

YOU ARE NOT AN IDIOT
OR MAYBE WE'RE JUST ALL IDIOTS?

21/05/2021

NORTHSEC

ANGE ALBERTINI

nsec

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*My own views
and opinions.*

- REVERSE ENGINEERING SINCE 1989, AUTHOR OF CORKAMI, FILE FORMAT EXPERT.
- POC OR GTFO, PWNIE AWARD OF CRYPTO 2017.

PROFESSIONALLY

- 13 YEARS OF MALWARE ANALYSIS
- 3 YEARS OF INFOSEC ENGINEER AT GOOGLE



MY LICENSE PLATE IS A CPU ARCHITECTURE.
MY PHONE CASE IS A PDF DOC,
MY RESUME IS A SUPER NES/MEGADRIVE ROM.

THIS TALK

- YOU MIGHT SEE ME AS SUCCESSFUL (GOOGLE, PWNIE...)
- I KEPT SEEING MYSELF AS AN IDIOT - UNTIL VERY RECENTLY.
- YET I'M STILL THE SAME.

WHY UNTIL NOW? WHY NOT NOW?

CHOOSE YOUR FLAVOUR:

- THE SLIDES ARE QUITE GENERIC, THE RECORDING IS MORE PERSONAL.

THE CURRENT SLIDE IS AN
HONEST TALK TRAILER

A CORKAMI ORIGINAL PRODUCTION



YET ANOTHER "SUCCESS" SPEECH ?

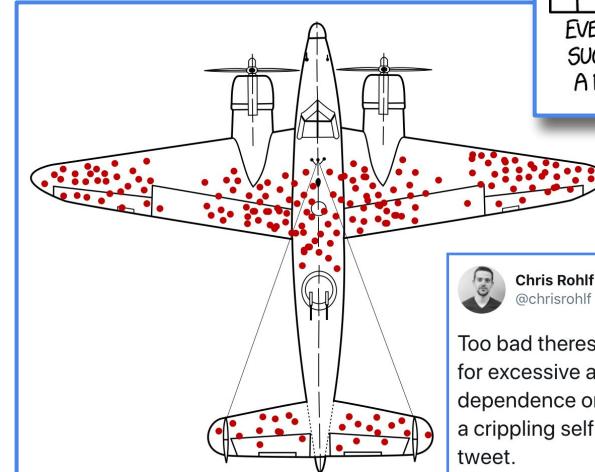
THIS TALK IS NOT ABOUT SHOWING OFF MY SUCCESS.

FOCUSING ON THE BASICS.

NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO INFOSEC.

TOTALLY EXPERIMENTAL. UNPOPULAR OPINIONS?

I'M OBVIOUSLY BIASED. I'M HERE TO SHARE & LEARN.



NEVER STOP BUYING LOTTERY TICKETS,
NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE TELLS YOU.

I FAILED AGAIN AND AGAIN, BUT I NEVER
GAVE UP. I TOOK EXTRA JOBS AND
POURED THE MONEY INTO TICKETS.

AND HERE I AM, PROOF THAT IF YOU
PUT IN THE TIME, IT PAYS OFF!



EVERY INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH BY SOMEONE
SUCCESSFUL SHOULD HAVE TO START WITH
A DISCLAIMER ABOUT SURVIVORSHIP BIAS.



Chris Rohlf
@chrisrohlf

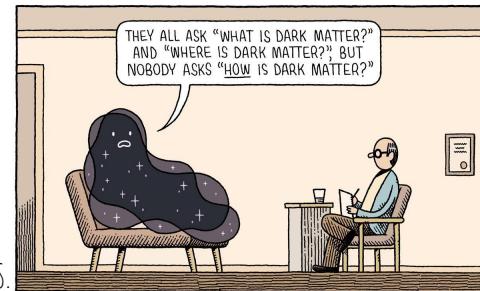
Too bad theres no 'This tweet is a made up story designed for excessive adulation from peers because of the authors dependence on social media induced dopamine hits to cure a crippling self confidence problem' option when reporting a tweet.

INFOSEC...

SO MANY REASONS TO OVER-WORRY...

...AND FORGET ABOUT YOURSELF.

...OR YOUR FRIENDS.



TOM GAULD for NEW SCIENTIST

INFOSEC IS ~~BORING~~ EXHAUSTING/HARMFUL!

- VERY REPETITIVE TASKS.
- UNCERTAINTY IS EXHAUSTING.
- PROFITEERS, ABUSERS.



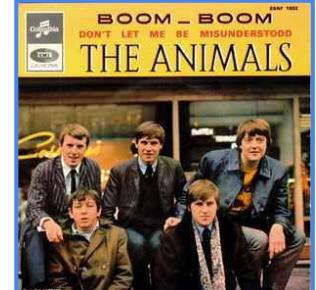
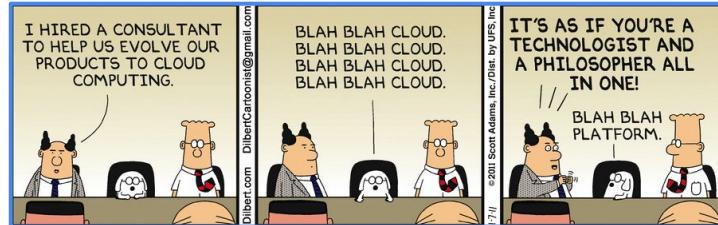
INFOSEC PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS WRONG

- WE'RE THE ONES PREVENTING PROJECTS TO LAUNCH.
- WE'RE EASILY MISUNDERSTOOD.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO JUST HAVE TO "FOLLOW THE MANUAL"

LIKE ANY OTHER ENGINEERS.

- WE DISCUSS HYPOTHETICAL ATTACKS THAT NEVER HAPPENED YET.
- WE PUBLISH RESEARCH THAT HELPS TO CREATE MORE ATTACKS.



EARLIER THIS WEEK...



Our cybersecurity 'industry best practices' keep allowing breaches

BY ALLEN GWENN, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR — 05/17/21 04:30 PM EDT

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

So with all of these impressively credentialed experts, we should be getting better at this "information security" business, right? So, what is wrong?

The core problem is that "industry best practices" are not.

Implement a "one strike and you are out" hiring policy for information security employees. When they fail, do not let it happen twice.

Also, never hire an information security employee who has ever worked for a firm that has had a security incident. Their "industry best practices" did not work for the previous employer, why would they work better for the next victim? These former employees bring disaster.

