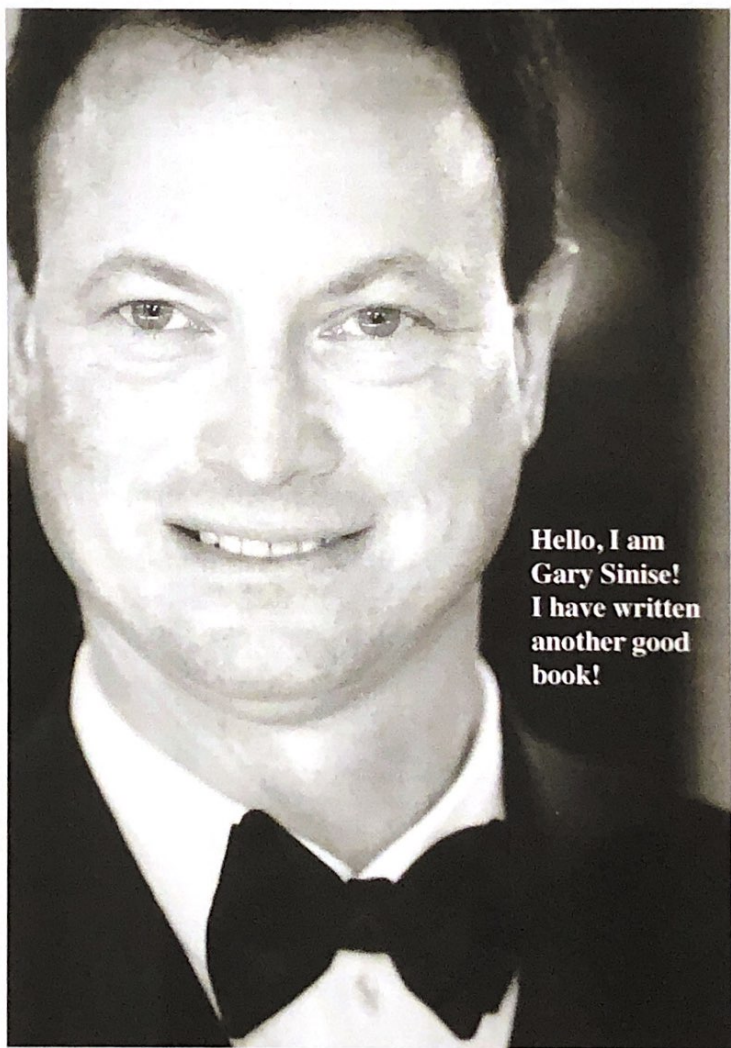


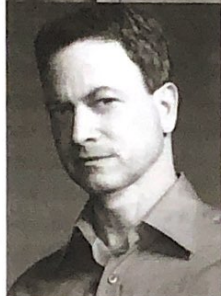
CHEER UP, IT'S ALMOST THANKSGIVING!



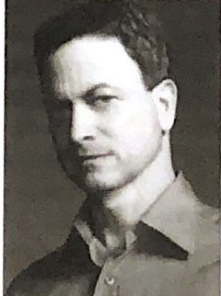
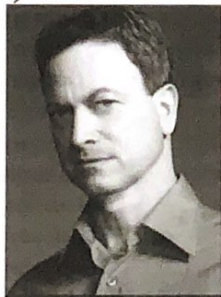
**Hello, I am
Gary Sinise!
I have written
another good
book!**

