

Birth Log, Not Clickbait (Emotional)

Intro

As a fun way to enter this, I wanted to see if I could watch a birthing video. After all, it's apparently part of the class folks take to prepare for birth. Some people even watched one in school.

Unfortunately, it's one of the many real life things of this world that scares me. I think of myself as a baby and what size I was when I came out. How. How is that possible? A cursory glance at the Childbirth wikipedia page was enough to send my eyes to the moon, not because of the birthing diagrams and all the various ways that a baby can turn itself about in the womb, but because of the cost of childbirth¹ as well as the rates of maternal mortality (most especially for Black women)² in the United States, home of Ben and JD incorporated.

Now, you must be wondering – JD, this show is about memes and the internet? Not healthcare in the United States?

Oh, yeah this is one hundred percent about memes and the internet! But I'm not here to scare you about *childbirth*.

I'm here to scare you about the *internet*, baby. Kachow.

What is Birthlog?

Birthlog is creepypasta created by TheLittlestFear. In this story, the main character randomly Googles their own name, then finds a creepy website called "birthlog.com".

On this fairly blank but eerie looking website, MC sees strange cryptic info on it and then sees a series of numbers that touches their brain.

When they click on the numbers, it shows them a video of a woman giving birth and holding their baby. In the end of the story, they realize that the woman is their mom and they are the baby. Fucked up, I know.

Characters in BL

¹ [How Much Does It Cost To Have A Baby? 2023 Averages – Forbes Advisor.](#)

² [e-stat-maternal-mortality-rates-2022.pdf](#)

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MC	n/a, like they're the Every Man; there's no attached description of the MC
Mom	"she was heavily pregnant, the swell of her stomach visible through the trailing folds of the gown she was wearing. The woman looked to be more than a little nervous, as she looked around the room. [...] Her clothes had dampened with a fine sheen of sweat under the hot operating lights that illuminated her, like an unwilling star playing out on some demented stage"; other than this there's no visible ID to her - like she could be your mom.
Tall Masked	"The tallest, wearing a hatted black mask with a leathery, sewn design to it," (for all 3: "The odd thing about all of them was the visible lack of zippers and buttons on their clothes") [yes, I know you're thinking about cenobites now].
Short Masked	"The shorter of the trio,[...] wore a completely white plague mask that looked like it was made of latex,"
Brown Masked	"The other wore a brown mask with a brimmed hat, one that almost comically resembled a gardening one"

What are the implications of the Birth Log?

The existence of Birth Log requires and implies many things. Firstly, there is an organization that performs births and uploads them to an online database.

Second, there is a population of people who have given birth with this organization and they may or may not know that their birth event was documented and uploaded onto this database.

Third, there are many births documented on this website, meaning there are lots of "clients" at these strange birthing centers.

I'd love to invite you all to sit and think on this for a bit. Why is that needed? Is it educational?

Why is Birthlog scary?

Sit with me for a second and wonder why this all could be scary – sure it's just a database of a bunch of births, but without a direct intent (educational, fetish content, documentary, etc.) it's kind of strange for this to exist.

The internet is a scary place, not clickbait, emotional!

Let's first touch on something the author mentioned - The Dark Web.

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“The dark web is a subset of the deep web that is intentionally hidden, requiring a specific browser—Tor—to access” according to Darren Guccione of Keep Security³. According to the article, The Dark Web holds many of your fears about it: “You can buy credit card numbers, all manner of drugs, guns, counterfeit money, stolen subscription credentials, hacked Netflix accounts and software that helps you break into other people’s computers”. Yep, that’s exactly what you might have thought and were told that it was about.

Although it has a sinister tone to it and is mostly referenced in a negative light, there is some positive value to the Dark Web for locations that do not have access to wider internet due to country restrictions on internet, free speech, and other things.

The Dark Web is sort of this thing that you know off the back of your mind from some movie or because you had an edgy teen past. At times, it could be used to fearmonger among people who are still bewildered by the capability of the internet, leading them to think that all it truly holds is some guy in a mask about to steal your whole entire shit. Most of the time, even if your active internet escapades involve scrolling through TikTok, Twitter, Instagram, or some other dominant social media network – you still have some fear that it could turn worse than it already might be on all those hell sites. Love you Tiktok!

In the story itself, there’s a sort of theme of ‘the internet is a scary place’, within the strangeness of the website itself and also explicitly in the lines “the internet is both a wonderful and heinous creation, a vast digital landscape compiled of untold gigabytes of information” and “I think it’s advisable not to dig too deep while searching on the internet because you can only dig so deep before you uncover something that you know you were never supposed to”.

