



Hi Friend,

This is a newsletter that I've added you to without your permission. I know, I'm sorry. I'm using this to 1) practice HTML coding, 2) workshop jokes, 3) have something to add to my [website](#), and 4) create a monthly archive of things I've cooked, watched, and enjoyed. If you don't care (rude!) and want to declutter your inbox, there's an unsubscribe link below.

If we haven't spoken in a while, I got a promotion at work, blew all my new money on a 3-week trip to Atlanta/Seattle/Salt Lake City & the Grand Tetons, and planted a bunch of tomatoes that are now ripening. I try to eat them before the rats in my backyard do.

What else? I have baked nearly everything in Claire Saffitz's *Dessert Person*. My wrist hurts from learning bar chords on guitar. I tried to get ~into wine~ but ended up buying a \$50 bottle and just staring at it. Life is good!

## LET'S EAT

Some nice things I made recently include [this](#) chocolate torte with soft-peak whipped cream and raspberries, orecchiette with mushroom and sage cream sauce, and a few boules of sourdough.

I created my starter, Berta, somewhere in the tenth month of COVID 1.0. She's been going strong ever since.

## LET'S CONSUME MEDIA

### TV & movies

- I'm on season 3 of ***Sex and the City***. Not only did this series completely miss me growing up, I've never so much as heard the name "Mr. Big" until now. It's fun! Steve is my favorite character, and Carrie's outfits are either gorgeous or hideous, no in-between. I am, however, haunted by all the b-roll of the twin towers. **I couldn't help but wonder.... how will this iconic television show address 9/11?**
- I started season 2 of ***Never Have I Ever***. This show is for children, and the acting is terrible. But, John McEnroe's narration is great.
- Side note: Why is it seemingly impossible to watch the Olympics? I'm no sports fan, but I want to watch gymnastic without waiting 48 hours for some shitty NBC highlight video with insufferable commentary. The streaming wars are getting old.

### Books

- I finished ***The Night Circus*** by Erin Morgenstern, which seems to have found its ninth life in Airbnb guest rooms and staged Instagram photos during the month of October. Anyway, this book was aggressively average. I didn't quite get why anything was happening and neither did the characters, who all accepted life and death situations with weird, unexplained nonchalance. If you want to read a million different descriptions of eating caramel apples in autumn, this is the book for you.
- ***Guns, Germs, and Steel*** by Jared Diamond. One night I finished reading a poem that mentioned the Peloponnesian War. Had I heard about the Peloponnesian War before? Sure: Athens, Sparta...ummm.... It was then I realized my grasp of history and world events pre-1990 is, well, precarious to say the least. Like, I can give you the dates of the World Wars, but I'm a little shaky on why the

first one started. (I know there are tons of YouTube videos that could help me form this basic understanding of world history, but I ended up watching too many on the Barbary Pirates and retained very little information.) So, I picked this book up.

### **These are called “pieces” for some reason!**

- [“Why people are so awful online”](#), Roxanne Gay, *New York Times*
- [“The impact of inheritance”](#), Meredith Haggarty, *Vox*. The next wealth transfer is on the horizon. Will it save the middle class?
- [“I Know the Secret to the Quiet Mind. I Wish I’d Never Learned It.”](#) Hana Schank, *Atlantic*. BRB, never taking my consciousness for granted again.

### **Music**

Listening to **Waxahatchee**, still, so I can prepare to see her and **Jason Isbell** in September. (Miss Delta permitting.)

- This Killers [cover](#) by **boygenius**