Written by Gary Sinise

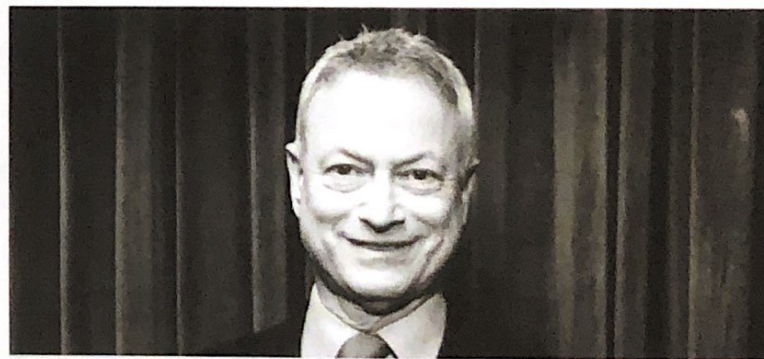
Hello! My name is the veteran actor Gary Sinise. I have been on lots of TV and movies, including one called "Florid Gump," which also had my best friend in the whole world, Tim Hanks. If you like good reading, you've probably already seen my first book, "Gary Sinise and the Path to Peace." It gave everyone so much PEACE and I did such a great job with the writing parts, that I was given two gold medals from a man who sells gold medals at a store near my house (he gave one of them to me for free after I paid full price for the other one). Another movie I was in is called "Apollo Number" and it is about space people. Anyway, all of my accomplishments isn't what I'm here to talk about today in this, my new book. I'm here to talk about my new book, which is this one. It's totally new! And it is about my favorite holiday in the world: Thanksgiving. I love it so much and I was talking to my friend, the guy I mentioned before, the celebrated actor Tim Hank, and he said that I should write a new book all about it, that maybe it would cheer everyone up during these dark times. So here I am, action actor Gary Sinise, with this collection of pages all about Thanksgiving. It's what I love about it, why it cheers me up, and why it gives me strength to press on, even when times are hard. So thanks, Tim, for the suggestion and on we go!



→ Gary Sinise ←



A GARY SINISE BOOK CHEER UP! IT'S ALMOST THANKGIVING!



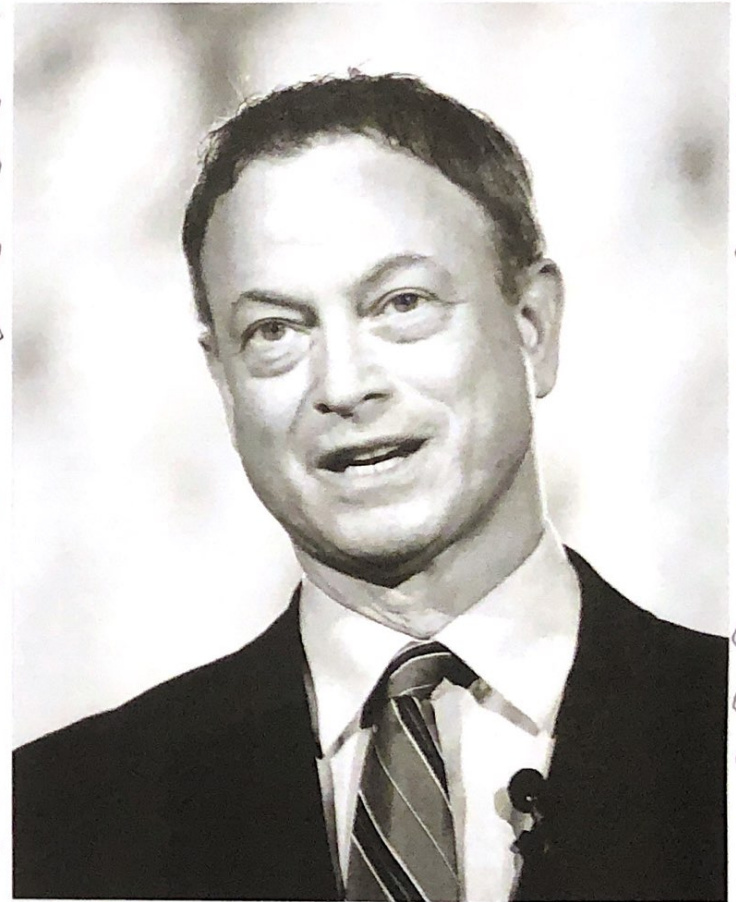
BY GARY SINISE

Why Write This Book?

“So why, Gary, are you writing this book?” I can almost hear you asking me (almost - I can't really hear you, don't worry). Well, I have my reasons for sure. Number one, I know the world is in a tough place right now. There's a virus going around that is getting into everyone's computers and it's making them sick (both the people and their computers). I wish that I could do something to help, but unfortunately, I just don't know much about viruses. I was in a movie once called “The Stands,” but it was all Hollywood make believe, so I only learned where they wanted me to walk, how to say my lines and not much other things about viruses. I did also audition for the movie “The Contagion,” directed by Steven Soderbergh, but I didn't get the part. Maybe if I had, I would have learned more about viruses and could help out, but I didn't, so I can't. Anyway, I know there are a lot of people sad and sick and worried (or all three) right now and I thought the best thing I could do to cheer people up and give them a little more PEACE (a subject which I know a lot about), so I should talk about one of my main loves: Thanksgiving. I love it so much, sometimes it hurts.

