

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

MINI-MEDITATIONS FOR SAINTS, SINNERS, AND THE REST OF US I'm No Philosopher, But I Got Thoughts

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A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR THIS BOOK

Creator, open my mind to create.

Cbrist, open my beart to love.

Holy Spirit, empower my voice.

WHO SAID IT BEST?

William James

"There is only one thing that a philosopher can be relied on to do . . . a philosopher can contradict other philosophers."

Sally Brown

"Oh yeah? That's what you think!"

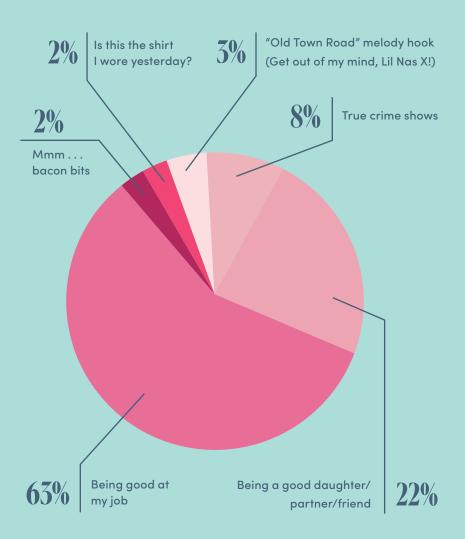
Somewhere beyond right and wrong, there is a garden.
I will meet you there.

When the soul lies down in that grass, the world is too full to talk about. Even the words each other make no sense.



Poodle 7ime

SUBDIVISION OF MY MENTAL REAL ESTATE



BUT FOR REAL...

What's occupying your thoughts? Slice up the pie chart, and ask yourself: "How do I feel about the expenditure of my time and emotional energy? Am I getting a good return on my investment?" Remind yourself as you divvy up this pie chart: "I draw the lines."



FRIENDLY REMINDER

You know how people tell you to have the "patience of Job"?

Well, I checked my Bible, and Job bitched his head off.

So there ya go. You now have the patience of Job.

You're welcome.

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Iwant to know. Im willing to know. Im waiting to know. Y'know?

CLEVERNESS and buy BEWILDERMENT.

Qumi

QUESTIONS FOR GOD WHEN I MEET HIM: PART 2

In A Little Bit Wicked, I shared a list of QFGWIMH:

- Why is forgiveness so dang hard?
- Why is slapstick so dang funny?
- Who is the sadistic genius behind cellulite?
- Where are the mates to most of my socks?
- What if you made it so that hate would cause hemorrhoids? Just an idea.

Believe me, that list has grown as long as an opera glove during the decade since that book was published.

- Will there be a welcome event? (If so, please make sure I'm seated between Flo Bird and Maria Tallchief.)
- Where are all the angels? I'm talking database with GPS. People need to know.
- If happy little bluebirds fly beyond the rainbow okay, never mind.
- Is it me?

WHILE I CONTINUE MY LIST, I INVITE YOU TO START A LIST OF YOUR OWN. HERE'S A LITTLE JUMP START.

Dear God:
Where were you when
Why do you always seem so
What would happen if I
How much longer do I have to wait for
And another thing:

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR MY FAMILY

I know you see us.

Help us see each other.

When ill-chosen words get in the way,

belp us bear the loving intent behind them.

When old injuries get in the way,

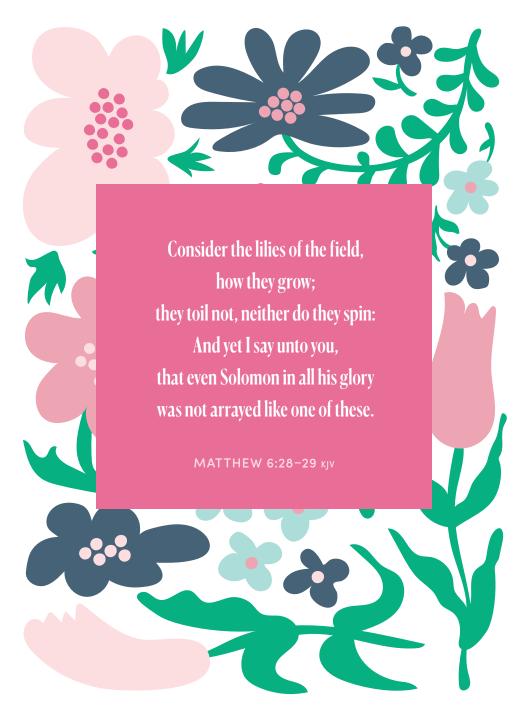
belp us promote bealing.

