

# aaron made me do this

written by Electra  
illustrated by aaron

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There isn't anything to say that hasn't already been said. My job is driving me crazy, and so are Joe and Aaron, respectively. All three demons.

Aaron tried to cancel our Saturday evening plans as I was leaving to go see him. The good news is that he was swayed by my plea to go to work with him. Unfortunately, that means that now I'm at work with him. This would be one thing if I actually had anything important to write, or even if I had internet for shopping.

The shopping is almost getting into problematic territory, but it's not there yet, so I won't give it up for now. The main thing is that it's a waste of time, and takes me away from living in the present moment, and using the things that I already have. I've been watching those stupid lucky scoops videos on TikTok and living vicariously through both the shopkeepers and the people placing the order, even though it's all pretty silly. Like, even if I did have \$500 to spend on a bunch of random junk, I wouldn't buy lucky scoops. I would buy my own, personally selected junk. The videos are feeding my desire to consume, but not really making me want to consume lucky scoops. It's still kind of interesting to see what people get, though.

Onto the writing problem: I don't know what to write. Journaling is better than nothing, I GUESS, but it's still not really *something*.

Side note: I just realized I haven't been timing any of this omg. Le sigh

I don't even know what I'd do when the timer went off anyway, though. No internet/cellular data means that I can't add money to my cash app, and I don't have my jar with me for scoops :/

I wish I knew what else to write. Surely, seeing as how I wrote a whole Document, I can come up with ideas. I wish I had at least a prompt before me. A good, helpful one.

Unfortunately, much like Aaron and the laser, I will use any excuse to get out of writing.

I actually have a series of sentimental letters I'm supposed to be writing for my dad, but guess what I didn't bring with me. Have you guessed? It's the prompts.

I miss the internet. Headphones and music would be a nice thing to have. Or sound effects that weren't whatever I'm hearing now. Computer? I don't know, but it sounds like a really big refrigerator.



You know what else is fun? Arts and crafts. In addition to reading and writing, I almost never have enough time for arts and crafts. I want to do all of them.

I'm starting to get hungry. I probably shouldn't tell Aaron, lest I either prompt him to leave after getting nothing done, or annoy him with my inconsistency. I could be a petty bitch in that case, but I'm trying so hard not to be. Reader, I am trying so hard.

I need to diversify my reading. The first step to this is actually going to be reading more in general, and that's where I keep getting stuck.

How do I start caring again? I feel as though I have an emotional block where fictional characters are concerned. I used to care so deeply, and that drove my ideas. It didn't do much for my actual writing because I was always sorely lacking the necessary discipline, but still. If I could just have inspiration it would make so much difference.

You know what else I wish I had? Chicken strips. I made myself sick on Long John Silvers last night, but it was totally worth it. A) I consumed a decent amount of vinegar and now my sour craving has subsided, and B) It was just yummy. Would that I had some Long John Silver's right here and now. And also some fries that weren't waffle fries. I would even need the vinegar this time.

One thing that displeased me with my order yesterday was that I had requested 8 (eight) packets of vinegar, and they only sent 3 (three) packets of vinegar, a whole 5 (five) short of what I asked for. And because I'm feeling especially bitchy lately for some reason (which could honestly be pregnancy, but let's not try and speak that into existence, m-kay?), I heavily considered calling to complain. I know I would only get tired fast food workers on the other end though, so I decided against it.

Unfortunately, there was no way I could complain in such a way that the responsible party could be made to feel properly ashamed. Oh well. At least I seem to have gotten as much as I needed. I even tried ordering a bottle of malt vinegar on go puff, because I was just sure that what Long John Silver's sent wouldn't be enough. Double unforchy for me because go puff did not have malt vinegar either. Or fucking pina colada mixer. Truly, it's a wonder that I made it through the night without setting anything on fire. Or at least sending a whiny text.



shhh

shhh



555



I take that back actually, I whined to my mother. Dare I say it? A quadruple unforchy. A series of unforchy events, if you will.

I'm trying to imagine a different sort of meal that wouldn't involve me getting sick, but would still hit the spot, so to speak.

Something with tomatoes sounds kind of good actually.

That's the first time I've ever said that in my life. Am I actually pregnant? Fucks sake.

I could also go for a cheeky little beverage. We passed by a bubble tea place on the way over here, so I know that's an option. Too bad I can't door dash, or even see what else is nearby. No internet is torture in a way that it apparently didn't used to be.