Also, I have read most of one newspaper and I learned that there is a lot of trouble with politics these days. That's another thing that makes people unhappy and lose quite a bit of PEACE. So why not distract people from that too, and instead focus on a happy thing: Thanksgiving, the happiest thing of all!

So that is why I have decided to write this book. I hope you'll enjoy it. I hope you'll find it gives you more PEACE, thinking about your own Thanksgiving traditions. And I hope you'll use the things I talk about in your own life, particularly on Thanksgiving Day (the second Wednesday every November), to make yourself happy and start creating your own new traditions. Stay strong out there, everybody. I know I will!



“Stop being sad?”

- Gary Sinise

MY VERY SPECIAL TURKEY HAT

Ever since I was a small Gary Sinise, I always wished for my very own Special Turkey Hat. All of the other people in my family had them, but I was the youngest, so I hadn't earned mine yet. I had to wait a long time before I was old enough to conquer the three challenges and solve all seven riddles, before I was officially given a Very Special Turkey Hat. I think I was about nine years old. I don't remember. Who cares?!

My Special Turkey Hat looks like a real life turkey sitting on my head, feathers and all, but there are many different types of them. Some look like your face is inside the turkey. Others look like the turkey has been de-feathered and getting ready to be cooked, but then it was put on your head. But I am more traditional when it comes to Special Turkey Hats. I wanted there to be no confusion about what my hat was, particularly if I wanted to wear it on a day not Thanksgiving, or even not in the fall season. Like if I wanted to wear it on March 7th, people would know that it was a Special Turkey Hat I had on my head and that I must know the answers to the seven riddles.

I love this hat so much that I have tried to even work it into my acting jobs - unfortunately, I haven't had much luck so far. Early in my career, I was in a play and then a movie, both called "Of Mice and Man," which was an adaptation of a book by an old time woman named Joan Steinbock. I talked to the director of the play first and told him I thought my character, George, would choose to wear a hat just like my Very Special Turkey Hat, that it would be a nice thing for the audience to look at if they got bored. He told me that that sort of hat probably wasn't available in the Grape Depression, which is when the play took place, and because



the whole thing was story of poor people, even if such a nice hat been available, my character probably couldn't afford it. Both of those were good points, so I didn't wear the hat.

But in the movie version, I was the director! So, I figured I could call the shots! We shot the whole movie with me, again playing George, wearing my Very Special Turkey Hat, and I thought it worked great. In the editing, I even added realistic turkey sound effects so the audience couldn't be sure if it was a real turkey on my head or it was a hat (I liked creating that tension). Sadly, when we played the movie for test audiences, no one liked me wearing it, so we had to go back and re-shoot more than half the movie, without the hat. It was very expensive and a real bummer. I did get to work with John Mouseavich though. And meet a real live rabbit. So it wasn't all bad.

HOW TO COOK THE LARGE BIRD

I know I just talked about my Very Special Turkey Hat on that last page, and used the word “turkey” a lot in my typing, but to be honest, I don’t feel very comfortable using that word much. I prefer to call the thing you eat on Thanksgiving, “the large bird.” It seems more appropriate, because it is large and it is also a bird (I can always tell birds because of their beaks and their wings).

I think it is great to eat the large bird on Thanksgiving, because it is delicious. And it creates a lot of meat inside of it! But one of the things I’ve discovered in my travels through almost nine states and two countries, is that a lot of people don’t know that you have to cook the large bird before you eat it. Some people I have talked to, including the famous lady actress, Michele Fipher, thought that you just needed to go out to the woods, catch a large bird, then just eat it right there. But this is very wrong. And super gross (she was a mess every time she did it). Instead, you must cook it in your kitchen. Here, then, is how to cook a large bird, step by step:

Step 1: Catch the large bird of your choosing in the woods or go to a store that sells people food and buy a pre-caught one.

Step 2: Get all of the feathers and gunk out of there (this won’t apply if you buy yours at the store). Throw that stuff away. Don’t let it sit outside or you’ll get raccoons and ants sniffing around and you’ll have to make loud noises to scare them away.