When we can't get out of our own beads,

belp us keep each other in our bearts.

ZEN VENN Fix / Worry





Flip the Script

I'M TRYING TO REWRITE THE NEGATIVE DIALOGUE THAT COMES OUT OF HABIT.

INSTEAD OF SAYING . . .

I TRY TO SAY . . .

"Sorry for the slow reply."

"I'm so stupid."

"I'm too [short/skinny/wrong] for this outfit."

"You're such an idiot."

"You don't care how I feel."

"I hate myself for procrastinating."

"Thank you for your patience."

"I love your idea."

"This doesn't fit me."

"I don't understand you."

"You're not hearing me."

"To everything there is a season. And right now, it's take care of me time."

WHEN IN DOUBT:

Think WW DOUBLE D!

(What would Oolly do?)

KENYAN PRAYER

From the cowardice that dare not face new truth,

from the laziness that is contented with half truth,

from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,

Good God, deliver me!

get over yourselves, and let's eat

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR PERSPECTIVE

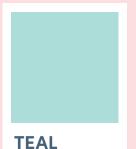
If this is not what it seems... what is it?

Show me the opportunities for growth that are bidden by pride.

Reveal to me the aching hearts bidden by the pride of others.

Build in me the gratitude that requires me to celebrate myself.

EXISTENTIAL COLOR SCHEME



is the new black









PINK is the new bold

BOLD is the new think

I HINK
is the old know









MANNA MEDITATION

In Exodus 16, Moses told a story about how God fed his people bread from heaven as they wandered in the desert.

- Set a timer for 60 seconds.
- Inhale through your nose, exhale through your mouth.
 - Cup your hands, creating a bowl in front of you.
- Allow your thoughts to rest on the words
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 - Visualizing a warm loaf of fresh, fragrant bread in your hands, receive it as a symbol of God's care for you. The daily bread Jesus spoke of in the Lord's Prayer—the manna that came to God's people in the desert—is baked fresh for you exactly when you need it.

Poodle Time

DRAW A LINE FROM THE MOMENT TO THE EMOTICON.

First cup of coffee

2

Cooking dinner

Climbing stairs



Making small talk with strangers



Traffic

Falling asleep last night



Last time you talked to your mom



Any given workday

Most recent WTF moment



Snuggling with my pup, Thunder

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR BALANCE

I am at the center of a tightrope.

Be the muscle that strengthens my outstretched arms.

Just breathe

INHALE SIMPLICITY

exhale clutter

INHALE ASSURANCE

exhale apprehension

INHALE GRATITUDE

exhale lassitude

INHALE RESILIENCE

exhale doubt

Mood Vertigo

(Sing to the tune of Duke Ellington's "Mood Indigo.")

I can't stand up, no, no, no

I can't stand up

'Cause I got that mood vertigo

That feelin' goes stealin' from my head to my heel

While I regurgitate my last meal.

Always get that mood vertigo

Down deep inside my cochlea

In the mornin' when I feel low

I'm overwhelmed with nausea.

'Cause no one really knows how to help me

When I wake up reeling and I gotta pee

When I get that mood vertigo

I could lay me down and cry.

