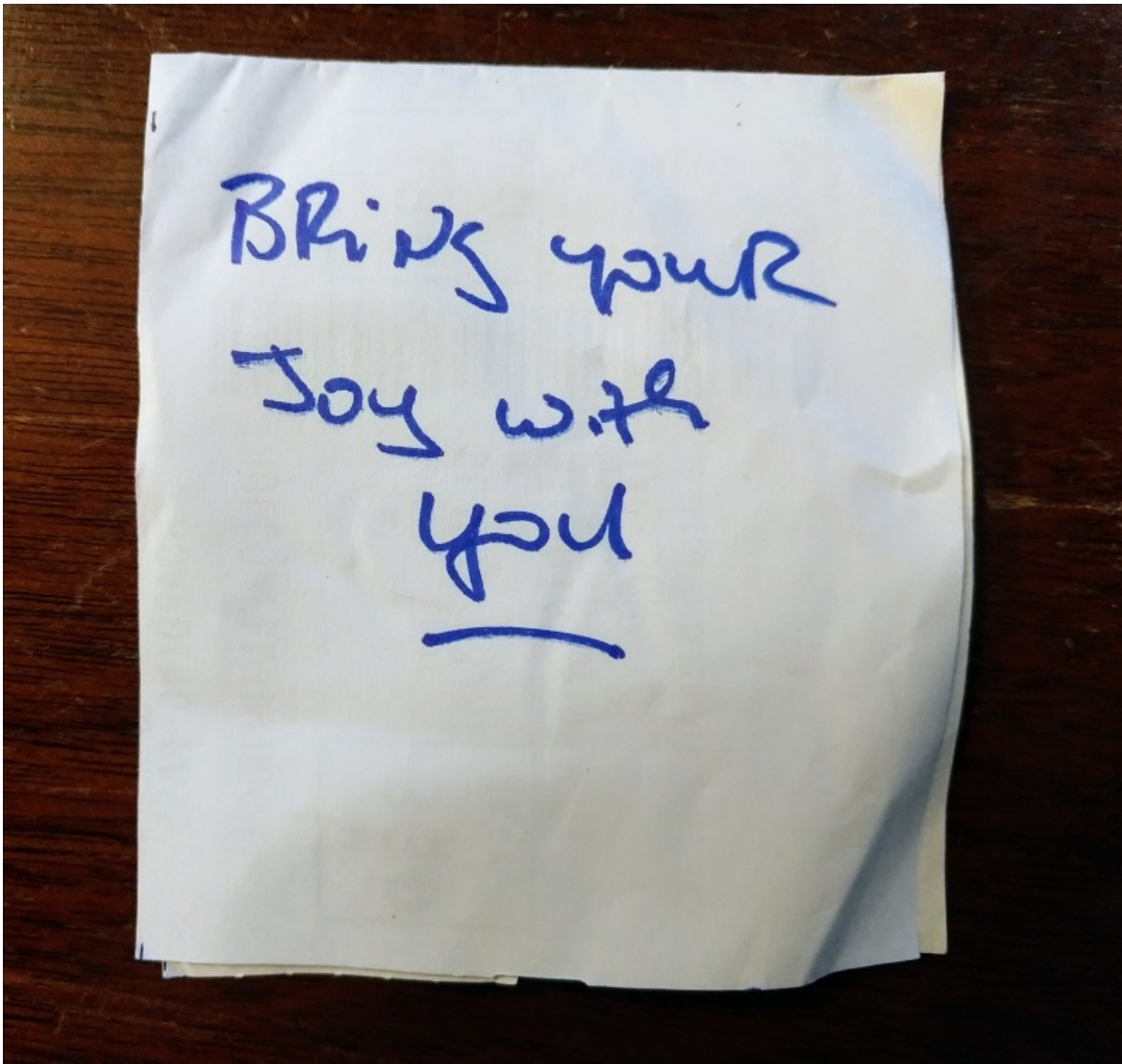


LIFE IS SO
beautiful

Youth is happy because it has the capacity to see beauty. Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old." - Franz Kafka



Her name was Hadley, and she had asked on NextDoor if anyone had some moving boxes. Well, if we have anything right now, it's moving boxes.

When she came over, we chatted a bit, and she said she was moving to San Francisco for work. I said I had been there, and it would be very different than Jackson.

"Oh, I know", she said. "But people are people. I will do there what I did here - find my tribe, and know that you have to bring your joy with you."

As soon as she left (with a bunch of boxes), I pulled a scrap of paper out of my

pocket and used a handy sharpie to write that down. In this world, you have to bring your joy with you.

Five Beautiful Things

Kirby Jenner is not Kylie Jenner's fraternal twin, but that's not what he's telling everyone, and not what the photographic record shows. Seriously, this is one of the [funniest Instagram accounts](#) I have ever seen.

When you stay in one place for a long time, you come to know things in a different way than someone who will only see it once. This is why I [love this collection of photographs](#) (any one of which is beautiful by itself) of a red lake cabin, taken over many years and in many different circumstances and seasons.

Full disclosure: I have never been to England. But I get what it means to love a place and its food and to need to defend it against the haters. So I adore this beautiful, previously unpublished, essay by George Orwell on "[British Cookery](#)" - with recipes!)

In book and manuscript collecting circles, there is this tiny area of interest called "ephemera" - which is the collecting of things never meant to be permanent. Like receipts, bookmarks, calendars... and letterheads. [This site](#) collects letterheads of famous people and the common man alike. They were so beautiful, and are one of many things we have lost with the migration to electronic communication.

Thoreau once said words to the effect that we travel around the globe to see things no more spectacular than the things right under our noses. I thought about that when I [saw this time-lapse video](#) of a single cell developing into a newt. Life, in all its meanings, is beautiful.

What I'm thinking about these days

I met a prepper the other day. You know - they store food in the basement in the event the revolution happens and we all turn to cannibalism. He was at my house, and was looking at the layout for my little vegetable garden I am planning. He shook his head, and said I could grow more food than that, and then I would have lots to store up for "hard times".

Nah, I said. "This is enough. It's enough for us to eat and to have enough to share with our neighbors. This way, it still leaves room for beautiful flowers, and the beautiful yard and the shared food are like insurance payments, in a way. When hard times happen, we will have a bank of goodwill with our neighbors we are counting on to see us through."

He told me I was naïve, and that my neighbors wouldn't care about me at all.

"Maybe you are right", I said. "But if I believed that, then I am living in the hard times now, and I sort of refuse to do that."

He left our house unconvinced, but I will share some of my tomatoes with him anyway.

Elsewhere

I always get asked to recommend books to people, and while I have done some of that in the past, the reality is, not a lot of what I read on the day to day is all that

interesting to normal folks. (Anyone else out there interested in how to maximize green bean production using hi-yield intensive growing techniques as a means of political and sociological protest? No? Just me? Thought so.)

That said, I joined Goodreads, so I can just have something to point people to. I am still figuring it all out, but if you want to [follow me over there](#), have at it. But if you have to know, my favorite book I have read in the last 3 years or so was [Gilead](#), by Marilyn Robison. It's just good, and makes you want to be, too.

Now go find something beautiful,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Hollowell Jr.', with a stylized, cursive script.

Hugh Hollowell Jr

Publisher

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