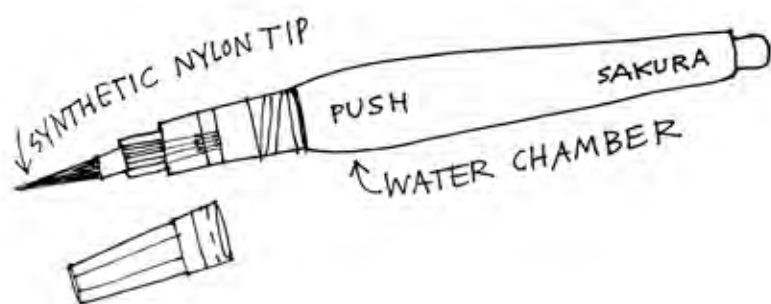


# LIFE IN A PANDEMIC

By Milly

DEDICATED TO MY QUARANTINE CREW:  
BILL, KATEY, HAZEL, SEAN, JACK, AND CAITLIN



THE COMICS WERE PAINTED IN A RECYCLED SKETCH BOOK  
WITH SAKURA KOI TRAVEL WATERCOLORS, SHARPIE ULTRA FINE  
AND A WATERBRUSH.

# THE COVID COMICS

CREATED IN COMPLETE  
AND UTTER PANDEMONIUM  
DURING THE COVID-19  
PANDEMIC OF 2020

*By milly*



GETTING READY  
TO GET READY.

IS SO MUCH  
EASIER

THAN THE  
**THING**

That you're getting ready for !!?!

CUZ YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT  
IT IS.

PANDEMONIUM WAS INVENTED BY  
JOHN MILTON IN HIS POEM "PARADISE LOST"  
1667 IN THE CAPITAL OF HELL.

THE IMAGES IN THIS COMIC BOOK WERE NOT DATED AND NEVER MEANT TO BE PART OF A COLLECTION. SO WHEN I ATTEMPTED TO PIECE THEM ALL BACK TOGETHER IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER IT WAS HARD BECAUSE THINGS HAD CHANGED SO QUICKLY AND TIME WAS FOREVER ALTERED. WE RESPONDED RAPID FIRE TO THE NEWEST ADVICE OF EACH DAY: NO MASK NEEDED, WASH YOUR HANDS, SURFACES WERE CONTAMINATED, DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE, USE HAND SANITIZER, WASH YOUR GROCERIES, WEAR A MASK. WE HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS COMING.

CHAPTER 1 TRAVELING PRE—PANDEMIC

CHAPTER 2 QUARANTINE

CHAPTER 3 NEW NORMS

CHAPTER 4 SHOPPING

CHAPTER 5 PANDEMIA

CHAPTER 6 POST PANDEMIA

## CHAPTER ONE

# TRAVELING PRE-PANDEMIC

MARCH 11, 2020 WAS THE OFFICIAL BEGINNING OF THE PANDEMIC. I TRAVELLED ACROSS THE COUNTRY JUST DAYS BEFORE THIS DECLARATION. IT WAS BIZARRE AND BEWILDERING. PEOPLE AVERTED EYE CONTACT AND NERVOUSLY SPRAYED HAND SANI. WE WERE HARD PRESSED TO NEED TO KNOW WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO ACT. IT WAS EXHAUSTING. AND THEN OF COURSE, TRAVEL BECAME IMPOSSIBLE.

**ASK**  
YOURSELF  
1,000,000,000  
TIMES.... IS THIS  
A BAD IDEA?





USUALLY THE VAN  
IS FILLED WITH  
PEOPLE SHOULDER  
TO SHOULDER HEADS  
BOBBING, LIGHTLY  
SNORING.



THERE'S ALWAYS ONE  
PERSON WHO IS  
COMPELLED TO TALK.

TO KEEP THE  
DRIVER  
**AWAKE**

OR THEY JUST  
LOVE TO TALK?

**THIS WAS WEIRD.**

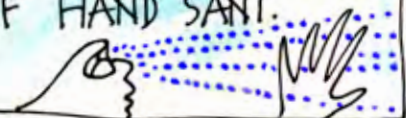
JUST  
me  
+ HIM.

**THEN,**

HE ASKED ME TO  
SIGN THE FORM.  
WITH HIS PEN!



THEN I **COUGHED**  
TO HIDE THE SOUND  
OF HAND SANI.



THIS WAS BACK WHEN COUGHING WASN'T  
AS BAD AS TOUCHING THINGS!?!?



IT'S A  
Nervous  
TICK.

MY FACE  
ITCHES.  
it  
twitches.

IS THIS A  
BAD IDEA?

DON'T TOUCH  
YOUR FACE!

SHIT!  
I TOUCHED  
MY FACE.  
AGAIN.  
SPRAY  
MY HANDS!