WORDS AND PHRASES I CAN'T SAY BECAUSE THEY GROSS ME OUT

- HOT SUBWAY URINE
- CRAPBALLS
- MOIST
- PUKE
- PUCE (LOVE THE COLOR, HATE THE WORD, WHICH SOUNDS LIKE PUKE)
- CERVICAL SPINE
- STEROIDS

- POLITICS
- "AT THE END OF THE DAY . . . "
- "LET'S PIVOT"
- MEALY
- KNEECAPPED
- TRUMP
- "PICK YOUR BRAIN"
- "HONOR JUST TO BE NOMINATED"

Petter Angels BRACKET

GRUDGE-MONGER				
	GET OVER IT			
GET OVER IT				
OBLIGATION		GENEROSITY		
	GENEROSITY			
GENEROSITY				
			LOVE	
TOLERANCE				
	ACCEPTANCE			
ACCEPTANCE		LOVE		
SELF-				
RIGHTEOUSNESS				
	LOVE			
LOVE				

PARTIAL LIST OF THINGS THAT MIGHT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER RIGHT NOW

- KRISPY KREME DOUGHNUTS
- HUGGING A GOOD DOG
- HUGGING A GOOD PERSON
- SOUP
- THE SMELL OF YOUR MOM'S HOUSE
- LADYBUG LANDING ON YOUR SLEEVE
- BLOWING DANDELION FEATHERS

- CHAMOMILE TEA
 WITH HONEY
- THREE DEEP BREATHS
- HOT BATH
- ICE PACK
- HEATING PAD
- SMILING AT A FRIEND
- SMILING AT A STRANGER
- SAYING A LITTLE PRAYER

Playlist for a Life Gone Sideways

Dr. Jacob Jolij, a cognitive neuroscientist, developed a formula for discerning the most uplifting songs for the human brain, based on lyrics with a positive message, variations from major keys, chord progressions, and beats per minute. Based on that criteria, I've developed this mega-uplifting playlist. You're welcome.

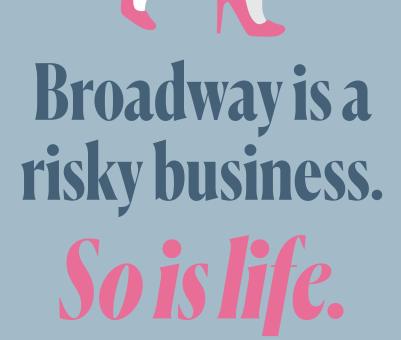


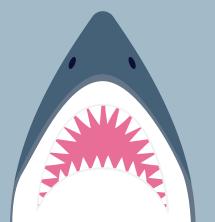


MY PLAN **WISDOM**



GOD'S





A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR STARTING OVER

Ob, Lord, belp me get:

- Off my butt
- · On my feet
- Over myself

WHO SAID IT BEST?

Roman philosopher Seneca

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

The Oakota Pamblers

"Shut the door, I'm comin' in the window."

Open Wide

INHALE THROUGH YOUR NOSE, exhale through your mouth.

- Start with your arms crossed, giving yourself a hug.
- Allowing your thoughts to rest on the word open, slowly open your arms until they're stretched out in front of you and then out to the sides as far as you can in both directions.



Now use this space to answer the question:

What are you doing bere?



Rise! Shine! Give God the glory! Also try to eat some protein. Or just screw it and watch Netflix.

There's always tomorrow ...

Randomania

Know what the Zen master said to the hot dog vendor?

"Make me one with everything."



7imeless 7ext Messages





Kristin

Mama Lynn, you made the wonderful decision that gave me life. Thank you.





Kristin

Mom, you made the wonderful decision that gave me a life.
Thank you.

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR A HUNGRY HEART

In your all-encompassing arms, let me be encompassed.

In your all-seeing eye, let me be seen.

In the eternity of this moment, let me be fully present.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

There's a difference between individualism and selfishness.

Jesus was a rugged individualist, and he cared about other people.

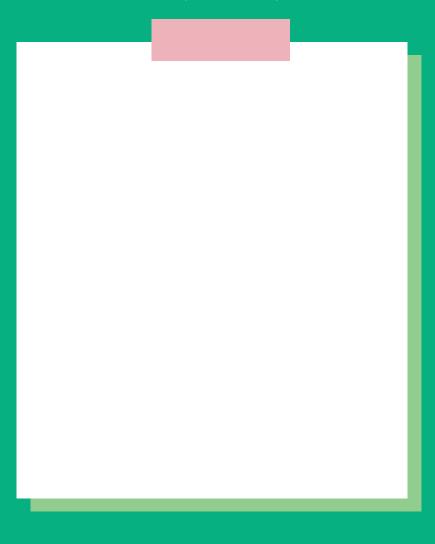
Be an individualist like Jesus.