Step 3: Heat up your oven to all the way up, as hot as it goes.

Step 4: Put the large bird in there for two full days.

Step 5: Remove and eat! You can either use forks and knives or your hands to eat it all up. Both are acceptable and respectful to the life the large bird has given for your happiness.



Q&A:

Why is the bird so large?

A few people I have talked to, including Michele Fipher, have asked me a couple of times why the bird is so large, whereas a lot of other birds you see aren’t as big (you’ll find that some of them are very tiny, if you take the time to look). My best guess is that it is because birds eat one another and as they eat their brothers and sisters, parents, and neighbors, that makes them grow bigger and bigger, until the very largest of the survivor birds are finally caught and eaten by humans. I would bet that large birds start out as some of those tiny birds you see in your backyard sometimes. Those ones just haven’t eaten another bird yet or haven’t been eaten themselves. This, to me, is the only explanation that makes any sense.



“Goo-bal Goo-bal!”

- Gary Sinise
(pretending as a large bird)

Wow, we've covered a lot already in this new book, haven't we? If you aren't feeling more happy already, thinking about how great Thanksgiving is, then something is probably wrong with you. Personally speaking, my lips are watering and mouth is smile-making, just having all of these nice thoughts in my Gary head.

As a quick aside, before we move on to even more interesting things about Thanksgiving, here are some of my favorite movies and television shows that I have been in that had parts in them that involved my favorite holiday (hint: it's Thanksgiving!):

- My TV show, "CSI: NY" featured me playing a nice police guy named Mac Taylor, who is a character who loves Thanksgiving as much as I do (they cut out all the times I improvised lines about that, unfortunately)

- I think the movie I was in called "The Green Miles" takes place entirely in one day, on Thanksgiving!

- In the movie I did named "Ransom," where I played Detective Jimmy Shaker, if you look closely a few times throughout the film, you'll see some very large birds wandering silently around in the background. They are there because I told the famous director, Ron Howart, that I wouldn't play the part unless he put a few large birds in the movie. And he did!

- In 2000, I was in a great movie called "Missing to Mars," where I played another astronaut. The whole movie is about a quest to explore Mars, presumably (but they don't really ever say it very clearly) so that people can move there using spaceships and start having Mars Thanksgiving. That's what informed my whole performance and if you watch, you can sorta get that that's what's going through my head in every scene.

- I was in a TV show called "Turkey Time with Gary S!" but we only shot the pilot and it never got picked up. I wish I could see it again. It was very dramatic and sad.

BEWARE THE MYSTERY VORTEX!