Amidst the weirdness and the scary idea of such a website existing, it becomes a cautionary tale and a moral story. Take care of how you navigate the internet, even if your curiosity is out of genuine interest or boredom - you never know what you might run into.

It’s the like those stories that we all know and are intimate with - someone tells you about this video they saw and you watch it because you’re bored and you wanna impress your friends and you learn for the first time that maybe some of your friends are fucked up or just have bizarre interests that no one else can handle.

³ [What is the dark web? How to access it and what you'll find | CSO Online](#)

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Consider that you're Jay-Z and Pharell just showed you *2 Girls, 1 Cup*⁴.

Which, to break everyone's heart, is actually a snippet from a "Making Of..." video with Pharell and Jay-Z where Pharell calls Jay-Z over to show him a song that he made. I'm almost sorry about breaking that spell, but this is the nature of the show. Meme history!

Speaking of fucked up videos - one other thing I considered about this is the idea of *snuff films* which "is a type of film that shows, or purports to show, scenes of actual homicide⁵." Additionally, they seem to be made with some intent to profit. Obviously, the "snuff" comes into play and as the author's mom is alive, it gets ruled out. So, we then move onto "shock sites" or "shock content".

Examples of which are Rotten.com, Ogrish.com (better known as LiveLeak) and BestGore.com - sites like this hosted videos like *3 Guys 1 Hammer* and the main star of *Don't Fuck with Cats* - Luka Magnotta's *1 Lunatic 1 Icepick*.

"A shock site is a website that is intended to be offensive or disturbing to its viewers, though it can also contain elements of humor or evoke (in some viewers) sexual arousal" according to the Wiki⁶. Which I do have to mention, fucking saved my ass. I was researching shit like "[subject] WIKI" just so I won't actually accidentally see Luka Magnotta's greatest hits (oh my god?).

Anyway, without the straight up intention of Birth Log listed on the site or in the author's story, we can't be so clear on saying that this is just someone documenting births for educational reasons. A dark conclusion is that this is some branch of the genre of shock sites, the same way that gore sites are sort of a specific branch of shock sites.

Now, you can't look at me and say: JD, these are pregnant people giving birth; who would- I encourage you to look at yourself in the mirror and think to yourself quietly. Lights fully on. Stare right into your own eyes. Listen to me. People are complex creatures. That's it. Now, do you still wanna ask that question or have you answered it yourself because my search history is honestly suffering right now please.

Anyway, to pose the idea that this could be a shock site within the universe of the author - not too far fetched I hope. If any networks are still listening, please - we're better than this sometimes.

[pause for question]

⁴ [This is Pharrell showing Jay-Z. Two Girls One Cup.](#)

⁵ [Snuff film - Wikipedia](#)

⁶ [Shock site - Wikipedia](#)

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Ben, are you familiar with the concept outside of me sending you that screenshot of my sources this week?

[resume]

Following that sort of scarefest of the existence of actual real life murder films on the internet - let's do a little exercise on the moral panic regarding the nebulous concept of The Internet. Think about stories regarding the adult man behind the screen luring young people into terrible situations. The Internet dares and challenges that expose young people to dangerous situations. Consider the internet that you were a part of when you were first starting out.

I was particularly part of the Friendster and MySpace era. Before we go further -

What makes a moral panic?

[pause for question]

Ben, we're both pretty familiar with Moral Panics as internet people and hosts of this show. How do you think the moral panic of the internet came about and goes, but also works with the moral of this piece?

[resume]

So, what makes up a moral panic⁷? First is identifying a subject to pay attention to. In this, some sort of "evil" or "bad" thing is created or identified.

Then, the "evil" and "bad" is presented on a surface level or, just the tip of the glacier is discussed. With this is a sense of anxiety developed from the perceived bad or good.

Then, we have a set of people who aim to manage or fight the bad – experts arise to provide input on solutions and how to navigate the thing. This could be laws, guidelines, bans, etc. Consider those camps that parents send their kids to to rid them of their video game addiction/obsession.

Then, gets 'addressed' with the aid of the moral police which might eradicate the issue or just outright exacerbate it.

⁷ [Moral Panics](#) - whole moral panic discussion is from this source

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This moral panic is mostly youth focused – consider what your kid is doing on the internet now and what they could be exposed to and what they’re learning.

Consider also that apparently, adults are more heavily impacted by the internet’s strangeness and terror more so than young people⁸. Slate’s Sherman Dorn discusses in *We Worried About Kids and the Internet. We Should Have Been Worried About Adults*. Dorn discusses the idea that young people are particularly “vulnerable to undue influence” and that there are always attempts to protect them from this.