Write the love letter you need to receive.

1 Use this space to write a note of encouragement.

2 Sign the note "someone who loves you."

3 Tear it out and tuck it in the pocket of a coat you won't wear for a while.



Remember that time whenyou thought I forgot about you?

I DIDN'T.

THE greatest thing YOU'LL EVER LEARN is just to love AND BE loved in return.

EDEN AHBEZ



I know love is real.

> Help me prove it.

Make me an instrument.

Tune me up and play me.

Let me be part of the flash-mob symphony of love that's out there, just waiting to happen.

LOVE CHAPTER CHECKLIST

HOW ARE YOU DOING ON 1 CORINTHIANS 13?

Love is . . .

	NAILED IT	NEEDS WORK
Patient		
Kind		
Not envious		
Not stuck-up		
Not rude		
Slow to anger		
Forgiving		
Resistant to BS		
Rejoicing in truth		
Protective		
Trusting		
Optimistic		
Persevering		
Unfailing		

Live in fragments no longer.

E.M. FORSTER

Didn't you hear me say the first time I said, "You are fabulous"? Okay, fine. I'll keep repeating it. YOU ARE FABULOUS. YOU ARE FABULOUS. YOU ARE FABULOUS.

A SHORT LIST OF THINGS I CAN'T/WON'T SHUT UP ABOUT

- MUSIC
- MY FAITH
- BROADWAY CARES
- THE NEED FOR MORE WOMEN BEHIND THE CAMERA
- THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A GOOD TIPPER
- PET ADOPTION
- BALMAIN JACKET ½ OFF OF ½ OFF!

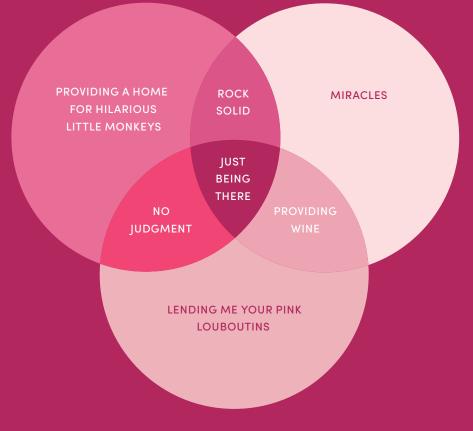
PARTIAL LIST OF PEOPLE WHO PROBABLY NEED MY LOVE RIGHT NOW

- ANYONE WHO LIVES WITH ME
- ANYONE WHO LIVES WITH AN @\$\$HOLE
- ANYONE WHO IS AN @\$\$HOLE
- FOLKS WHO WORK AT ANIMAL SHELTERS
- FOLKS WHO GET NERVOUS ABOUT TRAVELING
- CAREGIVERS
- TIFFANY TRUMP
- PEOPLE IN LINE AT THE DMV
- PEOPLE IN LINE AT THE DMV WITH TIFFANY TRUMP

ZEN VENN Rock of Ages

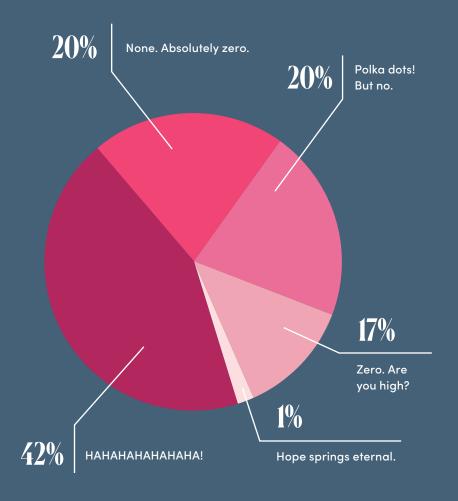
WAYS THE ROCK OF
GIBRALTAR IS SUPPORTIVE

WAYS GOD IS SUPPORTIVE



WAYS YOU CAN BE SUPPORTIVE

PROBABILITY THAT EVERYTHING WILL GO AS PLANNED



Possible Titles for a

BROADWAY SHOW

About My Career

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE GLITTERY A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM

GUARDIAN ANGELS IN AMERICA

CATS

CRAMALOT

DOLLY MADE ME DO IT

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY FLYING

IN THE TIGHTS

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR AN OVERWHELMING WORKDAY

Lord, walk beside me and bold my band.

