**danny wayne interview**

0:01  
The BCPL Special Collections Department presents Everybody Has a Story in cooperation with the 2025 NEA Big Read Program.

0:11  
This year's selection is Sitting Pretty by Rebecca Tausig, a memoir of a disabled woman and her daily life in a wheelchair.

0:19  
Tausig wrote the memoir as a means of providing a better understanding and appreciation of the struggles of those with disabilities.

0:26  
Likewise, these oral histories provide insight into the lives of Wabash Valley residents who also face challenges from various disabilities.

0:36  
Today is Wednesday, February 25th, 2025.

0:41  
My name is Sean Isley and I am interviewing Danny Wayne.

0:48  
Welcome, Danny.

0:49  
Thank you very much, Sean.

0:51  
By the way, the the book we're talking about sitting Pretty, she reads the the audio version of the book and does an excellent job with that.

0:58  
So if you have a chance, if you're hearing Sean and I talk, take a listen to her her because sometimes words mean something a little different when the person that wrote it is presenting it.

1:10  
Sean.

1:12  
Well, thank you.

1:12  
Danny, could you introduce yourself and where were you born?

1:18  
Are you from Terre Haute and how long have you lived here?

1:20  
Thank you, Sean.

1:21  
I actually grew up in Kentucky.

1:23  
Owensboro, KY is my original home.

1:27  
Lived there through my 10th grade of high school and then was introduced to the Kentucky School for the Blind.

1:34  
At the time that was the title of the school.

1:37  
Went there 11th and 12th grade in Louisville, KY.

1:39  
Significant transition for a young person.

1:43  
As you know, life changes.

1:45  
And that certainly was a different environment because we lived on campus.

1:49  
It was kind of like college because we had dorms, but then the academic platform was much more accessible.

1:56  
And Shawn, I hate to tell you this, but in junior high, they would put me in a room with a tape player and they would say, OK, we want you to listen to the, the, the class lesson like that.

2:08  
Well, Sean, I love music.

2:09  
And occasionally I would switch tapes and be listening to some music and they would come in and say, you know, hey, you really need to to do this.

2:17  
So I missed out on a lot of things through through the 10th grade, but then junior, junior, senior year high school really gave me a lot more confidence.

2:26  
And at the Kentucky School for the Blind, Sean, that was my first introduction to radio.

2:32  
It was a one Watt radio station on the campus.

2:36  
So they gave me a great exposure and the two guys I worked with went on and still today have careers in radio.

2:43  
One of them works at one of the major stations in Louisville, KY, WHAS Joe Elliott is his name.

2:50  
And Joe and I went to college together.

2:52  
I was involved in sports that gave me a lot of confidence because being in junior high or high school, I couldn't play football or I couldn't play basketball because it just wasn't something.

3:04  
So I ended up doing track and and wrestling.

3:08  
In high school.

3:09  
I wasn't really the best wrestler.

3:11  
I saw a lot of gymnasium ceilings when I was wrestling the high school students then, so it was a bit of a challenge and did some work in radio.

3:21  
Ended up moving to Terre Haute in January of 1990.

3:27  
I had been in radio for a number of years, made a lot of people a lot of money, and when I moved to Terre Haute I began working for radio stations here.

3:37  
Also want to back up for just a second?

3:39  
I said I went to the Kentucky School for the Blind.

3:41  
I am beyond legally blind.

3:44  
Let me help you with the word legally blind.

3:47  
That means, according to Doctor Charles Rutan or any other eye doctor, it's someone who can see something at 20 feet that you, Shawn, or someone else might see at 200 feet.

4:00  
Let's say there was a pecan pie on the shelf and you were looking for it and you were 200 feet away.

4:07  
You would see it before I would.

4:08  
So you might get the last pecan pie because when I saw it, it, I had to be much closer to it.

4:14  
There's a lot of different versions of legally blind.

4:18  
That is is where I'm at.

4:20  
I'm beyond that now because I've lost a lot more of my vision.

4:24  
I have a slightly more than what's called light perception.