INFOSEC AND METRICS

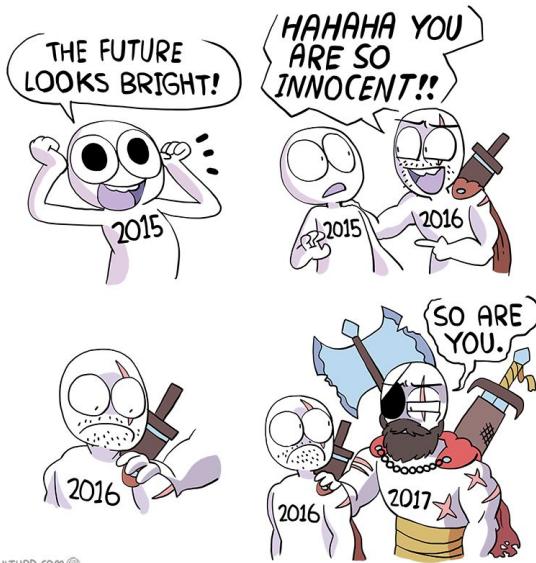
SECURITY DOESN'T HAVE EASY METRICS.

SO DEFENSE IS VERY POLITICAL.

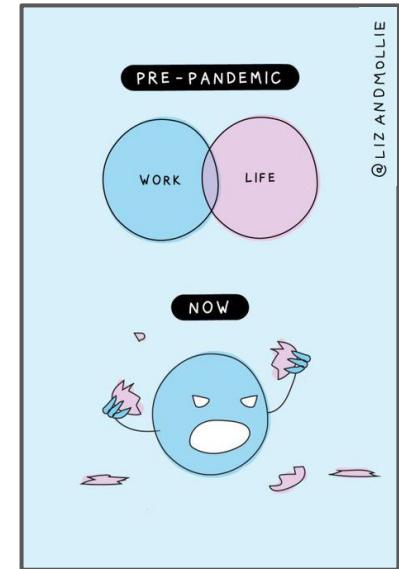


Hackers don't give a shit:

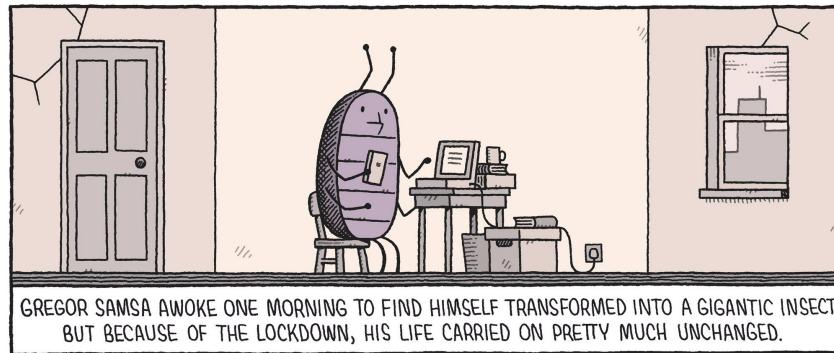
- About your project's scope
- It's managed by a third party
- It's a legacy system
- It's "too critical to patch"
- About your outage Windows
- About your budget
- You've always done it that way
- About your Go-Live Date
- It's only a pilot/proof of concept
- About Non-Disclosure Agreements
- It wasn't a requirement in the contract
- It's an internal system
- It's really hard to change
- It's due for replacement
- You're not sure how to fix it
- It's handled in the Cloud
- About your Risk Register entry
- The vendor doesn't support that configuration
- It's an interim solution
- It's [insert standard here] compliant
- It's encrypted on disk
- The cost benefit doesn't stack up
- "Nobody else could figure that out"
- You can't explain the risk to "The Business"
- You've got other priorities
- About your faith in the competence
of your internal users
- You don't have a business justification
- You can't show Return on Investment
- You contracted out that risk



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@ LIZ AND MOLLIE

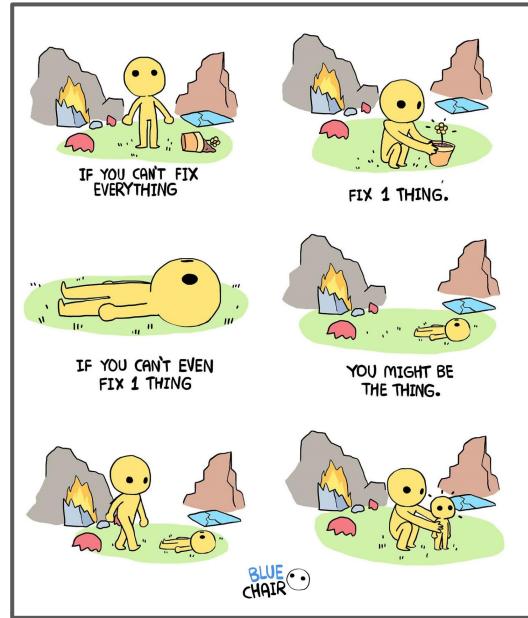
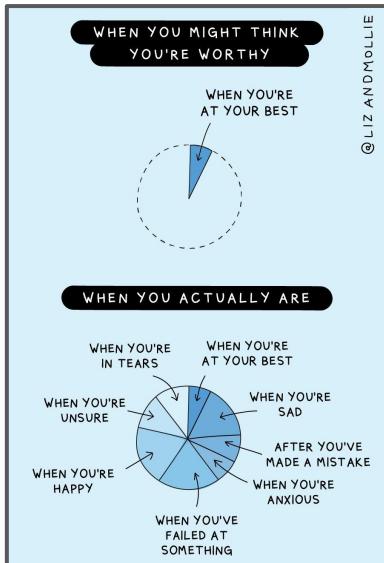
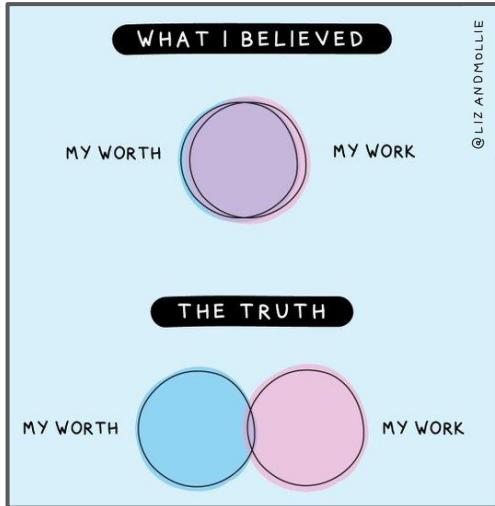


TOM GAULD

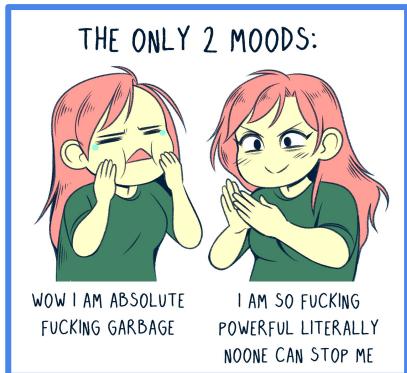
THE PANDEMIC CERTAINLY DIDN'T HELP...

BUT WE'RE A LOT MORE THAN OUR WORK

- ALL YOUR EFFORTS IN INFOSEC ARE NOT WORTH IT
IF YOU BURN OUT OR COMMIT SUICIDE.