Or even just my pinkie.

Show me the next box on the flowchart.

Hold on to everything else until I get there.

Insomnia as Emoticons

12 AM 😁

1AM

2 AM 💢

3 AM 😬

4 AM

5 AM 🔀

6 AM 👺

7 AM (1)

WHO SAID IT BEST?

Irank Capra

"Don't compromise.

Believe in yourself. Because only the valiant can create."

Jerry Chenoweth

"Just suck it up and do what you do."

We make plans. God winks.

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR SEEKING

Where to?

What for?

Wby not?

Fill me with enterprising energy.

Gift me with an appetite for disruption.

Sbarpen my sense of what-if...

Partial list of things Shakespeare made us laugh at

- BALDNESS
- BELCHING
- HALITOSIS
- FARTING
- FECES / URINATION, GENERAL SCATOLOGY
- INSANE / POWER-MAD RULERS
- CRANKY WOMEN (always played by men, of course)
- DEATH
- LOVE
- THE HUMAN CONDITION
- OURSELVES

(Remember when folks used to laugh at human foible?)

TOTALLY LEGIT BAD DAY GROCERY LIST

Pand-Aids

Pourbon

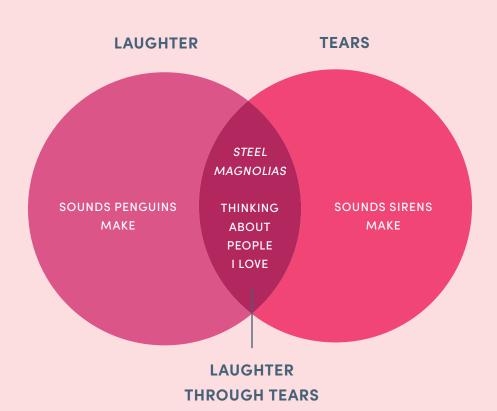
Hairspray

Matches

ZEN VENN

Comedy/Tragedy

COMEDY IS TRAGEDY'S BEST HOPE OF GETTING OVER ITSELF.



Friendly Reminder

DEPRESSION is a F#(a)%ING



CHAOS COPING MECHANISM

- Set a timer for 60 seconds.
- Inhale through your nose, exhale through your mouth.
 - Allow your thoughts to rest on the word hush.
 - Visualize a pond of croaking bullfrogs. As you hush them, they disappear beneath the calm surface of the water.

Troubleshooting 101

Draw a line between the problem and the solution.

Each solution may apply to multiple problems.







Bad romance Duct tape

Computer issues Safety pins

Wardrobe malfunction Call best friend

Unfortunate haircut Cream of mushroom soup

Burned toast Long nap

Skin eruption Box breathing exercise

Parents driving you nuts

Unplug and turn on again

(Actually, now that / think of it, "long nap" applies to most, if not all, of these.)

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR PATIENCE WITH MYSELF

Could we please do this some other time?

PARTIAL LIST OF THINGS I TOTALLY BELIEVE IN

That's my story, and I'm sticking to it!

- SASQUATCH (THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE)
- FISH THAT GROW LEGS AND WALK OUT OF THE POND/LAKE/OCEAN
- MY DOG, THUNDER, SPEAKS ENGLISH
- LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS (IT'S SO BRASSY TO THINK ALL THIS IS JUST
 FOR US)
- YEARS OF BLEACHING MY ROOTS IS GOING TO MY BRAIN
- MY MOM HAS A PSYCHIC CONNECTION TO THOSE SHE LOVES MOST
- IMAGINARY FRIENDS WE HAVE AS CHILDREN ARE ANGELS HELPING
 US ALONG, AND WHEN WE GET OLDER, EVEN IF WE CAN'T SEE THEM
 ANYMORE, WE CAN STILL HEAR THEM; WE JUST HAVE TO LISTEN
- THE WRIGHT BROTHERS, WHO INVENTED FLIGHT, WERE TIME

 TRAVELERS AND CAME BACK TO DO US A SOLID
- TIME TRAVEL
- FATHER, SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT
- THE SECRET LIFE OF DRAGONFLIES



I am otherwise engaged and will not be available for your outrage event.

