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Jonathan Shi

March 16 ·

Italy quarantine log, Day 24:

This entry will be about togetherness.

Every evening at 6, people come to their windows and balconies to sing and play instruments together. Songs of hope, generally. From my street, I usually can't see where the music is coming from, but I still look forward to it everyday. On occasion, everyone will cheer for and applaud the health workers.

The past weeks here have been full of everyone reaching out to their loved ones, checking that they're okay, offering help. I'm working on letting people know I'm there to help if they need it, I ke if they should fall ill and aren't able to go out for supplies. At a community level, I've seen massive donation drives for hospitals and food banks, and policies that protect those harmed by the isolation: Italy invoked emergency sick leave measures, France is suspending rent payments.

The empty streets are also signs of togetherness. It's easy to misread them as the result of fear or abandonment, but, really, people are staying home overwhelmingly out of duty to the country, its vulnerable people and the health workers. When every contact could lead to an exponentially growing number of casualties, every act of isolation is an act of love. It's a collective effort on a grand, if invisible, awe-inspiring scale.

These efforts have been working too: although cases and deaths are still increasing alarmingly fast, all the trends have clearly gone subexponential, and I think they will even start decreasing in Lombardy within a few days.

I'm incredibly relieved to see places in the U.S. take stricter measures to keep people out of group gatherings. Italy wavered on balancing seriousness with panic, which allowed the problem to grow exponentially larger for two weeks. NYC and Seattle were rapidly heading that way too, with the way things were going. Watching the U.S. threaten to replicate Italy's mistakes has been the most stressful part of this ordeal. If other states follow their lead and federal mass-testing rolls out soon, I might even hope we could contain this! (If there's a known outbreak near you and you see people still gathering in groups with close contact, please try to stop it!)

Random personal notes: After staying in for four straight days, today I went for a walk, some sunlight, and groceries. There was a short (one-meter-spaced) line to enter the store, to keep it from getting crowded inside. The basics were all there, and there was even a bottle of hand sanitizer for sale! That felt like seeing the first bud of the spring: a sign of normalcy to come.

I kinda feel like I'm suiting up for a biohazard area whenever I go outside now. Like, here's my hand sanitizer, my improvised mask, my outdoors jacket—careful about everything I touch while outside—until I get back in, remove the outer layers, wash my hands, and then phew—I can relax again.

I ate canned peas straight from the can yesterday. It felt kinda like living a zombie apocalypse, even though it was motivated by laziness instead of any sort of lack of supplies. It would've been better with butter.

This might be my last entry for a while, because it looks like most of you are soon in a similar enough situation. Message me for info if you'd like: I've got lots of it. And don't send your good thoughts to me, I don't need them. Send them to your neighbors who are hunkering down in solidarity instead. Or if things gets worse, send them to a healthcare worker you know: they'll need a lot of them.

100

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There's something strangely comforting about the realness yet your optimism. Please don't stop writing!!

5

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12w



Jonathan Shi some good info (but long):
<https://drive.google.com/.../1DqfSnlaW6N3GBc5YKyB.../view...>



12w · Edited

2



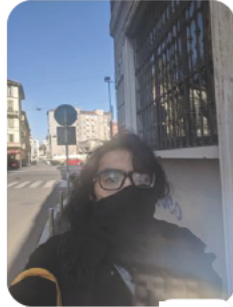
I really loved tuning in to read these once in awhile.
Thanks so much for sharing!

12w

5



Jonathan Shi fashion in covid times.



12w

16



AESTHETIC

12w

1



it's amazing to me how many in the USA think this is a conspiracy. they should name the next one SARS-HUBRIS

12w

1



Leo Kats

12w



What do you think is the risk from grocery stores where people are touching everything (like picking out fruit)?

12w



Jonathan Shi I think mild but unavoidable. I hope that people are more careful about touching produce these days. worst case, an apple has been handled, what, 5 times, while a ladle or handle might be grabbed thousands of times in a day.

12w

1



Jonathan Shi if fruit is the thing you should be most worried about now, then you've already reduced your exposure by 1000x and should not be worrying about it.

12w

1



You could write a book. You have good writing skills. A memoir from this strange period of soon to be history.

12w

2



Please don't stop... your documenting the recovery phase will provide light and hope for a lot of people around the world. Show us how it gets better please!

12w

5



Any suggestions for people who are isolated and are going stir crazy for human contact

12w



Jonathan Shi

Activities with low risk of contracting COVID-19:

- Running
- Petting your **cat**
- Cycling
- Playing with your **cat**
- Rewatching Breaking Bad
- Looking at your **cat**
- Puzzles
- Reminding your **cat** that he/she is a "good **cat**"
- Open-water swimming
- Replying to this with a picture of your **cat**

12w 1

Jonathan Shi

Me and the boys before the Corona Virus



Me and the boys after the Corona Virus:



12w 1

Jonathan Shi

Dear Matt (2),


We will be sending you information for the remainder of the school duration. There are no mandatory assignments in order to attend for the week. A mandatory requirement for the program is listed below.

I know that it's disappointing to have to stop classes in the middle of the semester, but it brings the value we receive from the [Stanford University](#) and the [Stanford Program](#) which will help you to continue to learn from the [Stanford University](#) and the [Stanford Program](#).


Thank you for your interest in the program. We will be in touch with you soon.

Best,
Jonathan

Using school closure to binge watch Netflix



Using school closure to discover at least one law of nature



12w

[REDACTED] IT WAS THE GREAT PLAGUE OF LONDON NOT THE BLACK DEATH GRRRRRRRRRR AAAAARRRH

12w 1

[REDACTED] if you can't maintain irritating pedantry about utterly trivial matters during a global pandemic whAT CAN YOU MAINTAIN

12w 4

[REDACTED] Wouldn't after quaranteeing everything will spike again?

12w

Jonathan Shi **[REDACTED]** maybe not if we get enough tests out to test everyone with a cold.

12w

Jonathan Shi **[REDACTED]** alternatively, China's strategy is to trace everyone's location all the time so that once someone is detected with COVID all 500 people who were anywhere near them are insta-quarantined.

12w 1



██████████ I came here after seeing this shared by a friend.

Please keep the entries coming, if you're able to. The rest of us may soon be "in a similar enough situation," but, just as we are a few days or weeks behind you in what is to come, that also means we are a few days or weeks behind the recovery. Italy has served as our warning, but hopefully it can also serve as our light at the end of the tunnel, a reminder that if we do our part, the curve will flatten, the graphs can taper off, and we can get through it.

12w

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