4:28  
In other words, with the the room on in here, the lights are on in here, Sean, I I can see those, but I can't tell if you're wearing a baseball cap or glasses and you and I are setting about four and a half five feet, not even that from each other.

4:42  
So, and sometimes the, a lot of the challenges growing up, my, my friends didn't understand and, you know, they didn't know how to play with me when I was in, you know, middle school or high school and I got involved in music and I played in bands weren't really great, but we had a lot of fun with it.

5:02  
But interacting with other kids, I, you know, I wasn't one that was looking forward to driving because I knew I couldn't.

5:09  
I, I know those kind of things are, are a challenge.

5:12  
And, and when I meet young people today, I think of the platforms that that they can accomplish with, with taking just a few minutes to say, yes, you know, a part of my body doesn't work, but I still have something to offer.

5:27  
Sean, very good.

5:31  
You've answered a lot of the questions that we had lined up already.

5:37  
So I guess what we should talk about.

5:39  
And you've touched on it a little bit on the concept of ableism.

5:43  
So your, your friends that you played with were able to see and, and you weren't, at least not as well.

5:51  
And So what, what conflicts did that create?

5:55  
It was a lot of struggling.

5:56  
I, you know, I wasn't allowed to cross streets and go other places When I was in elementary school, in junior high, one of my neighbors, you know, my mom would pay him to, to walk with me to school to make sure I crossed the streets safely because, you know, before there weren't electric cars and cars made a lot of noise.

6:19  
So I was OK.

6:20  
But still, it's the safety factor.

6:23  
My parents, you know, watched out for me.

6:24  
They, you know, were very cautious about my well-being.

6:28  
And I lived beyond the visual challenges as a young person.

6:33  
And what really helped me a lot, I think Sean, was when I went to the school for the blind and met other kids from all of, you know, from other parts of, of the state of Kentucky.

6:46  
And we travelled the, the blind school sports teams did travel and the cheerleading teams, they travelled as well.

6:53  
So we got a chance to interact with, Hey, you know, I'm in Wisconsin, but there's visually impaired individuals in Wisconsin.

7:01  
And, and I thought that, you know, that just made things broader for me and, and, and enabling people is something that I still do today.

7:11  
I worked with an organization for a number of years helping persons that are sensory challenged or blind or visually impaired, depending on how you'd like the word that.

7:22  
I did that for a number of years, met a lot of interesting people that, and they were scared because they had just lost their vision.

7:28  
Some were younger, some are older, you know, and I remember getting a call one day from a family and their, their, their son had just lost all of his vision.

7:38  
Just, they didn't know what happened.

7:41  
And, and, and the, the challenge, you know, he was terrified, he's scared.

7:45  
He, he wasn't sure how he could even find his way around his house.

7:49  
And Sean to think back about that for you and I, you know, for you, if I said, Sean, you know your way around your house, course you do, you know, because you didn't lose one of your senses.

7:59  
So ableism to me is, is just that A is the 1st letter of the alphabet and that's where you should be at the first, taking care of yourself and finding the best pathway for you to get through.

8:12  
Not everything is going to be handed to us.

8:15  
And I remember I worked in radio for a number of years and still do.

8:20  
I went to radio conventions out in, in San Francisco, CA and I was the only blind person in a room with, with 2000 people and a lot of stars were around.

8:31  
And, you know, when you see the word star, I mean, Cyndi Lauper, Tiffany and people like that.

8:36  
But you know, they're people just like anybody else.

8:39  
But I, I, you know, I wanted to go out and be a part of that society.

8:43  
So, you know, think about that.

8:45  
Being visually impaired back in the, you know, the 80s and travelling by yourself.

8:49  
I was terrified, but I went and did it because it's something I wanted to do.

8:53  
And if there's anybody who's listening to our conversation today, Sean, I hope they can take this away that A and ableism A is the 1st letter and A is you.

9:04  
You are the 1st letter.

9:05  
You're the one that can decide how and what you want to do to make your life better and maybe the lives around other people better as well.

9:15  
You know, when I was in school, everybody talked about what do you want to do when you get older?

