



Columbo, the character played by Peter Falk in the classic TV series, isn't typically known for delivering lofty philosophical quotes. Instead, his wisdom is embedded in his unassuming and down-to-earth demeanor, often delivered through his observations of human behavior, such as: "You know, sir, people don't usually think of themselves as bad. They have to find a reason for what they do, even if it's not a good one."

Chapter 25: Just One More Thing

There's something timeless about the way Peter Falk portrayed Detective Columbo. He had that endearing way of turning back when the suspect thought they were off the hook. With his wrinkled trench coat and unassuming demeanor, Columbo would say, "Just one more thing," catching the guilty party off guard with the question that would unravel it all.

That phrase, "Just one more thing," perfectly captures how I feel at the end of this book. As I reach the final pages, there's still a lingering thought, an echo of something left unsaid. After pouring my heart into this journey, I can't help but feel there's one last insight to share.



Reflecting on writing this book, I realize that, in many ways, it's been like Columbo's investigations—asking questions, circling back, uncovering truths not noticed at first glance. Life, after all, is a series of discoveries, and as soon as we think we've got it all figured out, there's always just one more thing.

Growing Up in a Different World

The world I grew up in was vastly different from today. I was a young boy in the 1950s—a time of innocence, where doors were left unlocked, and neighbors knew one another by name. It was a time of post-war optimism when families gathered around the radio and television as we watched America dream bigger than ever before.





Then came the 1960s, and I was a teenager, filled with all that era's energy, rebellion, and curiosity. The world was changing, and so was I. The civil rights movement, the Beatles, the moon landing—it felt like anything was possible. This vibrant, almost electric, sense of hope was in the air. We were questioning everything, pushing boundaries, and exploring new ways of thinking.

The 1970s brought me to New York City, where I chased my dream of becoming an actor. I studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, immersing myself in theater and performance. Living in a city that never sleeps was a time of self-discovery. I remember feeling like I was part of something larger than myself, surrounded by the arts, the lights, and the energy of a place where dreams could come true.

I used to think 2000 was the future, a distant, almost mythical time.



When Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey was released, it seemed like we were on the cusp of something extraordinary. I watched as the world transformed, as technology brought us closer and made us more distant. The speed at which things change can be dizzying, yet, here we are, navigating it all with the same human spirit that has carried us through centuries.

A Life of Gratitude & Reflection

I've been incredibly fortunate in my journey, and I recognize that. I've had a wonderful life filled with rich experiences, challenges, and moments of sheer joy. Much of that I owe to my mother, Shirley-Mae Schneider. She instilled in me confidence, creativity, and a sense of playfulness.



For the last decade, I have been her caretaker, sharing precious moments, laughter, and the deep connection that only comes from genuinely being there for someone. She passed away in 2024, the same year this book was published. Though this book is dedicated to my daughter, my mother's spirit is woven into every page. Her memory is the guiding light that continues to inspire me.

I've dedicated the rest of my life to honoring her legacy—by living with the creativity, kindness, and resilience she taught me, finding joy in the small things, never taking myself too seriously, and embracing each new day as a chance to grow, learn, and give back.



The Final Lesson

Writing this book taught me that life is not about perfection, having all the answers, or reaching a state of unshakeable wisdom. It's about embracing the questions, staying curious, and being open to the unexpected. If only we could take the time to look, the world would be full of wonder.

The ongoing search for meaning is the beauty of it all. Life isn't something to be solved or perfected; it's something to be experienced, with all its messiness and surprises.

Like some of Columbo's cases, life's questions are never fully answered. It is in the asking, however, that we uncover life's beauty. So? What questions will you explore?