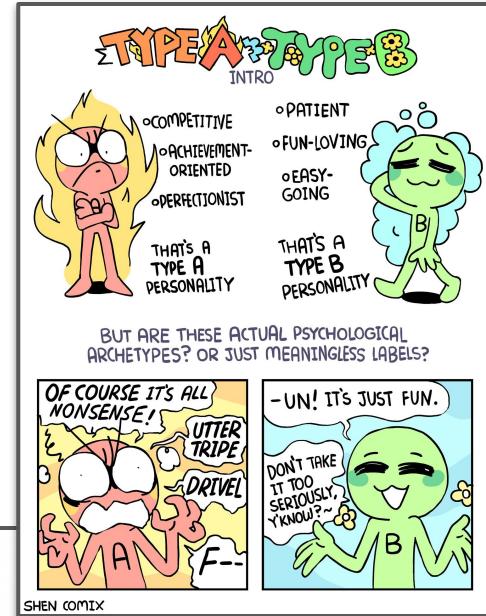
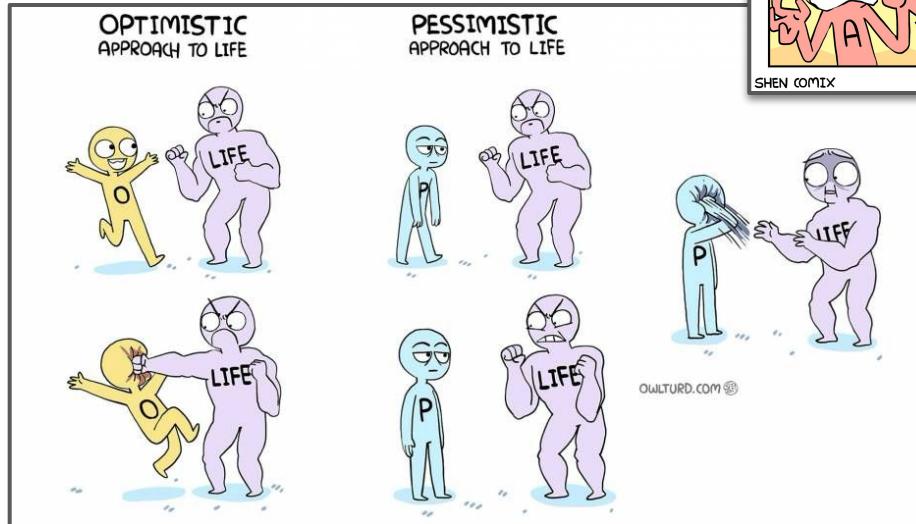
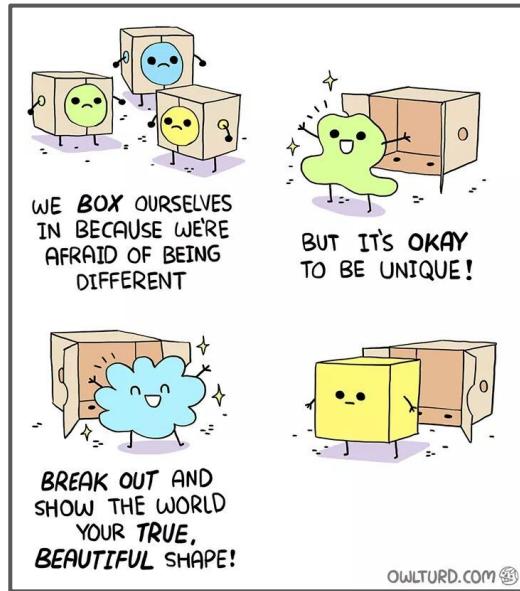
FIRST MISTAKES...



YOU ARE NOT AN IDIOT IF... = YANAI
IT IS NORMAL AND OK TO... = IINAOT

THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PERSONALITY

IT IS NORMAL AND OK TO BE DIFFERENT!



YANAI!!

YOU JUST CAN'T LEARN THINGS MAGICALLY

SOME PEOPLE CAN'T LEARN WITHOUT PRACTICE,

OR WITHOUT A GENUINE MOTIVATION.

GO! TEAM PRODUCTIVE DAY!



GOALS!



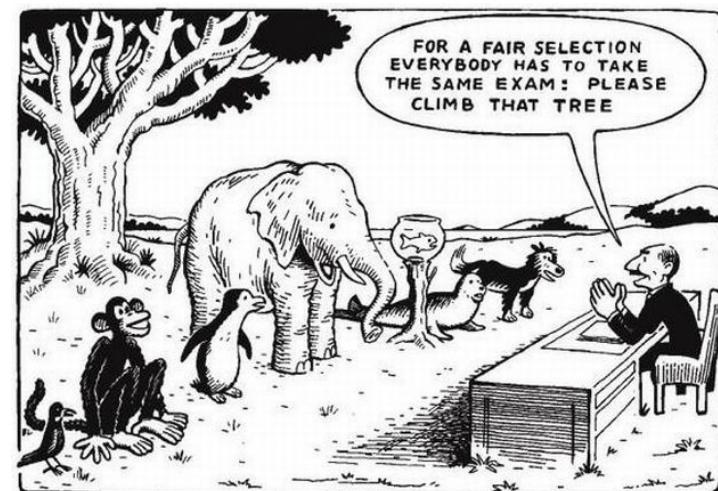
ORGANIZATION!



MOTIVATION!



FOCUS!

