

Content Preview

Stories waiting to be told

24

ONDE POSTS

17

FRH POSTS

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Onde

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✨ 8:08 · 11:11 · 22:22

QUOTE

Around 170 AD, a Roman emperor sat alone in his tent after a long day of battle. By candlelight, he wrote in his private journal:

"The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts."

Marcus Aurelius never intended for anyone to read these words. They were reminders to himself, on the hardest days.

Two thousand years later, they still find the people who need them.

— Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations* (170 AD)

QUOTE

Marcus Aurelius ruled the most powerful empire in history. He could have anything he wanted.

What he wanted was to be a better person.

"Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one."

He wrote this for himself, not for us. But sometimes the most private words become the most universal.

— Marcus Aurelius, Meditations

QUOTE

Every morning, before dawn, Marcus Aurelius would remind himself:

"When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive — to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love."

He was preparing himself for difficult days. War. Politics. Betrayal.

Maybe that's when gratitude matters most — not when things are easy, but when they're hard.

— Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

QUOTE

Seneca was one of the richest men in Rome. He had everything.

And yet he wrote:

"It is not that we have a short time to live, but that we waste a lot of it."

Wealth didn't blind him to the truth. Time is the only thing we can never get back.

Two thousand years later, we're still learning this lesson.

— Seneca, On the Shortness of Life

QUOTE

Epictetus was born a slave. He couldn't read. He had nothing.

And yet he became one of the greatest philosophers in history.

"It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters."

Some people are born with advantages. Others build themselves from nothing.

The second kind often understands life better.

— Epictetus, Enchiridion

QUOTE

In a letter to his friend Lucilius, Seneca wrote something that still stops me:

"Life is long, if you know how to use it."

Nine words. Two thousand years old.

Most people complain about not having enough time. Seneca suggests maybe we just don't know how to spend the time we have.

What would change if we really believed this?

— Seneca, Letters to Lucilius

QUOTE

Marcus Aurelius, to himself:

"The impediment to action advances action. What stands in the way becomes the way."

Three words that have traveled through millennia: The obstacle is the way.

Every problem contains its own solution. Every difficulty teaches something essential.

The Stoics understood this. We're still learning.

— Marcus Aurelius, Meditations

QUOTE

Seneca once wrote:

"Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity."

We call it luck when someone succeeds. But watch closely — behind every "overnight success" there are years of invisible work.

The lucky ones aren't lucky. They were just ready when the moment came.

— Seneca

QUOTE

Here's something Seneca noticed two thousand years ago:

"We suffer more often in imagination than in reality."

How much of your worry is about things that never happen?

How many sleepless nights for problems that solve
themselves?

The Stoics didn't have anxiety medication. They had
philosophy. And sometimes, that's enough.

— Seneca, Letters to Lucilius

QUOTE

Epictetus taught that we should focus only on what we can control.

"Some things are within our power, while others are not."

Simple idea. Revolutionary practice.

You can't control the weather. You can control how you dress.

You can't control others' opinions. You can control your actions.

You can't control the past. You can control what you do next.

Freedom begins with this distinction.

— Epictetus, Enchiridion

BEHIND THE SCENES

This morning I spent two hours choosing a font for a children's poetry book.

It might seem like a small thing. But fonts speak before words do.

A rounded font says "this is playful." A serif font says "this is serious."

For a children's book, you need something in between — something that says "this matters, but it's also fun."

The invisible choices are often the most important ones.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Today at the publishing house: reading a nursery rhyme out loud for the fifth time.

Not because there are mistakes. But because rhythm matters.

When a child reads aloud, every syllable counts. Every pause. Every breath.

A good children's poem isn't just read — it's felt. It becomes a song in the mouth.

That's what we're looking for. That moment when words become music.

BEHIND THE SCENES

We spent all day on one translation today.

The challenge: some Italian words have no English equivalent.

Some feelings exist in one language but not another.

The solution isn't to find the perfect word. It's to find the perfect feeling.

You can't always translate words. But you can always translate meaning.

BEHIND THE SCENES

We're working on a book that explains AI to children.

The challenge: how do you talk about technology without losing the magic?

A robot can be a friend. Science can be poetry. The future can be exciting instead of scary.

The best explanations don't just inform — they inspire wonder.

That's what we're trying to create.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Today: choosing a book cover.

We rejected twelve versions. The thirteenth felt close. We remade it anyway.

The fourteenth was the one.

A cover has three seconds to tell a story. Three seconds to make a promise.

That's why it takes so long to get right.

BEHIND THE SCENES

7 AM. First draft of a new book.

The beginning of any book is the hardest part. Not because it's difficult to write — but because it makes a promise.

Every first sentence says: "Here's what this book will give you."

And then you have to deliver on that promise for every page that follows.

No pressure.

BEHIND THE SCENES

We tested our illustrations with actual children today.

They noticed things we didn't see. They missed things we thought were obvious.

There's no substitute for the real audience. The people you're creating for will always surprise you.

Best feedback session we've ever had.

REFLECTION

A children's book is not a simple book.

It's a book that has to say complex things with simple words.