However, we should also consider that they have very little power to do much about the thing they’re influenced by or about. A kid could love the living shit out of Blue’s Clues but can they go out and buy merch, find that channel, drown themselves in Blue merch? How much of that child can you influence when they have such a short period as one? Adults, though – longer lifespan in the adult space where you have money and all the time in the world to be influenced. You are not immune to propaganda.

Anyway, “the internet is bad” is a general sort of moral panic that has more moral panics inside of it. You could then consider this small piece of media an agent of moral panic, if you wanted to be tough on it just a little bit. Or at least another story that further aids or enforces the badness or strangeness of the internet. If I can find my mom’s birthing video on the internet, what else can I find?

I Love the 90s!

Okay - we’re going to pause from the fear aspect of it and go for curiosity instead.

I read the story and I particularly was curious about the moment that this person tells their friends that they found this website.

Let’s read this section together: “I nervously asked a few more technically-minded friends if they had ever heard of a website called 'Birth Log'. They had shaken their heads and after a few searches on the internet, turned up nothing. Not even on the Dark Web, which one or two of them were actually brave (or foolish) enough to frequent. There was nothing. Absolutely nothing. It was as if all traces of it had been purged from the face of the planet”

I admit that I am an adult, not a trial run adult - but I have been an adult now for 10 years by law, not by consent or will. I wouldn’t look this up – in my most stable mind – I

⁸ [We Worried About Kids and the Internet. We Should Have Been Worried About Adults.](#)

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wouldn't look this up. As a teen, would I have looked it up? And sacrificed the family computer to this? No. But *God*.

My brother has a baby book that my mom kept up for a long while. It documented the hit song of the year (Baby, One More Time), the top movie of the year, what weight he was, how long it took for him to be born, as well as our family tree at that time.

It was painstakingly done, to document this very sweet baby boy. You could see him go from wrinkly baby to this baby that people often poked at because he was incredibly light skinned and whatever else that adults were weird about with children.

I periodically look at it to see how my brother looked like a siopao bun.

I don't have this because I think my parents assumed we would be going to the Philippines periodically. My childhood memories are held hostage by the fact that I refuse to be beholden to some silly things that I don't think of anymore.

Sometimes, I get a little sad that I wasn't able to provide a baby photo for my yearbook or that my curly baby hair is forever lost to time. I periodically look at the very few photos I took of my baby pictures the last time I was in the Philippines. I would do a lot to get my photos back, save for maybe... going back and asking for them.

I'm not sure what your parents and family did with your baby photos Ben but I think many of our baby photos, for those of us in the same age range and above, are mostly held in VHS tapes, SD cards, and printed photos that sit somewhere in someone's basement or the top of an old China cabinet. To add to this, this was all during the mid to late 90s in the Philippines and we usually just used a film camera and a thick ass VHS camcorder for my baby content. I don't know if my VHS tapes have survived the way I want them to.

In addition to this, I lost my mom a few years ago – I can no longer ask her about my birth and where my photos could be. My dad doesn't know where they are because my mom was meticulous about storing things and we moved after she passed. So it might just be lost to mine and my dad's brain.

Additionally, I have a few friends who discuss the normalization of the pain and struggle of birthing. I am childless and choose to be childfree due to an insane amount of existing responsibility on me as the middle and oldest child at the same time. Despite this, I still want to know what birthing entails – to prepare myself for others around me who might! It's absolutely insane but people do it all the time and that's fucking guts.

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If a friend of mine came to me one day with a confused look on their face about this website that they found called Birth Log... I think I would not have been able to resist.

Would curiosity kill the cat and run this back into *fear* more than innocent *curiosity*? After all... This isn't just you wanting to ask your parents when and where you were born for an astrological birth chart, nope – this is revisiting the potential of traumatic birth for your parent.

[pause for question]

What about you Ben? Would Birth Log have made you curious? Would you have tried to look or is there something that might hold you back?

[resume]

Closing Sentiments

In the grand scheme of things – Birth Log as a concept might not be that scary. Consider though that it might be *fridge horror*, something we discussed all the way from my Junji Ito episode⁹.

Its individual pieces make it scary when you think more about it. The unknown reason behind the website makes it scary. Why would people do this? Who are the people behind this website? Who are all the people giving birth? Do they know this exists? Why would anyone need this?

What's the moral of the story? Don't get too cocky on the internet lest you wreck yourself with a horrifying revelation? The internet is cool but it's scary?

Outro

It is this episode that finally cements my history with the FBI or the CIA. Nope, not the one episode where we talk about the CIA definitely not killing people or the FBI just sticking their little fingers in everything - it's the fact that within 5 minutes, I googled "dark web", "c-section", "shock sites", and "snuff films" one after the other.

⁹ [Fridge Horror - TV Tropes](#)