

# A Week in Images and Quotes

## February - 2023

*We can experience nothing but the present moment, live in no other second of time, and to understand this is as close as we can get to eternal life.*

**P. D. James**

PUBLISHED IN 2011, P.D. JAMES' FINAL NOVEL, "DEATH COMES TO PEMBERLEY", WAS A SEQUEL TO THIS NOVEL FROM 200 YEARS EARLIER

**It was the present moment when I mixed up *Wuthering Heights* and *Pride and Prejudice*!**

The following chorus resonated with me on my Spotify playlist:

*Everybody is a wonderin' what and where they all came from.*

*Everybody is a worryin' 'bout where they're gonna go*

*When the whole thing's done.*

*But no one knows for certain and so it's all the same to me,*

*I think I'll just let the mystery be.*

**Iris DeMent**

A book that surfaced in a pile on my dining room table was one of my favorites: Members of Each Other by John O'Brien and Connie Lyle O'Brien. Here is a relevant quote:

*The way we are, we are members of each other. All of us. Everything. The difference ain't in who is a member and who is not, but in who knows it and who don't.*

**Wendell Berry**

I view this quote from a different perspective as I compose my images and quotes. ELP

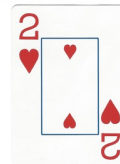
WEDNESDAY

01

**Two steps forward  
one step behind  
Progress, at first,  
is hard to find.**

**But continue on -  
the days are gone  
In the blink of an eye;  
we can do but try.**

**ELP**



THURSDAY

02

*The two of hearts from a deck of cards and a picture of Nadya and Natyra appeared on my table quite randomly, representing two individuals we love with all our hearts!*

*There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth; not going all the way, and not starting. The Buddha*

FRIDAY

03



SATURDAY

04

**Tribute found at, you guessed it, Goodwill to honor**

**Anniversary #46**

*The present moment is the only time over which we have dominion. The most important person is always the person you are with, who is right before you, for who knows if you will have dealings with any other person in the future? The most important pursuit is making the person standing at your side happy, for that alone is the pursuit of life.*

Thích Nhất Hạnh, *The Miracle of Mindfulness: An Introduction to the Practice of Meditation*



**A reminder of our love together**

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## February - 2023

SUNDAY

05

Today's a great day  
to take a ride  
To Boston to be by  
Natyra's side  
And celebrate a  
birthday with a  
meal and cake  
And appreciate a  
welcome break  
From the events of  
our daily routine  
And watch some  
videos on her TV  
screen.



It's amazing the  
wisdom that can be  
captured during a  
recent trip to  
Goodwill! ELP

MONDAY

06



Marsha also  
received good  
wishes from a good  
friend, Bev Jackson!

TUESDAY

07

There are no  
definitive answers  
to the many  
questions to which  
I seek such  
answers. Perhaps  
the following sets  
of lyrics best  
represent my  
current attitude  
on this topic.

*There's more than  
one answer to  
these questions  
Pointing me in a  
crooked line  
And the less I seek  
my source for some  
definitive -  
Closer I am to fine.*  
Indigo Girls

*The answer, my  
friend, is blowin' in  
the wind  
The answer is  
blowin' in the  
wind.*

Bob Dylan

WEDNESDAY

08

*Some people feel  
the rain. Others  
just get wet.*

— Bob Marley (also  
born on Marsha's  
Birthday)

Interesting quote  
from the acrostic I  
am completing:

*There's no  
present. There's  
only the  
immediate future  
and the recent  
past.*

George Carlin

*There is no single  
answer to what  
is right, but there  
are many  
experiences that  
provide much  
useful insight.*

ELP

THURSDAY

09

*A friend is someone  
who knows the  
song in your heart  
and can sing it  
back to you when  
you have forgotten  
the words.*

C.S. Lewis

*You're searching  
for things that  
don't exist; I mean  
beginnings. Ends  
and beginnings -  
there are no such  
things. There are  
only middles.*

Robert Frost

*Perhaps this sheds  
light on George  
Carlin's quote from  
yesterday.*

*But how could you  
live and have no  
story to tell?*

Fyodor  
Dostoevsky

FRIDAY

10

*As I bring a box of old pictures to  
the living room table,  
We try to remember names and  
places as much as we are able.  
This was you when we first met;  
This was you when ... I forget. ELP*

*It is by going down  
into the abyss  
that we recover the  
treasures of life.*

*Where you  
stumble,  
there lies your  
treasure. . . .*

*The purpose of the  
journey is  
compassion.*

*When you have  
come past the  
pairs of opposites,  
you have reached  
compassion. . . .*

Joseph Campbell  
The Hero's Journey

SATURDAY

11



*There's still hope  
for this orchid to  
bloom again  
We just need to  
water it now and  
then.  
It's bound to survive  
for many a day  
If we remember to  
stop and give it a  
spray! ELP*

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## February - 2023

SUNDAY

12

*Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I've never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. Oh well, it doesn't matter. I feel like writing.*

Anne Frank

*I gave an item to throw away to Marsha and she put it in my pocket. I appreciated this humor. ELP*

MONDAY

13

*In the book of life, the answers aren't in the back.*

Charlie Brown

*Yesterday, when I asked Marsha to put on her seat belt, she remarked that I had never told her she had to wear a seat belt. I apologized for not letting her know until now that a seat belt was required of the driver and all passengers. I said I was sorry not to have let her know that until now. I would have dealt with this far differently only a year or so ago. I would have said, "of course I told you to always wear your seat belt, but you just forgot." This would only be a trigger for a very unpleasant time for, perhaps, the rest of the day. She accepted my apology and we continued on.*

*I will live in the past, the present, and the future. The spirits of all three shall strive within me.*

