

the coffee table book of sticky notes

STUCK!

intro by asher evans

I'm almost out of sticky notes. How does this happen? Don't sticky notes just come with the desk and refill themselves? I wonder how I could allow my supply to dwindle to the point where only one color remains from what used to be a sea of options in a vibrant and triumphant stack that cast a shadow halfway across my desk. The answer, of course, is that I used the sticky notes; whether for reminding myself of something for later, making a grocery list, or telling my roommate that I'll be home late tonight. These thin devices are extraordinarily well suited for these specific low-stakes applications, but at the end of the day the notes left using 'stickies' are letters, just as Martin Luther's 95 theses and the Declaration of Independence are letters. Merriam-Webster defines a letter as "a direct or personal written or printed message addressed to a person or organization" and the United States Postal Service offers a definition as well: "A letter is a message directed to a specific person or address and recorded in or on a tangible object." This technically qualifies sticky notes as letters, but they represent quite a bit more than just pieces of paper with messages written on them.

Before we go any further, I have something I'd like to get off my chest: it would not be the whole truth to say that I am almost out of sticky notes, as I actually have dozens of these little brightly-colored letters, they just have writing on them already. I have been collecting these pocket-sized, adhesive-backed machines for years now. I have some from my friends, some from family members, and some from strangers. I have many that I've written both to myself and to others. I just find them fascinating! For one, analogue technology is a really big part of my life and using the "old fashioned" methods of doing almost anything is an artful practice that I try hard to preserve in my daily life. This includes things like driving carbureted cars that you can tune with a screwdriver and timing light, handwriting my notes in class, playing acoustic drums that require fine tuning and sound different based on the room you play them in, and of course leaving sticky notes instead of just sending a text. There's something very special to me about taking the logistical scenic route and stopping to smell the roses of physical media. It's very human to experience something that is real, tangible, and flawed, but experiences like this are vanishing into thin air with the ubiquity of computers and mechanical assistance in even the most mundane tasks. Not to

mention that the time taken to leave a real note makes it feel much more special. The writer has to find some time, pick a page, pick a pen, choose what to say and how it fits on the note, and then they get to *create* something for the reader. Sticky notes, and analogue media/tech in general, are examples of something that I can only describe as the most deeply important human experience that we can embrace: feeling something so strongly that we can't help but to create something. I think that letting passion drive creation is intrinsically important to us as a species. This may seem a little hardcore for an introduction to a book about sticky notes, but this is one reason why 'stickies' are interesting to create and to keep.

The creation of a physical note driven by a feeling or a need to communicate a message and a willingness to make it special is made all the more mysterious and miraculous when the writer and the reader are separated. The medium of sticky notes really lends itself to this kind of communication, whether the separation is physical distance, time, or a combination. There are two notes in this collection that I found on my car that were written by strangers. I find it inspiring that these two different people at different times decided it was worth the effort of leaving a note along with a drawing or a trinket on my car. Part of what makes notes like this so special (besides receiving a compliment) is the danger of leaving them! With a physical note, it could get lost, stolen, overlooked, or fall victim to a number of other unfortunate miscommunications. The writer has absolutely no guarantee that the intended reader will receive it, but they decide to write it anyway because trying to create something to make someone's day better is infinitely better than just walking by, even if your efforts don't play out as intended.

Speaking of not knowing if your message will reach the audience you want it to, there's another note in this collection that I would like to mention; written by myself to no particular reader, unknowable in time. There are photos of a blank switchplate cover on the back of which I've drawn a picture and left a message to a future serviceperson or curious resident who I will likely never know and who will probably never know me. I hope they get some enjoyment out of the unexpected absurdity of it and can take a second to appreciate the effort put in. But there is a pretty big chance that nobody will see it at all, and the fact that it exists without a guarantee of being

consumed or enjoyed is a simple and hopeful reminder of why we create in the first place: not for consumption or for profit but for fulfillment because we feel compelled to create and there's no way to scratch that itch like just making something.

I know it sounds like I'm taking sticky notes pretty seriously here. So why think this hard about something that takes up a measly nine square inches and can be bought by the gross? First of all, I would argue that everything worth taking is worth taking seriously. Second, I would compel you to start thinking more about what and how you make and use. The thing that separates us as humans from machines (things that are made and get used) is our ability to make and to use. By being intentional and thoughtful about what/how you make/use, you can exercise your agency to share in the deeply human acts of emotion-driven creation and cultivation. I find it persistently intriguing how much a three inch piece of paper can tell us about the human experience. A sticky note, when appreciated with care, holds insight into the kindness of strangers, the thoughtful dynamics of relationships, and the beauty of creation.

