that will never make us happy. Beer, buds, memories...that's what makes life worth living.

"No you idiot," he said. "I get discount Sox tickets working here."