Charles Dickens

TUESDAY

14

*What we see depends mainly on what we look for.*

John Lubbock

WEDNESDAY

15



*When the student is ready the teacher will appear. When the student is truly ready... The teacher will disappear.*

Lao Tzu

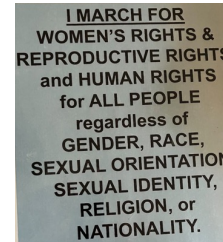
*There's something quite comforting about a mess, especially when there's no one else there to complain.*

Anthony Horowitz  
(Magpie Murders)

THURSDAY

16

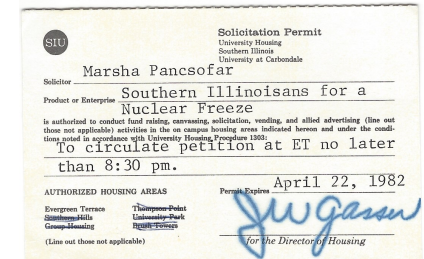
Sign held by Marsha during a Women's Rights March in Hartford a few years ago.



FRIDAY

17

*Another piece that documents Marsha's activism from 1982*



Donation received by Communitas in honor of Marsha's recent birthday. Pat sent this nice reply.

Flowers recently sent by Nadya that adorn our dining room table amidst my clutter.



SATURDAY

18





# A Week in Images and Quotes

## February - 2023

SUNDAY

19

*Don't underestimate the value of doing nothing, of just going along, listening to all the things you can't hear, and not bothering.*

A. A. Milne  
(found in a book of quotes kept by Marsha in 2005)

*A joyous occasion is never quite as wonderful as when it becomes a memory.*

Jimmy Carter  
I found out yesterday that Jimmy Carter is in hospice; a truly humble and magnanimous individual.

MONDAY

20

I recently heard on the news that the reason Japanese people live longer is that they concentrate on day-to-day wonders and think of the task at hand instead of being anxious over future events. Sounds like a great way to be. The word I uncovered for this way of life is ikigai. One of the pillars of ikigai as explained by Ken Mogi is below:

**The joy of small things**  
**Finding joy in the small things — the morning air, a cup of coffee or the ray of sunshine — should be part of what motivates you to get up each morning.**

*Life is the art of drawing without an eraser.*

John W Gardner  
(as found in my acrostic puzzle today)

*We thought that we had the answers, it was the questions we had wrong.*

Bono

TUESDAY

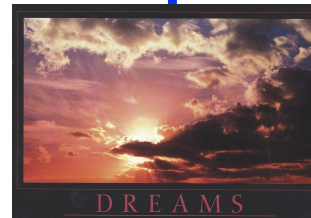
21

*... the excellence of daily life finally depends not on what we do, but on how we do it.*

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi

WEDNESDAY

22



*The inner workings of the mind  
Produce a dream that's one of a kind.  
No one can tell its meaning and plot  
Except for the one whose mind it sought  
To enter that calm, still night -  
To give the dreamer a clear insight  
Into the workings of the human side  
As she lives her life, it can be a guide  
To figure out what's happened before  
And in her life she can explore  
The mysteries of the recent past  
And make each dream forever last.*

ELP - February - 1994  
that surfaced today for reflection



*When you make a decision, you don't have to be locked into it. One of the best ways that you can grow is by starting over.*

Mo Willems

THURSDAY

23

FRIDAY

24



Marsha chose to hang this poster in one of our rooms. It's upside down from the way most people would display one of Van Gogh's masterpieces. However, for the first time I could see both a Happy Face and a Frown face in this new display. Sometimes, a change of perspective is welcomed.

It will interesting years from now to investigate the threads that are interwoven in these images and quotes. ELP

SATURDAY

25



# A Week in Images and Quotes

## February - 2023

SUNDAY

26

*My destination is no longer a place, rather a new way of seeing.*

Marcel Proust

*My (Marsha's) Life Philosophy*

*As I ride the roller coaster of life, I try to remember that when huckleberries are expensive, raspberries make better grape jelly than strawberries.*

This quote surfaced yesterday, and I tried to locate an original source to no avail. This could be an original saying by Marsha from throughout her adult life! ELP

MONDAY

27



*We have never arrived. We are in a constant state of becoming.*

Bob Dylan

*It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it is the journey that matters, in the end.*

Ursula K. Le Guin



There are incredibly gifted musicians who are part of Playing for Change!

TUESDAY

28

There is a scene in Cool Hand Luke in which Paul Newman is carrying large rocks from one location to another, only to be told to bring them back to the original location as a form of punishment. He does not look very content. Switch the scene to the organizing and reorganizing of different spaces in our house and Marsha's sense of where each item should go on a permanent basis, i.e., night gowns in a specific location. After a while, she decides to stack items in whatever space seems close by, which is frustrating when trying to find items. However, she is content and I am wise to let things be - - - because eventually the items find their way back to their original resting places.

*No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man.*

Heraclitus

*In his head, he'd ask himself three questions: Does it need to be said? If the answer was yes, then he'd ask himself: Does it need to be said by me? And if still yes: Does it need to be said by me right now? It was surprising how often the answer was no.*

Amanda Ripley, *High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out*

*Another week ends  
And each day tends  
To have unique ways  
To always amaze  
Me in what is true  
In all that I do.  
This journey  
Of Marsha and Ernie  
Was not expected  
Yet, I feel connected  
Strongly with you  
Through and through*

ELP

*Listen. Honor. Share.*

*Story Corps*

Marsha and I were watching episodes of Story Corps and I realized that the images and quotes contained in my weekly passages reflect the mission of that group.

*Sometimes life is funny - And sometimes life is not  
Sometimes life's too cold - And sometimes it's too hot.  
But life is full of wonder - each-and-every day  
And life turns out to be just fine as I journey on my way.*

ELP