SMALL  
PURSE

BACK PACK

POCKET  
HAND  
SANI

NUTS

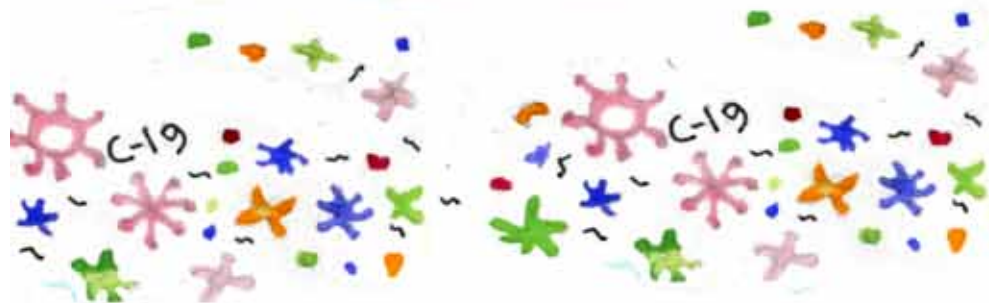
CHLOROX  
WIPES

WATER

EASY  
ZIP  
BOOTS

FANTASIA OF GERMS  
C-19

SO - THAT'S  
WHAT GERMO-  
PHOBES SEE?





You just want to get in your room before — **OH NO —**  
[THERE'S A WEIRD GUY]  
before you see anyone.

**Quick-**

LOCK THE DOOR  
BUT FIRST-

**MAKE SURE YOU'RE ALONE.**

- ☒ BEHIND THE SHOWER CURTAIN!
- ☒ UNDER THE BED
- ☒ IN THE CLOSET

**O.K.**

**Perimeter Secure**

NOW for **LOCKDOWN**



THE  
IRONING  
BOARD!



PERFECT  
WEDGE  
BETWEEN  
DOOR KNOB  
AND CLOSET  
WALL!

Let's PARTY!

# Pero antes...

## THE CHLOROX SWAB DOWN!

- ☒ BATHROOM SINK, TOILET
- ☒ DOOR KNOBS
- ☒ CLICKER
- ☒ CHAIR ARMS
- ☒ LAMP
- ☒ COUNTERTOPS

OK NOW TRY TO  
FUCKING RELAX.

GOT MY STARBUCKS WRAP  
AND 2 BEERS I BROUGHT.

Let's get this  
show on the road.

EARLY FLIGHT.

zzzzzzzzzz

SO IN THE **NOW** - IT HURTS  
PURSE ✓ WALLET ✓ PHONE ✓ REPEAT.  
PAY ATTENTION!

BLINK.

SWALLOW.

HEARTBEAT.

BREATHE.

STUFF YOU'RE  
NOT SUPPOSED  
TO THINK  
ABOUT!



DON'T FUCK UP!

FUCK. *This*.  
HOLY SHIT. *THAT*.

**SO** OUTSIDE YOUR <sup>NORMAL</sup> ROUTINE

**THIS IS YOUR BODY UNDER STRESS**

**THIS IS YOUR BODY UNDER STRESS**

**THIS IS YOUR BODY UNDER STRESS**

**THIS IS YOUR BODY UNDER STRESS**

**THIS IS YOUR BODY UNDER STRESS**

# THE EARLY DAYS

BEFORE THE QUARANTINE





# BACK IN THE OLD DAYS

## Real Traveler

RUMPLED CHAOS \*



## Saavy Traveler

THE PULLED TOGETHER EFFORTLESS



# Pandemic Traveler

FILLED WITH SELF DOUBT



Personal Space has a whole new look

# THE DANCE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

ONE'S PERSONAL SPACE

YOU

SPACE

→ SNEERS

→ DROPLETS

→ WEIRD LOOKS

→ eye contact?

→ SMILES?

→ SNEEZING

→ IS THAT AN N95?

→ COUGHING

→ YOUR BUBBLE

→ excuse me



## CHAPTER 2

# NEW NORM

NEW DEFINITIONS OF ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR  
THAT ONCE CONFORMED TO A STANDARD OF  
USUAL, TYPICAL, OR EXPECTED

# New NORMS

~~HUGS~~

~~HANDSHAKES~~



ELBOW BUMPS  
ARE NOT EVEN  
COOL ANYMORE.

- ☒ No Real COMFORT ZONE
- ☒ ALWAYS BE READY
- ☒ DON'T THINK TOO MUCH
- ☒ STAY IN THE MOMENT
- ☒ DON'T GO ANYWHERE

WHAT IS

# NORMAL

What  
feels  
normal

IT will  
change  
tomorrow.



The New  
Normal

WHAT USED  
TO BE NORMAL

IT'S WHATEVER YOU WANT IT TO BE



AND THEN CAME THE

# Quarantine

Complete family member  
THE #1 QUARANTINE CHECKLIST

- ☒ Weed
- ☒ Booze
- ☒ Baby Food Packets
- ☒ Anxiety Meds
- ☒ cigarettes

IT WAS A WHIRLWIND OF ENERGY TO PREPARE FOR SOMETHING WE HAD NEVER DONE IN OUR LIFETIMES. GET READY FOR AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF TIME TO BE AT HOME WITH LIMITED SUPPLIES — OF EVERYTHING.