Asher Evans

18840

Asher,

I just love

you so much

bro

- Finn

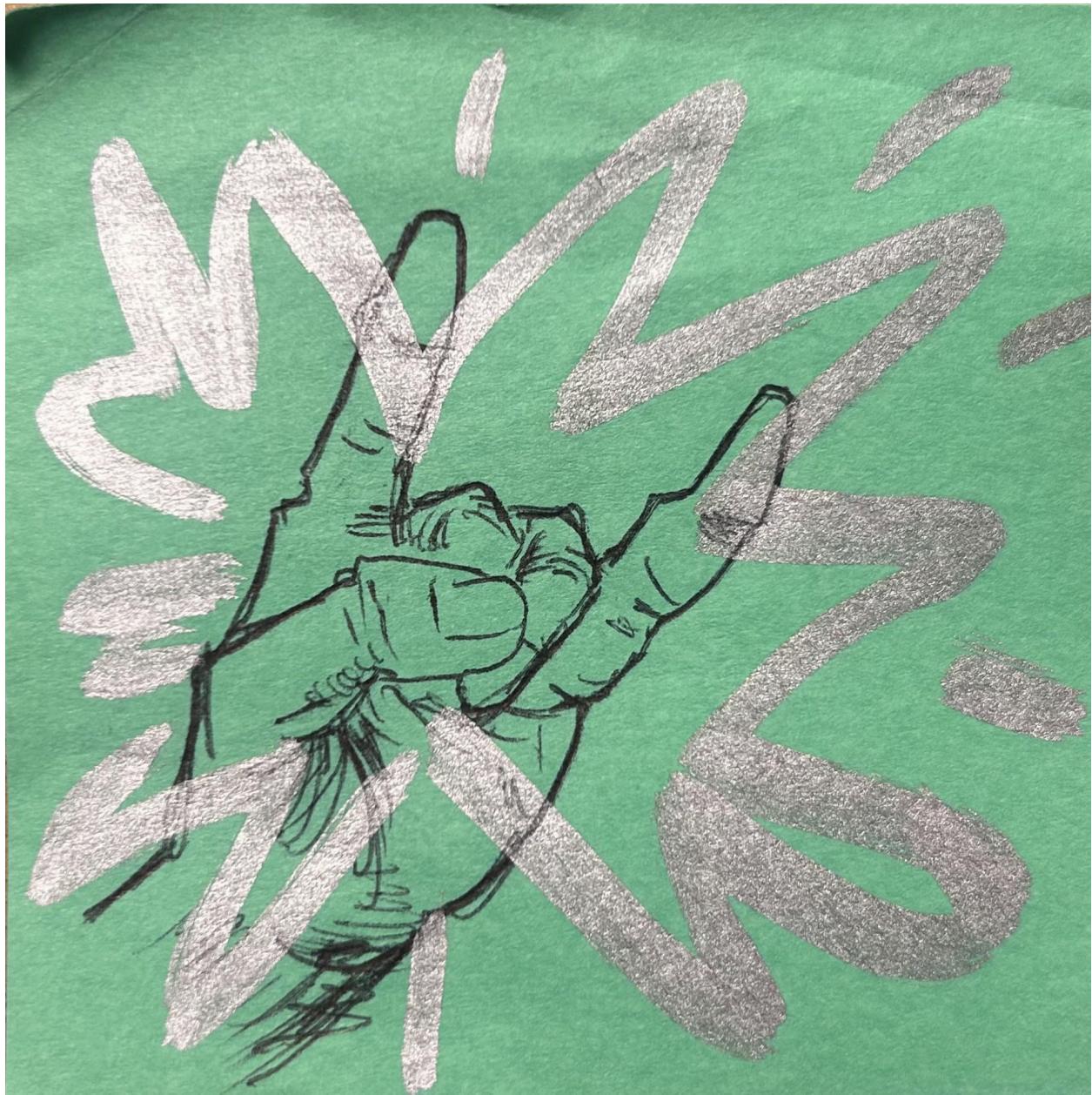
Asher -
Drive safe & smart
tomorrow. Have fun
and tell Marcos con-
-grats. Love you
and see you later,
Finch

*Asher,

Sorry I moved your
knee pads around, I hate it
when people touch my
perfectly lined-up shit. Hope
your day is better than
yesterday. Love you
and drive safe,

Finn

Goodnight
Asher! Love
you brother,
sleep so well.
-Finn



Asher,

Have a great
day at school!

Slay the finals
and get 'er done
-Love you, Finn

ASHER

STAY STRONG &
STAY POSITIVE YOU
HANDSOME FELLA.
MOST IMPORTANTLY,
STAY TRUE TO YOU.
I'M PROUD OF YOU
FOR BRANCHING
OUT AND GIVING
THIS A SHOT. JUST
REMEMBER- IT'S
A WIN NO MATTER
WHAT YOU THINK
OF SCHOOL - LOVE YOU
FINN

Ashley,

I went to go watch
the sunrise with some
fellow senior hamies this
morning, so don't flip
if I'm not in my bed.
Picking up Julius and
then we are going to
Bear Creek Park. Love you,
be back between 7 and
8.