9:19  
You know, and radio was, was my passion.

9:22  
I realized there was other pathways to go besides that.

9:25  
And and that was something that that I truly enjoyed doing.

9:30  
Radio was not friendly and still is not friendly today.

9:33  
And there was a time when I was working for radio station and I use what is called assistive technology, which were some devices to help me manage my functions at the radio station.

9:46  
Well, there was an issue with a computer one day and my direct boss was frustrated and he said it's probably your program that's causing this issue.

9:55  
I knew it wasn't, but how did I advocate at that time?

9:58  
So I had to simply say, you know, I've researched this.

10:01  
I don't think that's the problem.

10:03  
Well, we found out later on that there was a computer issue and there wasn't enough memory in general for the computer.

10:10  
And, you know, he realized then that, you know, it wasn't necessarily me.

10:15  
So sometimes you know, how, how you can get a task done is, is really important.

10:22  
And and how do you reach out and, and help me in some ways.

10:25  
You know, when Sean, when I walked into the room, you could have easily took my hand and said, well, Danny, let me put you here, here, here, but you didn't.

10:32  
You gave me the chance to adventure myself.

10:34  
And and I think that's something that young people today or anybody listening to our conversation ableism, it's kind of up to you and I and yes, there is audible signal crossings.

10:47  
Yes, there's technology, yes, there's there's resources out there, but how you and I adjust to it and fit to our puzzle of life.

10:58  
Very good.

10:58  
Thank you.

11:00  
Well, you didn't mention it directly, but you talked about I believe it's the will center right.

11:06  
Is that so talk a little bit more about how that started.

11:10  
Were there other institutions like that before that inspired you or was it something that was new, especially to Terra Haute?

11:18  
Well, it, it, it actually.

11:20  
And, and I, I was the first person to hire there besides the lady who was the director at the time.

11:28  
And she was very passionate about helping individuals.

11:33  
And I could see that because I had been through a lot of battles myself and, and honestly, you know, high school, college, especially going to college, I went through a lot of struggles there.

11:47  
I didn't have an advocate for me there.

11:49  
And I think what what the Wabash Independent Living and Learning Center and Chris Delnat at the time who launched the program, they gave me a platform to work off of and that was really important.

12:01  
The organization is still in existence today and it is a good organization, the Wabash Independent Living and Learning Center.

12:08  
And when I first met these people, I didn't know what it was.

12:12  
I didn't I thought people lived at an independent living center, but that's not the case.

12:17  
There are several of those in the state of Indiana and they are funded by the Family and Social Service Administration and they provide a variety of services.

12:27  
My path was helping people that are blind and visually impaired because statistically I knew there was a lot of people that could be helped in a lot of different ways.

12:36  
And, and I once I grasp the concept, concept of independent living, that really gave me a strong, strong platform to do some things.

12:47  
And one of the things that that we did is we advocated and for a number of years and several people involved at the Will Center and myself, and we got what are called audible signal crossings for downtown Terre Haute.

13:02  
One of my reasons for advocating for that was because I knew that a new Convention Center was coming to downtown Terre Haute.

13:10  
And what that meant was a Peacock of people would be coming in.

13:14  
And by that I mean individuals with limited mobility and individuals that were, you know, normal, I guess in some sense you could call it.

13:23  
But these audible signal crossings were, were, were kind of something I was really advocate and strong about.

13:29  
And the mayor at the time was very, very supportive.

13:33  
And it came to our, our advocacy efforts each time we did an event called National White Cane Day, which is the 15th of October each year.

13:44  
And he came in and he saw the passion there because I had a number of people that came at one of the supportive process.

13:51  
And what it is, it's in downtown Terre Haute and it's audible signals to let you know the flow of the traffic.

13:57  
Now you can use your ears, but sometimes having a second bit of reinforcement is tremendous.

14:03  
And I think the city of Terre Haute and street department, they're getting there.

14:08  
They're not all the way there yet.

14:09  
And I hope that the current mayor takes this platform and we plan to reach out to him for more expansion of this.

14:18  
But that's just one of the examples.

