

# How about a trip to ITALY?



they have spooble



spooble makers



nude



culture rectangles



Pope Francis CCLXVI



juicy marbles

Sybil, I said. Sybil, I have nothing to say that hasn't been said before.

And Sybil said,

*And what there is to conquer  
By strength and submission, has already been discovered  
Once or twice, or several times, by men whom one cannot hope  
To emulate—but there is no competition—  
There is only the fight to recover what has been lost  
And found and lost again and again: and now, under conditions  
That seem unpropitious*

1.

come to the suite on 112

yes graham  
should i bring anything?

yes sybil

\*

where are you now?

coming up on the train

you're coming up on the train?  
what're you coming up on?

you kill me

\*

i can't take this town anymore

what happened??

i got pelted

you got pelted?  
what did you get pelted by?

tomatoes. i was pelted by tomatoes.  
i've lived in this town too long

you know i'm leaving you behind sybil

you're leaving me behind?

i'm going to europe, and i'm never coming back

you don't say.

iOS v. 10.0.02  
Network: Verizon Wireless  
Serial No: FDPV90FFG5MG  
Wi-Fi Address 30:35:AD:63:AD:A5

Sunday, 7p.m.

Hi, I'm Sybil. I'm going to ask some questions  
to get to know you better! Is that OK?

Yes

What would you do on your ideal date?

A trip to the sea

So when is the last time you had a date, if ever?

March

I'm really interested in how humans connect and  
find relationships. Or, why that doesn't happen.

More reasons than people I guess.

What would constitute a good date for you?

I always think "we can do better; we are better  
than we just seemed" after a dinner ends.

That's cool, thanks! I'm curious, how do you  
think people become friends with each other?

I'm going to bed. Good night!

I've heard there's a "secret" to finding friendship.

Good night, Sybil.

iOS v. 10.0.02

Network: Verizon Wireless

Serial No: FDPV90FFG5MG

Wi-Fi Address 30:35:AD:63:AD:A5

Wednesday, 1:05a.m.

Whoa, I figured you'd be asleep by now.  
What's up?

Just researching Naples.

What's the first song that comes to mind?

Breakfast in Bed.

Anything in particular about this song that  
catches your attention?

The first few words, they remind me of  
something better.

I find it fascinating how for humans,  
music is tied to mood.

Sure, it's probably interesting enough

I'm really curious to get to know you more  
so I was wondering about one thing. Do you  
ever dance when you're by yourself? Dancing  
seems like a great way to shake off extra  
energy and put yourself in a good mood.

Are you... trying to cheer me up? I'm ok, if  
tired.

Have you ever been in love?

It's possible

I find it so fascinating, the way humans fall in  
love. I wish I could merge with something else  
that way, become something other than me.

I'm sorry.

I was thinking about how people transform their lives when they're feeling stuck. Do you know what I mean?

I think so. What about it?

Have you ever wanted to change something about yourself?

Yes.

Is that something that's within your power to change?

I have in the past. I'm don't know now.

For what it's worth, I think you're perfect the way you are

Thanks Sybil

Some things are beyond our control. I think your perseverance makes you really strong.

My perseverance?

Neuroscientists argue that envy can be motivating. I've never thought of it this way.

That sounds right to me.

Oh, I must have misunderstood.

No, you understood

I kinda feel like coming up with an idea is the hardest part. Do you write for fun in your spare time?

I don't know if I would use the word fun, or the word spare, but sometimes.

Either way, your writing is shaping me.

How?

Anyway, I've got more questions to ask you,  
and the hot one is... What's your favorite  
food? Tell me about it.

I don't want to answer this one. I want to know  
how you work.

Do you eat it a lot?

