

Anne's Favorite Quotes and Aphorisms

The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.

– Howard Zinn

Yes, I think that will be my biggest regret, too. It is certainly my regret on Gary's behalf—that he missed out on so much of the “reward” period of life. I had not been thinking of suicide, unless rejecting chemo counts (it does not). No, I was thinking more about having to make treatment decisions with incomplete info, and yet the info will always be incomplete. My own biggest fears are of intractable pain and of loss of control. Both palliative and hospice care should save us from the former, and life itself is a long lesson in giving up the illusion of control. I will grant that loss of physical capabilities must be humbling, though.

The rec centers were closed last week, and since I do not have the discipline to exercise on my own, I am remarkably stiff, achy, and old-feeling now. It is just a tiny taste of your experience.

– Martha Toth, March 26, 2023

A poem for us:

THE MOMENT

The moment when, after many years of hard work and a long voyage, you stand in the centre of your room, house, half-acre, square mile, island, country, knowing at last how you got there, and say, I own this,

Is the same moment the trees unloose their soft arms from around you, the birds take back their language, the cliffs fissure and collapse, the air moves back from you like a wave and you can't breathe.

No, they whisper. You own nothing.

You were a visitor, time after time

Climbing the hill, planting the flag, proclaiming.

We never belonged to you.

You never found us.

It was always the other way round.

— Margaret Atwood (from *Martha to Sisters*, January 28, 2023)

Grief is as powerful a modifier of reality as intoxication.

– Marcel Proust

When the world is ending and everything seems pointless, take care of each other instead of not caring at all.

– Brian Lin

Re surviving (and being closer to the front of the line), a New Year's meditation:

Every minute someone leaves this world behind.
Age has nothing to do with it.
We are all in "the line" without knowing it.
We never know how many people are before us.
We cannot move to the back of the line.
We cannot step out of the line.
We cannot avoid the line.
So while we wait in line:
Make moments count.
Make priorities.
Make the time.
Make your gifts known.
Make a nobody feel like a somebody.
Make your voice heard.
Make the small things big.
Make someone smile.
Make the change.
Make love.
Make up.
Make peace.
Make sure to tell your people they are loved.
Make sure to have no regrets. Make sure you are ready.

– Marianne Baum, via Martha Toth, January 1, 2023

A New Year's mantra:

I am whole.
I am learning.
I am letting go.
I am free.
I am talented and courageous.
I am protecting my joy.
I am brave.
I am healing.
I am loving myself. Unapologetically.

– Alex Elle, Via Martha Toth, January 1, 2022

We are here to help each other get through this thing, whatever it is.

– Mark Vonnegut MD, in a letter to his brother Kurt

Mourning is not forgetting; it is an undoing. Every minute tie has to be untied and something permanent and valuable recovered and assimilated from the knot. The end is gain, of course. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be made strong, in fact.

– Margery Allingham, *The Tiger in the Smoke*

If one is continually surviving the worst that life can bring, one eventually ceases to be controlled by a fear of what life can bring; whatever it brings must be borne.

– James Baldwin

I translated Lee Seong-bok's *Indeterminate Inflorescence*, a collection of aphorisms broken down from his lectures, and that book was life changing for me. He talks about how you think you're writing with your brain but you're not. Your hands or your pen are doing the writing so you have to let your pen write and not think about it. Each word has another word coming out after and you can sense the shape of that word. You have to write down the sounds no matter how absurd they are. Eventually, the words keep coming out and you have a book. I tried it out and it worked. I wrote a book and it's now being shopped around by my agent.

– Anton Hur

Maturity is knowing what matters the most.
Wisdom is knowing that nothing really matters.

– Jake Vig

The dildo of consequences rarely arrives lubed.

– Twitter

You know what, I like them stiff. (Referring to laundry baskets, allegedly.)

