

3/10/20

So, a lot has happened.

A virus is spreading worldwide. It started in December but hasn't been contained yet. People have died from it, though they were more elderly I believe. It looks like the economy is going into a depression earlier than expected. It's scary and not helping my view of the future.

I started dating someone. His name is Chris and we've been seeing each other for a little over a month. He's funny, sweet, and means well. But very extroverted. Shy but extroverted.

Jess's brother committed suicide at the beginning of the month. She's taking it hard. I don't know how to help her if she won't let me in. I'm just trying to give her space for now.

I've been... better. My energy & motivation feel at an all time low so far. Can't fall asleep at night, can't get out of bed in the morning, exhausted all day. Part of me just wants to stop existing. It would be easier. But that isn't right. Besides, Jera would kill me if I told her. Maybe.

I just hope the Steven Universe Sing-Along Movie Event doesn't get cancelled because of the Corona Virus. I've been looking forward to it for way too long.

Lee

3/31/20

So quarantine / shelter in place has been extended to May 1st in the bay area. I'm starting to get stir crazy. It's been a little over two weeks now. Life as we know it has changed dramatically. I hope it's for the good.

Chris seems to be struggling with it more than I am. I want to ask if he's practicing self care like working out, meditating or journaling. I feel weird asking. But I want our relationship to be open.

Dad & Jera seem fine. Of course we are a bit removed from it all since we moved. Dad didn't have work and class was only twice a week. I still worry though.

Jess reached out to me after a bit. She just needed time to process. I'm glad I didn't push too hard. Her social anxiety and all.

The sing along didn't happen, everything with groups of people was cancelled. The series finale was good though. ~~Sad~~ Sad but good. Hurt a lot. Saw my own story in Steve's eyes.

Kinda makes me want to travel again. Of course it will be a while. Covid-19 is really throwing the world out of balance. But something to plan for.

I'm starting to sleep a little better. Sleep aids help. It's hard to turn off at night & on in the morning. But I'm trying. That's all I can do.

Staying positive is hard in these times, but it makes me appreciate the little things more.
Love

4/6/20

I had a realization last night. About mom. I think about her a lot. What was. What is. What could've been. I was thinking about childhood, spent at Michael's getting crafty. I think mom only sent us over with money to get a break. I kinda resent her for it, not doing the activities with us. There aren't as many memories of us doing things with

her than there of us doing things on our own. I guess I'm just remembering how much parenting cl did growing up. How much I had to take on at an early age.

at the same time I want her. I want to hold her, to laugh with her, to cry with her. The family & I were watching Rizzoli & Isles and Jan's mom is a regular character on the show. She's the cheerleader of the main characters, like mom was for me. Except she didn't get to see me go very far. It just hurts a lot.

I guess in my healing, I'm realizing things about myself through mom. Like why I tend to internalize emotions.

I hope the college ~~can~~ figure out personal counseling appointments soon. This feels like too much to process on my own during quarantine.
Fear

4/7/20

Dad & I tried going to Costco today. The employees were limiting how many customers were in the store at a time, so there was a line around the building. We didn't stick around as I had class. We did go to Home Depot & Safeway, which were doing the same thing but there were a lot less customers.

It's surreal. Quarantine only really hits me ~~when~~ when we go to the bigger cities. Otherwise it's pretty normal up here.

My art friends and I are making a tribute art collective for Steven Universe. We each are illustrating a line from the theme song. I have the last line "Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl... and Steven!" I finished the line art & background tonight and I'm pretty happy with it so far. Laki, the one organizing it, also asked me to sing the cover for it! I'm nervous but excited! I'm going to practice extra hard.
Fear

4/9/20

It doesn't really feel like Easter is this Sunday. We didn't decorate. I wasn't able to put baskets together. I don't think we're ever doing a video call with the family.

This year has been surreal so far. COVID-19, my transfer stuff, mom passing recently, dad's job. It's all big changes at once. It's dizzying.

But there are some positives. I'm drawing more finished pieces instead of just sketches. I'm gaining confidence in my singing and ukulele playing. And I'm getting a good amount of writing done, even if it's fan fiction.

Gotta find happiness in the little things. It's the only way to get through these trying times.

Love

4/12/20

So all things considered, Easter went pretty well today. We did egg hunts where everyone got to hide and find eggs. We did have a video call with the family, though it felt more like a formality. And Jera helped me make cottage pie for dinner.

The college was able to figure out online counseling appointments and I'm having my first one this Friday. I'm really glad, I feel like I need to talk these feelings out.