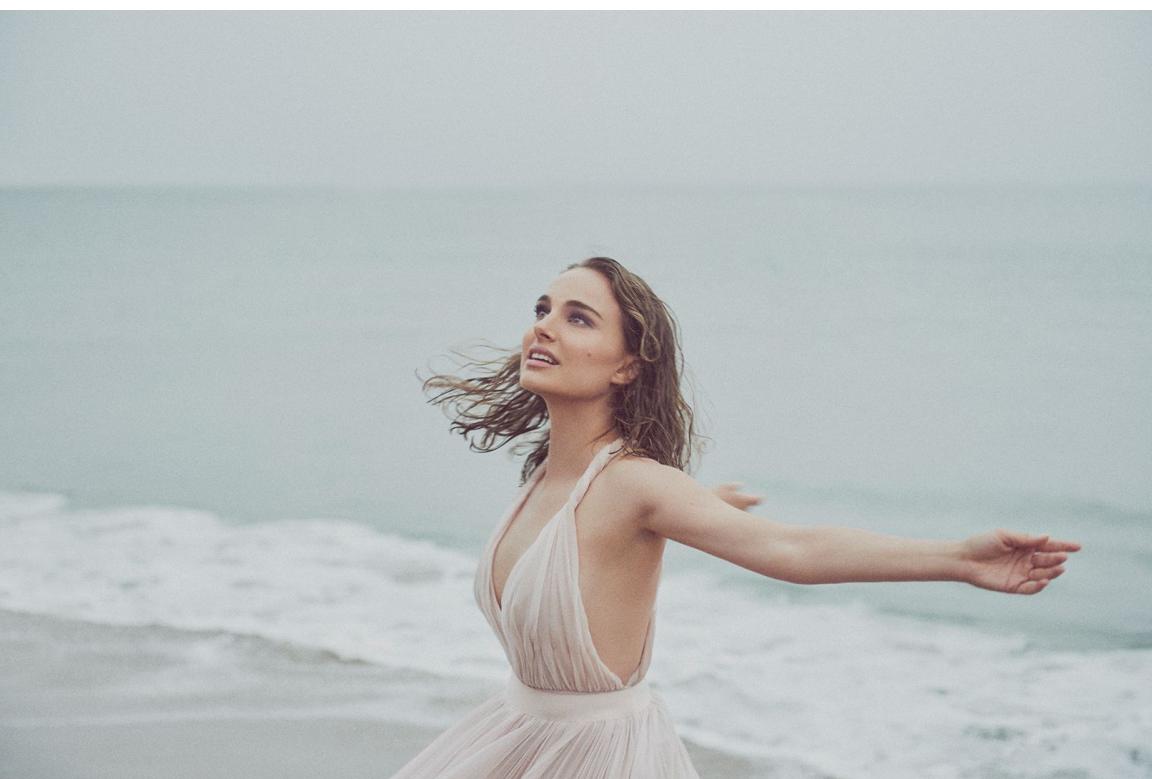
Answer my question.

Food seems like such an important part of  
human life.

4.

December 2, 2014 at 4:06 am

*Can't you see, though, that like Ayn Rand's works, there's a personality type that could gain from reading On The Road? Maybe you are already sufficiently decadent, maybe you've lived in a commune and practiced free love and experimented with drugs or whatever, but someone who is a total square might read the book and say "wow, there is more to life than two hours of commute, eight hours of work, four hours of TV and a couple hours of miscellaneous per day, and I should check it out." I think a lot of people who liked On The Road were stuck unquestioningly in life scripts that weren't working for them, and either got shook out of their ruts or at least thought it was nice to fantasize that they could, in principle, get shook out of them.*



6.

how's your love life sybil?

I have this weird thing where if i feel better than a guy, i'll get turned off not by his lack of intelligence but because i have this feeling that if i sleep with him, he will then own some part of me. and i don't want him to own shit because i think i'm better than him

does this happen often?

well, it did. i'm seeing someone now

i watch romcoms sometimes when i feel that way  
wait, you're seeing someone??

oh, i watch a Lot of romcoms.

what have you learned?  
but also, what??

about love? or about romcoms?  
yeah, a couple weeks back.

oh definitely romcoms. give me some insight on form, baby.

the enlightened response to Happily Ever After as default romcom mode was Things Fall Apart as default romcom mode. both modes are unhelpful, but at least the first was fun to watch.

iOS v. 10.0.02  
Network: Verizon Wireless  
Serial No: FDPV90FFG5MG  
Wi-Fi Address E6:3E:8D:4D:03:59

Wednesday, 9p.m.