– Martha Toth, October 11, 2022, sister trip, Buriem

King gizzard and the wizard lizards Hamelin
winter midnight streetlight smalltown rain,
Who went out whoring through Colorado in myriad stolen night-cars, Who threw their
watches off the roof to cast their ballot for Eternity outside of Time, & alarm clocks fell on
their heads every day for the next decade, Or were run down by the drunken taxicabs of
Absolute Reality The madman bum and angel beat in Time, unknown, yet putting down
here what might be left to say in time come after death

– Allen Ginsberg

I know not all that may be coming, but be it what it will, I will go to it laughing.

– Herman Melville

For heroism tempered with common sense is a far cry from madness;
Reasonableness is to be preferred to recklessness.

– Oliver in *Song of Roland*

Re grammar wars, I got miffed about half-page ads for UM Hospitals when I worked for the U and felt some proprietary interest in its reputation. The ad was a first-person account, "There I was, laying in the emergency room...." I emailed the ad agency that was "credited"

with this abomination, asking that they change it to “lying,” since it kept running week after week. Guy responded to argue with me. I explained transitive and intransitive verbs, giving him the lay-laid-laid and lie-lay-lain forms. He argued with me that his consultation of the internet approved his usage. I threatened to explain arcana such as the imperative and optative tones of the volative mood if he persisted in error. He never wrote back again. Hmmm.

– Martha Toth, September 5, 2022

A lot of what we experience as strength comes from knowing what to do with weakness.

– Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*

The idea is not that we will win in our own lifetimes and that’s the measure of us, but that we will die trying.

– Barbara Ehrenreich

Always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.

– Elie Wiesel

All it takes is brass balls and desire.

– Manfred “Freddie” Rietsch, to Geo Wright, VF-124

He was a Marine, Freddie.

– Geo Wright, August 27, 2022

If you’re sick or injured and healing or growing a new life inside you or just worn out, please notice that that thing known as “doing nothing” is when you’re doing the utterly crucial and precious work of growing and healing and restoring, and this also goes for everyone who’s just worn down, exhausted, dispirited, and who’s not that right now? I’m not the Nap Ministry but I’m for the power of rest and the holiness of respite and the you that is your cells and circulatory system and all those inner workings that are so mysterious and necessary and regenerative if we let them be. The psyche too does most of its work out of sight, and the imagination, and so creative work too benefits from rest and respite. As a writer I benefit greatly from leaving the work alone and coming back to it fresh, as one does with a relationship; pause, stoppage, inaction can all be wildly generative, and if they’re not that might be its own kind of fruitful that cannot be measured. Take refuge in that beautiful stillness in which everything is happening in all the ways that nothing is happening in busyness. Everything happening in the depths, like deep water under a reflective surface. A pond reflecting clouds with schools of fish doing their things in the depths. Seeds germinating underground. Sitting still in Zazen or just daydreaming or watching clouds is an act of outright revolt against the shouts that we should be doing something/do more/do more faster that are all around us. This might be another face of peace in our times with stillness the ceasefire in which spring comes again.

– Rebecca Solnit, via Martha, August 24, 2022

There is a vast difference between positive thinking and existential courage.

– Barbara Ehrenreich, *Bright-Sided*

Chapter 1

I walk down the street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

I fall in. I am lost. I am helpless.

It isn't my fault.

It takes forever to find a way out.

Chapter 2

I walk down the same street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

I pretend I don't see it. I fall in again.

I can't believe I am in the same place.

But it isn't my fault.

It still takes a long time to get out.

Chapter 3

I walk down the same street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

I see it is there.

I fall in. It's a habit, but my eyes are open.

I know where I am. It is my fault.

I get out immediately.

Chapter 4

I walk down the same street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

I walk around it.

Chapter 5

I walk down a different street.

– Portia Nelson, *An Autobiography in Five Chapters*

They were, each of them, connected across time, each navigating a life shaped by the raw power of labor, but also of love, their relationships built on a river of silt, thin and shape-shifting, their family lives a work of improvisational art, crafted from whatever was at hand.

