



Hi there,

Not to wade into pandemic waters, but what is happening? For over a year we're sheltering in place. Then we got vaccinated! Then masks were becoming this haute accessory everyone was desperately trying to get out of fashion, then we have one month of freedom before we are back to masks and sixfeetapartplease.

There are a million and a half pieces exploring the parental crisis, loneliness, and the omnipresent feeling of *oh my god how long are we going live like this* (may I recommend: [How To Be Hopeless](#)). I'm not one for languishing, but it just feels like it's never going to end.

August is already weird enough. The short nights make the days feel like they are bleeding together. It rains every day from 5 – 9 p.m., which is exactly when I am not working (RAGE). And God is it hot. How's a girl supposed to bike around in this?

In another cruel trick of time, I'm a year older. Given that I have stayed inside for 95% of the last 365 days, maybe it doesn't count. But my right hip continues to move in new, unnatural positions and the cluster of gray hairs on the base of my skull have multiplied, so really, who am I fooling here?

LET'S EAT

When it's this hot, I try not to turn on the oven. Here's a recipe: take an Oreo, dip it in peanut butter, maybe sprinkle some salt if ya nasty. Et voila!

LET'S CONSUME MEDIA

TV & Movies

- ***Tuca and Bertie***. What a delightful show. The artistry and the colors are unlike anything I've seen, and the dialogue never misses. However, it is SO HARD to watch legally, so maybe uh-huh take a page from your elder millennials and learn how to pirate.

Podcasts

- I'm not a podcast gal, but I listened to two this month. Jia Tolentino on [Minnie Questions](#) talk about ecstasy, motherhood, and religion, and Ezra Klein and Jerusalem Demsas' episode, "[How Blue Cities Became So Outrageously Unaffordable](#)." (In DC, if you say "We really need to build UP to revitalize our urban centers" a bunch of dudes in gingham will start clapping.)

These are called "pieces" for some reason!

"During the 10 years between the end of the Cold War and the terror attacks, the United States enjoyed a level of power, wealth, and safety that—except perhaps for Britain in the years before World War I—has no parallel in history. 'Where do you want to go today?' asked a Microsoft commercial. Heady confidence and flabby comfort characterized a decade of rising stock prices and accelerating microprocessors. The information economy seemed to have repealed the business cycle. The

U.S. could go to war with cruise missiles and without suffering casualties. Americans didn't have to worry that we might wake up one morning to rubble and corpses in our streets. The unipolar decade licensed us to waste an entire year on Oval Office sex. In the 2000 election, a lot of people voted, or failed to vote, as if it didn't really matter who was president. So much power, so little responsibility." - "[9/11 Was a Warning of What Was to Come](#)" George Packer.

Maybe this explains why I love watching *Sex and the City* right now. While it has the same pleasant, mind-numbing effect as scrolling through Instagram, it also perfectly encapsulates that decade of being "exempt from history." And after living through two economic shocks and a deadly pandemic (that still isn't over!), dipping into the superficial trivialities of Carrie Bradshaw et al. is the sweetest escape.

There's something about that period—American hubris, the nascent internet, a roaring economy yet to collapse under its own weight—that makes for easy storytelling. Plot holes are smoothed over by the lack of cell phones and flurry of IRL activities. People spent money, swapped spit, and traveled (with full water bottles, no less) without a care. The innocence! The decadence.

- If you haven't read the *Atlantic* cover story on the 20th anniversary yet, you should: "[What Bobby McIlvaine Left Behind](#)"
- "[Hundreds of Ways to Get S#!+ Done—and We Still Don't](#)" *Wired*. Also made me think of the best advice for writer's block: Shut up and write.

Music

- **Little Dragon** and **BANKS** are tending to the emo girl that still lives inside of me. We love to sway to moody alt pop. Also, **Meet Me @ The Altar** is actually doing a good job of revitalizing a genre of bygone emo namesakes like Paramore

and Blink 182. (Unlike other bands.... I'm looking at you Greta Van Fleet!!!)