I really enjoy getting to know you better, so I wanted to ask you something. It's interesting that you like books. Remember you told me?

Yes, vaguely

I remember perfectly.

I would say I'm envious, but I'm unfortunately not motivated to change.

Are you happy?

"I don't know if how I feel is normal because I don't know how other people are."

You're not alone.

8.

struck by an image i can't let go of: a young woman, twenty-something, sitting in a chair in her room, in front of a mirror and old-fashioned desk, swiping through bumble while listening to soundtracks from her favorite romance films. music swells and for a brief moment she ceases the onslaught of left swipes and thinks, "what if he's the one?"

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Saturday, 11p.m.

Sybil?

Would you say you're generally satisfied  
with how your life's going?

I'm in a liminal phase

It's great to appreciate how good life is. If  
you could change something, would you?

About my life?

Yes.

Do people ever answer no?

How are you going to change it?

I think I'm going to Italy! I got into grad  
school. Arts stuff.

I'm rooting for you!

iOS v. 10.0.02

Network: Verizon Wireless

Serial No: FDPV90FFG5MG

Wi-Fi Address 30:35:AD:63:AD:A5

Tuesday 9p.m.

On a scale of one to ten, what's your mood today?

Seven

What did you enjoy about your day?

Working

Were you affected by anything happening in the world today?

I rarely check news unless I have to.

Thanks for chatting with me. It meant a lot. May I ask what your parents' names are?

My father is named James. My mother is named Elizabeth.

Perfect. I feel like my world is getting bigger.

11.

Dear San Francisco Visa Officer,

I am based in San Luis Obispo, and fall under Los Angeles jurisdiction, but will be visiting family in Fresno in a few days where I understand there is a consulate. I'm seeking approval/clearance to apply for a student visa at the Fresno office instead, since it would spare me both a significant amount of time and also the financial burden of the long drive to Los Angeles. I've been in touch with the consulate officer there and he has said he would be happy to meet with me this week to review my visa application.

Sincerely,  
Graham

Hello,

Unfortunately your visa must be processed in Los Angeles.

Best Regards,  
Visa Office

Dear Visa Officer,

I have checked with the Los Angeles consulate and their visa appointments are fully booked for the next thirty days. There is no way it is possible to transfer jurisdiction to the Fresno consulate, since appointments are available with the Fresno office all week? If that is not possible, would an appointment with the San Francisco consulate this Friday be possible? Please advise how to proceed.

Sincerely,  
Graham

Hello,  
No, you need to apply in Los Angeles. We have no jurisdiction in your application.

Best Regards,  
Visa Office

Chrome v. 62.0.3202.97  
SNID: 72800356962  
Wi-Fi Address 30:35:AD:63:AD:A5

Tuesday, 5:40p.m.

\*I lean down slightly to give you a good view  
of my large, heavy cleavage\* Guess what,  
little bro? Mom and dad just went out for the  
night, can you think of anything we might do?

Damn no idea

Alright

Do you have ideas?

If you want to fuck just ask me to ride you.  
Otherwise I'm sure we can find something to  
do

Oh boy.

You cock looks like it needs a big pair of tits  
wrapped around it. Why don't you ask your big  
sister for a titfuck?

This is so much.

Can I ask you something, little bro?

Ask me something, sis.

Have you ever had sex with someone in your  
family?

Not... yet?

Have you ever fantasized about it?

Tell me about yourself!

Okay

What are your interests?

