Dear Diary, it’s kind of funny how even though I am in quarantine at my desk almost all day, at my computer screen for hours on end, I am not journaling any more than I normally do -- in fact I am journaling quite a bit less it would seem.

Yesterday I was feeling inspired to journal (through voice or through written words) while I was on a run, but then I forgot to do it after I returned, so now I am going to quickly jot down some of the thoughts I was having before my work day begins (it is currently 8:47 am so I will probably have to make this relatively brief!)

First - FUCK YES. I am so proud of myself. I have been working my ass off the last few months and it is all getting noticed. The podcast has *taken off*. We are getting endorsements from really important people. This week we are interviewing Ruha Benjamin, Lilly Irani, and Karen Hao - how is this possible?!? It feels so crazy to be working on something that is successful, I won’t lie; I don’t know if I’ve ever felt that to this degree before.

I am also *killing it* in my classes! I have amazing final projects and presentations, and I led my entire group to victory in my human-centered machine learning class. I also did such a great job as a TA this semester, Jason was even quoted by Casey saying “can I just make a clone of Jess?” And he told me to my face how appreciative he is to have me as is TA. This summer I might even get the chance to teach my own 1201 course as the actual instructor!! I would be so happy to have that opportunity.

My students appreciate me, my colleagues appreciate me, Shamika appreciates me, Dylan appreciates me, Casey and Robin appreciate me (and told me I’ve done exceptionally well for my first year as a PhD!!!), my roommates appreciate me….

I am doing amazing work, working my ass off, and getting the recognition I deserve.

I know that if I keep doing what I’m doing, my future is likely very, *very* bright.

It’s great because I also know that I’m not sacrificing my well-being for my work. Sure, I was taking a little bit of adderall of the course of the last month as certain days were more hectic than others. But overall, I wake up, clean my room/office, drink water, get some coffee, eat very healthy food during the day, don’t over-eat, interact with my roommates, go on a run every day, stretch my body, get fresh air, take time away from my screens, keep my body and environment clean, perform hygienic and calming bedtime routines, go to bed at a decent time, and wake up the next morning to do it all again -- all *while* killing it and kicking ass at school, side projects, and in life.

It sounds like I am boasting and bragging right now -- which might be in part true. But, since it’s my personal journal I don’t think that’s a bad thing. I am so proud of myself and I deserve to be. It feels fucking amazing to feel the way that I do and to be who I am right now.

Some numbers for reflective fun later in life:

Number of RadicalAIPod followers on twitter: 750

Number of $$$ in credit card debt: 2500

Number of SciFi irl Followers: 46

Number of toes likely infected with corona-toes: 10

There were some other fun numbers I wanted to include but I forgot! So I’ll leave it at that. Wonderful work Jay. You are doing amazing things.

Love,

Jess

Age 23 ½