The Funny Thing About Adversity

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The New York Times:

DOES adversity harden hearts or warm them? Does experiencing deprivation, disaster or illness make a person more — or less — sympathetic to the travails of others?

You've probably encountered examples of each: survivors of hard knocks who lend a compassionate ear to beleaguered souls, and those who offer only a disdainful "suck it up." As a result, it may seem that adversity's effect on kindness is unpredictable.

Read the whole story: The New York Times