Work is picking up. I'm now working on three different parts of the website. I'm actually excited, more hours and experience. Plus, it helps separate the days a bit.

It's interesting that instead of talking to friends I write more. Maybe it's just a thought sorting thing...

Love

4/15/20

Roxy wrote me a letter. She apologized for "being distant", especially about mom. I didn't really think she was, but it's sweet of her to think of me. It's hard to bring those topics up. I mean, I haven't asked about her dad that much. Maybe I should.

Chris wants to plan a date (a surprise) for after shelter-in-place is over. That involves sharing a bed. I'm open to the idea. I just he doesn't expect anything. I still need to have that conversation with him. I realized that sex actually doesn't disgust me a bit. I ~~don't~~ think I may never want to do those kind of things. I just want to be open with him. If that's something

he feels he needs in a relationship, I may never give it to him. Dating is hard.

I like, I like the idea of being with him. And part of me doesn't want to let him down. But I know I need to be honest. His happiness shouldn't come at the cost of mine.

Maybe I'll talk to Susan about it on Friday. ~~feels~~

4/19/20

My meeting with Susan was nice. Not the same, but nice. She gave me something to chew on. She noticed that my sexuality comes up a lot when I'm talking about mom. She ~~has~~ ^{only} pointed out the fact that it happens, but has no explanation for it. I'm going to have to think on it.

Maybe it has to do with her mom using me as a sounding board.

I remember a couple of times when she talked to me about her and dad. Not details, but like when they weren't active. Maybe part of my discomfort stems from those early talks.

My energy today was really low, at least in the morning. I woke up around 10:30, then ~~the~~ spent most of the day watching anime with Jera. I did play catch with dad for an hour, so I wasn't completely lazy. Part of me still feels bad. I need to be easier on myself.

Lea

4/24/20

Each day is its own struggle. I feel my mood fluctuating each hour. It's hard to gauge where I am when it's constantly changing.

I want to start doing regular exercise again. But finding the motivation to do it is another story. I feel like it was easier when I could ~~go~~ jog around the block. Now I have to be a bit more creative instead of going out. But I feel it would help my mood.

I've been baking again. Good & bad. Good: it's fun & relieves stress. Bad: I end up eating most of it. So far I've done cake balls, mint-chocolate chip cookies, six layer bars & cookie dough swirl marshmallows. Pretty sure I've gained at least ten pounds since quarantine started...

Lea

4/30/20

tomorrow will mark 8 months. It's weird to think about. Just this time last year I was planning everything for Ireland and upset with her. Everything is so different already.

Saturday Chris and I are meeting up for a picnic / care package exchange. Part of me misses hugging / touching him. But I feel so hypocritical to ~~do it~~ meet up with everything going on. I said we have to stay 6-ft apart but I still feel guilty.

Maybe I'll do a drawing of her tomorrow. It might help me feel a bit better. Will see. I have a meeting with Susan tomorrow, that should help. I think it'll be the first on an anniversary.

or Love

5/3/20

So. I shot myself in the foot. I hate how I'm such a people pleaser sometimes.

Chris & I met at the park. But then I felt weird and guilty for sending him home after 2 hours and said he could come over & we could hang outside. Long story short he stayed until 11. So we spent about 10 hours together. And we kissed & hugged.

I just need to stick to my boundaries better. I feel so guilty & conflicted now, where if we had just done the picnic I'd be fine. I really need to put myself first. Granted, Chris isn't clear either. He kept pushing, trying to get me to change my answers. I need to call him out on it next time.

Part of me wants to just call quits. Relationships are too hard. too personal. But I don't want to run away anymore.

Hugging & such was weird ~~with~~ after getting used to social distancing stuff. He did break the tension by starting a tickle fight. There was betrayal, but it was fun. I guess what kinda bugs me is that he started using "let's watch ____" as code for alone time, but didn't say that it was code. At least, that's what I was getting. I'll have to talk to him about it.

I feel like I'm being pulled so many directions...

Lea

6/1/20

May was busy. work & school took most of my time. I did talk to Chris about that day a few days after, so there's that. We've met up once since then.

It was this past weekend actually. We went to a drive-in movie "with" his friends as a double date. He also spent the night since it was late when we got back. I'm worried though. Like, I like spending time with Chris, but part of the time I'm thinking of when I'll be alone again. Maybe I just need smaller doses of him. But he likes to stay for long periods of time. I don't know...

I did get short with him. I think it was part hormones (I'm on my period) & part social exhaustion.

