

Introduction

Four hundred and thirty million.

-show b-roll of crowd of people-

The amount of monthly active Reddit users worldwide as of December of 2019. A figure of this magnitude has effectively cemented the site as one of the most widely used of all time, and with that, comes an incomprehensible melting pot of post topics spanning nearly anything you can think of.

-pause-

As with anything, however, there is a dark side. The shrouded corner of the website harboring the strangest mysteries, stories, and true crime cases. It's safe to say that I've sunk an embarrassing amount of my life reading threads in this category, but, hey I guess that just happens when you're fascinated by somethin'. What can you do?

Welcome back to Chronicles of Reddit. An anthology series dedicated to diving into the less disturbing, and more odd part of Reddit that you might overlook in your day to day reading. This is volume two, so if you missed the pilot episode, be sure to check that out when you're finished with this one.

Without further ado, get comfortable, because tonight we're takin' a dive into three more bizarre discoveries that've weirded me out – from Reddit.

-title sequence-

[Gone Missing](#)

First stop. r/RBI.

A hub for investigative minds to congregate and tackle real world problems.

On the 31st of July 2020, a Redditor by the name of u/SootheBB would reach out to the community in a plea for help in finding their coworker. Their post reads the following:

On Wednesday, July 22, a co-worker of mine abruptly up and left work before the end of his shift and hasn't been seen since. One week later a text message is received from him containing only these 3 photos. Does anybody recognize the location(s) shown in these photos?

I work at a lab that makes prescription eyeglasses in Northern Ohio. Last week Wednesday, about 6 hours into our 10 hour shift (around 7:10pm), a co-worker of mine got up from his station in a hurry, left his bag with personal belongings at his desk (ipad, bluetooth headphones, a prescription, phone charger, a book, and a couple other knick knacks), and walked out the door and didn't return. No one's seen him since. Some of my other co-workers thought he was just sick of the long hours and decided to quit but that just doesn't make sense why he'd leave behind his personal belongings and not say anything.

We tried calling him that same night but his phone would just ring until it went to voicemail and by the next morning his phone was turned off. My boss said he got a hold of his mom and that she hasn't seen or heard from him but didn't seem too concerned as she said he had a history of living somewhat of a "nomadic lifestyle" in his past. She thinks he may have relapsed and owed someone money or just ran off with some girl... apparently they aren't very close and don't have the best relationship. I know he had a history of drug abuse but from everything I've gathered in the 2 years that I've worked with him he

cleaned his life up after an arrest in 2014 or 2015 for drug possession and had been clean since. He always acted normal around me and seemed to be living a productive life.

On the subject of the pictures: a couple days ago after work I received a group text message that was sent to me, two of my other co-workers, and 6 other numbers I don't recognize. It was from him, and contained the three pictures I linked. No text. I tried calling and it rang once then went to voicemail. When I called again it went straight to voicemail. This whole thing has me feeling very uneasy and I don't know what to think.

Does anybody here recognize the location of where these photos might have been taken?

As stated, below this was a link to an Imgur album containing the photos, which are as follows-

-show images-

Alright, so we've got three images, in strange locations, with very apparent motion distortion. It appears that whoever was taking them must've been trying to shoot em on the fly, and very likely could've been attempting to be discreet about it, camera flash aside. Now, I know the first thing that probably comes to mind here is the potential of EXIF data being embedded within these photos, and considering the fact that it provides critical information including the GPS location, extracting this from the image and tracking his friend down should be pretty easy peasy right?

Wrong.

Unfortunately, a few others have noticed this and suggested looking into it, however Soothe's attempts at doing so didn't bring up anything usable. On top of this, not only were the images that were uploaded to the album on Imgur *not* the original photos from the camera that shot them, but the website and potentially the messaging app they used both more than likely stripped the EXIF data from the files, effectively rendering this angle of attack to be useless.

-fade-

A couple hours after this thread was made, a Redditor named u/zepazuzu would inquire on if the police were notified, to which Soothe responded, saying:

That's what my boss contacted his mom about. She said she was gonna "give it some time" before doing anything like that because she's absolutely convinced he's fine and just left on his own accord. Her lack of concern is kind of mindblowing to be honest. If my kid up and left leaving behind a bag of personal possessions I'd contact the police ASAP. We talked about calling the police ourselves but my boss ultimately said it wasn't our place since we aren't kin and that should be left to his family.