ZEN VENN Things I Believe In

THINGS I CAN SEE THINGS I CAN'T SEE

THUNDER PUP
MOM AND DAD
BROADWAY

LOVE

WIND SOUND WAVES GOD SASQUATCH

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

MATTHEW 6:12, PARAPHRASED

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR A STUPID MISTAKE

Ugb.

Give me grace to play the occasional role of punch line.

Help me sell myself on the value of a lesson learned.

Open my mouth to say, "I'm sorry," and shut my mouth before I say, "but . . . "

Forgive me my pratfalls as I forgive those who pratfall before me.



ASKING FOR A FRIEND

Is it rude to throw a strawberry cupcake in someone's mouth while they're talking?





LET IT GO

- Set a timer for 60 seconds.
- Inhale through your nose, exhale through your mouth.
 - With each breath, shrug your shoulders, slowly bringing them up, then letting them relax.
 - Allow your thoughts to rest on the word whatever.

Come, come, whoever you are, wanderer, worshipper, lover of leavingit doesn't matter. Ours is not a caravan of despair.



THERE BE THREE THINGS which are too wonderful for me, YEA, FOUR WHICH I KNOW NOT:

the way of an EAGLE IN THE AIR;

the way of a SERPENT UPON A ROCK;

the way of a SHIP IN THE MIDST OF THE SEA

and the way of a MAN WITH A MAID.



A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR SPACE AND SIMULTANEITY

From the insecurity that tells us love is weak,

from the cynicism that tells us love is rare,

from the naivete that tells us love is everything,

Good Lord, deliver us.

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

FILL THIS HEART WITH EVERYTHING YOU LOVE.
I'LL GET IT STARTED WITH A FEW SUGGESTIONS.

spring

puppies

music

your awesome self

You are my sunshine,
my only sunshine.
You make me happy
when skies are gray.

BUT, HEY, I'M NOT AN IDIOT.

WHEN SKIES ARE GRAY,

I TAKE VITAMIN D.

Randomania

When I want a long day to be over, I say, "Stab me with a dull butter knife."
It's like "Stick a fork in it, it's done."
But less pointed.

Apply as Needed:

/ know how to be BROUGHT LOW,

and / know how to ABOUND.

(n any and every CIRCUMSTANCE,

/ have learned the SECRET

of facing PLENTY and HUNGER,

ABUNDANCE and NEED.

/ can do ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM

who STRENGTHENS ME.

PHILIPPIANS 4:12-13 ESV

You are going to be okay.

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR A LOST SOUL

I bear ya.

At the end of the day, we can endure much more than we think we can.

FRIDA KAHLO

/ will remember you.

inhale through your mouth.

- Start with your arms crossed, giving yourself a hug.
- Hold both hands over your heart.
- Allow your thoughts to rest on the word here.
- Focus on the memory of someone you have loved and lost. Let images of them play across your mind like a slideshow, and invite that memory to remain in your heart.

If you think you can't, you most certainly can't.

If you think you can . . . well, I'd go with that.

WHAT DOES IT HURT?

SHE STOOD IN THE STORM **AND WHEN** THE WIND **DID NOT BLOW** HER WAY, SHE ADJUSTED HER SAILS.

ELIZABETH EDWARDS



A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR OPPORTUNITY

Help me see it.

The passing lane to the left of status quo.

The place where the grace notes go.

A space for my song.

A need for my voice.