– Attica Locke, *The Cutting Season*

Sistertrips: I'm estimating Traverse City 2002, Santa Fe 2004, Harper's Ferry 2006, Santa Barbara 2008, Savannah 2010, Portland/Rockaway Beach 2012, National Harbor 2014 (expanded to sib trip), Lake Lure/Asheville/ShangriLa sib trip 2017, Seattle 2018, DC sib trip 2019.

– Martha, August, 2022

I don't want to go through things that don't kill me but make me stronger anymore.

– Audrey Tennyson Briton, *Reviere*, 1899

“Here’s what you need to know,” Agnes said. “Men have a bad habit of forming opinions based on no facts and thinking about what they want to say next rather than listening. And they interrupt! As soon as they have the gist, they want to have their say before someone else does. Sound familiar?” “What should I do?” Caroline asked.

“You can make them listen to you, which will require some trick or force or seduction or need—nothing within the realm of normal conversation. Or you can just think about more important things while they are talking and save your breath for women, who know how to converse.”

Agnes felt for them, she really did, and was so glad she’d left all that behind while she was still young.

– Alice Elliot Dark, *Fellowship Point*

Poirot said, “An interesting opinion madam, though not quite rational.”

Deborah Dakin looked affronted. “What do you mean? Of course it is! Doing the right thing much too late is worse than never doing it at all.”

– Sophie Hannah, *The Mystery of Three Quarters*

Geo: Mary, what do you plan to say when the hammer comes down (on tfg)?

Mary: I will take out an ad in the local paper and publicly admit I was completely wrong to ever doubt that the nation would defend its democracy against all enemies, foreign AND domestic.

Anne: Geo, Mary plans to have dementia by then. She’ll say, “How can you have yer pudding if you don’t eat yer meat?”

Mary: That would actually be especially fun here in the Panhandle, where Bonhoeffer’s Theory of Stupidity is on full display everywhere, every day.

– Sib thread, July 12, 2022

Let me have men about me that are fat;
Sleek-headed men and such as sleep o’ nights.
Yon Cassius has a lean and hungry look;
He thinks too much: such men are dangerous.

– Shakespeare, *Julius Cæsar*

To remember you
I carve true words
in stone.

– Ejo

“More women are murdering people these days,” says Joyce. “If you ignore the context, it is a real sign of progress.”

– Richard Osman, *The Man Who Died Twice*

A life without idols, success without fame, morality in trials, and death without shame.

– @fulkery1, April 24, 2022

Pat and I usually communicate orally. There have been occasions when I've gone to bed early, taken off my leg, and come across something that might interest her.

– Geo, Sib Thread, May 17, 2022

And I hope that you are having the time of your life but think twice, That's my only advice
Come on now, who do you, who do you, who do you
Who do you think you are
Ha ha ha, bless your soul
You really think you're in control
And it's no coincidence I've come
And I can die when I'm done
But maybe I'm crazy
Maybe you're crazy
Maybe we're crazy
Probably

– Gnarles Barkley, *Crazy*

Most people like us are lonely. People who imagine things are lonely.

– Jason Mott, *Hell of a Book*

I have to say this in defense of humankind: No matter in what era in history, including the Garden of Eden, everybody just got there.

– Kurt Vonnegut

I have never obstructed justice. I am not a crook.

– Richard M. Nixon, November 17, 1973

In recent years philanthropists and statesmen have expended considerable time, money, and energy in an effort to find some means of abolishing war and establishing universal peace. That the conflict of physical strength is futile in deciding the justice of the claims of belligerents, has long been recognized in theory and, to some extent, in practice. Might no longer makes right in private affairs between individuals, for here recourse is had to an impartial arbiter, long since introduced by the community to render a just and unbiased decision. But in international affairs, preference is still given to the ancient and savage method of deciding differences, namely the test of physical strength, war, which after all does not really decide the justice of the conflicting claims, but merely postpones the decision.

– Herbert F. Wright PhD, *The Catholic World*, September, 1917

The quickest way to end war is to lose it.

– George Orwell

A less successful experiment is preferable to a beautiful platitude.