Hmmm..... I'm not sure about you, but this ... seems a bit off. I don't doubt Soothe's claims here, however leaving only his mother with the sole authority to file a missing persons report or contact the police seems a bit odd to me. Personally, if a friend or coworker of mine were to up and vanish, *after* leaving all of their personal belongings behind like they'd done, red flags would be going off everywhere. If I were in their position, I'd be filing a report regardless, but, that's just me.

Anyway, in the sea of speculation and theories under this post, two users, MagzillaTheDestroyer and MashedBahtados would present nearly identical theories that'd stand out among the others. For brevity, we'll just take a look at the one from Mash:

My phone has a feature where if I hit the lock screen button 3 times really fast, it'll send a series of 3 photos to whatever contacts I've approved. The phone I just got will send 3 from the front camera, 3 from the back, and I think a couple seconds of audio recording. It's for emergency situations. My old phone would send JUST 3 from the front facing camera. Is it possible this is what's happening?

-fade-

Now this, *this* is a contender I'm willing to get behind considering the fact that Soothe and a few other contacts all received these three photos in-tandem. If we assume that their coworker utilized this SOS feature potentially built into their smartphone, then it leaves the door open to just two options - either they're completely fine and did this by accident, or they were or are legitimately in trouble and needed help - but, then again that brings us straight back to the root of this mystery.

Regardless of what happened, Soothe unfortunately never followed up with an update on if they ever returned, if a report was eventually filed, or if they ever got into contact with them, leaving the door on this conundrum wide open for speculation. If you or anyone you know recognizes these spots from Northern Ohio, drop a comment. It's a long shot, but perhaps we can help Soothe put their newfound dilemma to bed, while helping to bring their coworker home...

[CPS Dilemma](#)

Stop two. [r/legaladvice](#) – A place to ask simple legal questions, and to have legal concepts explained.

On the morning of February 7th, of 2017, a Redditor by the name of [u/babyblues17](#) would jump into the conversation, explaining and inquiring on an unfortunate dilemma that they've found themselves wrapped up in. Their post is titled *I'm pregnant and being investigated by DCS.*, and reads the following:

Hello,

I'm twenty-nine years old, happily married, my husband and I are college-educated, have respectable, stable jobs, own a home in a nice neighborhood...we're basically as prepared as anyone can be to start a family. I'm almost nine months pregnant with our first child.

The problem is that eleven years ago, when my husband was a freshman in college, he was arrested for possession of marijuana. It was a large enough amount that he was charged with a Class D felony (our jurisdiction is very harsh regarding marijuana), but not intent to deal. He plead guilty and did his time and probation without a problem, passing every drug test along the way. He has not touched marijuana (or any other illegal substance) since, and we rarely even drink (and haven't at all in over a year). I have no criminal record, and have never done drugs myself. It was a stupid mistake he made as a foolish eighteen-year-old, and he's worked hard to put it behind him.

Someone has apparently contacted Child Services in our area and informed them that we are drug users. This accusation is being taken very seriously because of my husband's record. We have been as cooperative as could be with our caseworker. We've been interviewed, our home has been examined, and she found nothing remotely suspicious or incriminating. We have both taken drug tests and passed.

Our caseworker says that everything looks just fine so far. Unfortunately, she also says that there's still the possibility that our child could be taken from us in the labor and delivery ward, and that we won't be allowed to take her home. I was devastated and horrified to hear that. When I asked why, she said it was

"not up to [her]," and "we'll have to wait and see," which made absolutely no sense to me. What gives? I feel like there's something she isn't telling me, but I have no experience with DCS and I'm not aware of anything we could have possibly done wrong. I know they'll have to test my daughter for drugs once she's born, but she has not been exposed to drugs (nothing more than prenatal vitamins--not even tylenol!), and I already proved that by passing a drug test. I'm scared and confused.

Do I need a lawyer? I had anticipated spending our savings on our new daughter/parental leave, but I will use that money for a lawyer if I have to.

Thanks for reading, and thanks in advance for your help.

Clearly, the actions taken so far by the social worker are cause for alarm. Receiving news that you're being investigated and might not be able to keep your newborn child would instill anyone with the feeling of overwhelming anxiety – and even moreso when the case worker won't even give you further details on your case.

Thankfully, commenters were quick to jump in, offering various tidbits of advice and insight on how she can get this handled.

Get a family law attorney on retainer, maybe contact the local ACLU chapter, this reaction is pretty extreme and the fact that someone tipped them when you're obviously not using is pretty malicious.

Another Redditor named u/Sudsworthy floated the possibility that the case worker's potentially complicit in working with the one who made the report. Others, however, had their reservations on the validity of this entire investigation:

>Since people who should know are saying that DCS doesn't deal with pregnancies, I suggest you call your local office (317 773-2183, 8:00-4:30) and ask for a supervisor. See if there is actually a real agent assigned to investigate you.