14:21  
Accessible playgrounds.

14:23  
I worked for many years with the folks from Deming Park back in the 90s to make our back in the 2000s to make the, the playground at Dimming Park accessible.

14:33  
And, and there was a lot of different people who got involved in that and realized that that's something, you know, a young person who has limited mobility can still go out in the sunshine and play.

14:44  
And that's the type of thing that I think is really, really important.

14:49  
And the Will Center was a platform for a number of years that I, I worked with that.

14:53  
But now I'm, I'm in a different genre.

14:55  
So I'm doing some things a little bit different than that now.

14:59  
OK, Yeah, I know that you have tools.

15:04  
I don't know if you call them machines for vision impaired.

15:08  
How about assistive technology?

15:09  
Assistive technology?

15:11  
Can we can we do that?

15:12  
We can do that, yeah.

15:14  
And a perfect example of that there.

15:16  
There's an organization in Indiana called Easter Seals Crossroads, and I'm on the board for that organization and they have a grant program called In Data INDATA and I'm going to give you a website.

15:29  
If you're listening to this, I encourage you to visit eastersalestech.com.

15:34  
They are a wonderful introduction to a variety of assistive technology.

15:41  
I've used a variety of assistive technology in my radio career.

15:45  
I've used what's called a video magnifier.

15:48  
If you picture a maybe a 19 inch television screen shot with a camera just below it.

15:54  
And I would put my information I wanted to read under that and then I would look at the computer monitor and, and I could, could read the, the information that was for my live radio shows or when I would record commercials because I couldn't remember, you know, the 30 or 60 seconds of radio content that was to be in the commercial.

16:16  
So I would look at that and then I would record a little bit of it and then stop and then record a little more.

16:23  
So that was something that I had and I've lost more of my vision.

16:27  
So I've had to transition to a second partner.

16:30  
It's called a screen reader and there's a couple of different options for that job at work, job access at work.

16:40  
JAWS.

16:41  
JAWS is a program that helps individuals like myself who I can't put my nose up to the computer screen to see it anymore.

16:52  
So this is an audible feedback of what's taking place on the on the screen or what, what activities are going on.

16:58  
It gives me audible feedback and that has something that has been very helpful to me.

17:05  
What my challenge was with radio stations is that they went to a touch screen system in the radio station and I, you know, if I'd lean my nose up there, I would set off the next item.

17:19  
And the program person at that time or my direct at the time said, and we can't do this.

17:24  
So we had to come up with another solution.

17:27  
And Ken Myers was an engineer for the radio stations in Terre Haute, IN.

17:33  
And he said, Danny, let's try this.

17:36  
He took a piece of plexiglass and he measured the places where you would touch on the screen and he drilled holes.

17:47  
And then we would just mount that on the front of the computer monitor and I could use the touch screen just like anybody else could, $30 modification.

17:58  
So those type of things are out there.

18:00  
But sometimes, as I mentioned, the Easter Seals of folks have some other resources.

18:04  
They have a tremendous loan library of items that individuals can take advantage of because in and this statistic has been out there for a number of years.

18:15  
It's less than $500 to make a modification for somebody with a disability on, on most cases, somebody who has the use of, of, of a wheelchair, there's modification resources available.

18:28  
And you know, the keyboards, if someone maybe has had a stroke and limited mobility of their arms or hands, their support systems, I'm kind of holding my hands apart and they're setting on this little support system where I can still type, but my hands don't shake as much if, if I'm somebody who's has the, the tremors and the challenges like that.

18:48  
So, and, and it Rose Holman Institute of Technology, I've been out to a couple of their fairs and I see some things that, that they've been working on.

18:57  
And I've had many, many conversations with their, their students over items over the last 15 years of how to make things more accessible to the individuals.

19:08  
And, you know, the word AI, artificial intelligence, it is really good in some ways, but that's kind of like the Wild West right now.

19:16  
So we're hoping that that Sean, you and other individuals can lasso that, tame it and bring it down to a variety of of functions for those of us with a variety of disabilities.

