Dear Diary,

It’s CRAZY how much better i’ve gotten at networking.

In the past, I remember being so afraid of recruiters and the people I was interviewing with. I was in that phase where if I was to see a celebrity, I’d rather not meet them because I was too scared.

Now I seek out my celebrities. I find those who inspire me and I try to connect, I try to understand them and to work with them.

I felt so comfortable with Jason from GoDaddy. After RecSys, I’m realizing that the interview with him was almost child’s play compared to what I could be interviewing for.

Luca Belli followed me back on twitter and messaged me back on LinkedIn. I could see myself easily having a conversation or a coffee with him. Sure, that would be pretty nerve wracking in a lot of ways (mostly because I have a lot to lose if I make myself sound dumb, since I’m trying to get an intern spot on his team). But, I’d do it anyway.

If for some reason he doesn’t want me on his team or he thinks I don’t have enough experience, then at least I made that good connection early on so that next year I can reach out and tell him “hey, it’s me again - and now I’ve got more experience”.

Networking is just as, if not more, important than credentials.

I can have all of the credentials in the world, but that won’t get me as far as a solid network will.

I am getting so much better at meeting new people, putting myself out there, and STOPPING with the self editing.

I fucking love it.