I suspect that your stepmother may know this agent, or have a friend posing as an agent. If that's the case, you need a supervisor to put a stop to it.

I really hope I'm wrong, and this is just a misunderstanding by a new agent who was poorly trained.

>Indiana DCS does not get involved with pregnancies. Please make sure the person you are talking to is actually DCS or DONT LET THEM IN YOUR HOME ANYMORE.

And probably the most substantial comment came from a user named u/hurry_up_meow, who claimed that they were a former CPS investigator in the OP's state of residence.

I am a former Indiana CPS investigator/ assessor

Something here is not making any sense at all, unless the law has changed greatly in the last few years when I left the department.

As of this moment you are pregnant correct? You don't have any children? They are investigating the fetus?

to which OP responded, claiming:

Yeah, we have no children yet. They are investigating the fetus. I wasn't aware that was even something they could do! The report they got must have seemed quite alarming, I guess. It seemed weird as heck to me, too.

The remainder of the comments, understandably, were incredibly sketched-out that this was occurring. It was heavily advised to stop contacting this particular case worker and to get in contact with a DCS supervisor directly. Hopefully through them, they could get some answers on this....

...And so OP went silent for a while. Hours turned into days, and the thread began to lose a bit of steam as they always do.

-fade-

Hopefully things were okay.

-Two weeks later timelapse-

February 21st, of 2017.

Here is my original post. When I made it, I was advised to get a lawyer right away. I was also advised that Indiana's DCS doesn't investigate pregnant women who don't already have kids, and that the woman claiming to be a social worker might be an imposter.

I contacted and met with a lawyer, and explained the situation to him. He seemed to agree that something was very fishy. To make a long story short, the woman "handling our case" has no affiliation with DCS.

I'm still in complete shock.

We went straight to the police. They're taking this very seriously. I can't give a lot of details because it's an ongoing investigation, but she seems to have been a very skilled/well-researched liar. I never would have known anything was amiss without the advice of this subreddit and the intervention of my attorney. I feel like a complete idiot, but the instinct to cooperate unquestioningly when faced with an intimidating "authority figure" is strong.

I haven't had the baby yet. We're staying at a trusted family member's home until the baby is born. My OB and the hospital we'll be delivering at have already been informed of the situation, and will be taking the appropriate security measures. I'm still freaking out, but we're taking every precaution for the safety of my child, and hopefully everything will turn out okay.

Thanks again, everybody. Truly.

It's a beautiful thing, seeing a community band together to help someone in need. Abduction of a newborn is something unfathomable to me, however after reading this and looking into it, I now know that it *is a thing*. Go figure.

The statistics are interesting, too. According to an article made by KVUE in Austin, Texas, *from 1964 to October, 2019, 327 children under the age of one have been abducted in the US. Of those 327 children who were abducted, 257 of them were taken by women of childbearing age, between the ages of 14 and 39. A nurse or healthcare worker is more likely to take a child from a healthcare setting, while a babysitter, relative, or friend is more likely to take an infant from the home.*

Had the OP not raised their suspicions, then who knows what next step the attempted kidnapper would've taken. Perhaps they'd try to get someone to impersonate a nurse, coming face to face with the OP in the recovery room to abduct their child. It might sound like a long-shot but if they were *this*

dedicated, pursuing a fake DCS case against u/babyblues and even *coming out to inspect their home*, then I wouldn't doubt that they'd pull a stunt like this too.

To date, the OP understandably hasn't returned to Reddit. Their story, though, will forever live on in r/legaladvice as one of the most bizarre and unsettling occurrences that've been shared there. I'm sure this would make a great personal story one day, but, to be honest if I were them, I'd be happy with just forgetting it...

[Peeping Tom](#)

Our final stop. r/relationships – the place you go for advice in... well, your relationships.

On Monday, May 23, of 2016, a Redditor by the name of u/Losingmymind5 would share a story about what they believe to be their husband spying on them when he's isn't home. Considering the post received upwards of 6,000 likes and nearly 1.5 thousand comments in just five months, it's safe to assume that their story shook some people up.

It's deleted now, however thankfully archives exist to remedy situations like this. And it read the following:

My husband, Henry, and I have been married for almost 2 years- together for 5. We have a pretty normal relationship and I've always felt that we share mutual trust in each other. We've never broken up and I can't think of one situation where he would feel that I'm not trustworthy. I feel like I'm going crazy over this...

