

GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

By

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INT - A LIVING ROOM - DAY - PRESENT

A 25-year-old man, CHARLIE, is sitting in a chair, talking to an interviewer who is behind the camera.

CHARLIE

I remember my first one like it was yesterday. It was my seventh birthday, and my Uncle Thomas gave it to me, wrapped up in blue wrapping paper, with little red trains on it.

INT - LIVING ROOM - DAY - 1996

A YOUNG CHARLIE is sitting amongst piles of toys and smiling. He is holding a large book in his hands, and reading the words on the cover, following them with his finger.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

At first I didn't really know what it was, but I read the title - "Guinness World Records". I didn't know what Guinness was, but I knew all about world records.

INT - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON - 1996

A YOUNG CHARLIE is sitting in front of the TV in his school uniform. He is absolutely mesmerised by the TV.

CHARLIE (V.O. CONT'D)

I used to watch Cheryl Baker on Record Breakers on a Wednesday afternoon after school. I would watch in awe as people broke records for the fastest solving of a rubix cube, or the longest bungee jump, or for having the most facial piercing.

(pause)

From then on I'd had a fascination with world records. These people where the biggest, the fastest, the best, and I wanted to be just like them.

INT - CHARLIES BEDROOM - EVENING - 1996

YOUNG CHARLIE is lying on his bed, with the lights out, reading the book with a torch and smiling. In the background we can see a bookshelf full of World Record books from various years.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I started to collect the books and read them obsessively.

CHARLIE (V.O. CONT'D)

Did you know the biggest dog in the world is called Gibson? He's a Great Dane, and he's 107cm tall. The smallest dog is called Boo Boo. She's a longhaired Chihuahua and she's 10.16cm tall.

(pause)

The more I read about the records, the more I wanted a record of my own.

INT - BATHROOM - DAY - 1997

YOUNG CHARLIE is standing in front of the mirror, examining his face.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I knew there was no chance I could break any of the science and nature records. I was an astonishingly average boy, so I was never going to get a record for the largest ears or the longest neck.

YOUNG CHARLIE opens his mouth and starts to stretch it to the sides with his fingers.

CHARLIE (V.O. CONT'D)

I thought I had a pretty large mouth, but not 8 feet wide and 12 feet high, which is the record held by the bowhead whale.

INT - CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY - 1997

YOUNG CHARLIE is lying on his bed with his eyes closed, hovering a drawing pin above a Guinness World Records book. He eventually stabs the pin in the book and looks down.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

The only section I thought I had a chance in was amazing feats, so I opened the section, closed my eyes, and stuck a pin in at random. I got most clothes pegs attached to the face. The record was 153 and that didn't seem too many, so off I went to the cupboard under the stairs to find my mums collection of clothes pegs.

INT - CUPBOARD UNDER THE STAIRS - DAY - 1998

YOUNG CHARLIE is removing clothes pegs from his face slowly, obviously in a lot of pain.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

It turned out she didn't have 153, but that didn't really matter because it hurt a lot more than I expected, and I gave up after five.

INT - LIVING ROOM - DAY - PRESENT

CHARLIE is talking to the interviewer.

CHARLIE

That didn't put me off though. I kept on trying to break records for the next 10 years. I broke a leg falling off a pogo stick after 6 bounces, after trying to travel for more than 37.18km to beat Ashrite Furman's record.

(beat)

Then I got arrested for driving a lawnmower down the A3 whilst I was trying to break the 23,487.5km record for the longest distance driven on a lawnmower.

INT - BATHROOM - DAY - 2000

CHARLIE is bent over the sink, splashing water frantically onto his face.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Then of course there was my beard of bees attempt.

(pause)

Lets not go there.

CHARLIE stands up and we see his face in the mirror. It is covered in swollen bee stings, where he has had an allergic reaction.

INT - LIVING ROOM - DAY - PRESENT

CHARLIE is talking to the interviewer.

CHARLIE

There were loads of others that I tried to break as well. Longest time spent balancing on one foot, fastest modelling of a balloon dog, most t-shirts worn at one time, but I failed miserably at them all.

(pause)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I was beginning to think I was never going to be a record breaker. I'd attempted to break 1,423 world records, and I'd failed at them all.

(pause)

Then, one day, something arrived in the post. One look at it, and I knew I should stop attempting to break records. One look, and I knew it was all over. I was never going to try and break a record again.

The camera zooms into a certificate in a frame on the wall behind Charlie.

The certificate reads:

"CERTIFICATE

The most failed attempts to break a Guinness World Record, held by Charles Ashton Cox, who failed at 1,423 attempts between the years 1996 and 2007.

Signed S.A. Newport

Guinness World Records

11th November, 2007"

FADE OUT:

THE END.