SUPERHERO PREPPING, LIST MAKING, STOCK PILING (YES, WE DID THIS), BRAINSTORMING (WHAT WILL WE NEED?), ORGANIZING, INVENTORYING, AND PRIORITIZING WHAT MUST BE EATEN FIRST, FREEZING FOOD AND THEN FINALLY, WE ARE, AT HOME. NOW WHAT?



I FINALLY FELT A SINKING FEELING, IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN GRAVITY. ALL THAT WAS LEFT TO DO WAS TO DEAL WITH THE NOW. I HAD BEEN TOO BUSY GETTING READY THAT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH NOW?

# Quarantine

## BIKE RIDE #1

MOTHER to daughter



**YOU** Take the helmet. If you go brain dead I'll have to take care of your baby!

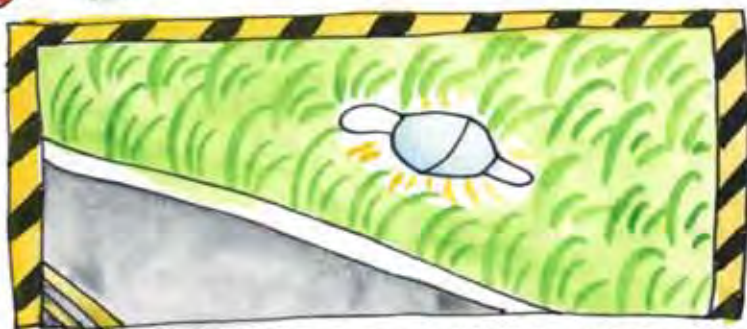
Daughter to Mother



**NO.** You take it. If you go brain dead I'll have to take care of my baby and my bros. and DAD !!!??

# PANDEMONIUM

IS THIS NEW NORMAL?



ROADSIDE DISCARDED MASKS  
LIKE SEEING UNDERWEAR OR  
USED CONDOMS. #HAZMAT



ROADSIDE JUNK. I KNOW  
WE NEED A WAY TO SWAP  
OUT OUR USED STUFF...  
NO GARAGE SALES, NO Goodwill,  
NO RETAIL... BUT GeeZ... MOST  
OF IT IS GARBAGE - 'cuz  
There's no where to get  
RID OF IT?

# SOCIAL DISTANCING

with toddlers

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN IN THE  
SIMPLEST TERMS... **WHY?**



#WHATIS  
A GERM?

WE TOOK A STROLLER WALK.

- get some **EXERCISE!**

- go see A<sup>MOM</sup> FRIEND'S YARDWORK  
IT'S OUTSIDE... IT'S OK

**BUT**

NO MINGLING.  
NO GETTING OUT  
OF THE STROLLER.

**DEAL?**



**Deal.**

EVERYONE KEPT THEIR DISTANCE.



AND  
IN ONE  
SWOOP.  
When NO  
ONE WAS  
LOOKING.

The Toddlers  
HUGGED  
Real  
Fast.





the ultimate mom mode

# Quarantined

ROLE REVERSAL?

MOM?

Bla bla bla  
bla bla  
bla bla

UH  
HUH..  
I  
KNOW.

yadda  
yadda

me me  
me me  
my  
my  
my

CAN you JUST Be Agrown  
UP + treat Me Like one?

ONCE.

THE COVID 19  
**MASK** **SMILE**



# EXISTENTIAL\*

\* DAY 20 SOMETHING OF  
STAY HOME SHELTER IN  
PLACE SOCIAL DISTANCE  
MASK WEARING GLOVE  
WEARING HANDWASHING  
AND SANITIZING AND I  
REALIZE... THIS IS IT. THIS.  
WHATEVER THIS IS. IT'S IT.

YOU'LL SLOWLY BURN THROUGH  
ALL THE PANIC BUYING FOOD

**Reality** SETS IN.

1 DENIAL. 2 DEPRESSION.

3 ANOTHER ROUND OF  
SUPERHERO EFFORTS TO  
KEEP "READY"

4 ACCEPTANCE.

5 EXHAUSTION FROM TRYING  
TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

6 WORRY IS THE NEW NORMAL.

**and then -**

every now + then there's  
a beautiful glowing  
moment. You laugh. You  
smile, and think, yea

**Everything will be OK.**

It will.

# ADVICE

OF THE DAY

FOR MENTAL HEALTH:  
ONLY CHECK THE NEWS 2X DAY.



I WANT TO  
IMAGINE

HOW I  
COME OUT OF THIS ALIVE.

BETTER  
FOR HAVING  
LIVED THROUGH IT.

DID I  
WHINE?

DID I  
FREAK THE  
FUCK OUT

DID I DRIVE  
EVERYONE  
AROUND ME  
INSANE?

OR

DID I RIDE IT OUT WITH GRACE  
helping my loved ones through the storm...



...AND WE'D CAMP OUT IN THE HOUSE;  
BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES - MAKE  
THE 100+ MPH WIND STORM A REASON  
TO BE CLOSE.