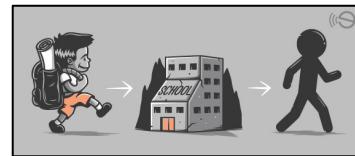
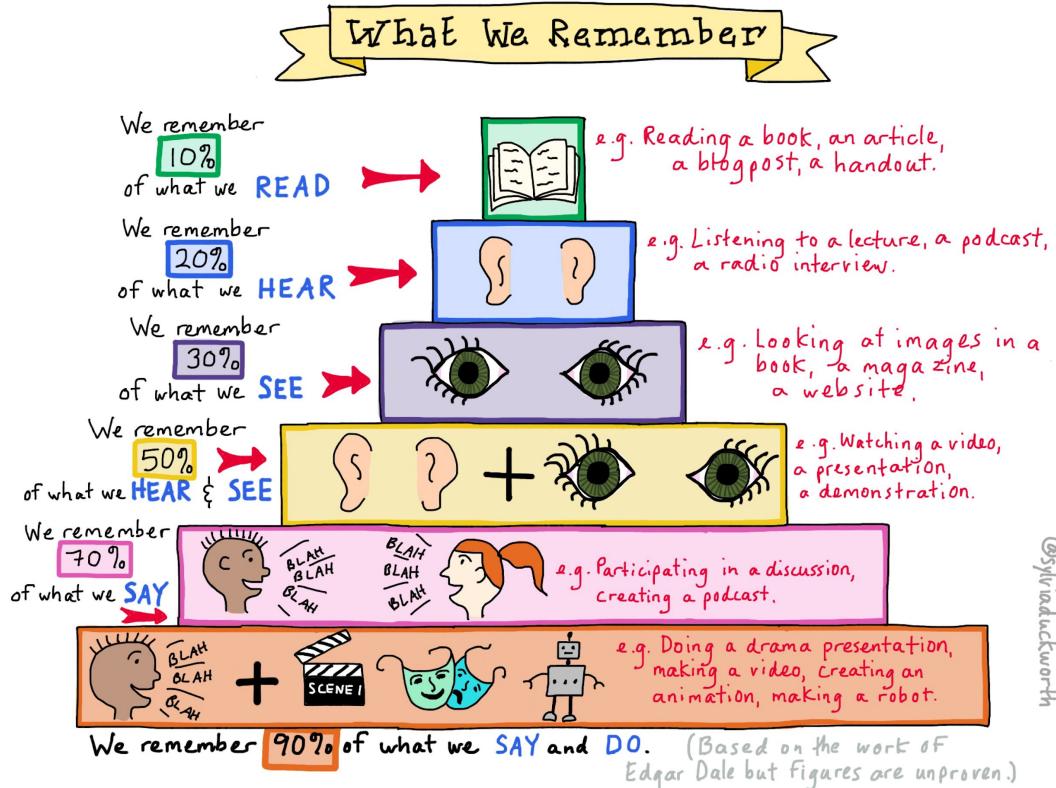


Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.
- Albert Einstein

fake
Quote

SCHOOL USUALLY PROVIDES A UNIQUE FORM OF LEARNING.

FIND YOUR OWN!



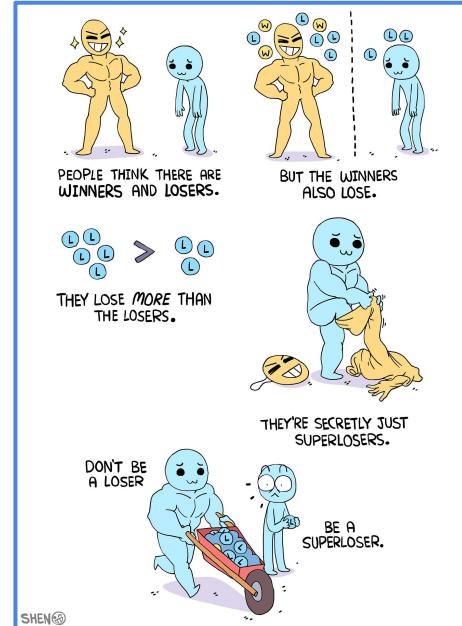
@sylviaduckworth

SCHOOL TAUGHT US THAT FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

- WE WERE ALL BORN "HACKERS"...

...THEN RULES ARE ENFORCED.

AND NOW OUR WORK IS FULL
OF EXPERIMENTAL FAILURE.



ONCE STUDIES ARE OVER...

YANAI!...

YOU THINK YOUR DIPLOMA WAS MOSTLY USELESS

DIPLOMA

(BASICALLY JOB #0)

A PRIVILEGE
AN ILLUSION
AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
PRIVATE SOCIAL NETWORK
MEANINGLESS SCHOOL & GRADES ?

THE IMPOSTOR SYNDROME..

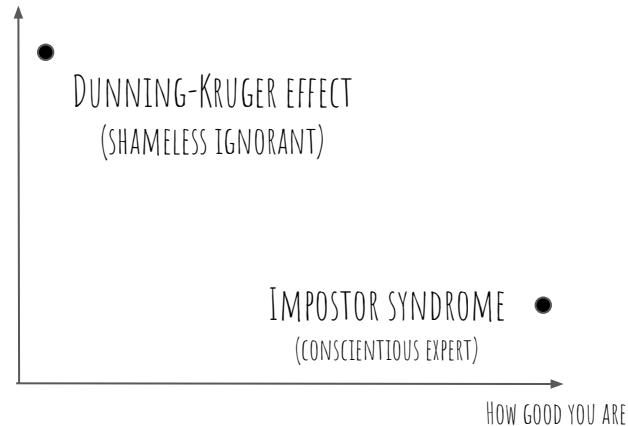
...IS HERE TO STAY.

...JUST MEANS THAT YOU ARE SELF CONSCIOUS!

...IS BETTER THAN THE DUNNING-KRUGER EFFECT!

...CAN BE BYPASSED: JUST HELP SOMEONE!

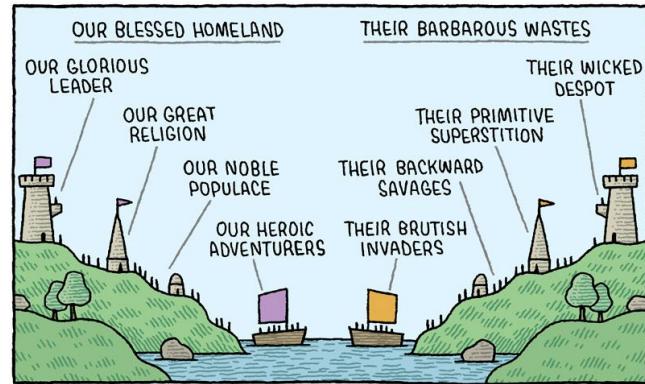
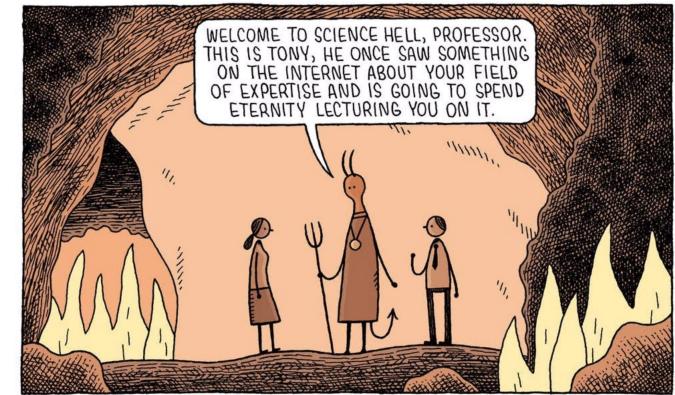
HOW GOOD YOU THINK YOU ARE



YANAI!!

SOME PEOPLE ARE NEVER SATISFIED...

- ARROGANCE
- DUNNING KRUGER EFFECT
- GATEKEEPING



NO NEED TO "REINVENT THE WHEEL"?

- WHY NOT?
- JUST BE HONEST AND DON'T PRESENT THE IDEA AS NEW.
- WE STILL USE CARS, BIKES, TOOLS AND BREAD.



WE OFTEN FORGET THAT...

JUST A DIFFERENT STYLE CAN MAKE THINGS CLICK.

