

# A Cautionary Tale

They believed in universal human goodness, and discovered too late the reality of evil in the human heart. Michael Sinkowicz writes in [?Instagram](#) and on a [?put it](#), they shared “the openheartedness they wanted to embody and the acts of kindness reciprocated by strangers.”

“You read the papers and you’re led to believe that the world is a big, scary place,” Austin wrote.

“People, the narrative goes, are not to be trusted. People are bad. People are evil.”

“I don’t buy it,” he continued. “Evil is a make-believe concept we’ve invented to deal with the complexities of fellow humans holding values and beliefs and perspectives different than our own... By and large, humans are kind. Self-interested sometimes, myopic sometimes, but kind. Generous and wonderful and kind.”

However, Austin and Geoghegan’s dream trip came to a tragic and gruesome end when they got to Tajikistan, a country with a [?according to](#) CBS News. Five men got out of the car and stabbed the couple to death along with two other cyclists, one from Switzerland and the other from the Netherlands.