

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 PEMBRELEY", 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

THURSDAY

02

FRIDAY

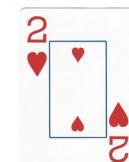
03

SATURDAY

04

**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



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



**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

A Week in Images and Quotes

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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 forgot. 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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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

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

TUESDAY

14

What we see depends mainly on what we look for.

John Lubbock

I stumble - I fall; I think about it all. I struggle - I try; I often wonder why I persist - I overcome; I now dance to a different drum. ELP

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

Charles Dickens

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

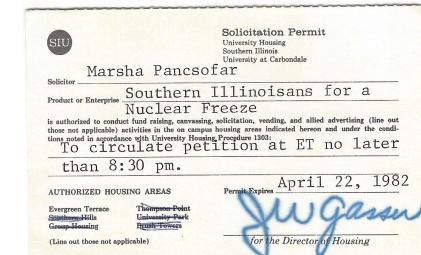
Sign held by Marsha during a Women's Rights March in Hartford a few years ago.

I MARCH FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS & REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, and HUMAN RIGHTS for ALL PEOPLE regardless of GENDER, RACE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, SEXUAL IDENTITY, RELIGION, or NATIONALITY.

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.



A Week in Images and Quotes

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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 joy of small things

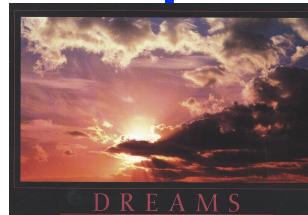
Finding joy in the small things — the morning air, a cup of coffee or the ray of sunshine — should be part of what motivates you to get up each morning.

... 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.

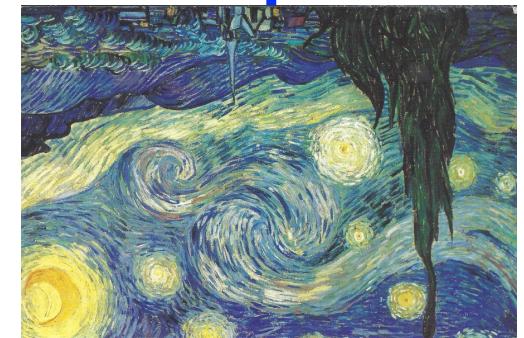
Mo Willems

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



Jane Austen

SATURDAY

25

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SUNDAY

26

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

Marcel Proust

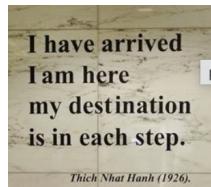
My (Marsha's) Life Philosophy

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.

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