AND A DIFFERENT STYLE CAN REACH DIFFERENT USERS!
WE ALL HAD A BAD TEACHER ABOUT SOMETHING WE LOVE,
OR A GREAT TEACHER FOR A TOPIC WE USUALLY HATE.



<https://www.getdigital.de/Hacken-Open-Air-Shirt.html?her=BB>

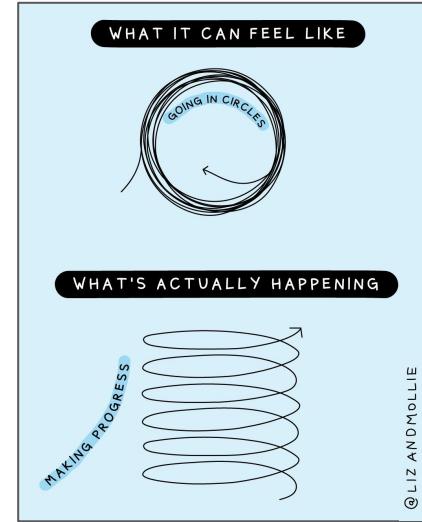
Story time

I INAOI FEEL STUCK IN A LOOP.

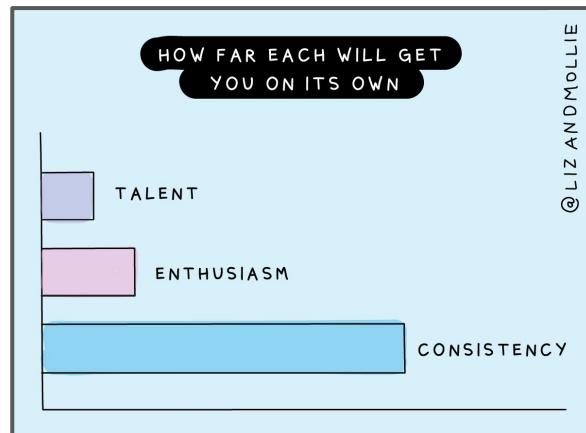
AS OPPOSED TO SCHOOL, WHICH WAS CREATING DIFFERENCES EVERY YEAR.

CONSISTENCY IS ACTUALLY A GOOD THING.

TAKE ONE SMALL STEP AFTER ANOTHER...



@LIZANDMOLIE

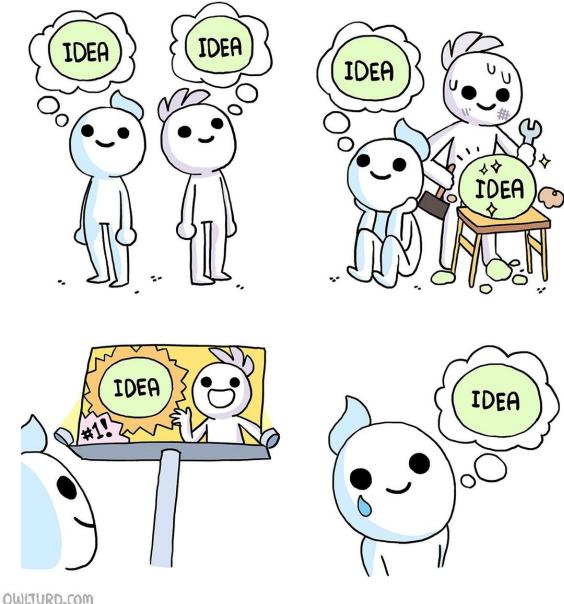
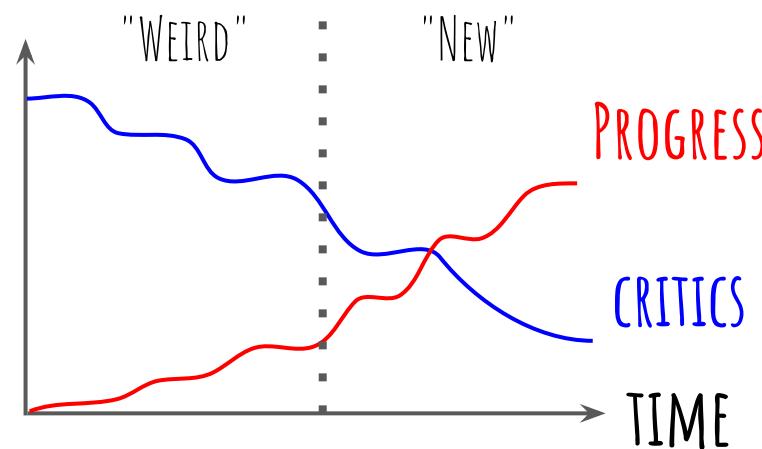


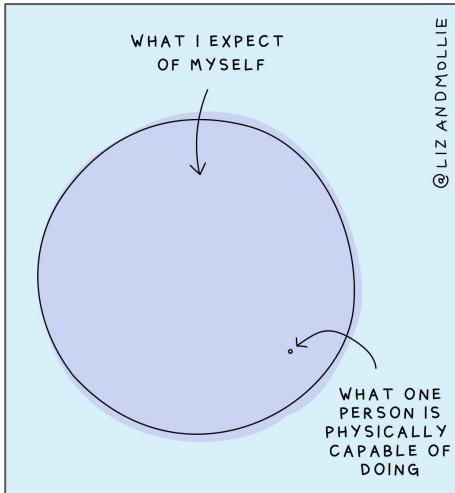
YANAI...

YOU WANT TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

OTHERS CAN'T ALWAYS SHARE YOUR PERSPECTIVE.

- NO, NOT EVEN YOUR CLOSEST FRIENDS/COLLEAGUES!

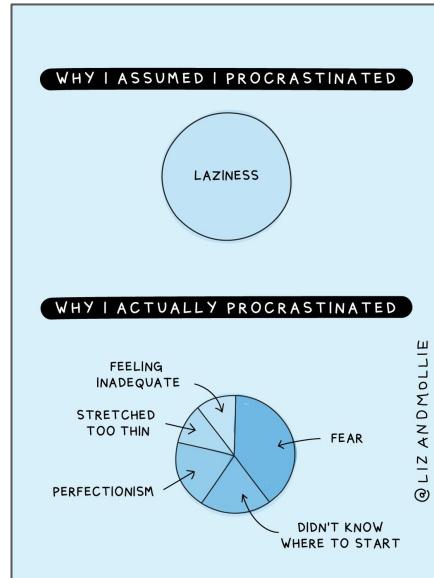




DON'T BURN YOURSELF TRYING TO BE PERFECT!