WE'D WAKE UP IN THE MORNING  
+ IT WAS PEACEFULLY CALM.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SUCH AN AWAKENING.

# Stay Home:

I'M CREATING STRESS FOR EVERYONE WITH MY PRESENCE.

OH GREAT Thanks - WELCOME HOME CAREGIVER OF ALL

FORGIVE ME FOR TRYING TOO HARD...



I HAVE STAVED OFF ANY CORONA TEARS OR FLAT OUT DEPRESSION.



I FEEL TEARS FLOATING JUST BEHIND MY EYES.

**EVERYTHING** IS A TRIGGER



BLINKING emojis  
THE NEW TECHNOLOGY THAT CONNECTS US.

THE PANDEMIC COMES AT A TIME WHEN WE NEEDED TO LEARN TO UNPLUG -

HUG MORE

DANCE MORE

SING MORE

INSTEAD WE PLUG IN AND STAY CONNECTED BY

the sounds of our voices

WRITING WORDS

and



SENDING MASSIVE THOUGHTS FOR all of our well being. ♥



# SILVER LINING

Let me count  
the ways ...

EVERYBODY SHOULD MAKE A LIST.



SHOPPING PROTOCOL, SAFETY, & BEHAVIORS  
CHANGING FASTER THAN THE  
USDA FOOD PYRAMID.

# LIKE GOING THROUGH AIRPORT SECURITY



# Quarantine = SHOPPING

GEARING UP FOR A BIG ASS COSTCO RUN!!

o checklist:

- ✓ hours
- ✓ masks
- ✓ card
- ✓ gloves
- o ✓ enough money
- ✓ the list
- ✓ breakfast!
- ✓ sani-wipes
- o ✓ wallet
- ✓ phone
- ✓ work phone

OK

ALL SET



HUH?

BATTERY IS DEAD.

Shit.

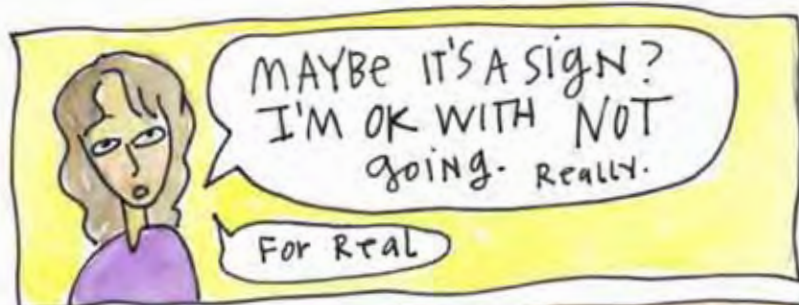


LET'S GO IN THE VAN.

WTF?

THIS BATTERY IS DEAD.

as a doornail.



I'M **NOT** SITTING  
SHOTGUN. No.  
THE DOOR IS STUCK !!!

# CLAUSTRAPHOBIA



IT'S A 45  
MINUTE  
DRIVE!?



OH MY GOD!  
We're OUT OF  
TOWN-FINALLY!  
THIS IS ACTUALLY FUN!?

# PANDEMONIUM ANNONYMITY

WEAR A HAT  
AND GLASSES



INCOGNITO.  
COULD BE  
GOOD.

COULD BE  
WEIRD.

OH Hey,  
I DIDN'T  
RECOGNIZE  
YOU!

YEA. HOW  
COULD YOU?

DON'T MIND ME, I'M NOT  
REALLY HERE. This isn't happening.

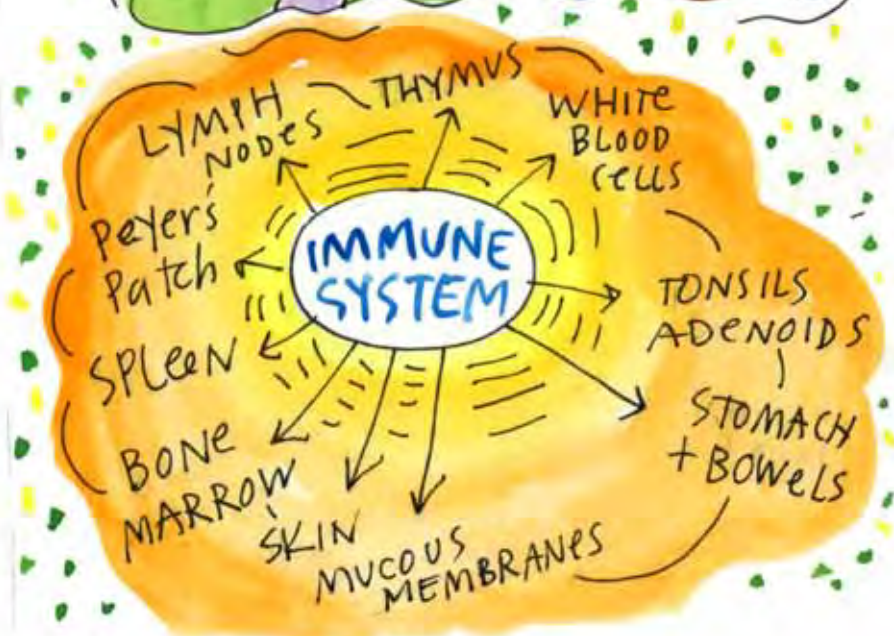
# HMMM...?