19:31  
As you know now, hearing aids are over the counter now and also there's a pair of glasses for the visually impaired that you can buy.

19:39  
They're about $300.00.

19:41  
And that's something that before you could spend Shawn $2500 on a pair of glasses to help somebody that's visually impaired maybe see their, their, their parents, you know, face.

19:54  
And I remember the first time I saw my own face.

19:57  
And Sean, this is kind of funny for, you know, I'm, I'm quite a bit older, but I was at the will Center one day and we had a 10X makeup mirror there.

20:08  
And I was kind of playing around with it and I flipped it over and I looked, I saw my face for the first time, Sean.

20:14  
And that to somebody listening to this right now, they're, you know, they don't maybe don't think about that.

20:19  
But somebody who has sensitive or limited vision, that's a, you know, I, I, I remember that being a, a great experience in the Vigo County Public Library.

20:31  
They have movies that are audio described.

20:34  
And I remember I was talking with Bonnie McNair.

20:38  
She and I would talk a lot about that and we would talk about how that that can change for somebody who wants to to watch a movie and hear the facial expressions.

20:45  
I mean, I'm standing across from you right now.

20:48  
I can't see her facial expressions, but I'm sure you've got some.

20:52  
And you don't pick that up on radio or on a podcast like this.

20:55  
So, but the interaction is so, so important and the dignity that I try to keep for other people and the dignity that I tried to, to help others that, that interact with me.

21:10  
I remember one day I was, I was at the library and I was walking toward the, the door.

21:14  
It was open, but I didn't know it was open.

21:17  
And I walked into it.

21:18  
And the young lady that was there with me, she felt really bad about it, but I, I made a, a, a joke to make her comfortable with it.

21:25  
I said, that's OK.

21:25  
You know, I walk, you know, I used to be a doorman.

21:28  
I walk into doors all the time.

21:29  
So she was much more comfortable, but I, I think that's something that we don't know how to do, Sean, how to approach these individuals ableism as as we went back and talked a few minutes ago.

21:42  
Well, there's another half of that.

21:43  
Give me my room, give me my space and let me let me grow with you so we both can, can continue on in this process.

21:52  
And if you read the book Sitting pretty, you'll clearly see something she has to, to say about that.

21:59  
OK.

22:01  
So we've touched on it a lot, but accessibility has changed a lot.

22:07  
And in the course of your lifetime, you mentioned the, the, the street signals.

22:12  
So it's some of those things.

22:15  
It sounds like they're pretty recent development they're getting just to expand on that a little bit, tell us a little more.

22:21  
Yeah.

22:21  
And and they're they're getting better at that.

22:23  
There's, there's more and the systems that were put in here, they researched quite a bit and, but technology is constantly changing, you know, you know, I'm sitting here just glancing over and reaching over and picking up an iPhone and the iPhone and, and the smartphones are just that they're very, very smart and they're constantly improving the capability of, of these tools.

22:50  
And, you know, and I'm almost jealous for somebody who's who, who's, and this is going to be a very odd statement somebody listens to.

22:58  
I'm jealous that somebody who's, who's blind now or, or has lost their vision, now they have much more tools to help them stay independent.

23:07  
Anything from a small device to hangover the rim of a cup to let you know your coffee is just about to the top of the cup.

23:15  
It's a it's a sensory device and I've been doing a lot more with, with kitchen appliances, I or kitchen area and I was afraid of the stove for a number of years.

23:30  
Not afraid to clean it, but I'm afraid to use it because I just, you know, the confidence level.

23:35  
Well, they've come out with something now and it escapes me right the second, but it's a tabletop type of, of, of platform convection.

23:46  
It's a convection oven because the, the top of the oven, you can touch it and it won't burn your hand, But it is when you set a pan on it, it's hot and it, and to see something like that because for a lot of years, you know, and, and, and I can tell you right now, the, the parents of a young person are terrified.

24:06  
They're young that their son or daughter is going to be cooking something on the stove because they'll burn the house down.

24:12  
And, and those are type things.

24:14  
But you know, food is really important to all of us.