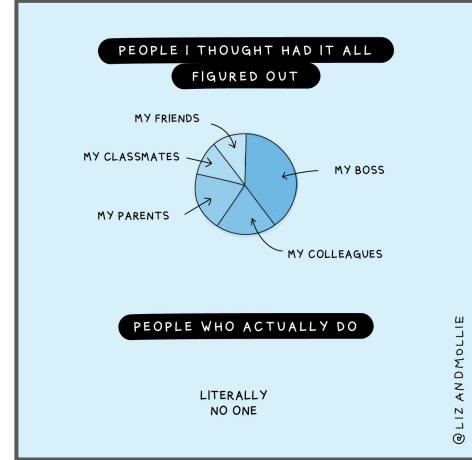
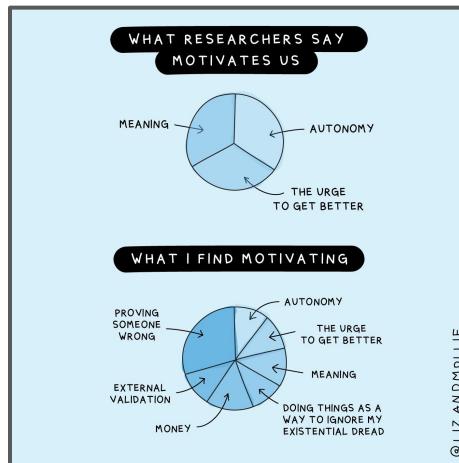
FOCUS ON YOURSELF FIRST!

TAKE BREAKS TOO!



YANAI...

YOU GOT IT WRONG SO FAR!



SOME PEOPLE WILL TAKE THE WORST DECISIONS...

EVEN AGAINST THEIR OWN INTERESTS
OR THEIR FRIENDS'/FAMILY'S

FEARS/TRADITIONS/IDEOLOGIES
ARE SADLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

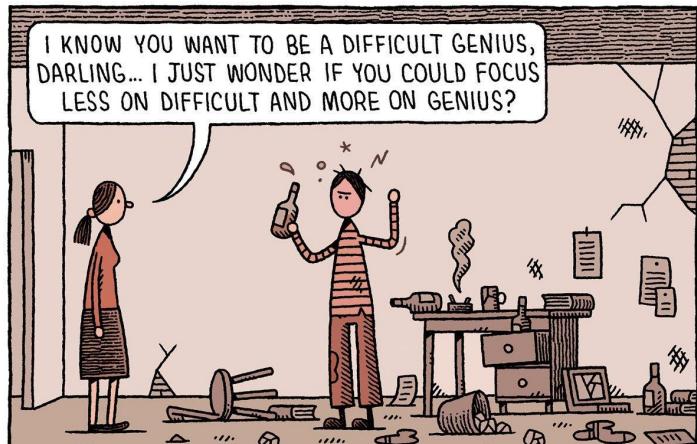
NO MATTER HOW STUPID THEY ARE:
SEXISM, RACISM, RELIGION...



THIS IS NOT AN EXCUSE TO...

ATTITUDE

IT'S OK TO BE DIFFERENT,
BUT EVERYONE HAS THEIR LIMIT

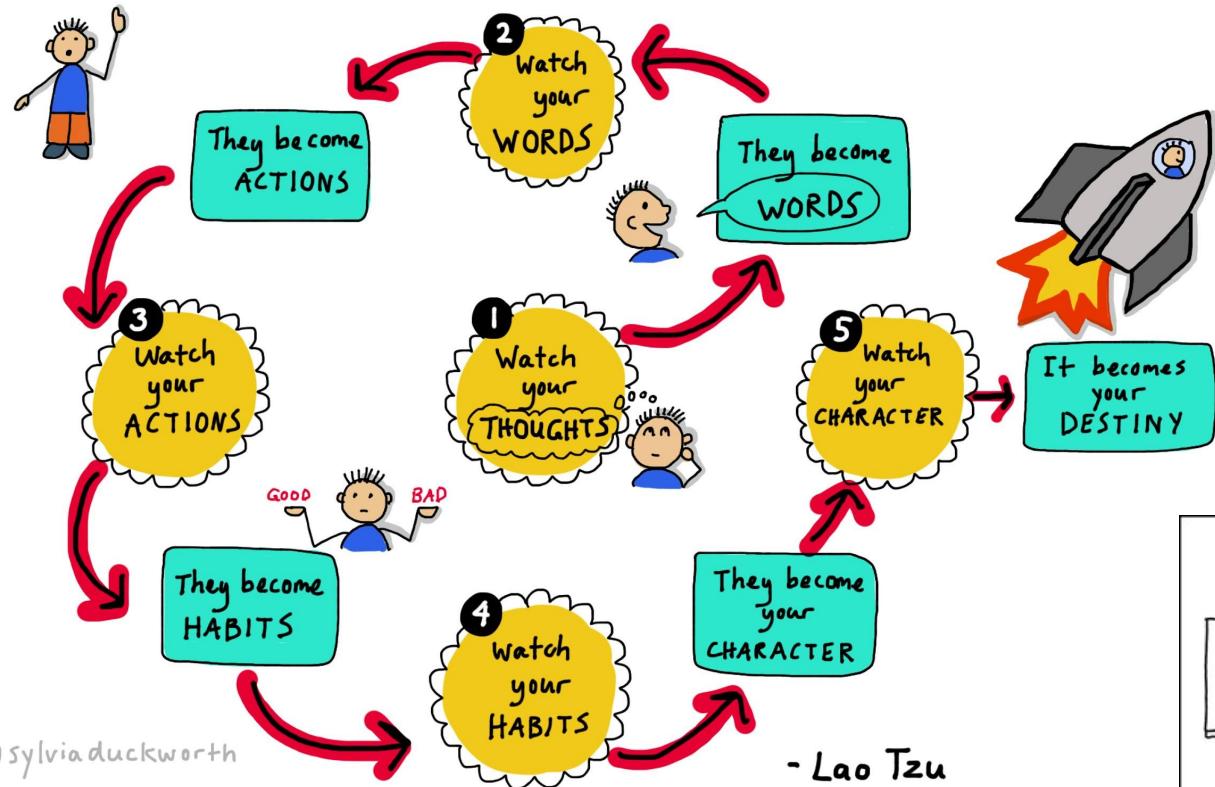


TOM GAULD



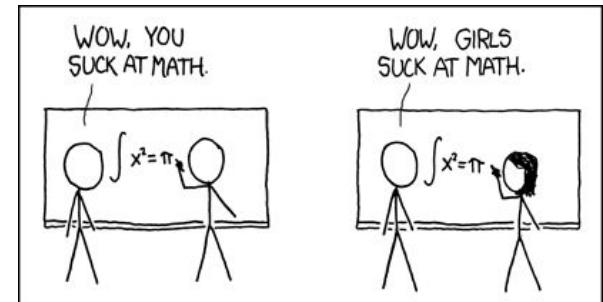
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"RESPECT" IS NOT "AUTHORITY".
TRY SWAPPING ROLES!