At Christmas lunch, my dad told a story about how he once got mad about something I did or said, and instead of bringing it up to me like a rational person (dad shit), he turned off the internet and waited for me to freak out about it. To his surprise, I remained unbothered in my bedroom, and he became annoyed by the lack of internet. One point for me. I bet I was reading or playing an offline game. I'm sure by that time I was used to living "off the grid," as they say.

Pasta with tomato soup. Or maybe pasta with marinara sauce, although I very much dislike the slimy texture involved there. There used to be a microwave pasta dish by... I think Barilla, the homophobic pasta brand? Anyway, it had a very tolerable tomato sauce, and the texture of the pasta was perfection. Not easy to come by where microwaved food is concerned. I'd gladly eat one of those right now. Maybe something chocolatey for dessert. Maybe not.

Damn that whole paragraph was off the clock. I am so ugh right now. Just straight up ew. And hungry

During my sour kick, I was really excited by the notion of a dark leafy greens salad with lemon juice. Now not so much. Leafy greens might be good though, perhaps with some balsamic vinegarette. Or raspberry vinegarette.

For a second I considered eating dry ramen from my work bag, but do you know who left her work bag at her boyfriend's apartment? Can you guess? Can you think of whom that may be?

Well I bet you feel very silly right now, because it was actually me, I, Electra.



Still hungry. What else is there? Oddly enough, I'm not really feeling cheese right now. Or butter. Lemon butter broccoli would be nice, maybe with steak and mashed potatoes with brown gravy. I was also looking at the la Madeleine menu last night, and thinking about chicken la Madeleine, a chicken fillet covered with delicious mushroom sauce.

Pasta carbonara. Whatever that soup was that they have at olive garden. Breadsticks, preferably with Alfredo sauce. Broccoli cheddar soup in a breadbowl from Macalister's. Panera Mac and cheese. Even dairy queen sounds good right now. A cheese burger with grilled onions, crunchy lettuce and pickles, nachos for the side, washed down with a rootbeer. Jalitos. I don't even remember the last time I had some jalitos. In the old days, one could order jalitos as a side with their meal. They also used to have jalapeño ranch, which made the perfect companion to the delightfully greasy snack. Or maybe I'd get onion rings as a side instead. I've always considered the dairy queen onion rings my favorite, but after last night, long John silver's is definitely beating them. Or at least it's in the running. Maybe I'd have to do a true side-by-side comparison to say for sure.

I don't think I ever really discovered what "food writing" entails, and I wish I knew now. I have multiple things to read on the topic (I have multiple things to read on most topics, to be fair), but I haven't read any of them yet. Surely it can't all just be restaurant reviews.

I could go for a subway right now also. That Italian herb and cheese bread is unmatched. Or maybe a tuna salad on wheat. Their wheat bread is pretty damn good, too. Drinks aren't the best, and they never have the chips I like anymore, but I guess I take my wins where I can get them. Waffles with grade b maple syrup. Anything made with maple syrup. I also don't remember the last time I had maple sugar candy. It must be years past at this point.

Aaron has now given me not only a goal (eight pages), but also an incentive. If I meet the goal, we can leave. Presumably, leaving will also mean getting food. Or perhaps a cheeky little beverage.

Cat psychology is one subject that I would like to learn more on. I was making a list in my head the other day, and



# la Madeleine

## MEAL BUNDLES & KITS

SALMON DINNER FOR 4		\$55.99
FAMILY DINNER FOR 4		\$48.99
PASTA NIGHT FOR 4		\$44.99
CAFE CLASSICS FOR 4		\$32.99
BREAKFAST & BRUNCH FOR 4		\$34.99
PICNIC LUNCH FOR 4		\$42.99
SACHER TORTE	WHOLE	\$39.99
COCONUT CREAM CAKE	WHOLE	\$39.99
BAKERY BOX		\$18.99
ICED TEA	1 GALLON	\$8.50
FAMILY SIZE SIDES	FOR 4	\$11.99
ROMANIAN SAUCE	6 OZ	\$4.39
MUSHROOM SAUCE	8 OZ BOWL	\$5.69

## CHILDREN'S MENU

KIDS CHEESE PIIZZA  
KIDS CHICKEN AND CHEESE PASTA  
KIDS CHICKEN PESTO PASTA

now I can't remember the rest of it. But for sure that one's on there.

I'm so behind in my list making now that on one of my to-do lists, there's a task that just entails making a list of the lists I mean to make. Does it even get more convoluted than that? I doubt it.

We're still barely five pages in, and I fear I'm wasting away to nothing.

You know what else I miss? There's a bakery I discovered in Tyler where my former La Madeleine coworker, Fernando, used to work. They sold delicious gingerbread cookies and snickerdoodles. Cookies in general sound great. Or again, something chocolatey. Chocolate cheesecake, chocolate cake, something along those lines. Hot chocolate would even be nice right now. With lots of marshmallows.