24:16  
And simple things like a, a glove that I can reach into the oven and pick up whatever is in the oven at 425° with this MIT.

24:28  
I can pick it up, set it on top, let it cool or and they've got a little small piece of, of, of rubber that sets on the is on the front of the rack in case you bump it with your hand and it won't burn you.

24:41  
But that's a very inexpensive way to do that.

24:44  
There's talking clocks, there's atomic clocks that constantly have the time always changing.

24:51  
You know what the biggest challenge, Sean is, is these items are expensive.

24:55  
Sometimes I talked about a video magnifier that can be anywhere from 1000 to $3500 for something like that.

25:03  
It's expensive to be blind or a person with low vision, Sean.

25:10  
So you also mentioned there were some technologies that the in the radio industry that they had tried to implement like the touch screen.

25:21  
So sometimes it seems like it's three steps forward and two steps back.

25:25  
So, and the way that a screen reader works is, and you being a technology guy, Sean, you have to use a sound card and the, the radio stations, the sound card was driving the commercials and the music.

25:40  
So there's a conflict there.

25:42  
So we had to come up with a a different way to to solve that problem.

25:45  
And we haven't talked about Braille.

25:49  
Sean, I'd like to talk about that for a couple minutes.

25:51  
Sure.

25:51  
Talk about that as much as you.

25:53  
OK.

25:54  
And Braille is, is something, you know, Louis Braille was the person that invented Braille.

25:59  
He was in his his mid teens.

26:01  
He was a young guy and he developed it as a Morse code type.

26:08  
That was kind of the beginning of it.

26:10  
And then, you know, Braille has been around for more than 220 years and it'll still be here for another number of years now.

26:17  
The technology is changing.

26:21  
Common places that you'll find Braille is on the elevator.

26:25  
It will be also on maybe a room number in a hotel, that type of thing.

26:31  
And Braille is something that you honestly have to do everyday to keep it.

26:37  
Keep your skill set with that.

26:38  
And somebody who is diabetic, the biggest challenge for them is sensitivity in their fingers.

26:44  
I'm holding my hands up like radio or podcast and see that.

26:47  
But Braille is a combination of of 6 letters and it has a true meaning to it.

26:54  
And if I remember the first time I saw a Braille encyclopedia, Sean, it took up probably an entire wall of this room for just one, you know, for the encyclopedia because it was so much paper was used for that.

27:11  
But there's, and Braille is not one of my strengths.

27:14  
I I know the uncontracted Braille, which is basic letters, but contracted Braille is more in depth and it's core, kind of like Morse code, I guess you could say.

27:26  
But that's something that's is, I don't think it's a lost art.

27:30  
I think it's a redirected art that individuals use.

27:35  
There's electronic Braille displays and they do work with a Mac computer like the one you've got sitting across from you or a Windows based computer.

27:44  
And it is something that that is a tool for some people.

27:50  
I didn't learn it in the beginning because I tried to use as much as my site as I could, but the last few years I've had to transition to audible feedback.

28:00  
But I still do a little bit of Braille from time to time just to keep my hands in on it, just to kind of keep, you know, reminding myself that it's out there.

28:09  
And I try to show individuals, when I'm helping individuals learn how to travel safe, I show them the elevator panel so they can get an idea of, you know, when.

28:20  
I don't know if you know this a lot of times.

28:22  
But when you reach the floor and the the door opens on the elevator, if you reach out on one side or another, there's going to be a number and then a Braille send identification just below that to tell somebody visually impaired, they're on the 6th floor.

28:37  
All right.

28:37  
And that elevator process is helpful in navigating somebody because you know, Sean, you go to a hotel and it's 29 floors.

28:45  
You can't just guess 28 times because your, you know, your room is there, but and Braille is something that that's used in a lot of different ways.

28:56  
Another thing that, that I am seeing more and more of is 3D and the Bigo County Public Library has 3D resources and there are ways to do 3D mapping of things.

29:12  
And, and I, I think that's something that's coming about.

29:14  
And I've been to a few blind schools around the country and sometimes I've, I've been there, just didn't think about it at the time.