~~The~~ the world got worse since I wrote last. More black deaths because of police brutality happened. Protests are happening across the country. Police are reacting violently to peaceful protests. They're playing games to make POC look bad. The media is eating it up, fanning the flames of racism. It's scary the lengths the police are going to not make changes to the system.

Jess is thinking of going to a protest. I kinda expected it. I'm keeping her in my thoughts. I asked mom to keep her safe out there.

I just hope this country learns that once black lives matter, all lives truly matter.

Lea

6/4/20

so today the family & I went to a solidarity protest for Black Lives Matter. It was just downtown where 236 meets 9. We stayed about an hour and a half. We learned that a lot of our neighbors support the cause, but a couple are definitely alt-Right.

I mean, it doesn't feel like I did a lot. I stood on the sidewalk, held up an MLK jr. quote and chanted. Compared to other cities it was very tame. I mean, I don't want to get tear-gassed, but who am I spreading the message to? Like minded people who already know? I guess it'll do for now.

Lea

6/14/20

So I realized today that I don't have a spark with Chris. He's a great guy, but I just don't feel indifferent about seeing him most of the time, or just drained. I think I should really want to meet up with the guy I'm dating. I'm going to work up the courage to tell him in the next few days since I don't want to string him along.

Jess is getting her wisdom teeth removed tomorrow. I feel for her. But she's coming here next week for Jen's birthday. We're all excited. :)

I felt really drained all weekend and I'm not sure if it was because of Chris coming for dinner on the 11th, the interviews I did on the

12th, mental health stuff, or all of the above. It was so bad that I took a nap. Granted, maybe had woken me up at 5am with howling...
Lea

6/23/20

I broke up with Chris last week. He took it really well I think. I don't know, I mean it was better than Jesse.

Jess is here! I love having her around again. We went on a little hike to the creek and watched ~~move~~ stuff today. Tomorrow is Jen's birthday so that'll be fun. We don't know what we're doing yet, but I'm excited.

Jess sensed mom on the way up. She was telling her that she was glad her girls were back

together. Apparently mom has taken on a guardian angel role for the family. Part of me is glad that she's protecting us but part of me was hoping she ~~was~~ would get a break. I don't know. I really miss her.

Part of me is jealous that Jess felt her and not me. Just having that ~~is~~ connection...

Lea

6/30/20

So, Jess and us had a fun time. I think she really needed that break. We drank more than I have this whole year lol.

Big news! I won a raffle!! I get to watch *SU* the movie with Deedee Magno Hall (the voice of Pearl)! I'm super excited & nervous!

I also get a signed ~~the~~ ukulele, but that's just an added bonus. I can't wait to interact with her! It's funny cause I joined the fandom so late so I thought I would never get to a meet & greet with any of the cast. Instead, I get ~~this~~ this! It's crazy!

In other news, I'm working on revamping my Etsy shop. Paloma, Jess's friend, already ordered one of the new items I listed! She's also commissioning me for a digital painting. She can be so sweet.

Quarantine looks like it'll definitely be extended, there was a huge surge of cases in CA over the weekend...

Lea

7/7/20

I feel really exhausted today. It was weird cause I was doing fun stuff. I painted a canvas! I don't know. I crashed after finishing the painting, playing a mobile game for 2 hours.

Maybe it's from the stress over the weekend from SFSU. Maybe it's stress & anxiety in general.

My meetup with Deedee won't be until after the 20th since she's traveling. It would've been yesterday except that was way too soon for me. I still need to work on more questions. I don't want to ask the same ones she gets all the time, y'know?

XO, Leah

7/10/20

So we (dad, Jena & I) were talking about mom today & learned a few things.

Dad found out about mom trying to kill maybe with sleeping pills. He was... ~~shock~~ shocked? Surprised? He definitely didn't see that coming.

Apparently mom told dad & Jena that she gained weight to make me feel better about my body. It seems very roundabout to me. Why not teach me how to eat better? How to cook? I feel like she gave up on my diet just because I was stubborn early on. Maybe I'm just being hard on her cause of resentments & she's not here to defend herself.

Then again she didn't like taking the plane at all.

7/19/20

It's been a rough week. My back molar started hurting last Friday. Over the weekend it got worse & worse. By the time Tuesday came I needed stronger drugs. I had a quick appt. through video to get painkillers. By luck my cleaning appt. with Carter was that Friday so I was able to tell his office about the pain. Turns out I fractured my tooth by clenching/grinding my teeth. So right now I'm recovering from a root canal. Not a lot of sleep.

Jera was nice & "slept" with me in the living room last night. It was a lot more comforting than the previous night. I love her...