IS **QUARANTINE!!!**

PROTECTING + STRENGTHENING  
OUR IMMUNE SYSTEM?

**NO GERMS** = **NO GERMS**

OR IS IT WEAKENING IT?



# Pandemia

THE ACT OF THINKING INFLUENCED BY A PANDEMIC.

THERE ARE STYLES OF THINKING: SYNTHESISTS, IDEALISTS,  
PRAGMATIST THINKERS, ANALYST THINKERS, REALIST THINKERS  
THIS IS THE TYPE OF THINKING FOUND ONLY IN PANDEMICS.

# Pandemia



Becomes Normal

You Get So Used To It THAT...

You wonder... if you've lost  
your social graces? #easier to quarantine

THE END OF  
LIKE A LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG  
CAR TRIP ACROSS THE States...



PHASE ONE; PHASE TWO;  
PHASE THREE; PHASE FOUR.



I'M KINDA JUST GETTING USED TO IT.

Finally boring is normal.

IT'S OK. → I'll take it.

The rules are clear. STAY HOME.

Quarantine is comfortable.

Do we have to go out? I don't know.

Do we wear masks? Yes. Is it OK?

Is it not OK? Do we see our friends?

Do we not see our friends? Do we need to decide?  
Do we have to? Can anything ever stay the same?

WENT TO THE OFFICE TODAY

# Pandemonium



SHIELDS DOWN  
IN YOUR INNER MASK WORLD.

IT'S KINDA LONELY OUT THERE.  
JUST ME, THE SCENT OF MY LAUNDRY  
DETERGENT AND MY OWN BREATH.

PHASE TWO:

# BACK TO THE OFFICE

FIRST TIME I'VE WORN MASCARA



in <sup>How</sup> MANY months!?

1. answer emails... bla bla bla
2. check phone messages...



VOICE MAIL  
of a dear  
friend who  
passed away  
JUST last Night! OMG

IT WAS ODDLY GOOD  
TO HEAR HER VOICE

Her GHOST voice

The message was 1 month  
OLD + I GOT IT TOO LATE.

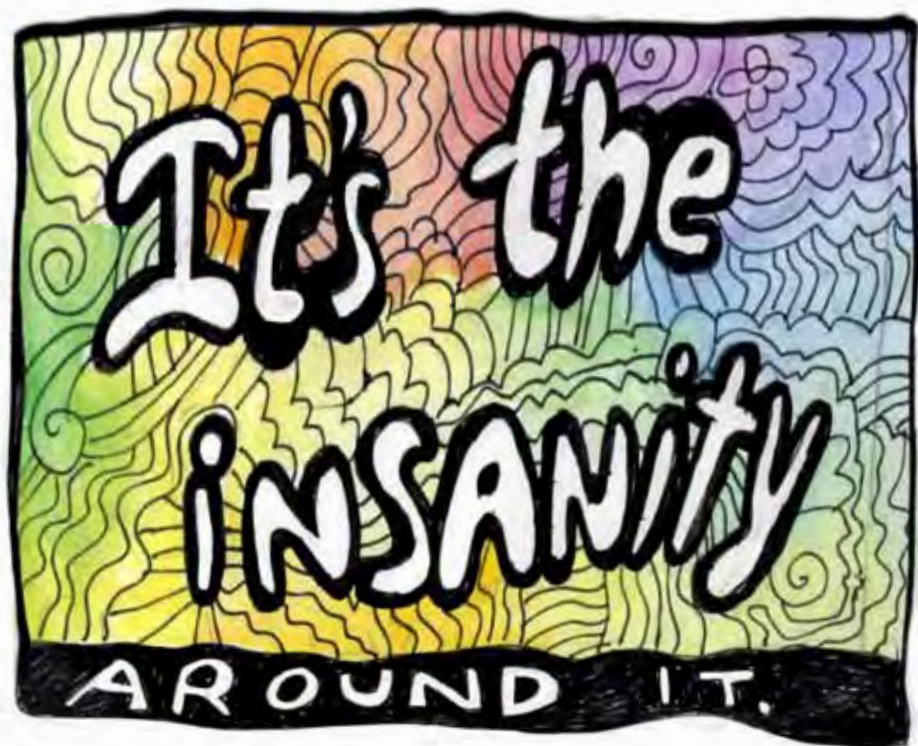
The sadness of <sup>COVID</sup> isolation  
and missed opportunity...♥

# WHATEVER THE FUCK PHASE

IT'S NOT THE SYMPTOMS.

(BUT, KINDA IS)

IT'S NOT THE VIRUS ITSELF???



$\Delta$   
delta  
= change

**delta** Velocity — original velocity  
final TIME minus original TIME

## = OH PANDEMIA =

THESE  
JUST  
MIGHT  
BE  
THE  
good  
ole'  
days  
?