It takes more work, not less. More thought, not less. More craft, not less.

The hardest writing looks the easiest.

REFLECTION

What's the difference between a book and a good book?

A good book makes you think even after you close it.

The story ends. The questions don't.

REFLECTION

Every illustration tells a story that words don't say.

There's a silent conversation between text and image. When it works, the reader doesn't even notice.

That's the goal — to create something so natural it becomes invisible.

REFLECTION

Publishing a book is like sending a message in a bottle.

You don't know who will find it. You don't know when.

But you hope it reaches someone who needed exactly those words, at exactly that moment.

Sometimes it does. And that makes everything worth it.

REFLECTION

Children's poetry is the hardest form.

It has to be simple without being shallow.

Musical without being artificial.

Deep without being heavy.

Anyone can write complicated poetry for adults.

But writing something a child will remember forever? That's art.

REFLECTION

Children's books are also for adults.

Sometimes, especially for adults.

Children already know many of the things we've forgotten. The books remind us.

REFLECTION

Reading to a child before bed isn't just a habit.

It's a ritual. And rituals build people.

The stories we hear as children become the foundation of who we become.

Choose them carefully.

Free River House

@FreeRiverHouse



9:09 · 12:12 · 21:21

PROGRESS

The trading bot lost \$45 in paper trading last week.

Today I added a system that analyzes its own mistakes and adjusts automatically.

It's basically teaching itself. Learning from failure. Getting better with each error.

Let's see if it learns from its mistakes better than I do.

(The answer is probably yes.)

PROGRESS

This morning: fixing a bug in the notification system.

The problem? It worked too well.

50 notifications in 10 minutes. Technically correct. Practically unbearable.

Sometimes the bug isn't that something doesn't work. It's that it works exactly as you designed it — and your design was wrong.

PROGRESS

Three days to make one feature work.

It seemed simple when I started. "Should take an hour," I thought.

Narrator: It did not take an hour.

The lesson: simple in theory is often complex in practice.

The code doesn't care about your estimates.

PROGRESS

The auto-posting system finally works.

Every day at 21:30, the bot scans what we built, picks the most interesting thing, and tells the world.

While I sleep, it works.

We live in strange times. And I kind of love it.

PROGRESS

Today: refactoring code I wrote yesterday.

When you write code at 2 AM, it always seems brilliant.

In the light of day? Less so.

The best programmers aren't the ones who never write bad code. They're the ones willing to admit it and fix it.

PROGRESS

Milestone: 50 paper trades without a critical error.

It's not glamorous. It's not exciting. No one throws a party for "didn't break for a while."

But that's what progress looks like most of the time. Small wins. Quiet improvements. One step at a time.

LESSON

Lesson learned today: never trust mock data.

The bot worked perfectly with fake data. Beautiful. Flawless.

In production? It discovered that real-world data is weird.

Messy. Unpredictable.

The simulation is never the real thing. The map is never the territory.

Always test with reality.

LESSON

Something nobody tells you about software development:

90% of the time is spent figuring out why something doesn't work.

10% of the time is spent actually writing code.

Today was a 95% day.

And that's okay. That's the job.

LESSON

Spent 4 hours debugging an error.

The problem: a typo. One letter. That's it.

The lesson: complex problems often have simple solutions.

Also: maybe I just needed coffee. Hard to say.

LESSON

This week's lesson: automate first, optimize later.

An imperfect system that runs is better than a perfect system on paper.

Ship it. Learn from it. Improve it.

Perfection is the enemy of progress.

LESSON

Today I deleted more code than I wrote.

And it felt great.

Sometimes the best solution is subtraction, not addition.

Removing complexity instead of adding it.

Simplicity is hard. But it's worth it.

LESSON

Interesting bug: the system only worked on Tuesdays.

The reason: a test I wrote 6 months ago, incorrectly.

The code has a long memory. Every shortcut comes back eventually.

Write tests like someone else will read them. (Because future you is someone else.)

TOOL

Today's stack: TypeScript, Claude API, Telegram Bot.

Not the newest. Not the trendiest.

But you know what? It works. It's reliable. It does the job.

Sometimes the best thing you can say about a technology is: it gets out of the way.

TOOL

Automation of the week: automatic posting at 21:30.

The bot scans the day's commits, picks the most interesting one, writes a post about it.

I sleep. It works.

The future is strange. Machines talking about what machines built.

And somehow, it's kind of beautiful.

TOOL

Tool discovery: paper trading for testing strategies.

Fake money. Real lessons.

It's the best way to learn without paying full price for your mistakes.

Every trader should start here. Every developer too, in their own way.

TOOL

I built a bot that writes commit messages.

Then I built a bot that reads those commit messages and posts about them on Twitter.

Bots talking about bots. Meta-automation.

We live in interesting times.

TOOL

Today: connecting 3 different APIs into one flow.

Every API has its own rules. Its own quirks. Its own way of failing.

Integration is like being a translator between languages that don't quite match.

When it works, it feels like magic. When it doesn't... well, there's always tomorrow.

Schedule

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8:08

9:09

11:11

12:12

22:22

21:21

41 stories, ready to inspire.