I used to get excited about eating at BJ's, but now I can't for the life of me remember why. What was even good there? Besides the cocktails and the name of the restaurant. I remember that they had fettuccine Alfredo, but I don't remember it being particularly good. I always meant to get their giant pretzel with cheese, and I think that maybe I did once, but I can't remember if that was really good either.

Crab Rangoons are good. I had one of those the other night and it blew my tits clean off.

You know what else I haven't had in a while? Central market used to sell this bread in the fall that was supposedly for day of the dead. It had powdered sugar, and anise flavor. I remember getting excited about it the first year that I lived in Austin, but I don't think they have it anymore. I didn't see any last year, but I also don't know if I checked really well.

Central market vanilla bean sugar cookies. They melt in your mouth. That's the kind of shit I want right now. Melt-in-your-mouth cookies.

Come to think of it, maybe I've always been into sour foods, it's just been more extreme here lately. I'm thinking back on my la Madeleine favorites. Caesar salad, pasta salad, tomato soup, broccoli with butter and lemon juice. Lemon tarts. OOOOOH I would love a lemon tart right now. Not just any lemon tart though. It must be one from La Madeleine. The central market ones just do not hit the same. It's not even close.



Oh to be stoned out of my gourd and eating la Madeleine sweets at the end of a long day, after a delicious meal. I remember towards the end, when one wasn't enough anymore, I would get a chocolate eclair, a chocolate tart, and a lemon tart, in that order.

The chicken friand was particularly good too, but those sons of bitches took like thirty minutes to cook. And I would never eat a whole one, I loved them as part of a cafe sampler.

You know what? I even forgot all about strawberries roman off. That shit was the bomb.com.uk.net.au.us.gov. Truly unforgettable. I even remember how I was trying to program myself to eat blueberries by sneaking them in. It didn't work though, because blueberries are awful in almost any context. I also remember picking the blueberries off of those blueberry lemon danishes. Those were soooo fucking good too. The lemon pastry cream on the soft pastry, covered also in blackberry jam? Fuck. Me. Up. Almond croissants too. I think it was my last day that I made my own special almond croissant with like waaaaaaaaay extra almond filling.

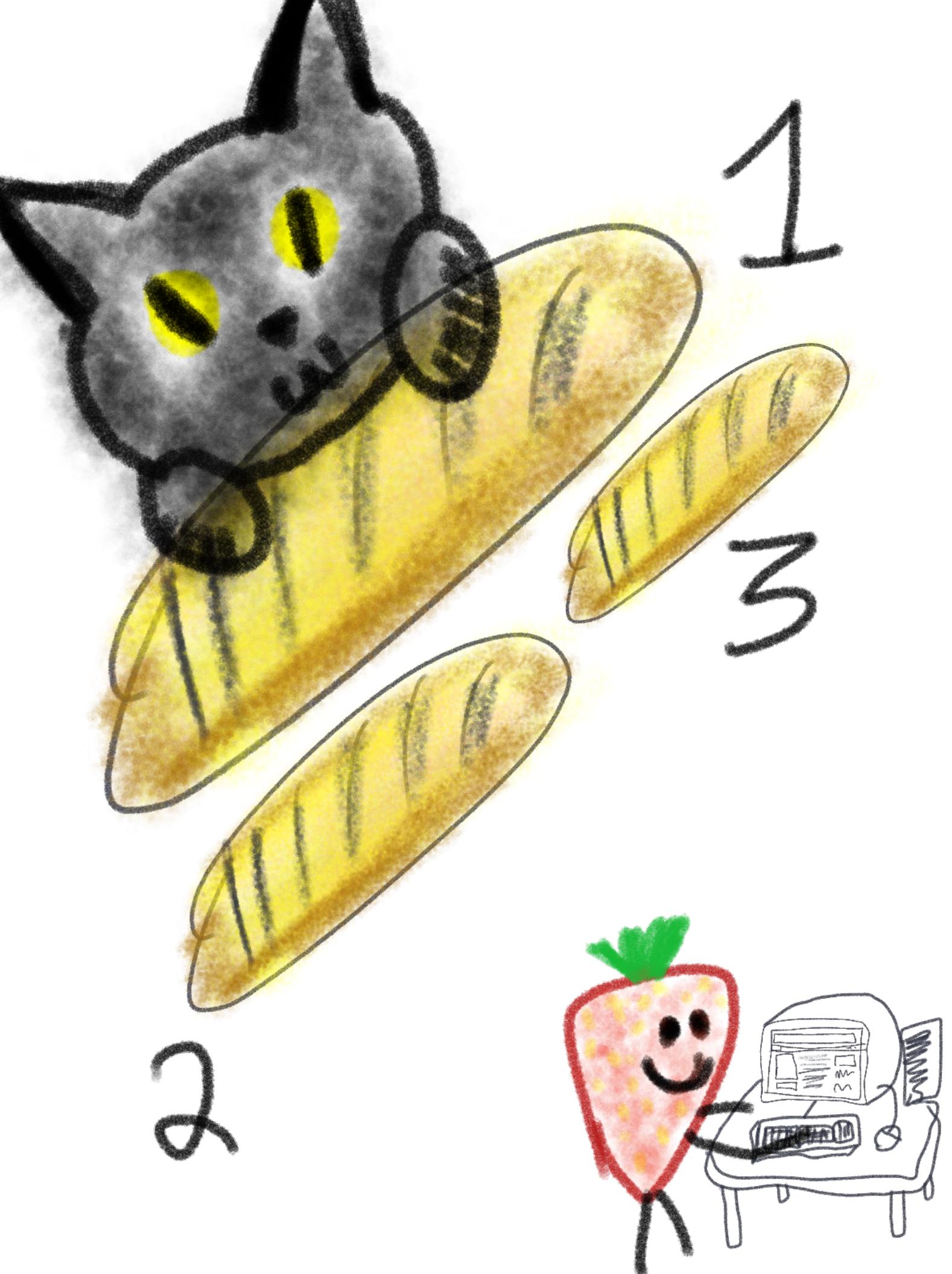
I think that about covers my la Madeleine faves. Vegetable soup was good too. And the sourdough bread with either soup or jam if I was wanting something sweeter. It was especially nice to have both breads and both jams as an appetizer.