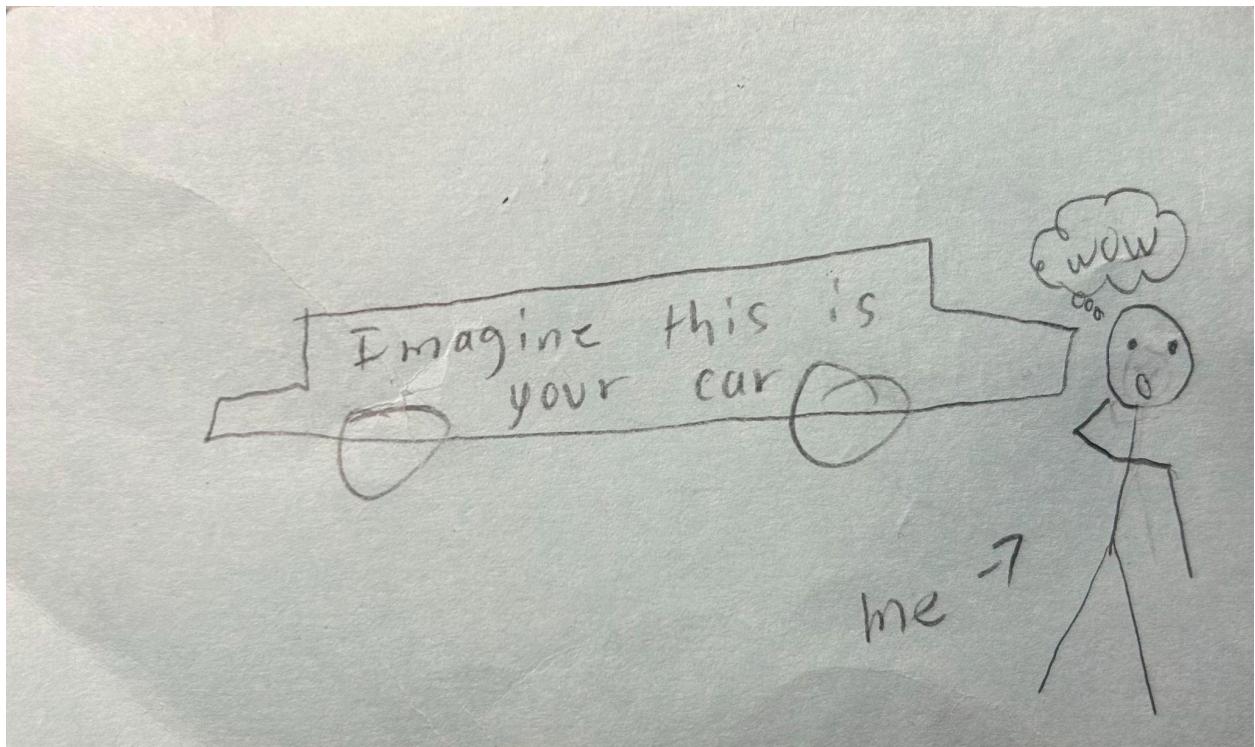
- Finn



Asher -

Please wake me up when
you read this so I can
give you a hug before
school
Yours

Your Volvo
neighbor likes your
car! ♡



COOL

Cat :)

Here is a gift
trinket.



BLAKE,

Good
morning!

- ASHER

BLAKE,

I went to switch my
cars! give me a call
when you're up & we
can a plan to go to
the store?

-ASHLR

BLAKE,

I hope it was a blast
last night! My mom
made muffins. feel free
to have both in the bag.

I'll be back soon!

- ASHER

Have a great thanks-
Giving Break ashley
-BLake G

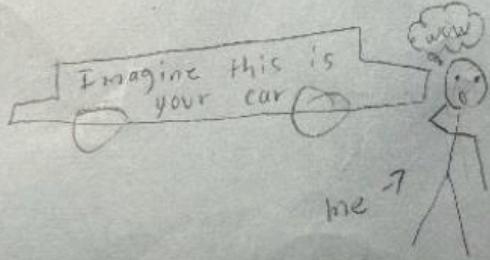
- Big Ziplocks
- Thread (or floss)
- Travel Shampoo / Conditioner
and Soap / Footh Post?
- Packing tape
- Listerine strips
- TP /
- Meds

1. CUT A HOLE
IN THE BOX.
2. GET A DRINK
3. GET YOUR
FRUIT





Your Volvo
neighbor likes your
car! ❤



1. CUT A HOLE IN THE BOX.
2. GET A DRINK
3. GET YOUR FRUIT

18840

Asher -
Drive safe & smart
tomorrow. Have fun
and tell Marcos con-
grats. Love you
and see you later,
Finin

Have a great day -
Giving Break Asher! ☺
- Blake G

*Asher,
sorry I moved your
base pads around, I hate it
when people touch my
perfectly lined-up shit. Hope
your day is better than
yesterday. Love you
and drive safe,
Finin



Asher Evans is a hot-rodder through and through! From his time spent in the garage to his history drumming in DIY punk bands to his work with sticky notes, everything Asher touches is intentionally custom and thoughtfully curated.