

# **What I know for Sure**

**By**

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I know what you're thinking: With a title like that, this essay will be mercifully short, and you may be right. I was inspired to write it by my hero Oprah, who at the end of her magazine interviews, always asks, "What do you know for sure?" Her interviewees regularly give intelligent, profound answers, and I can't help but wonder how I would answer in the unlikely event that Oprah ever asks me what I know for sure. Most likely I will stutter and stumble, and she will think, "HmMMM. Apparently, not much."

But I do know a few things for sure, though maybe nothing worthy of an Oprah interview. Maybe not enough to fill a column either, but never fear; if I run out before I get to the end, I'll finish up with my family history or a list of my deeply held politically beliefs, which I'm sure you'll find fascinating.

## **What I know for sure:**

I know for sure that if you ever reach out to grab something in order to keep yourself from falling, you should always grab something that doesn't move.

I know for sure that you should never pull out all the file drawers in your four-drawer file cabinet at the same time.

I know that sometimes "for mature audiences," really means "for immature adults."

I know that if all the star-crossed lovers separated by war or disaster in the movies were reunited, they'd soon be fighting over whether the toilet seat should be up or down just like the rest of us do.

I know that permanent markers really are.

I know that the reason you should take care of yourself is not so you can live a long life.  
You should take care of yourself in case you do.

I know that the more expensive the hotel, the more pillows there will be on the beds.

I know you should always make a list of what you need at the grocery store. And I know for sure you should always remember to bring it with you.

I know for sure that even if no one had ever discovered the health benefits of chocolate, I'd still be eating it.

I know there isn't a hair styling product made that can shape your hair and keep it in that shape as long as a two-hour nap will.

I know that if you want to run into former bosses, old boyfriends, Elvis, or even Oprah herself, just go to the store in baggy sweatpants and a T-shirt that says, "I've seen better days."

I know that when politicians say, "The American people want . . ." what they really mean is, "The American people I AGREE WITH want . . ."

I know for sure you should never buy anything without trying it on--except for groceries.

I know for sure that pets and vehicles still in running condition make very poor landmarks.

I know you should never ask a woman if she's pregnant just because she's wearing an empire waist top.

I know you should always write down all withdrawals from your checking account, especially those over \$200. (I'm not saying how I know this.)

I know that the more stylish the shoe, the more uncomfortable it will be.

I know you should try hard to be wherever you are. That way when you get back home, you'll feel like you've been someplace.

I know that just because the label says it's not breakable doesn't mean it won't break.

I know that no matter how important the document was, you can't put it back together once you've shredded it.

I know for sure you can't believe everything you read on the internet or in your fortune cookies.

Well look at that! No room for my family history and deeply held political beliefs. I'll save them for Oprah.

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