Henry's career usually requires him to travel rarely but this year is an exception. His company is in the middle of reorganization and he has been traveling to do training seminars about once a month. His trips are usually Monday-Sunday. I've confirmed these trips and, yes, these are legitimate. I'd say we have been handling it well but the past few months, my husband's been doing weird things that have cause me to believe he's spying on me or showing controlling tendencies.

The first incident was in at the end of March when my husband came home and asked how my friend was doing with the death of her dog. At first, I said that she was sad but doing ok. About a minute later I asked how he knew that and he said social media. The only reason I asked this was because I had a phone call in the living room with my friend when the dog died. Not only that, but my friend had deactivated her page before the dog died so it wouldn't have been on there. I'm the only mutual friend he had with her, as well, so I don't think he would see anything that she was tagged in. I asked him if he's watching me (as a joke). And he said, seriously, "Why would you think that?" I explained it and he said "NO! It was on social media." I just assumed his defensiveness was because he had jet-lag.

The second incident was in April when I went out with my friends during the weekend. That Saturday night, I had texted him that I would let him know when I'm home and it should be around 12:30 am. I got home earlier at about 11 PM and fiddled around in the kitchen for probably 20 minutes. I'll admit I forgot to text him. I got a text at about 11:20 that said "you're home?" I told him yes that I was straightening the kitchen and then going to bed. I asked how he knew and he said he "just figured you would be already." He told me goodnight and I went to bed. Normally, I wouldn't think anything of this but this latest incident has me looking back on the past few months.

Henry got home early from this month's trip on Friday. I was super excited because he doesn't have trip until September. When he got home, he asked what I did all week. I explained all of my activities when he said "did you have any friends over?" I said no. And he said "oh? Really?..." I said yes and at that point I was really confused because I truly didn't have any friends over. He just huffed and stormed off. Again, I assumed he was just tired.

I went into the bedroom and asked if he was ok and he said that he was. Later that night, we were talking about my week and I mentioned my brother dropped off some photo albums of my dad (he passed away) and that I wanted to show him some. Henry said "oh! Your brother was here. Ok." And then mumbled "that makes sense" as he walked away. I have really good hearing and I don't think he thought I'd hear it. If he had a camera, is it possible he could have heard a male voice and assumed it was another male friend? My brother didn't come in the house but we talked on the front porch with the front door open. I feel crazy just typing this.

Sunday, because he was at his mom's, I decided to try and look around. I didn't want to be too obvious so I kind of just nonchalantly walked around looking at things, accidentally knocking things over and looking at them when I picked them up, etc. I'm sure it was obvious because I got a call from him asking what I was doing. I told him just hanging out when he said "doing what?" I told him I was watching TV (I did have the TV on). There was a pause and he said "I'm leaving soon; I'll be home in 20 minutes." He was supposed to be there 3 more hours.

Someone tell me I'm overreacting and this is not that strange. Am I digging too far into this? I don't know how he would know about my friend's dog and that I was home early the one night. There's got to be something going on, right? He's NEVER acted like this before February. It's weird. I get home after him during the week so I don't get TOO much time alone, aside from showers, bathroom visits, etc. Help?

-skit with shots of various cameras in room-

Oh yeah, I can see why this story gained so much steam.

In our connected world, options for spying, especially for someone versed in information technology with access to the network within the house that you live in, are nearly endless. Webcams, microphones, smartphones, smart speakers, laptops, connected TVs, what have you – and that's not even including the potential for hidden cameras, which, these days are disturbingly simple to come by.

Being spied on is truly something that induces chills within me, because few things are more intimate and more sacred, than one's own privacy.

And so Reddit jumped on the case, giving her options and theories as to what he might be up to. These ranged pretty widely – from the potential of him cheating and projecting his behavior onto her, to him deriving some fantasy from spying on her -- it truly did light this subreddit up for a while.

A user named u/RikerOmega3 lended their advice with a pretty solid "gacha" tactic to subtly pull the evidence out of him:

Next time he goes away, unplug the cable modem.

If he is monitoring you, he won't be able to without the internet going into the house. Power off your cell phone and any other tablet during this time as well...in case he is using those as a microphone

Take that time to really carefully go through the house. Wherever you were looking when you got busted the first time is where I would start. Pay attention to anything that has been moved. Look at the air vents, returns, and smoke detectors. These usually have a layer of dust on them. If the dust has been disturbed, odds are, someone disturbed them. Look for scuffs on the floor or indentations in the carpet as if a chair or piece of furniture had been recently moved.