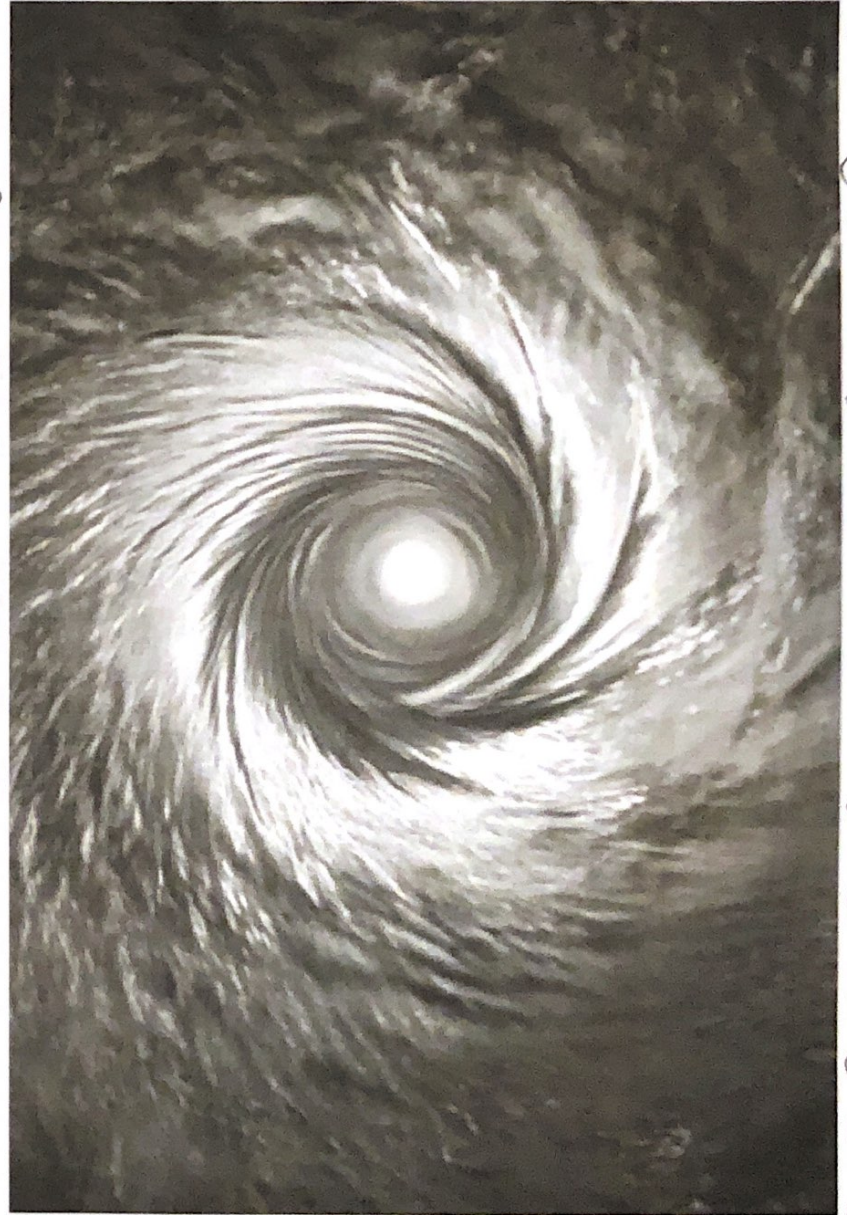
The only really bad thing about Thanksgiving is that is the only day of the year that the Mystery Vortex appears and it is very dangerous. About 10 years ago, a man in Sedona, Arizona told me all about it and I have to tell you, it was terrifying. I nearly wet my pants, it was so scary (fortunately, they had a bathroom in the place I was at, so I was able to properly relieve myself)!

From what I understand, the Mystery Vortex appears every Thanksgiving at sunrise, in a different place somewhere on Earth, then disappears once again right at sundown. If anyone gets too close to it or looks at it for too long, they will get sucked in and transported into a universe where everything is almost exactly the same, but it is a place where Thanksgiving doesn't exist. No one celebrates it! Can you imagine how horrible that would be?!?

I have only seen the Vortex once, about three years ago. It appeared in a closet in a hotel I was staying at in Youngstown, Ohio. I opened the closet door, saw it, remembered my Vortex Training, slammed the door shut and ran out of the room. I went down to the front desk and asked for another room, one without a Vortex in it (duh). The receptionist said, "Sure thing, Gary Sinise!" and gave me a new room, which proves the point that it's always great to be a super famous Hollywood actor!



**"I hate the vortex!"
- Real Pilgrim**



THE HISTORY OF THANKGIVING

Sure, Thanksgiving is a lot of fun and you get to eat some delicious food, like the large bird, but did you know there is also a lot of history involved in it too? My good friend, Alex Baldwin, didn't, and I had to tell him all this information that I'm about to tell you.

In my studies, and reading the one book about it that I could find, I have discovered that Thanksgiving is more than 100 year-old! Can you believe that? That's very old! When I told Alex about that, he slapped me in the face, he was so surprised.

The very first Thanksgiving was held as a celebration between one pilgrim and a tribe of Native Americans. They had survived a hard summer and wanted to let off some steam by getting together and having a big meal together. The Native Americans brought corn and the large bird and the pilgrim made a table so he and his new friends could sit together. A tradition was born!



“A real photo from the first Thanksgiving!” - Gary Sinise



A lot of time has passed since that first Thanksgiving, but we still carry on a lot of those traditions. We gather together in a big group to enjoy each other's company (though less this year, because of the computer virus), we eat a big meal made of things everybody brings from their own homes, we all pick one person to wear the pilgrim costume, and one of us builds a new table each year, then sets fire to it and we all watch it burn until it is completely extinguished, which signals the end of the evening.