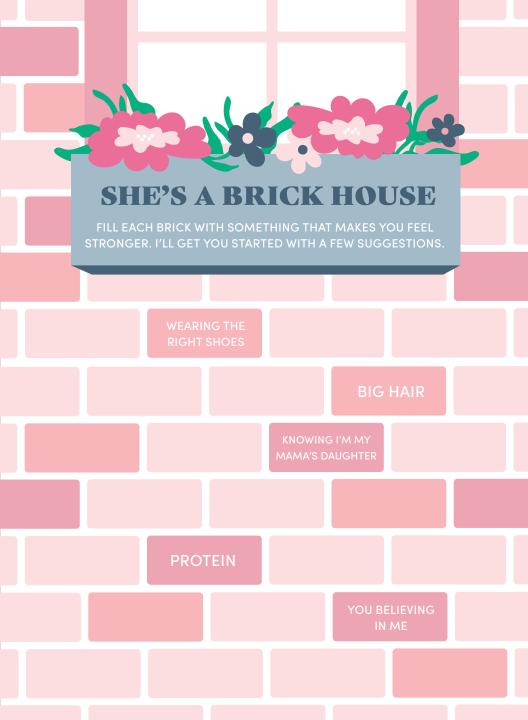
The empty plate waiting for my loving-kindness.

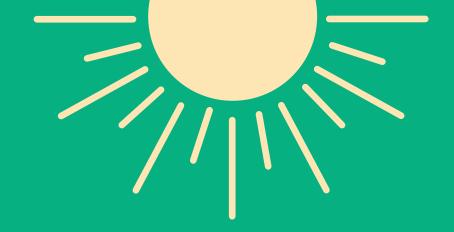
Let me dream an undreamed dream and wake up wondering:

How did I not think of that before?

I'm just tryjing to matter.

JUNE CARTER CASH





is a reasonable stand-in for

COURAGE

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR SURRENDER

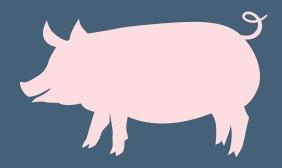
Ob, God. Here we go. Please note use of plural pronoun. Amen.

PARTIAL LIST OF TERRIFYING THINGS THAT REALLY COULD HAPPEN, SO TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT

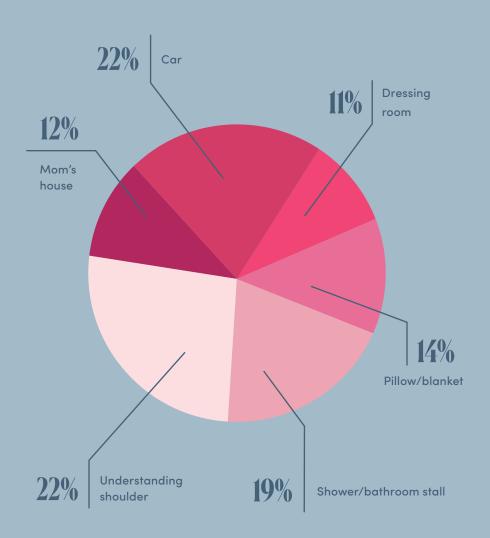
- SPLIT POSTERIOR PANTS SEAM
- INOPPORTUNE PROJECTILE VOMITING DUE TO BRAIN TUMOR
- BRAIN TUMOR
- CAT SCRATCH FEVER
- HEARING THE SONG "CAT SCRATCH FEVER" AND NOT BEING ABLE
 TO GET IT OUT OF YOUR HEAD
- IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP DISRUPTED BY DEVASTATING REVERSAL
- IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP CONTINUING UNTIL DEATH DO US PART
- DFATH
- TOM HANKS ANNOUNCING RETIREMENT
- PARENTS CONVERTING LIFE SAVINGS TO BITCOIN
- NO MORE QUARTERS

Randomania

You can wrestle with a pig, but it's still a pig. And it's happy.



MOST LIKELY LOCATION NEXT TIME I CRY





THE WAY I SEE IT,

IF YOU WANT THE

RAINBOWS,

YOU GOTTA PUT UP

WITH THE RAIN.

DOLLY PARTON

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR CLOSURE

That bappened.

Thank you, Lord, for your mysterious ways.

Lead me forward now, into the mystery of myself.

We are the opening verse of the opening page of the chapter of ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

Rudyard Kipling