If there is a camera or a microphone, odds are he is going to have one in the bedroom, so start there. The living room is the next logical option.

most importantly, take pictures in every room. When he gets back in town, he is going to want to know what happened with his listening devices. He'll check the internet and the actual devices to make sure that A) they are working and B) they are still there. Maybe place the modem at a certain angle or facing a certain direction. If for some reason the first thing he does is check the modem when he gets home...you'll know you are barking up the right tree.

You can then wait until he is out of the house again and go room to room seeing if anything is out of place...comparing things to the pics you took while the internet was off.

If you can't find anything, option B would be to set a honey trap. So randomly, from time to time, play with your phone ringtones to make your phone ring...and then fake pick up and say "hold on for a second" then turn up the tv really loudly. Leave it on for a while and see if he calls. When he calls, mute the tv or the radio and pick it up. If he asks you what you were doing, just say taking a nap or something. If he asks about the tv or the radio, say no...you've just been napping.

You might catch him in a lie that way..

Now this, to me, seems like it would be the best option. And it's a bonus that it's so rudimentary. Next time he's at work, cut the internet, effectively buying yourself time to snoop around the house without worrying that you're being watched while doing it. At first, I'd expect that he'd leave work early and rush home to fix the internet issue, much like he did when he was supposed to be at his "moms" (we'll get to that in a second), but if I were her, I'd do it again, and again, and again, and again while pleading ignorance every time. There's only so many times you can leave work early before it'll really start to impact you, and perhaps his supervisor would begin to catch on, requesting that he'd stay, and in-turn buying her even *more* of the clock.

Just a thought.

Conversely, however, other people were suggesting otherwise. Considering the fact that spousal spying is illegal in the US thanks to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, she'd be able to build a pretty substantial case against him were she to report it to the police and if they were to find something.

Call the police. They are able to check for hidden cameras, and other devices that are used to spy on people

Listen, this is your husband, and I get that you love him. But if he really is spying on you while he is gone, it is beyond sick and disgusting. And it is also illegal.

If spying equipment is found, you do not need to press charges. But The fact that you can press charges, should scare the shit out of him. if you find stuff, and still want to stay with him, I would go to marriage counseling.

Also there is the fact, that allot of people that suspect their SO of cheating, are projecting, and usually they are the ones either being physically or emotionally cheating.

(He was checking on you while he was at his mothers for Christ's sake)

EDIT: I would also be suspicious of him putting a key logger on your computer as well. So if you are posting this from home, or your phone I would be careful.

Another user named u/Workdawg suggested that she check the router for suspicious connections that could hint at the possibility of hidden network cameras, to which, unfortunately, she responded claiming that she's not "tech savvy at all".

-fade-

From what I gather here, I'm honestly leaning towards that prior suggestion that the husband's cheating and is projecting his actions onto her. If we're assuming that they've had no prior relationship issues and this spying dilemma suddenly started around February, then it's safe to say that he must've had some sort of significant life change around that time. Furthermore, considering the fact that he's away for extended periods of time for work, combined with the fact that he literally dropped everything and left his "mom's", take that for what you will, to rush home and address her snooping after he suspected her of doing so, it's just adding up to infidelity to me. Either that, or he's simply drummed up this sudden infatuation with spying to keep control over their relationship, to purposefully drop hints at the fact that he knows what she's doing, and to prevent her from cheating on *him* in the future.

But, then again that brings us full-circle because *why* would you need to do something like this if you aren't doing it yourself? Why would you need to convince yourself that your partner isn't cheating – completely out of the blue?

To date, LosingMyMind hasn't revisited Reddit to give any sort of followup so it's unclear on what might've happened to her. There wasn't any location information in her story that'd allow us to do any further digging, and so we're left here *four years later*, hoping that they'd come to some sort of positive outcome.

LosingMyMind, if you're out there, jump on an incognito tab, use a VPN, and drop us a sign. It can be anything. A smiley face on your profile bio, an unrelated comment on an unrelated post – anything. Your story resonated with a lot of people, and we're all just hoping that you came out the other end of this alright.

Closing Remarks

Reddit is a *massive* space, and with such a gargantuan size comes a plethora of strange mysteries that can truly captivate even the most lighthearted subreddits.

Tonight, we dove into three eerie threads that have recently interested *me*. I hope you all enjoyed this second installment, and if any of you have any running theories for these, definitely leave them in the comments below. Also, if you have any further suggestions for a future Chronicles of Reddit anthology, feel free to submit it to NightmareExpo@gmail.com with the title CHRONICLES OF REDDIT SUBMISSION.

With that being said, thank you so much for watching, I'll see you in the next one, I love you all, and good night.