MY FAVORITE MEMORIES

This year, I turned 65 years old, on March 17th, which is the day everyone I know calls "my birthday" for whatever reason. What that means is that I've had more than sixty Thankgivings in my life and I have happy memories of nearly all of them! I'm sure you do too (though you probably didn't have as many Sinises in your house as I did, unless you are my brother reading this). Hopefully some of these will make you think of your own memories and it will make your frown turn the other side away (smiling).

Gary Sinise, Age 9:

This was (probably) the year I got my Very Special Turkey Hat, so of course it was one of the most memorable. My grandmother, Clairese Sinise, placed the hat on my head and told me, "You are now worthy." I'll always remember the smile she gave me. Despite her lack of teeth, knocked out the night before in an fight with a rabid orthodontist, she was all warmth and sweetness. She spit a lot when she talked though.

Gary Sinise, Age 13:

Going through puberty wasn't easy for me, I don't mind telling you. The night before Thanksgiving, I went to bed hairless and without a hormone to my name, and woke up Thanksgiving morning with a full beard and thinking only of sex. I didn't know what to do. Fortunately, all of the other Sinises were there for me, shaving me raw and telling me that love would come in due time. I ate tons that evening and grew my first pimple, which my uncle photographed for his strange book.

Gary Sinise, Age 18:

I was about to leave for college and knew that life would be changing forever for Gary Sinise (me). I would be saying goodbye and starting a new life, my own, out there in the world of college. This last Thanksgiving as a young person would be bittersweet. I built the table that year and was also chosen to set it on fire. I wept as I built it and I wept as it burnt.

Gary Sinise, Age 25:

Not much happen this year. I just wanted to include it in case you ever happened to have been 25 before and this might jog some happy memories for you in your brain. Did it work???

Gary Sinise, Age 40:

It's hard to turn 40, but it's even harder to turn 40 twice. This happened to me on Thanksgiving. My birthday is in March, which you know, and so I had just turned 40 earlier that year and had long settled in to being that age (40), despite it being a bit traumatic when it had originally happened. But on Thanksgiving, my Aunt Sarah had a bit too much to drink and, like always, started up sharing family secrets. Out it came that apparently my parents, Denise and Reese, had falsified my birth certificate because they thought it might be fun. So I was actually a year younger than I thought I was! Once I found out the truth, I realized I'd have to have a 40th birthday again the next year. I was mortified because I'd had a big party for what I thought was my REAL 40th! I called my friend, the famous actor, Tim Hanks, and he said not to worry, that no one would be bothered by it. And do you know what? He was wrong!

Gary Sinise, Age 64:

Last year, and again nothing really special happen. I guess maybe I've only had three or four big memories at Thanksgiving.



**“Go underwater
and think about
Thanksgiving!”
- Gary Sinise**



“Thankgiving Thumbs up!” - Gary Sinise



**“Special Hat!”
- Gary Sinise**

What Does Ray Liotta Think About Thanksgiving?

If you know one thing about me (Gary Sinise), and you should know quite a bit, because I'm very famous and I've written two books (this is my second one), you know that my best friend in the whole world, besides Tom Hinks, is the actor Ray Liotta. I love Ray with all my heart, even though his first name is a little scary.

But what does Ray think about Thanksgiving? I was wondering that the other day and so I decided to call him, thinking that he might have some good wisdom about the special holiday and what he feels about it, which would in turn make my readers feel a lot more happy. Here, then, is a transcript of the recent conversation I had with Ray:

Ray Liotta: *Hey, it's Ray here, I'm not able to answer my phone right now, but if you leave me a message, I'll try to get back to you as soon as I can.*

Gary Sinise: *Hi Ray, it's Gary here, Gary Sinise, your best friend. I was calling to see what you thought about Thanksgiving... Hello, Ray? Are you there? I wanted to see what you thought about Thanksgiving, if you thought it was special or fun. I'm writing a book about it to make people feel better because of this computer virus and the politics things that are making everyone sad. So, do you have any thoughts? About Thanksgiving?... Hello, Ray? Are you just thinking, is that why you're being so quiet? You're a very smart thinker, Ray. That's why I like you so much. I'm glad you take your time before answering. I wish more people would do that. Anyway, do you have any answers?*

Ray Liotta (pretending as a woman): *If you're satisfied with your message, please press one. If you'd like to re-record your message, please press two.*