IT'S  
ALWAYS  
GONNA  
BE  
HARD  
?



# PANDEMONIUM

**OLD DAYS:** HOW ARE YA, MAN?



I'M GOOD! I GOT THIS  
THING THOUGH THAT'S  
BUGGING ME AND...  
TMI... SO MUCH HONESTY...

**RECENT PAST:** HOW YA BEEN?



..UMMM...  
LONG PAUSE  
THAT SAYS IT  
ALL...

I'M OK.  
AND YOU?



MM  
HMM.  
FINE.

**NOW:** HOW ARE YOU?

I JUST WANT  
TO HUG  
YOU.



WEIRD! RIGHT?

YA,  
WAY WEIRD!

AT LEAST 6'

I JUST WANT  
TO SAY I LOVE YOU.  
IS THAT WEIRD?



I  
MISS  
YOU.

I  
Love  
You  
Too

# NOW

## HOW ARE YOU?



# THE NOW NOW

## HI. HOW ARE YOU?



PHASE TWO:  
≡ Pre Post Pandemic ≡



# Remember



THAT WAS WEIRD. People losing their shit?

RIGHT?

You know those stand alone CD shelves from like, the 90's?



WHO EVEN HAS CD'S ANYMORE?

Well - a roll of TP fits exactly in each shelf.

We had just installed ours + felt very clever. So Pinterest, so Martha Stewart, so upcycle.

THEN TP WAS COVETED and our shrine was A L L W R O N G !

IT SHOWED ABUNDANCE. We put rolls out ONE AT A TIME.

# Nesting & Pandemonium

A PREGNANT WOMAN'S URGE  
TO NEST IS UNSTOPPABLE.

irrational  
unexplainable  
+ INSTINCTUAL



I CLEANED  
THE BLADES  
OF MY FAN!

CAN'T SPEW DIRT  
PARTICLES everywhere!

I CLEANED INSIDE THE PHONE  
DIALS - yes, a rotary phone  
back in the day.

As if the baby would need  
to make a phone call?

**DIRT WAS EVERYWHERE**

# The Takeaway is

IF I COULD JUST GET everything  
CLEAN AND IN GOOD ORDER -

IT WOULD STAY THAT WAY FOREVER  
and everything would be **OK!**

## THERE YOU GO

Prepping for a Pandemic  
was the same thing...?

**IF**

1. YOU GOT everything  
you might possibly  
need

2. Didn't forget ANYTHING

3. Got it all organized

4. Did the right thing

5. Cleaned all the surfaces.

6. Wore a mask. Wore gloves.

7. Stayed Home.

Everything WOULD  
BE **OK.**

**Then-**

# KNOCK KNOCK

WHO'S THERE?



COVID

WHO?

COVID  
**YOU!**



COVID  
YOU  
WHO?

COVID YOU WISH I WASN'T REAL?



Like Those Tweets?

WHEN COVID KNOCKS ON  
YOUR DOOR, IT'S NOT FUNNY.



KNOCK  
KNOCK  
KNOCK



We waited + waited

and waited  
**THEN WORRIED**

and wondered...

and called back 1,000 times  
to find out if we'd live or die.

**EVERYTHING**

illuminates. Becomes very, very real  
EVERYTHING GOES OUT OF PROPORTION  
and then - comes into sharp focus

*You know* ↗

WHAT MATTERS.

AND

WHAT

DOESN'T.

SPIN 2 WIN



THE WHEEL  
of WORST  
Fears!

THERE WAS A ROMANTIC COMEDY WHERE PEOPLE WOULD SAY THEIR WORST FEARS



TODAY  
I  
FELT

LIKE  
I

WAS  
DROWNING

AND I COULDN'T  
TELL ANYONE.

JUST TOOK LITTLE SIPS OF AIR  
AND KEPT BREATHING  
I MADE IT.

a lot of

THE THINGS YOU  
THOUGHT MATTERED

**DON'T**

Any more.

WHAT

ARE

THEY?



**OR  
DO  
THEY?**  
MATTER

WE WILL KEEP

**ASKING**

That question.