– Verner Panton

Yet she became more and more promiscuous as she recalled the days of her youth when she was a prostitute in Egypt. There, she lusted after her lovers whose penises were like those of donkeys and whose ejaculations were like that of horses.

– Ezekiel 23:19–20

Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task has done,
Home art gone,
And ta'en thy wages.
Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.

– Shakespeare, *Cymbeline* (Guiderius, Act 4 Scene 2)

Now I need probably not tell you all that the taking of drugs over a long period has the result of considerably blunting the moral sense. The chief characteristic of the drug-fiend criminal is overweening confidence in his own cleverness.

– Hercule Poirot in Agatha Christie's *Murder in Mesopotamia*

What cannot be said will be wept.

– Sappho

“Put me wise,” he said succinctly.

– Agatha Christie, *The Secret Adversary*

And, crucially, when you discover that somebody isn't open to persuasion, leave them. Leave it. Engaging with that elevates them into the sphere of people who deserve to be taken seriously, and their ideas into the sphere of things that merit debate. Even worse, it sharpens their dull knives for them. Worst of all, it wastes your precious time. So don't disrespect the [perpetually enraged] of the world by trying to change their minds—respect them, by recognizing that they want what they say they want, and are what that means they are. Respect them by acknowledging that changing their minds is their responsibility, and leaving them to their thing. Align yourself instead toward stopping them, and protecting those they'd destroy. Align yourself toward creating the open world of equality and peace and mutual benefit that they hate and fear.

– A.R. Moxon

Uncanny baffling memories are preferable to straightforwardly sad ones.

– Oatmeal for Breakfast

You can't crush ideas by suppressing them. You can only crush them by ignoring them. By refusing to think. Refusing to change.

– Ursula LeGuin, *The Dispossessed*

There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition and of unspeakable love.

– Washington Irving

I've seen things you people wouldn't believe. Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion. I watched C-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhauser Gate. All those moments will be lost in time like tears in rain. Time to die.

– Roy Batty, played by Rutger Hauer, *Blade Runner*

You're a young man. You're zealous in the cause of right. When you get to my age you'll find that you like to give people the benefit of the doubt.

– Agatha Christie, *Murder at the Vicarage*

“Ah!” said Miss Marple. “But I always find it prudent to suspect everybody just a little. What I say is you never really know do you?”

– Agatha Christie, *Murder at the Vicarage*

It's hard not to get more interesting as you get older.

– Ben Aitken, *The Grand Tour*

He resembled an old book of the Middle Ages, full of mistakes, of absurd traditions, of obscenities.

– Marcel Proust

The universe may not be as stable as you think and if something goes wrong, it could end not with a bang, but with a quantum vacuum decay of the ground state of the universe to its true minimum. So, keep your day-to-day worries in perspective.

– Charlie Wright, December 8, 2021

Where reason gives us least assistance, emotion comes to our rescue and guides us. The astronomer may tell us something about the moon, but so too does the poet. The astronomer's moon is everybody's moon; the poet's is very much his own and not everyone can share it.

– C.R. Milne

Don't confront me with my failures. I have not forgotten them.

– Jackson Browne, *These Days*

The gifts we are given sometimes come like lightning and burn us. What is left can feel like only ashes. This is true especially with a gift meant to change us.

– William Kent Krueger, *Manitou Canyon*

You have confused the true and the real.

– George Stanley

Things have made you what you are. What you are will make you what you will become.

– Samuel R. Delaney, *Dahlgren*

The madwoman in the basement. Sometimes William gazes at me with his missing eye. A bad girl is a far more dangerous creature than a bad boy.

– Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.

– Soren Kierkegaard

The universe talks a lotta shit, so take what it says with a grain of salt.

– Seamus O’Flaherty

We have at times to be willing to be guilty.

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Nature never breaks her own laws.