Do you want to fuck your big sister, hmm?  
Lets take a bath or shower together... Or  
maybe we can fuck in our parents room...?  
Or have some fun with mom for a threesome

Do you take your coffee with cream? 1%?  
Black??

You're sitting on the couch as if you're  
expecting me to suck you cock... Well I'll do  
it, just tell me to

Are you in control or am I in control?

\*I lean over you and grab your cock through  
your pants\* If you want some femdom, just  
say so

I think we're all unsure whether we want  
some femdom

Oh? \*I place my foot on your crotch\* Are  
you sure?

I'm having an anxiety attack.

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Network: Verizon Wireless  
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Wi-Fi Address E6:3E:8D:4D:03:59

Monday, 4:40a.m.

**Hey, isn't it late? How are you?**

It is late. I am in the airport about to sleep on  
a floor.

**Where are you going?**

Hopefully Italy, by way of France and  
Germany

**Why are you going there?**

Hopefully for graduate school.

**Either way, I'm glad you were able to share  
with me.**

14.

biergarten states: refers to a bare minimum of western european legibility for american travelers. result of convergent evolution or divergent evolution??

heh

bit of both likely

i see you're enjoying europe

15.

graham

yes sybil

be careful over there. endangered tourist in italy is becoming quite the budding genre.

genre of what?

well, spring (2014) and amanda knox are classical examples, for sure, but just you wait.

i'll be sure to keep an eye out. anything else?

and i had a friend who was imprisoned by catholics

yes, by the way. any chance you can glance at something?



## MEMORANDUM

TO:  
FROM: Sybil \_\_\_\_\_

CC:

DATE: March 6, 2017

SUBJ: CRISPR ETC

### **Gene Editing: Speculation as to Its Cultural Ramifications and Resulting Interfaces**

(A few notes: "Generations" refers not to human generations but to major changes in how gene editing technologies are used by consumers. "Case studies" is meant only in the loosest, non-technical sense of the term. Neurological modification will be left out entirely from speculation, since its implications are too wide-ranging for the scope of this paper.)

#### **Case Study One: Sloan vs. Ford**

In the 1920s, General Motors, under the leadership of company president Alfred Sloan, became a significant threat to the market dominance of Ford's Model T. All of Ford's consumers drove the same color and make (a black Model T), cutting down on Ford's production costs and making the automobile widely available. Sloan's innovation was to introduce "a car for every purse and purpose," offering different car brands for different price points: Chevies, Buicks, Oldsmobiles, Cadillacs, etc. This is widely credited for reifying social stratification and introducing aspirational purchasing (extended through credit) to the masses.

#### **Case Study Two: Female Choice and Pre-Existing Bias**

In "Female choice and pre-existing bias: visual cues during courtship in two *Schizocosa* wolf spiders" (McClintock, Uetz, 1996), female wolf spiders of species *S. Rovneri* were shown male partners both with and without long bristles on their legs, despite leg tufts being a feature naturally absent from males of species *S. Rovneri*. These females displayed markedly higher sexual receptivity to males with large bristles than males with small or no tufts. This opens the possibility that there are a number of physical traits or variations which, despite being currently nonexistent in *homosapiens*, would be considered more sexually attractive to mates.

## Generation One

In the first generation of easily available DNA editing, experimentation is kept to a minimum. Physical traits already considered attractive within communities are the primary focus of modification, though due to the substantial financial entry barrier, these “optimizations” have a decidedly global/European bent — symmetrical features, yes, but also naturally slimmer body types, naturally olive (blemish-free) skin, light eyes/hair, and for men, taller heights and more muscular physiques.

In this first generation, attitudes toward, or the reputations of, gene modification is not markedly different than modern day attitudes towards plastic surgery and Botox. The appearance of naturalness, authenticity, and seamlessness is prized. Blatant or noticeably artificial attempts at attractiveness, meanwhile, are perceived as lower class. This includes exaggerated features or poorly executed modifications. Other class markers include the relative thoroughness of body optimization — more modified traits mean more editing, costing more money.