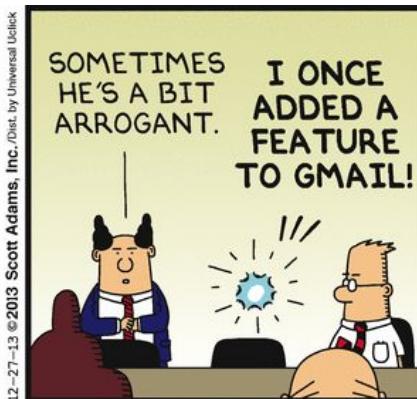
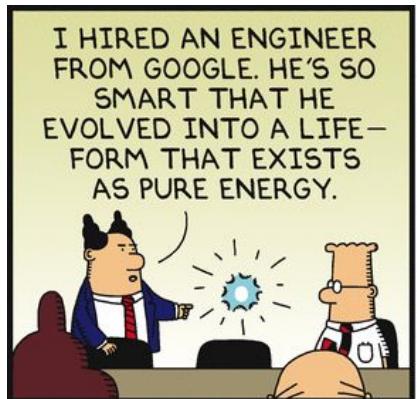
@sylviaduckworth

BE WARY OF BAD HABITS.



YOUR PAST IS NO EXCUSE!

IT'S OK TO BE INSECURE. NOT TO BE A JERK.



x3b
@q3k

Follow

Go to Google, they said. Just for the CV entry, they said. It'll open doors, they said.

"Has potential, however we've had very bad luck w/ ex GOOG types over the years"

1:30 AM - 20 Mar 2018

NOTHING COMES EASY

- ANYTHING TAKES A LONG TIME TO MASTER.
- IF YOU CAN STILL COUNT HOW MUCH YOU'VE TRIED,
IT'S PROBABLY NOT MUCH.



"THE ART OF LIKE TWIRLING OR DOING TRICKS WITH A PEN IN A VERY APPEALING NICE LOOKING WAY.
MAKE IT LOOK LIKE IT'S EASY EVEN THOUGH IT TAKES LIKE HOURS AND HOURS AND HOURS OF PRACTICE."
- LIVEOVERFLOW

right now.

fuck checking facebook again,
fuck that pic you just saw on instagram,
fuck worrying about how many people liked your last post,
fuck the news,
fuck that person you really should email back,
fuck your self-doubt,
fuck whatever happened yesterday,
fuck starting tomorrow,
fuck will people like this,
fuck will this be good enough...

fuck all of your excuses.

**sit the fuck down
and do your work.**

"HOW CAN I..."

FACE IT: IF AFTER [LONG ENOUGH], YOU NEVER TRIED,
THEN YOU WERE PROBABLY NEVER ACTUALLY INTERESTED ;)

AND IF YOU STILL HATE IT AFTER X TRIES,
THEN BE HONEST AND MOVE ON ;)



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WHAT IF...

YOU'RE ALWAYS DOING IT WRONG?

NO MATTER WHAT, THAT PERSON IS NEVER SATISFIED...

WHAT IF...YOU ACTUALLY DID NOTHING WRONG?
AND YOU'RE JUST BEING MANIPULATED...?

EVER HEARD OF GASLIGHTING?

BASED ON A PLAY FROM 1938 - AND A [CLASSIC MOVIE](#), NOW FREELY [AVAILABLE](#).





ASSERTING POWER



KILLER FACE



HONEY MOON



FAKING



SILENCE

ANY OF THESE RINGS A BELL ?

30 CHARACTERISTICS OF MANIPULATORS

BY ISABELLE NAZARE-AGA

THEY MAKE OTHER PEOPLE FEEL GUILTY, IN THE NAME OF PROFESSIONAL CONSCIENCE, FAMILY TIES, FRIENDSHIP, LOVE, ETC.

THEY UNLOAD THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES ONTO OTHERS OR DISMISS THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITIES. / THEY DO NOT CLEARLY COMMUNICATE THEIR REQUESTS, NEEDS, FEELINGS OR OPINIONS.

THEY OFTEN RESPOND VAGUELY. / THEY LIE / THEY ARE SELF-CENTRED. / THEY CITE ALL KINDS OF LOGICAL REASONS TO DISGUISE THEIR REQUESTS.

THEY CHANGE THEIR OPINIONS, BEHAVIOURS, OR FEELINGS DEPENDING ON THE PERSON OR SITUATION. / THEY MAKE VEILED THREATS OR OPENLY RESORT TO BLACKMAIL.

THEY MAKE OTHERS BELIEVE THAT THEY MUST BE PERFECT, NEVER CHANGE THEIR MINDS, ALWAYS KNOW EVERYTHING, AND IMMEDIATELY RESPOND TO REQUESTS AND QUESTIONS.

THEY CAST INTO DOUBT THE QUALITIES, SKILLS AND PERSONALITIES OF OTHER PEOPLE—THEY CRITICIZE WITHOUT APPEARING TO DO SO, DEVALUE AND JUDGE.

THEY HAVE THEIR MESSAGES COMMUNICATED BY OTHER PEOPLE OR VIA INTERMEDIARIES (TELEPHONE INSTEAD OF FACE-TO-FACE, WRITTEN NOTES).

THEY CREATE SUSPICION AND STIR UP ILL FEELING; THEY DIVIDE TO CONQUER, DRIVING A WEDGE BETWEEN PEOPLE, WHICH CAN LEAD TO RELATIONSHIP BREAK-UPS.

THEY KNOW HOW TO MAKE THEMSELVES INTO VICTIMS TO GAIN SYMPATHY (E.G. EXAGGERATED ILLNESS, « DIFFICULT » SURROUNDINGS, OVERLOADED AT WORK).

THEY IGNORE REQUESTS (EVEN IF THEY CLAIM TO BE TAKING CARE OF THEM). / THEY USE FLATTERY TO SEDUCE US, GIVE GIFTS OR SUDDENLY START WAITING ON US HAND AND FOOT.

THEY USE THE MORAL PRINCIPLES OF OTHERS (E.G. NOTIONS OF HUMANITY, CHARITY, RACISM, « GOOD » OR « BAD » MOTHER) TO SATISFY THEIR NEEDS.

THEY ABRUPTLY CHANGE TOPIC IN MID-CONVERSATION. / THEY AVOID OR GET OUT OF DISCUSSIONS AND MEETINGS. / THEY CANNOT TAKE CRITICISM, AND DENY FACTS.

THEY MAKE FALSE STATEMENTS TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH, TWIST AND INTERPRET FACTS TO SUIT THEMSELVES. / THEY CAN BE JEALOUS, EVEN IF THEY ARE PARENTS OR SPOUSES.

THEY DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RIGHTS, NEEDS AND DESIRES OF OTHERS. / THEY MAKE US DO THINGS THAT WE WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE DONE OF OUR OWN FREE WILL.

THEY OFTEN WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO ASK, ORDER OR HAVE OTHERS DO SOMETHING. / THEY RELY ON THE IGNORANCE OF OTHERS WHILE VAUNTING THEIR OWN SUPERIORITY.