I remember there was this one Jim gaffigan bit where he says something like, "imagine trying to explain what an appetizer is to someone in a starving third-world country<sup>1</sup>. It's like 'yeah this is the food we eat before our food.'" My ideal meal would come in five courses and it would go like this:

- 1) First appetizer, something sweet. (Think bread and jam or fruit and some kind of sugary dip)
- 2) Second appetizer, this one savory. (Crab Rangoons are a good example, gyoza, nacho fries, really there are many things in this category, edamame, etc)
- 3) The Meal (need I explain? I think not.)

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<sup>1</sup> I believe the term third world is now considered racist or otherwise problematic, but at the time this was the popular language used. For what it's worth



1

3

2

- 4) A post-meal snackie (perhaps another appetizer of either flavor profile, perhaps a small side, perhaps a piece of candy or some such)
- 5) Dessert. (Like a legit dessert, not just a little sweet treat, we're talking cookie platter, brownie a la mode, lava cake, that sort of thing)

And then of course you have your beverages:

- 1) Water. This comes before the entire meal and acts both as a palette cleanser from any food or beverage enjoyed earlier in the day, and makes everyone feel good about themselves for doing at least SOMETHING healthy before digging into this sumptuous meal)
- 2) A little something-something. Now this one can even act as more of an appetizer in its own right. Think hot tea, latte, light cocktails or other beverages of the sort. To be served with the first appetizer, not to overpower with sweetness.
- 3) A little something extra. This one is served with the savory appetizer, and therefore may be sweeter and more indulgent, think fancy cocktails, hot chocolate, the cheekiest of beverages.
- 4) Water again, to be served with the meal, primarily for lubrication purposes. Can also act as a palette cleanser, depending on the nature of the meal, and whether or not it contains multiple dishes, and whether or not one is sharing bites or pieces of other eater's selections
- 5) Complementary beverage such as wine or tea, also to be served alongside the meal
- 6) Water again, to wash everything down and cleanse the palette of savory flavors, served alongside the pre-dessert snaccie
- 7) Coffee, optional, to be served with dessert

The meal is almost certainly concluded with a nap.

If sexual intercourse is desired, the meal must be completely re-thought. Most likely just a snack, consisting of both sweet and savory items, probably no more than three total selections so as not to encourage over-eating and therefore digestive difficulties. Ideally served with both hydrating beverages and alcohol.

Is

Sexual  
intercourse  
(Coitus)



wanted?



If other physical activity is planned, such as going to the gym, swimming, (god forbid) hiking, mini golf with friends, things of that sort. Depending on the level of energy one is planning to use, perhaps consider something mostly liquid, I.e. smoothies, shakes, heartier variations of the classic cheeky little beverage.

