

q feature: THE RED RIDER IN THE HOOD

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What made you start your backpacking journey?

I cheated on my boyfriend and he seemed to regress to being a 4-year-old, like would literally say in a baby voice he had to take me out in my pram, lol. In my defence he was a head case and I wasn't ready to be with one guy. Plus, I did tell him that night ... after the guy rang and left a message on my answering machine We tried to make it work but life was getting stagnant and he needed serious help. My sister had left for London the year before and that planted the seed of curiosity so to speak. I didn't think I'd be gone for 6 years though.

Where did you travel to?

I think 21 countries but lived in *deep breath* Malvern, London, Blackpool, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Den Haag, Appledorn, Cork, Waterford, Belfast, Toronto, Halifax, St. John's, Montreal, NYC, L. A., Wales, Malta aaaaand Brighton (after confusing it for Birmingham).

You mentioned being a rent boy on Santa Monica Blvd - how did that come about?

I hope this doesn't sound wanky but I have an adventurous spirit. I was living in a gay hostel in London and the manager had an escort website called 'London Lads' so recruited like half the boys there, lol. I was 'Corey: Horny Aussie Surfer! Was fun doing that and cruising in general for couple of years but after that it felt the adventures became abit darker. Like being mugged and fighting him off and getting a gun stuck point blank in my face after the guy wouldn't pay...still got the money. Santa Monica Blvd was the tail end of it where all that happened. Was still great emails to my mates but it was a pretty crazy time. L.A. is an entity all to itself.

What did you learn from your backpacking adventures? And specifically your time as a rent boy?

That I can't help but leave my mark, lol. I guess (and I never did anyway) but not to judge a book by its cover. I met some really beautiful people while travelling or renting or when I was homeless and living on the streets that had more empathy and wisdom that would be amazing to have in positions of power then some of the more powerful people in the world that like to sell themselves as such, you know what I mean?

With renting, something deeper was driving me after the initial fun. I wasn't enjoying it. I had to make money to survive, which I understand, but (and I'm not going all Oprah on ur ass, lol) I had an interesting childhood shall we say, and when u've been sexualised at a really young age it can make you have an interesting relationship with sex which I think the later part of those adventures was trying to tell/teach me.

That I had to start dealing with it which was kind of hard. But that's not playing victim either, I did have fun adventures as well.



What exactly is your connection to Ireland? You mentioned Irish heritage - could you give us a few details?

It was pretty weird. I arrived in Cork and within a couple days I found a job at Kafka's Café on Maylor Street (shout out to Ann-Marie x) and a hostel to live in. I started renting behind the bus station there, near where the brothel was and while waiting on the corner would talk to the lady who ran it.

But I thought Dublin had more to offer being the bigger city so bought a bus ticket and while walking up the stairs to the driver the feeling in my stomach got soooo strong to stay and as I got to the guy I said 'I'll be back' then ran down and asked the ticket lady if I could get a refund and she smiled and said of course so stayed.

I rang and told my mum a few mths later and that's when I learnt that my mum's side is from there and my dad's is either from there or passed through and stayed for ages...I don't think I'm inbred but it explains the feeling in my stomach and why I feel so strong about Ireland, was so weird. I stayed for 7 months and had a really beautiful time. I'd work at the café during the day and was renting at night. Cork's small so word got around and I think it intrigued people but I was really accepted there, lol.

Even after seeing me being driven down the main street high speed one night hanging onto a car window to escape four homophobes who wanted to bash me.

In this issue's Q Book read what Marcus has been up to back here in Australia:

Marcus Proctor is an actor/writer whose book the excerpt comes from 'Happy Traveller' is coming out this year along with a TV drama 'Elliot's Creek' in Australia, a comedy 'Mikey' in Canada and another in the U.K. 'Heaven Can Wait' where he plays the lead in all three. IMDB

For further information, please see <https://m.imdb.com/name/nm2467657> OR <https://au.linkedin.com/in/marcusproctor>

