

The Tragically Heartbreaking and Uplifting Life of Keanu Reeves Revealed



In 1999, [Keanu Reeves](#) became most famous for his role in the groundbreaking science fiction film, *The Matrix*. It earned an impressive \$463.5 million at the box office and was nominated for and won four Academy Awards. *The Matrix* is a happy story in a lot of ways, but the life of its star wasn't always. (paragraph #1)

Now 50 years old, Keanu's life has been full of more tragedy than you would expect from a movie star. Despite each setback, he's kept pushing forward. It's helped develop himself into the awesome person that he is on and off the screen. (#2)

At the age of three, his father left their family. They stayed in touch for a few years, but after the divorce and moving from city to city, they fell out of contact. Keanu attended four different high schools and struggled with dyslexia, making his education more challenging than it is for most. Eventually he left high school without earning a diploma, though through sheer will, he is an avid reader now. (#3)

At the age of 23, his closest friend River Phoenix died of a drug overdose. During a Reddit AMA last year, Keanu said: *"He was a remarkable human person and actor. We got along very well, and I miss him. I think of him often."* (#4)

In 1998, Keanu met Jennifer Syme. The two fell instantly in love and by 1999, Jennifer was pregnant with their daughter. Sadly, after eight months, their child was born stillborn. They were devastated by her death and it eventually ended their relationship. 18 months later, Syme would die in a car accident. (#5)

In 2006, Reeves told *Parade Magazine*, "Grief changes shape, but it never ends." It's a lesson that we'll all likely learn.

Even with those incredible tragedies, Reeves would push on. He's starred in a variety of blockbusters and has become a wealthy man, but the pain of his losses has changed how he thinks about money. He's well known in Hollywood for being among the more charitable actors. After the successes of *The Matrix* and its sequels, Reeves gave \$80 million of his \$114 million earnings to the special effects and makeup staff of the films. He also took pay cuts on the films *The Replacements* and *The Devil's Advocates* so stars like Gene Hackman and Al Pacino would agree to be in the film while keeping casting within the designated budget. (#6)

There are some incredible personal accounts of his kindness as well. Redditor *Kahi* made the following comment about the Sad Keanu meme:

*"A family friend builds movie sets, doesn't design, is one of the poor dudes that just builds. Anyways he worked on the set for the Matrix and Keanu heard about family trouble he was having and gave him a \$20,000 Christmas bonus to help him out. He also was one of the only people on the set that genuinely wanted to know people's names, would say hello and mean it, and would talk to people as if they were his peers and not below him just In his AMA, he told fans that he likes to keep it simple. In 2003, Keanu told *Hello! Magazine*: "Money is the last thing I think about. I could live on what I have already made for the next few centuries." (#7)*

Even though he's likely worth \$100 million, the man still rides the subway. And he's super nice about it too.

So in the end, I think we can all pretty well agree that even in the face of tragedy, a stellar person can thrive.

