



Real stories that really move you

Sagen wir es denen, die unser Leben teilen! Schreckliches und Schönes, Trauriges und Lustiges. Alles ist besser, als irgendwann feststellen zu müssen, dass es zu spät ist. **medium US 7/09**

When was the last time you asked friends or family members to tell you something really important? To recall an experience from their past and explain the feelings they had at that time? More importantly, when was the last time you truly listened to what they had to say?

Many of us put off asking our parents and grandparents to tell us stories from their lives. We tell ourselves that our relatives will be around later. The stories can wait. Then, suddenly, they're gone — and so are their stories. Talking about feelings can be difficult. But these conversations can also bring us closer.

Now, with the help of StoryCorps, founded in 2003, tens of thousands of these stories are being recorded day in and day out in what is likely to be the largest oral-history project ever. The mission of StoryCorps is "to honor and celebrate one another's lives through listening."

It all started with a listening booth in Grand Central Station in New York City. People like you and me simply showed up with a family member or friend and interviewed him or her. The interviews were recorded in the booth and then archived in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Two mobile listening booths were later added to the project, giving people from around the country the chance to talk and listen to each other.

The idea of David Isay, founder of StoryCorps, was to record conversations between two people who are important to each other. He thought that when others heard these stories, they would also be inspired to connect with those people who matter most to them. He writes on the StoryCorps website that "by listening closely to one another, we can help illuminate the true

character of this nation, reminding us all just how precious each day can be, and how truly great it is to be alive."

Every Friday morning, my local National Public Radio station broadcasts one of these stories. The people aren't famous, and they aren't people I know. Yet their stories make me realize just how important day-to-day experiences are. An immigrant tells his daughter about one of his first meals in America, when he saw the word "hot dog" on a menu and took it literally. A daughter asks her mother how she felt when she was diagnosed with breast cancer; another mother answers questions from her daughter, whom she gave up for adoption as a baby.

An elderly husband and wife talk about how they met; a young man is interviewed by his partner about the day when, as a child, he told his parents he would someday marry a man. There are stories about soldiers, some who returned from battle and some who did not. The wars they fought

span the decades, from World War II to Vietnam to Iraq.

What's surprising to me is how openly these people talk with each other about their feelings, for all the world to hear. Whether happy or sad, their stories remind me of how important it is to take the time to speak openly with the people we love — and to listen carefully to their answers.

Listening is an act of love. That says it all. It is also the title of a book containing a selection of the interviews. Many are also available on the website (www.storycorps.org) and can be downloaded as podcasts. It's all free and yours for the taking.



"The stories remind me how important it is to speak with the people we love"

booth [bu:θ]	Kabine
broadcast sth. ['brɔ:dkæst]	etw. senden
cancer ['kænsər]	Krebs
closely ['kləʊsli]	genau
connect with sb. [kə'nekt wɪθ]	den Kontakt zu jmdm. vertiefen
decade ['dekeɪd]	Jahrzehnt
for the taking: be sb's. ~ [,fɔ: də 'teɪkɪŋ]	jmd. muss sich nur bedienen
illuminate sth. [ɪ'lu:mɪneɪt]	etw. erhellen/offenbaren
literally ['lɪtərəli]	wörtlich
oral history [ɔ:ɹəl 'hɪstri]	Befragung von Zeitzeugen
precious ['preʃəs]	wertvoll, wichtig
put sth. off [pʊt 'ɔ:f]	etw. vor sich her schieben
recall sth. [rɪ'kɔ:l]	sich an etw. erinnern
show up [,ʃəʊ 'ʌp]	hinkommen
span sth. [spæn]	sich über etw. erstrecken