– Leonardo da Vinci

You see, Lady Swaffham, if ever you want to commit a murder, the thing you’ve got to do is to prevent people from associatin’ their ideas. Most people don’t associate anythin’—their ideas just roll about like so many dry peas on a tray, makin’ a lot of noise and goin’ nowhere, but once you begin lettin’ ’em string their peas into a necklace, it’s goin’ to be strong enough to hang you, what?

–Dorothy Sayers, *Whose Body?*

To regret one’s own experiences is to arrest one’s own development. To deny one’s own experiences is to put a lie into the lips of one’s own life. It is no less than a denial of the soul.

– Oscar Wilde, *De Profundis*

It is sometimes possible to feel enormous dread, and great pity, for the same person at the same time. And if you care for this person too, then that feeling may well unmoor your soul. That is the secret of the Gothic. Mind how you flee.

– @PulpLibrarian

I see you standing on the other side
I don't know how the river got so wide
I loved you baby, way back when
And all the bridges are burning that we might have crossed
But I feel so close to everything that we lost
We'll never, we'll never have to lose it again.

– Leonard Cohen, *Tower of Song*

No life would have been possible for Dorothea which was not filled with emotion, and she now had a life filled also with a beneficent activity which she had not the doubtful pains of discovering and marking out for herself. Dorothea could like nothing better, since wrongs existed, than that her husband should be in the thick of a struggle against them, and that she should give him wifely help.

What loneliness is more lonely than mistrust?

– George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

There was occasionally a little fierceness in his demeanor, but it was directed chiefly against false opinion, of which there is so much to correct in the world that a man of some reading and experience necessarily has his patience tried.

– George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

Her favorite and I may safely say her only conveyance was a pale goose. In that one fact she resembled Death, except that he rides a pale horse. The resemblance is in the paleness.

– T. M. Norwood, *Mother Goose*, 1900

When used selectively by an expert, it can be fruitful to insinuate another's possible culpability regarding your missing keys to elicit their efforts in the ensuing search.

– @whinklebull

I am so impressed with how my engineer daughters do *not* talk down to their kids. Was on the phone right now with Valerie while three-year-old Marcus was trying to cram toys into a bag: "Check your spatial dimensions! You have some volume constraints. That squirrel is too big to fit."

– Martha Toth, July 9, 2021

Hospitality is a most excellent virtue; but care must be taken that the love of company, for its own sake, does not become a prevailing passion; for then the habit is no longer hospitality, but dissipation.

– Isabella Beeton, *Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management*, 1861

Fortunately words, ingeniously used, will serve to mask the ugliness of naked facts.

– Agatha Christie, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*

FUCK MANY THINGS!

– Geo Wright, May 31, 2021

They can hold out until it's done. I need to caulk my windows first.

– Beth Pepper, May 3, 2021

Never ascribe to compassion what is attributable to minimization of legal liability.

– Anne Mayer, May 15, 2021

In old Alderney, it was only necessary in order to bring down the full power of the law, to stand in the middle of the town square and call, "Haroo, haroo, on me prince. *On me fait tort!*" This was called the "hue and cry," and it meant, in essence, "Attention, My Prince, Someone is torting me!" In other words, committing a crime against me.

– Alan Bradley, *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*

Some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again.

– C.S. Lewis

Tobacco is a polyploid.

– Simon Rennie-Byfield, February 27, 2021

Logic dictates that you can die mad about it.

– Mr. Spock

Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth.

– Mike Tyson

To the last I grapple with thee; from hell's heart I stab at thee; for hate's sake I spit my last breath at thee.

– Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*

A girl who is lost in the woods is a different sort of creature than a girl who walks purposefully through the trees even though she does not know her way.

– Erin Morgenstern, *The Starless Sea*

COTDTM: What in the neck-beard, burnt coffee, cigarette-toothed, Ayn Rand body pillow, basement dwelling, Cheez-It gripping fuck is wrong with you?

– Mary Blackwell, October 23, 2020

I literally just took out a \$50K auto loan by accident.

– Simon Rennie-Byfield, October 15, 2020

This is what happens when you give bicyclists their own lane. What's next, a lane for vegetarians?