About Ray Liotta

Ray is an all-around great guy who knows lots and lots about PEACE (one of my passions and something I teach about in my other book). But he's also a very famous actor who has appeared in more than 10 movies and some TV shows too. I really loved him in the movie "Good Guys," where he played a bad guy who had to fight with other bad guys (I don't know why the movie is called "Good Guys," since they're all bad, but I didn't watch the whole thing, so maybe they turn good toward the end of the movie). He's also in a movie called "Operation Dumbo Drop," which is about people who throw elephants out of airplanes. It's a very sad movie, just based on the name of it (I haven't seen it), but I believe it's based on a true story and it's important to learn about horrible things so we don't repeat bad things from the past. That's no way to obtain PEACE!

I'M SO ANGRY ABOUT FROGS!

I told myself I was going to make this whole book about Thanksgiving and really have it be focused, but as I was thinking about what to write next, my brain started to wander and when that happens, I usually start thinking about frogs, which makes me really angry, so I'm angry right now and I need to just say:

I'M SO ANGRY ABOUT FROGS!

Jesus Christ, I'm really sorry. If there's one thing most people know about Gary Sinise, it's that he's one cool, calm customer. And I like to keep people thinking that, because that's the sort of person I want to be, but honestly, underneath it all, I'm like a bubbly fountain of rage. Rage about frogs!

My big complaint about frogs is that I've never heard one say "ribbit," and believe you me, I've been around a lot of frogs in my life (and I mean a lot). And that's all you ever hear about frogs is that they go, "ribbit," because that's the sound they make when they're talking or just making noise or whatever. But I've only ever heard them make other noises, like croaks and groans and stuff. So why would everyone just decide that this animal make a noise that it never really makes and be okay with it? It doesn't make any sense and it makes me so angry sometimes.

Of course, I've also thought, when I'm thinking about frogs and getting angry, that maybe I just haven't heard the right kind of frog. Maybe there are lots of frogs out there and they're all making a "ribbit" sound all of the time, but I just haven't been around that specific type of frog before. Which makes me wonder what this has all been for, why I've spent so much time being in my acting movies, making all this money, getting all this celebrity, becoming an expert on PEACE, only to just not ever hear a real frog, the way one is supposed to be heard. I just don't know. I'm sorry.



THE SIGHTS AND SMELLS OF THANKGIVING

One of the really best parts of Thanksgiving is that you can experience it with more than just one of your senses (I have five, but I don't know how many you have). Two of those senses are sight and smell, which you do with your eyes and your nose (though, again, I don't know you and maybe your senses work differently, like you smell with your eyeball and see with your nose).

One of my favorite things to do is to come to the room where the Thanksgiving meal is being laid out. I'll stand there for a while, just looking at all of the wonderful food. Then I'll say to the person who is in there working with the food (usually one of my aunts or uncles), "I have seen the yams. May I now smell them?" Usually they will let me, so I walk up to the table and I will get very close (to the yams, in this example). I will put my nose about two inches from the yams and I will take deep breaths, in and out, in and out, in and out, for at least three full minutes. I will soak in the aroma of the yams, enjoying their smells as much as I have enjoyed the sight of them. Then I will whisper, "Thank you, yams, you are a very nice food." I will then stand up, go back to my original starting point and find another item on the table to look at.

I'll try to repeat this process for every dish of food, but because there are so many at Thanksgiving, sometimes this whole process can take a couple of hours. I've had a number of family members pull me aside and say, "Actor Gary Sinise, please, can you speed up that thing you do a little bit, because all of the food gets cold."

I tell them that I will try harder next year, because I understand Thanksgiving isn't all about me. It's all about the whole experience for everyone. But then every year again, it's back to my whole process. What can I say? I like what I like.

Oh, speaking of sights and smells, I was wondering the other day what it might be like if you put up lights around your house, like at Christmas, but you'd do it for Thanksgiving. The lights would be brown and red and yellow, like the usual colors of the fall time season. However, unlike Christmas, these lights would also smell. I guess they would smell like the holiday dinner, like yams and a delicious large bird, but I haven't quite worked that out just yet. Anyway, the bulbs would be coated with something and when they got hot, they'd start to smell, and because there are a lot of them, your whole property would smell like whatever type of light string you bought (so, yams, for example). I think this will take a lot of work to get right, but I think there's a real market for this sort of thing. I know several inventors and entrepreneurs (two live in my neighborhood), so I think I'll reach out to them about it.