- Sean

7/24/20

Today was my hangout with Deedee Magno Hall. Jera was able to sit in & we had a blast! We sang and chatted and had fun. Deedee's younger son sat in too & watched the movie with us. Richmond was so nice (the mediator/person who set up the raffle). I had a chance to play ukulele with her but I chickened out. I wish I hadn't but oh well.

Otherwise my mouth is feeling better. I can eat more normal food again. Nothing too hard on the tooth itself still but a lot better.

Tomorrow the Patricks are visiting. I'm excited to see the younger ones.

Sean

7/29/20

Mom's birthday is tomorrow. We're going for a hike in Big Basin to kinda honor her. Jess is here and going with us. I think it'll be nice. I'm bringing a picture of her & some incense just to have her presence with us in some way. I'm not ready to scatter her ashes yet.

Jess actually spent the past couple of days with us & it's been fun. We went to the creek yesterday & watched movies today. It's nice with her around, charges it up a bit. She needs the space too, I think the woods help clear her mind... - Lea

8/21/20

Dad, Jera & I are at grandma's house right now. We had to evacuate from our home because of the CZU complex fire. We had lightning storms Sunday/Monday which sparked over 300 fires across the state. They're so many that they're being grouped into complexes with codenames.

Big Basin is burned to the ground. Everything west of 9 is gone. Our house seems to be on the edge of the destruction, but the fire is only 21% contained tonight. Things can change rapidly.

I wish we grabbed a lot more things than we did. I'm terrified we'll lose our livelihood. All while starting at SJSU. It's a lot...

I pray the firefighters stay safe & protect our home. They are severely handicapped with all the other fires...

8/22/20

We've been here less than a week & dad's already done with Dan. We ended up clearing out the fridge, freezer & pantry since there was a lot of expired and spilled food. It was nasty. Not sure how Dan took it ~~as~~ but he did start rearranging when he got home...

The fire is 51% contained last I checked. But we're in for more dry lightning & chaotic winds tomorrow. I pray for the fire fighters, they're already overwhelmed.

I should be getting a hotspot soon from an old professor so that'll help with classes. I am frustrated with the max size for canvases on my tablet, but my bad for not grabbing my computer...

8/29/20

So, the hotspot doesn't work up here. I might have to park ~~anywhere~~ somewhere & use it where I get a signal. Grandma's wifi provider can't be upgraded but we might look into bundling with dish for her.

The fire is 29% ~~cont~~ contained last I checked. It's going in the right direction. Our house seems okay so far. We won't be able to go back until utilities are reestablished. We might be here a while...

Mom's death anniversary is in a few days. We want to do something we just don't know what yet. We'll figure it out.

Grandma's funny. It seems she doesn't care that we're here or not & I thought she would enjoy the company. But she acknowledged that we have to be here, that we don't want to be here.

8/30/20

PG&E sent us a message that the soonest they'll have power restored to our area is 9/11, so that's our soft return date. We'll see if we last that long. The fire is 35% contained as of this morning.

School is already overwhelming. I think I'm going to contact the personal counseling department at SJSU tomorrow. I need an outlet.

Marketing is my favorite course so far, which is good since it's my concentration lol. Everything else is such a chore.

I did upload another design to my Redbubble. I'm hoping to expand it & try to get some revenue from that... I found out that some franchises let you create fanart to sell officially ~~on~~ on Redbubble. I might work on that...

9/4/20

We visited the house yesterday. Power was restored & our zone went down to evacuation warning. There ~~was~~ ^{was} ash everywhere & rotten food in the fridge but otherwise the house was fine thankfully. We aren't moving back yet though. The water is contaminated, can't even bathe in it. I'm hoping it's only a couple more weeks but we'll see. We do need to go back & finish clearing up & pruning the ~~hydrangeas~~ hydrangeas. Maybe tomorrow.

Grandma seems to be getting worse daily. She sleeps a lot during the day. We're helping her with her bedding almost daily. I'm worried that we need to get her a nurse soon. I don't know how she'll feel about that.

10/2/20

We were able to move back on the 8th.
It was too cramped and Dan was...

Dan.

Of course now we're under another
red flag warning & there's a real
possibility that we'll have to leave
again. I'm doing my best to prepare.

24-hour animation challenge is
today. Hopefully we'll survive again.
It should be better without Stanley
disappearing on us. He's on a different
team. Hopefully I won't lose power
or have to evacuate. That would
suck.

Jess is coming over for my birthday
next week. I'm really excited for that.