

by milly

PRETENDIMONIUM

LIFE IN A PRETEND PANDEMIC

SEQUEL TO PANDEMONIUM, LIFE IN A PANDEMIC

by milly



I swear, I don't
know what is wrong with
people walking around
acting like there's no
pandemic!

INTRO: ARE WE IN A PANDEMIC?

CHAPTER 1: MASKS

CHAPTER 2: ARE WE OK OR ARE WE NOT?

CHAPTER 3: THE GUT

CHAPTER 4: THIS IS IT

CHAPTER 5: A KEATSIAN REALITY



WE'RE STILL IN A PANDEMIC.

Oh that was ^{so} yesterday

TODAY IS A WHOLE New Set-o-RULES.



CHAPTER 1

MASKS

Does this mask
make my face
look fat?

I CAN'T HEAR YOU,
YOU'RE TALKING
INTO YOUR MASK.





OH IT'S JUST ME. STRESS BreATHing.



IT'S JUST ALLERGIES!



The ART of MASK REPOSE



IT'S A^{good} LOOK.
MY INNER
COWGIRL.
MATCHES MY
OUTFIT. Casual.
Quick Release.
covers the
UNSIGHTLY NECK.

POST

PANDEMIC

THESE ELASTICS PULLED
MY EARS
PERMANANTLY
OUT...



HEY, NOW
I COULD HANG
MY PURSE OFF
OF THEM. OR
MY KEYS?

everyday



IS HALLOWEEN

Once
WHEN I
WAS A
YOUNG
BRIDE...



WE TOOK A TRAIN
TRIP ACROSS THE
U. S. A.



3 STOPS
ALLOWED



1. NEW YORK

VISITED
FAMILY
AND
PAINTED
A HOUSE,
FOR
CASH.



2. PITTSBURGH



WE
DRANK
A LOT
OF BEER
WITH MY
FAMILY.

3. SAN FRANCISCO
WOW!



IT WAS MY 1ST TIME.
WE GOT A WHIRLWIND TOUR
SMOKING WEED IN A TAXI CAB!

Roy Rogers
Weekly
RATES!

People
Live
here?
LOOKS
SKETCHY.



CAN'T
STAY
HERE!



NO
WAY.



OMG
THAT
IS A
MAN
DRESSED
LIKE
A NUN

AWH Geez. I forgot
WHAT
A COUNTRY
BUMPKIN
==
WHAT
DAY
IT
WAS!?



OCT. 31

CHAPTER 3

THE GUT



I STARTED exercising AGAIN AND NAVIGATING TRAIL ETIQUETTE. MASK ON. MASK OFF - RUN!



LITERALLY + FIGURATIVELY
MY GUT IS FLABBY.



LOST MY EDGE BY
HANGING AROUND IN P.J.S.
FOR 5 MONTHS!



JUST
IN CASE
I MIGHT
exercise
I ALSO
WEAR
TIGHTS
TO
WORK:

DON'T USE IT - YOU LOSE IT!

MY INTUITION IS
LAZY. MY STREET
SENSE IS ON VACA.
FORGOT HOW TO
WHEEL + DEAL. HOW
TO ROLL. HOW TO ACT?

I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT MY ^{GUT} INTUITION IS
ON SABBATICAL. REJUVENATING. READY.

FOR WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT.

Social
GRACES

THEY'RE
GONE.

