

Tao Lin

North American
Hamsters

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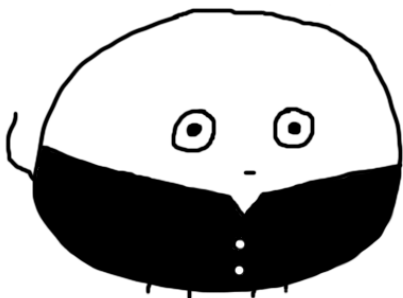
Preface to the 2014 Edition

Wow, happy birthday, Allison. Did you know that Tao Lin wrote a series of short articles about hamsters, and included hamster illustrations? You're such a big fan that you probably already knew that. Since you're a big fan, here's a little booklet of Tao Lin's hamsters. I'd like to think that he wouldn't be upset with me for printing this.

Tony Fader
Seattle

“Non-Eccentric Piano Prodigy” Hamster

Despite being considerably “less rare” than the “*Eccentric Piano Prodigy*” *Hamster* (due to a much higher reproduction rate and a more balanced male-to-female ratio, with there however still being more males than females), not much is known about the “*Non-Eccentric Piano Prodigy*” *Hamster* due to a near-extreme lack of media coverage and an overall, near-complete lack of pub-



“Non-Eccentric Piano Prodigy” Hamster.

lic interest (in terms of the hamster itself; its “wonderful, crisp, and tender”—according to *L Magazine*—recordings actually enjoy very strong sales in a consistent, recession-proof manner). In a 2013 feature article in *The New York Times Magazine* a “Non-Eccentric Piano Prodigy” Hamster named John Thomason atypically received extensive coverage—to the extent of 5839 words, of which 4794

were, however, focused on the question of “exactly why” the article’s author has “long harbored the strong suspicion” that the specific “*Non-Eccentric Piano Prodigy*” Hamster named John Thomason is “being non-eccentric on-purpose?” and therefore, from a certain “second level” perspective, actually way more eccentric than the “*Eccentric Piano Prodigy*” Hamster, whose eccentricity is conveyed “directly, genetically, honestly, and without irony—without,” according to the article’s author, Janice Mikaela, “the questionably legitimate post/meta-artfulness that John Thomason has subtly deployed in his life and work ever since, as far as my research shows, he was born.” The feature article included two full-page photographs and—interspersed throughout—eight smaller photographs (these smaller ones focused on her eyes, hands, forearms, mouth, forehead, and hair) of Janice Mikaela,

who was previously known primarily for her eccentric behavior at panel discussions and “elegantly outrageous” (*Vogue*) hairstyle, instead of portraits of the pianist, who also was not interviewed or contacted for the article.

Hunting Tips: Approach the “*Non-Eccentric Piano Prodigy*” Hamster after a concert asking for its autograph—stunning it, as no one cares enough to want its autograph. Ask another question—any question—to further destabilize the “*Non-Eccentric Piano Prodigy*” Hamster’s perception of reality (that no one is interested in it) in order to cause cardiac arrest, effectively ending its life. Finally, at your leisure, place it in a plastic baggie.

Cooking Tips: Baste in a paste of olive oil, wakame, hijiki, tamari at a low heat, “moving it around” occasionally. Serve over a thick—but not too thick—bed of lettuce. Great with red wine, diluted carrot juice, or—surprisingly—almond milk.

Average weight/height (record)	.9 lbs/3.3" (1.6 lbs/3.9")
Average life expectancy (record)	18.4 years (36.9 years)
Favorite book(s)	<i>The Mind of God</i>
Favorite band(s)	anything by Chopin, Brahms
Favorite movie(s)	<i>Eternal Sunshine</i>
Favorite sexual position	missionary

"Non-Eccentric Piano Prodigy Hamster" facts.