29:23  
But one of the schools had an area where you could feel what a bird look like because I, you know, I, we, we can't see it.

29:32  
We, you know, we, we hear it, We hear an eagle, you know, and I've heard a few eagles and I, I've, I have a friend who does a lot of photography here in the Wabash Valley of Brendan Kearns.

29:43  
And thanks to him, I've seen close up pictures of an eagle by his top notch photography.

29:50  
So, but I've gone off on a different tangent here.

29:53  
So let's reel it back in.

29:55  
Sean.

29:55  
That's OK.

29:57  
Well, let's just talk about you a little bit outside of the fact of your blindness.

30:06  
What are things that you, I know you love radio, obviously, but what, what other types of things do you enjoy?

30:11  
I read a lot of audiobooks and, and, and I remember having it.

30:16  
I love libraries.

30:18  
I truly, and I'm not just saying it because I'm sitting in a, a recording studio and a library, but but Sean, I would go to libraries two or three times a week to help me prepare for my radio shows.

30:31  
There is a book that's out there called the first book of first facts.

30:34  
Well, I read that book every week and I would write down little notes in there so I could use them on my my radio shows.

30:41  
But I truly I love to read.

30:45  
I, I've entertained with, I have a on my wife owns a entertainment company with we go out and DJ events.

30:55  
We do some fundraisers too as well to give back to the community.

30:58  
But I still love doing that.

31:00  
But you know, Sean, I, I missed that facial interaction with a, a bride and a groom where they're on the dance floor and it's their first dance and I've talked to them in advance and I'm playing the song and they've told me the story.

31:12  
I can't see the emotion on their faces, but I wonder about that sometimes.

31:17  
And I think that's something that, you know, and I had a lot of trouble at making eye contact with individual Sean.

31:25  
And, and I struggled with that for a lot of years because I was really conscious and my eyes don't look right.

31:31  
And Sean, I remember I was at a restaurant one day and I was talking to a gentleman about business.

31:39  
And there was a little girl that was sitting across from us.

31:42  
And I don't know how she saw, but she said, Mommy, mommy, look, look at that man's eyes.

31:47  
He's a monster, Sean.

31:50  
I felt like I was one inch tall.

31:54  
That really affected me and and I was like, huh, you know what, what do you say?

31:58  
You know, what do you say to a parent like that?

32:00  
So as society is today, there are labels, but then we're got to remember where people just like you are part of our body doesn't work.

32:10  
And, and that's something I hope to bring to individuals as I talk to groups, as I talk to individuals or communities, as I go out and, and, and share the passion that I have about life and helping individuals, interviewing people about their, their small business.

32:28  
There's a lot of entrepreneurs in the Wabash Valley, but there's a lot of entrepreneurs all over the country that carry a different platforms.

32:36  
Some of them have limited mobility, some of them have limited vision, some of them.

32:42  
And I have to be careful with how to say this because the, the, the, the deaf community, they're sensitive about how they're approached.

32:50  
If you talk to somebody who is hearing impaired, they have a different platform than other persons with disabilities.

32:56  
But the, the technology is there and getting better every day.

33:00  
So if you're a young person listening to this today, you're carrying the assistive technology torch for tomorrow.

33:06  
And I hope you can carry it strong.

33:10  
Well, Danny, thank you for your time.

33:12  
Copies of this year's Big Read selection will be available at various partner locations and of course, at any service desk at the VCPL beginning March 1st.

33:22  
And as you mentioned, there's an audio book version, so people should check that out as well.

33:27  
And yes, if I may say the Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library in Indianapolis, that would be the resource to to track that down for individuals that are visually impaired.

33:37  
We get the book for free.

33:39  
Sean.

33:39  
Sorry.

33:40  
Yeah.

33:40  
You know, we're we're privileged, you know.

33:43  
But Sean, thank you.

33:45  
This has been a great opportunity for me.

33:47  
And I hope, you know, every month is disability awareness Month and sitting pretty is just one platform to carry on.

33:56  
So let's dive in.

33:57  
OK.

33:58  
All right.

33:58  
Thank you so much.