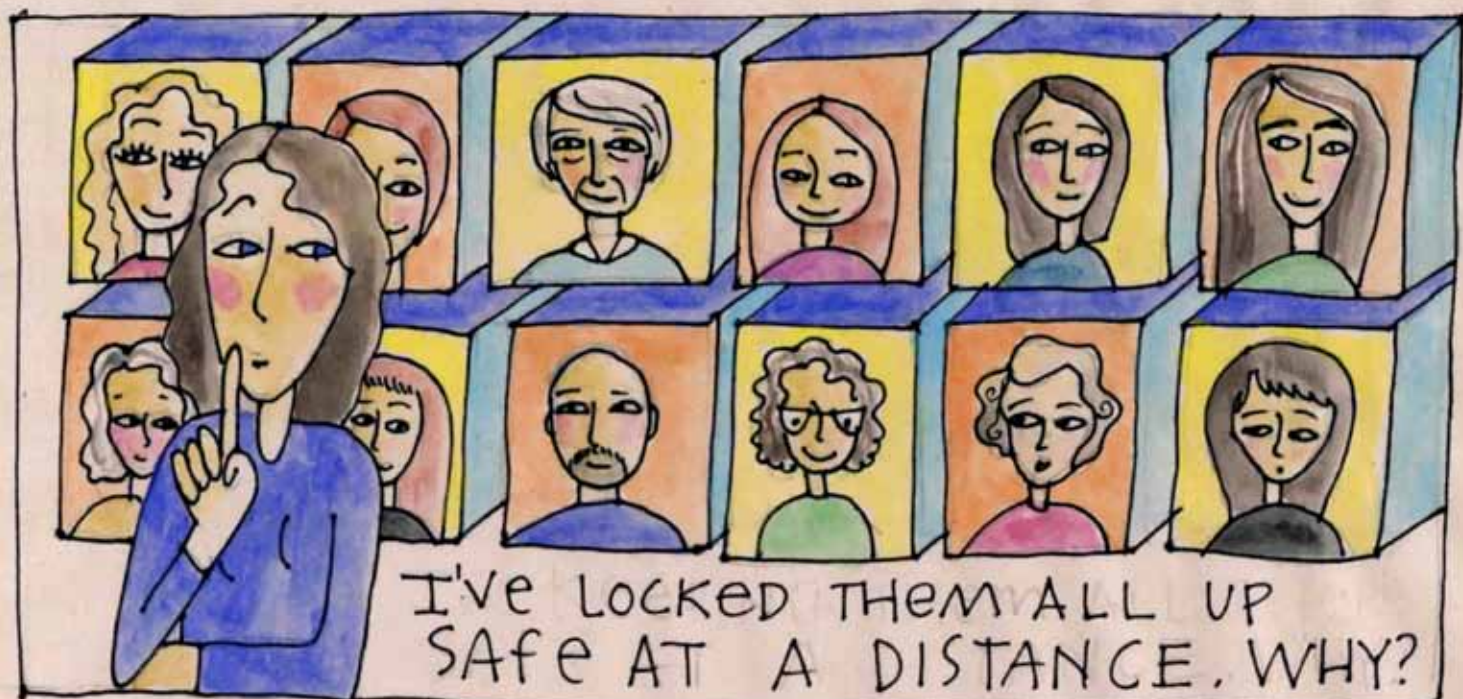


I forgot

HOW TO ACT.
I'M AWKWARD,
AND UNSURE
OF PEOPLE.

SPENT SO MUCH TIME LEARNING HOW TO SURVIVE MY CLAN.

CLANISHNESS. NOW IT'S EASIER THIS WAY?



I've LOCKED THEM ALL UP
SAFE AT A DISTANCE. WHY?

For some strange reason... IT'S EASIER THATWAY.
ONCE ISOLATED, ITS HARD TO COME OUT OF MY SHELL.

CHAPTER 4

THIS IS IT.



HAIR SALONS ARE PHASE TWO...BUT
DO WE WANT TO GO IN THERE?





REMEMBER... THE ADVICE OF THE DAY ??
"FREQUENTLY TOUCHED SURFACES ARE RIPE W/VIRUS!"

IT SEEMED EVERYWHERE YOU LOOKED SURFACES WERE
GLOWING WITH A SICKLY GREEN NEON FANTASIA OF
GERMS SPOTTED WITH
CORONAS

IN THE BEGINNING
MY HANDS WERE
CHAPPED



AND GAVE
OFF A
FAINT
SMELL
OF
RUBBING
ALCOHOL

NOT UNPLEASANT

IT BECAME FAMILIAR.

REASSURING.
IN AN ANTISEPTIC
KIND OF WAY...