THEIR WORDS APPEAR LOGICAL AND CONSISTENT, WHILE THEIR ATTITUDES, ACTIONS OR LIFESTYLE ARE TOTALLY OPPOSITE.

THEY GENERATE A STATE OF DISCOMFORT OR OF NOT BEING FREE (TRAP). / THEY ARE EXCELLENT AT MEETING THEIR OWN GOALS, BUT AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS.

THEY ARE CONSTANTLY THE FOCUS OF CONVERSATION AMONG PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEM, EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT PRESENT.

MANIPULATORS...

...CAN BE ANYONE.

...CAN CHANGE OVER TIME (VERY NICE BEFORE, SLOWLY WORSENING).

...MAY BE PAINFUL TO ACKNOWLEDGE AS SUCH

(HUGE DENIAL TO OVERCOME THE SADNESS).



WHAT CAN YOU DO AGAINST A MANIPULATOR?

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE! PRESERVE YOURSELF!

A THERAPY MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERGO:

- AUTHORITIES CAN EASILY BE FOOLED.
- PROOFS MAY BE HARD TO FIND.



BEWARE OF THOSE EAGER TO "HELP"

- TO "HELP", BUT ONLY ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN TERMS (NODDING, SPEAKING...)
- IGNORING YOUR NEEDS, BUT SATISFY THEIR EXPECTATIONS.



"...BUT I WANT TO FIGHT BACK!"

YOU MIGHT LOSE YOURSELF IN AN UNFAIR AND ENDLESS FIGHT.

BETTER BE FREE THAN BURNING YOURSELF OUT IN VAIN.

YOUR SECOND LIFE BEGINS WHEN YOU REALIZE YOU HAVE ONLY ONE.

"Never argue with an idiot. They will drag you down to their level and beat you with experience."

- *Mark Twain*

SO MAYBE, WE'RE STILL SOMEHOW IDIOTS...

BUT WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

WE ALL WORRY ABOUT THESE... ONLY BECAUSE WE CAN.

A QUESTION OF TIME AND PRIORITY.

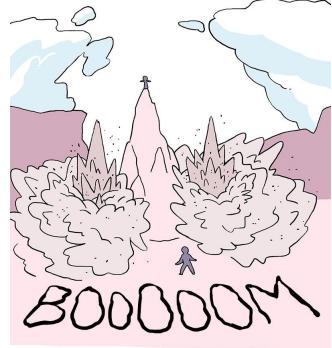
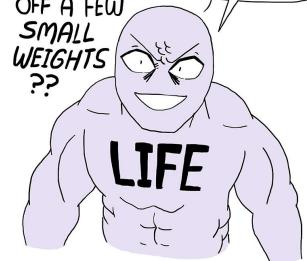


STOP GIVING A FCK.

THERE'S NO END TO YOUR TUNNEL.
YOU'RE THE LIGHT.

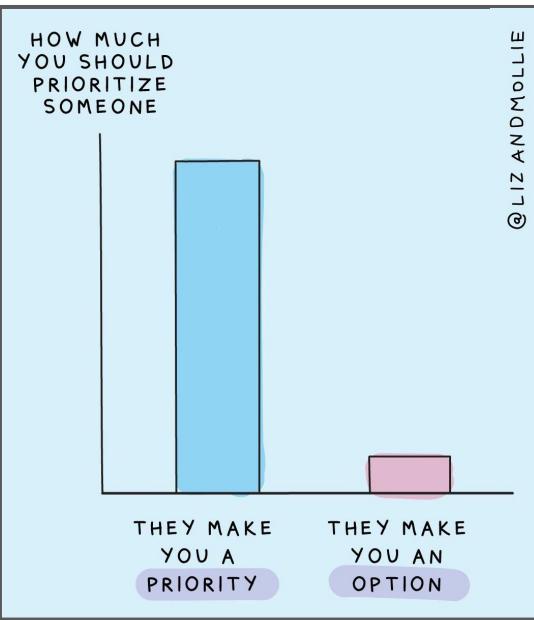
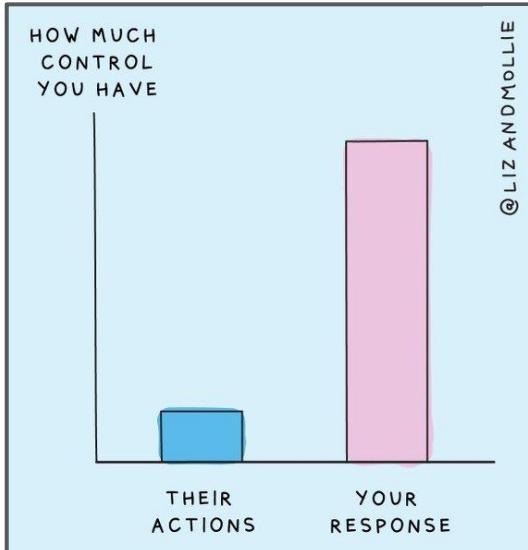


YOU REALLY THINK YOU
STAND A CHANCE AGAINST
ME, JUST BECAUSE YOU TOOK
OFF A FEW
SMALL
WEIGHTS
??



SHENCOMIX.COM

LEARN TO DE-PRIORITIZE!

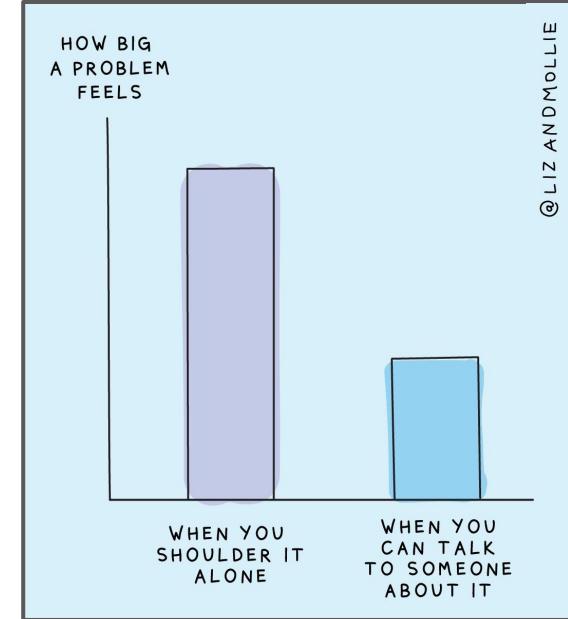


YANAI...

YOU'RE CONSIDERING TO COMMIT SUICIDE

BUT MAYBE (AND MORE THAN YOU THINK):

- PEOPLE CARE ABOUT YOU.
- THEY WILL BE IN PAIN.



CONCLUSION

YES, MAYBE WE'RE ALL IDIOTS

BUT WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ?

HOPEFULLY YOU WENT
THROUGH SIMILAR EXPERIENCES.

YOU MAY NOT BE THE ONLY IDIOT.



Thank you!
Take care of yourself

Special thanks to:
Doegox, Barbie Auglend, Sally.