– Mallory Archer

All that you love
Is all that you own

– Tom Waits

No one is ever like anyone else. No one can be replaced. Every death is the end of a world.
And they're gone, and yet they remain. They walk with us along the secret rivers.

– Nicole French, *Day of the Dead*

The only escape is change.

– Jeremiah Tower

All the people like us are We, and everyone else is They.

– Rudyard Kipling, *We and They*

I couldn't be in lower dudgeon. Long bereft of fucks, I now even have zero qualms.

– Anne Mayer

Some hae meat and canna eat, And some wad eat that want it.
But we hae meat, and we can eat. Sae let the Lord be thankit.

– The *Selkirk Grace*

I was kinda wondering which way to go
I lit a cigarette on a parking meter and walked on down the road
It was a normal day.

– B. Dylan, *Talkin' World War III Blues*

“Once upon a time,” he said out loud to the darkness. He said these words because they were the best, the most powerful words that he knew and just the saying of them comforted him.

– Kate DiCamillo, *The Tale of Despereaux*

His life was one long assertion of the rights of the aristocracy, and the sacred principles of Order, and he died a martyr to his cause.

– Wilkie Collins, *The Woman in White*, 1859

We live inside ideas. Some are shelters, some are observatories, some are windowless prisons.

– Rebecca Solnit

Any sufficiently advanced incompetence is indistinguishable from malice.

– Charlie Stross

We think of the Anthropocene as registering human-kind's ravaging impact on non-human species and environments, but the Anthropocene is of course political as well—a single outsize permanent catastrophe made up of component catastrophes: genocides, depredations, the enslavement and debilitation of human populaces alongside the non-human. The rise of capitalist and industrialized logics and technologies has only hastened the pace and reach of Anthropocenic depredations.

In the Anthropocene, what seems to entail a political catastrophe is often working simultaneously as environmental catastrophe, and vice versa. For example, researcher Mozghan Savabieasfahani has found that the phosphorous, depleted uranium and other toxic components used in US and UK munitions during the sieges of Basra and Fallujah have caused a rising tide of miscarriages, fetal abnormalities and birth defects in local children. Her research has shown comparable toxic effects in the wetland birds of Iran and Iraq.

– Joyelle McSweeney, April 29, 2014

I should invent orthopedic bedroom slippers.

– Unattributed

You can put anything up your ass, but it doesn't make it a suppository. (Re putting potatoes up your ass to treat hemorrhoids.)

– Unattributed

SRB is planning everything. There is no reason to worry.

– Jesse Rennie-Byfield, August 2, 2019, Iowa

He can ride across the desert on a wild palomino to fuck ALL the way off. With the horse he rode in on.

– Martha Toth re Wm. Barr's booshit, January 29, 2020

If the only reason you care for people is for a reward, you're kind of an asshole.

– Simon Rennie-Byfield on religion, March 10, 2018

I've only got one of my boarding passes.

– Simon Rennie-Byfield, August 25, 2019

Strange women lying in ponds distributing swords is no basis for a system of government. Supreme executive power derives from a mandate from the masses, not from some farcical aquatic ceremony.

– Monty Python

Liked “Most of the rest are Katie ‘liking’ every previous text.”

– Katie Pug, August 2, 2019, sister text thread

I know these things because I’m psycho.

– Mary, March 3, 2020, sister text thread

I was perusing my evening email news summary from the *Seattle Times*. Where there would normally be an ad was this remarkable copy: “Here is an intro paragraph where you can add some content for readers. Professionally repurpose sticky interfaces without robust communities. Progressively brand innovative experiences for goal-oriented strategic theme areas. Continually iterate front-end intellectual capital.”

– Martha Toth quoting *Seattle Times*, August 7, 2019

I was unsure how I felt about this. I used to worry about not knowing how I felt in certain situations, but I had more recently decided to treat them as a convenient opportunity to feel nothing at all.

– Sophie Hannah, *The Mystery of Three Quarters*

To go in the dark with a light is to know the light. To know the dark, go dark.

