



I'm a student of the world. I'm a global citizen. I'm a girlboss. I am open minded. I say things like "dog eat dog world" and "let's circle back." I keep tabs. I don't close tabs. I love making small talk in the first 30 seconds of a Zoom meeting.

Hi there. Welcome to the October.. slash November installment of "Cracked Up." October is the Thursday of the year and it's always busy (kind of like April). Work has been a lot which should feel fulfilling, stressful, annoying and/or draining but mostly I'm amazed the additional responsibilities end up being: more emails. Putting that English degree to work, baby!

A lot of good things have happened recently. For example, I:

- stayed out until 3 AM completely sober (wonderland & all)
- cross-dressed as Geralt from the Witcher for the Renaissance Festival
- dropped \$\$\$ for a fancy tasting menu in NYC, mere moments after telling Maggie how frugal I am
- improved my sourdough hydration ratio
- built a fire
- harvested the last of the tomatoes
- sang all of waxahatchee's songs a lil too loud at her concert
- was sold a nice dress at Nordstrom Rack for 1 American cent by an indifferent cashier who shrugged and said, "I guess that's fine."
- booked a weekend in Key West for their literary seminar in January

- am excited because, as single-issue voter (abolishing daylight savings), Sen. Patty Murray is on the floor trying to do just that!!! Maybe next year.

LET'S EAT

I am preparing for winter AKA eating four meals a day. Really into making my own vegetable broth with ginger lately. Also, beef bourguignon, apple galettes, pumpkin cake, and other artery-clogging delicacies.

LET'S CONSUME MEDIA

TV & Movies

- I liked *Dune*.
- *Starstruck* on HBO definitely could have been a movie but for whatever reason it was broken up as a miniseries. I LOVED this show. The characters are so endearing and the plot has just enough mush to make you smile instead of cringe.
- Rewatching *Arrested Development* made me remember how genius the first few seasons are. Jessica Walter's withering looks. A young Michael Cera fumbling around. Plot structures so tight you could knit a sweater. SOLID AS IRAQ?! Beyond iconic.

Books

- Man. There's something about reading a not-so-great book that makes me think about dying. Like, I'm only going to read so many books before I kick it, and do I really want this to be one of them? Anyway I'm almost done with *Luckiest Girl Alive*, a book I wish I could

recommend since I love this author's scalding hot take on wealth, "[I Want to Be Rich and I'm Not Sorry](#)." but. Alas.

- *Stoner* by John Williams. This is up there with *The Door* by Magda Szabo—unnervingly good. Made me rethink what a novel could be.

These are called “pieces” for some reason!

Most of what I've read is a soupy mix of anxiety and existential despair within the Democratic Party. I'll spare you. [This](#) is a good one, though:

“Democrats are on the edge of an electoral abyss. To avoid it, they need to win states that lean Republican. To do that, they need to internalize that they are not like and do not understand the voters they need to win over. Swing voters in these states are not liberals, are not woke and do not see the world in the way that the people who staff and donate to Democratic campaigns do.”

At least we have the infrastructure bill! Build Back Better, if we pass it, might be the last progressive legislation we pass in my lifetime. Just kidding. Ha. Hahaha. Hahahaha. AHHHHH. (sweats)

Music

- Feeling a little uninspired here. Have been listening to **Thundercat**, **Lucinda Williams** and **MUNA**. Send me your playlists!