RUBBING
ALCOHOL
WAS
SOLD OUT
EVERY
WHERE
!

D.I.Y.



PEOPLE
STARTED
MAKING
THEIR
OWN
HAND
SANI
W/VODKA.



WE'D RUN AROUND THE
OFFICE WONDERING IF
WE SHOULD
JUST
SPRAY
IT IN
OUR
MOUTHS?
We weren't
wearing
MASKS
YET...

I'LL ALWAYS ASSOCIATE
THE SCENT OF RUBBING
ALCOHOL WITH THOSE
EARLY DAYS OF THE
2020 PRE-PANDEMIC.

Scents are often attached to
Memories... MORE THAN THE
OTHER SENSES.

Wet
WOOL =
SKIING

Linseed
OIL =
ART
SCHOOL

RUBBING ALCOHOL
= Pandemic

Peach Yogurt
= BARF

WHITE SHOULDERS Perfume = MY MOM

WINDOW SCREENS = RAIN

WOOD SMOKE = FALL

THE SMELL OF RAIN IS A REAL THING.
IT'S THAT SMELL JUST BEFORE IT RAINS. IT'S NAMED AFTER
THE FLUID THAT FLOWS IN THE VEINS OF GREEK GODS.

SOMEWHERE...
OFF IN THE DISTANCE

IT STARTS TO

RAIN

PLANT + SOIL BACTERIA WAKE UP
and release a type of alcohol into the air



A FARMER
SNIFFS THE
AIR AND
SAYS, "YEP."

It's gonna rain.



TO ME IT SMELLS LIKE

MORNING

Life

Memory

Change

earth

love

the Woods

HAPPINESS

CHILDHOOD

CHAPTER 5

KEATSIAN REALITY

The Bad News:
all the rules are changing.

The Good News:
all the rules are changing.



THERE WAS A BIT OF
TERROR
ADVENTURE

IN THE BEGINNING OF
THE PANDEMIC.



THEN

WITH EACH "PHASE" AND LISTS
OF DIRECTIVES + PRECAUTIONS...



SHIFTING WILDLY



PANDEMIC MORAL Etiquette QUIZ

& DAILY CHECK

USE A NUMBER TWO PENCIL. FILL YOUR BUBBLES IN COMPLETELY.
*IF YOU ANSWER YES TO ANY DAILY QUESTIONS —
YOU MUST STAY HOME.

- ① SOMEONE IS LOOKING FOR HER DOG. SHE'S NOT WEARING A MASK. DO YOU HELP HER?
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
- I DON'T KNOW NEVER NOT NOW OF COURSE

A. * DID ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19? YES NO

- ② A WOMAN NEEDS HELP TO STAND UP AND SHE HAS HER SON + HUSBAND - NONE ARE WEARING MASKS.
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

B. * DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE A COUGH OR FEVER? YES NO

- ③ BULLIES. DO THEY NEED TO BE DEALT WITH? SHOULD YOU ENGAGE? (NOT WEARING A MASK)
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

C. * HAS ANYONE COME IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE TESTING POSITIVE? YES NO

- ④ SOMEONE SAYS HI FROM SIX FEET AWAY. SHE'S WEARING A MASK AND YOU ARE TOO. DO YOU SAY HI?
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

D. * YOU DON'T HAVE A FEVER. ANSWER NO IF YOU TOOK YOUR TEMPERATURE

SCORE:

3 = YOU GOT THIS

12 = WATCH THE NEWS

0 = PAY ATTENTION

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY QUESTION, STAY HOME.



IT'S
TIME
TO CLEAN
MY CAR!



IT BARELY
STARTS!?
Never go
anywhere!
HAD TO GET
A NEW
BATTERY.



I SWEEPED OUT STRAW FROM 2 YEARS AGO?
THE MORE I SCRUBBED THE MORE I YEARNED

FOR A
ROAD TRIP!



AWH
MAN!

Me
too!

FOR
SURE!

WISH YOU WERE HERE!

PART 3
COMING SOON :
THE PANDAMMIT