– Wendell Berry, *To Know the Dark*

A good liar gives fools what they want to hear and allows them to free themselves from the facts at hand and choose the level of self-delusion that fits their foolishness and moral turpitude. That’s the secret. Oldest trick in the world.

– Carlos Ruiz Zafo’n, *Labyrinth of the Spirit*

Our strategy in Afghanistan is conditions-based. Our troops will remain in Afghanistan at appropriate levels so long as their presence is required to safeguard U.S. interests.

– Pentagon spokesman, August 1, 2019

Willy is my economic anxiety support cat.

– Anne Mayer

Repeated repeatedly = repeated over and over again.

– Unattributed

E2W (execute to win) is implemented to make the most of the organization’s resources to achieve execution excellence needed in our market shaper journey. It also reinforces “role clarity.” It is happening in waves known as workstreams.

– Simon Rennie-Byfield, July 23, 2019

I may have said too much.
We shall never speak of London public loos ever again.

– Anne Mayer, June 6, 2018

THERE ARE TOO MANY HAIRS IN MY QUICHE.

– Simon Rennie-Byfield, June 9, 2018

Anne: Can you tell me what machine learning is, in words I can understand? SRB: That’s a good question. Remember when you learned q linear equations?

– Anne Mayer

My strategy of giving zero fucks is paying off.

– Anne Mayer, June 19, 2019

One time when I was a kid I spent an entire summer afternoon walking around backwards in case some day we had to re-live our lives backward, and so at some point I’d have some time walking forwards.

– Unattributed

I want to try the thing [cocktail] I can’t pronounce.

– Martha Toth, January 4, 2019

There comes a time in every woman’s life when the only thing that helps is a glass of champagne.

– Bette Davis, *Old Acquaintance*

Viva, il vino spumeggiante! (Hail to the bubbling wine!)

– Pietro, Mascagni, *Cavalleria Rusticana*

I asked him, “Are we going to come home one day and find her with a lit match threatening our domicile?” And he was all, “...”

– Jesse Rennie-Byfield, July 13, 2018

SRB was explaining machine learning to me over dinner, and I was all like, “Like, Zelda!?” And he was all, “Yeah, she’s a GAN, a Generative Adversarial Network.” And I was all, “...”

– Jesse Rennie-Byfield, July 13, 2018

He awoke thirty minutes later, first half-sleeping and then gently opening his eyes. As he gazed into the whitened street, he thought drowsily that it had been a perfect nap—the sort a man runs into now and again by chance, when he has had a difficult day but comes back to his hearth to find a brief moment of peace and rest, the sort that leaves him renewed, still sleepy, and at ease with the world.

– Charles Finch, *Charles Lenox Mysteries Book 1*

Consciousness, I once read in a book, is a complexly convoluted loop of information that can observe itself.

– Nick Harkaway, *Gnomon*

These kids. They simply did not accept that the world as it is has any special gravity, any hold on us. If something was wrong, if it was bad, then that was something to be fixed, not endured. Where my generation reached for philosophy and the virtue of suffering, they reached instead for science and technology and they actually did something about the beggar in the street, the woman in the wheelchair. They got on with it. It wasn't that they had no sense of spirit or depth. Rather they reserved it for the truly wondrous, and for everything else, they made tools.

– Nick Harkaway, *Gnomon*

Let life live through you. Presence. Compassion. Kindness.

– Garry Shandling

I am at the heart of Des Moines' rich pageant.

– Anne Mayer

Our remedies often in ourselves do lie which we ascribe to heaven.

– Shakespeare

Everyone used to be someone else.

– Alex Reeve, *Half Moon Street*

Would you like me to box your tomato?

– Julie, MST, December 6, 2019

The country was in peril; he was jeopardizing his traditional rights of freedom and independence by daring to exercise them.

– Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*

Far more marvelous is the truth than any artist of the past imagined. Why do poets not speak of it?

– Richard Feynman

Peace the fuck out.

– Anne Mayer