WHEN YOU'RE

Quarantined

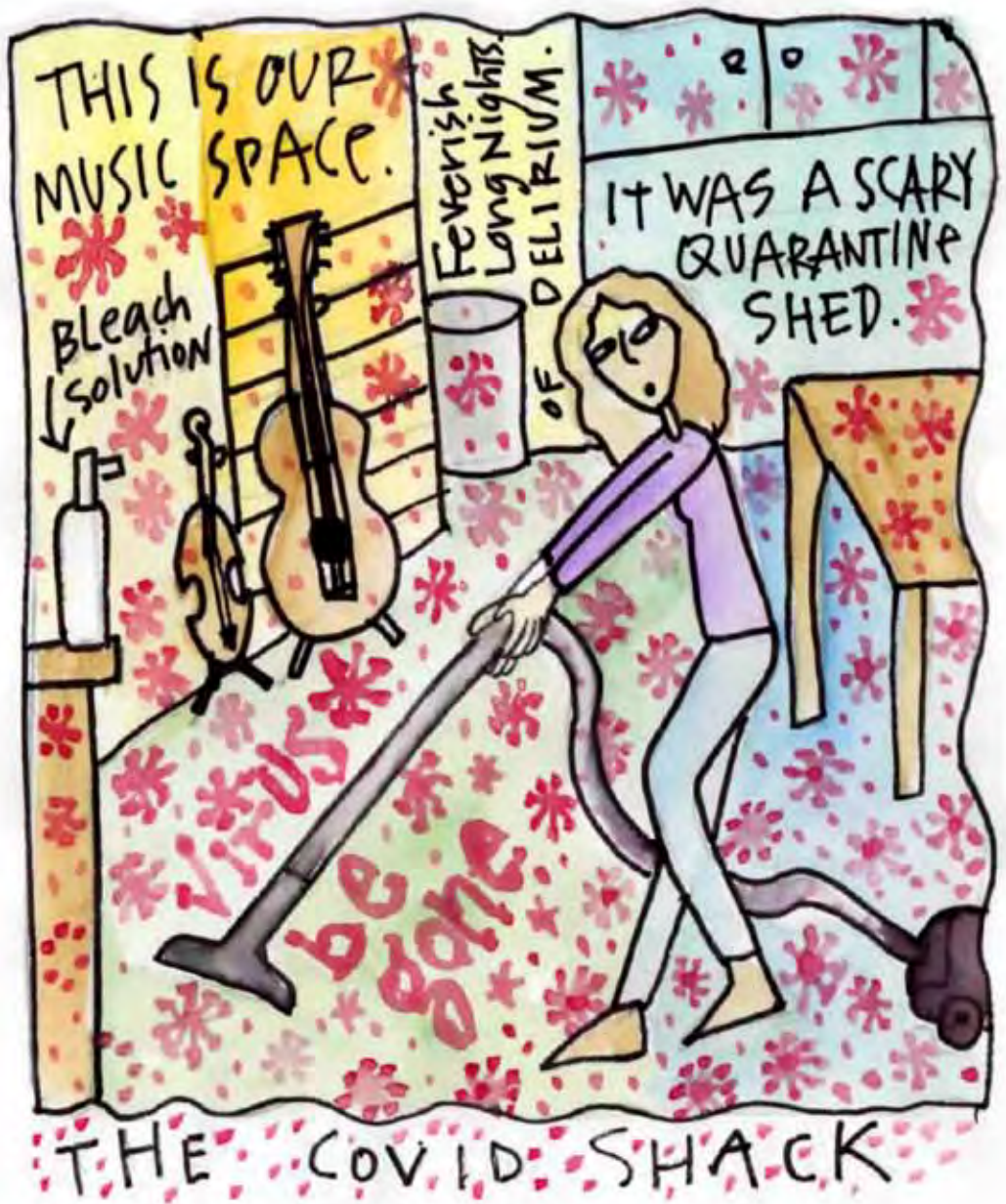
from

YOUR

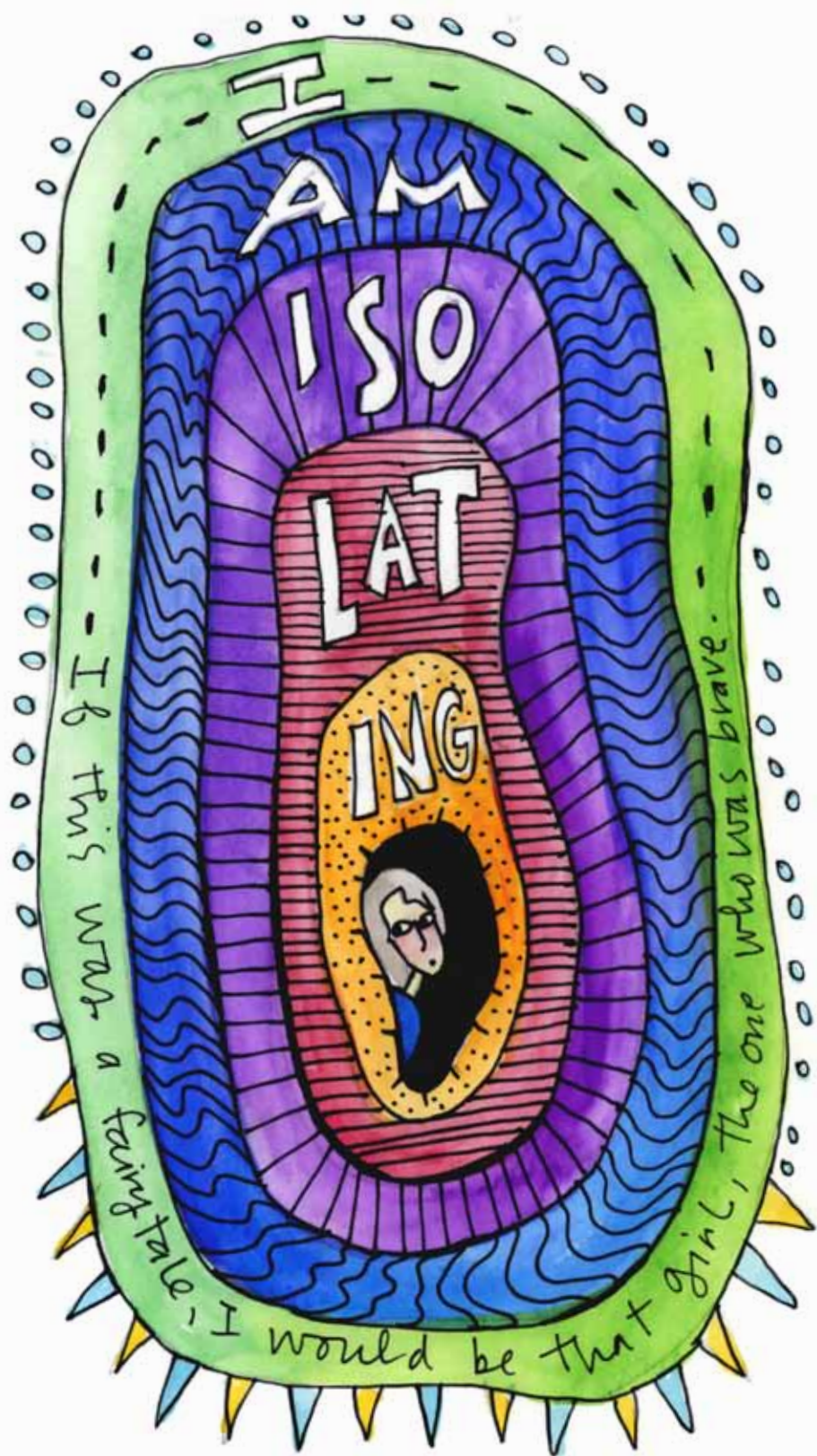
each

CORE GROUP

OTHER



WHY WAS I NOT WEARING A MASK?

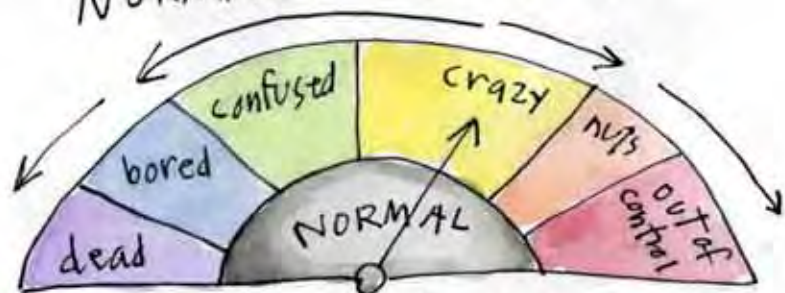




It ain't over til  
its over

WILL IT ever really be over?

AS SOON AS ANYTHING FEELS  
NORMAL... it shifts.

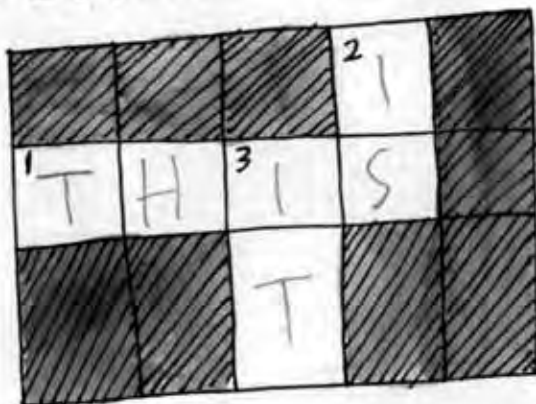


Like that bubble in a level



Seeking Level

# TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. NOT THAT; Referring to a specific thing or situation.

DOWN

2. Present tense 3rd person singular of be

3. 3rd person singular pronoun

THE STUFF WE DO.

THE TIME WE SPEND.

WHAT WE DO.

WHAT WE MAKE. WHAT WE SAY.

NO MORE STRIVING. WE'RE HERE.

ALL OF A SUDDEN

JUST LIKE THAT. ONE FELL SWOOP.

SHIT GOT REAL.

# NOW I KNOW

FOR SURE

I TOOK STUFF FOR GRANTED

ORDINARY THINGS.

RUN of the MILL stuff.

ROUTINE. BORING even?

Now You Crave it.



1. Hugging People

2. CROWDS

3. LIVE MUSIC

4. freedom



5. ACTING normal

6. mindlessness

7. normalcy

8. friends



9. playing MUSIC w/ friends

10. PARTYING

11. NOT worrying so much

12. simple pleasures

# ALCHEMY



We get to choose  
HOW TO PUT THIS  
ALL BACK TOGETHER.



BACK TO STAY HOME.  
AGAIN.

everybody's going to Phase 3  
and it's so confusing.

ARE WE QUARANTINING?  
or going normal?  
or going crazy?



#STILLINAPANDEMIC  
#THESEQUEL