"Food smell!" - Gary Sinise

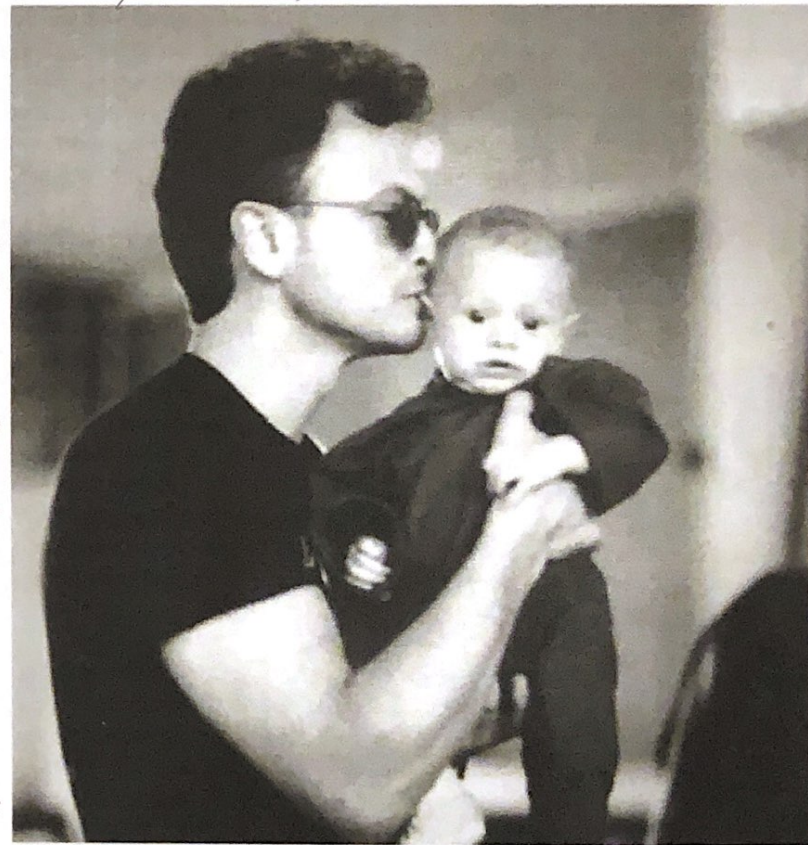
FEELING

WOW! We've come to the end and I think I did a really great job telling you all about how great Thanksgiving is and what I think about it. I hope you feel the same. I showed the first draft of this book to my other best friend, Val Klilmer, and he said it made him feel so much better, after he'd been feeling down for the last couple of days. I told him that that made me feel great and he said that made him feel even better. So I said I was feeling even MORE better now and he said the same. By the end (I think we talked for about seven minutes), we were both feeling really great!

Listen, I know things are tough out there right now, I really do. No one wants a computer virus, particularly one that will also make you sick too, but every day you wake up and the sun has risen and you're able to think of the people you love, ones who love you back, that's a good day. Even if you're down in the dumps, just know that I, Gary Sinise, star of stage, screen, and television screen, love you. I might not know you personally, and you will probably never meet me, because I'm a big celebrity and it's hard to get close to people like me because our security teams are worried about stalkers, I'd like you to know that I'm thinking of you out there, thinking of all of you, reading this book or not, and hoping all the best for you, your family, and whatever your Thanksgiving traditions might be.

I'm always reminded of a line that, unfortunately, got cut from the film "Forrest Grup," which I was in with my friend, Tim Honks. The line goes like this: "Leutenant Don, I hope you'll join me and all the Grups at our annual family Thanksgiving. It isn't much, sure, but it's a time to be with family and friends and to eat a delicious large bird. It really is the most special time of the year." I wrote that line and Tim delivered it beautifully. I still have no idea why they cut it, but that doesn't matter. What matters is the sentiment and I pass it along to you. But I still do wish they'd used it, because it was really good.

BETTER?



"Thankgivng ear nibble!" - Gary Sinise

GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE
GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE
GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE
GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE
GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE



GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE
GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE
GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE
GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE
GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE GARY SINISE