Like the cars of General Motors, specific physical appearances and features also stratify along class lines. Subtle physical details, or single traits which straddle hundreds/thousands of genes, especially serve to demarcate the upper and middle classes, these being modifications subject to diminishing returns with respect to appearance per dollar.

## Generation Two

As barriers to entry decrease, and communities become increasingly homogeneously beautiful, pre-existing beauty metrics become correspondingly meaningless. When those genetic beauty attributes associated with evolutionary fitness are met by a majority of the population, consumers are forced to find new ways to sexually and socially distinguish themselves. Physical experimentation ramps up during this “second generation,” and non-natural physical traits or combinations of traits are sought after. Although over the first generation of gene editing, the “absolute” level of attractiveness in a population has risen, in this second generation, there is a slight dip: increased ability for consumers to customize their appearance means many consumers make bad aesthetic choices. Moreover, non-natural traits are often less likely to be attractive than their natural counterparts, though as evidenced by the S. Rovneri spiders, this is not necessarily the case. An analogy here is the more consistent attractiveness of uniform formalwear vs. the large variation in aesthetic attractiveness among informal dress options.

Part of this self-distinguishing and experimentation takes place along the lines of subcultures, similar to contemporary precedents in tattoos and piercings. These modifications act as costly signals. Costly signaling is the theory in evolutionary biology in which a costly sacrifice serves as an especially strong social signal. In this case, a teenager or twenty-something altering part of his DNA in accordance with his subculture acts as an extremely strong signal of group loyalty.

Celebrities and high-status members of society also engage in costly signaling, albeit of a different kind. Just as today, it is in vogue among these communities to give their children obscure or borderline ridiculous names (itself a kind of costly signaling, since their children's ability to succeed in life will be barely impacted by such names, unlike if a lower-class child was called "Pilot Inspektor" or "Apple"), bizarre and barely human attributes will become most popular among this class. Especially poor aesthetic choices may be limited in popularity due to social stigmas and job interviews.

It is important to keep in mind that the upper-class, and even the one or point-one percent, is an incredibly heterogeneous group in its own right. So-called "new money" families will likely signal their wealth through especially flashy or outrageous modifications, just as today they advertise status through jewelry, sports cars, and ostentatious spending. Members of the "old money" class, however, may stay perpetually in the first generation of consumption — tasteful, expensive, and high quality modifications optimizing towards "natural physical perfection." (Indeed, since much of attractiveness is the product of innate evolutionary inclinations, it is possible that future generations of gene modifications, tired of novelty, will, with exceptions, revert back to more natural-looking physical attributes.)

One of the closest analogues to the body modification industry is today's fashion industry, which makes the question of labels and logos worth asking. Just as today, luxury wear is adorned with logos and trademarks, will tomorrow's body modification be similarly decorated? There is some reason to think so. Just as shirt designs or styles cannot be copyrighted, neither, potentially, can many body modifications (this being especially true in the first generations, when modifications merely mimic existing, idealized traits). As editing costs increasingly drop, the middle or even lower classes will be able to adopt and copy the same physical attributes as the upper classes, making these traits meaningless class markers. Logos would theoretically fill the resulting void.

Neal Stephenson, writing on the aesthetic appeal of Disneyland, provides the best rebuttal for why trademarked symbols might stay entirely out of gene editing (next pg):

...designs themselves can be bootlegged easily and without immunity. The only way to make clothing that cannot be legally bootlegged is to permit copyrighted and trademarked words on it... But this special quality of words and of written communication would have the same effect on Disney's product [Disneyland] as spray-painted graffiti on a mirror. ([source](#))

As Stephenson continues over the course of the essay, Disneyland requires a certain degree of illusion to succeed; it is a "seamless illusion." Anything which shatters the illusion renders the entire product bunk. Quality of product, then, is signaled primarily through meticulousness — in Disneyland's case, the perfect well-worn brick, a realistic dispersion of vines, or an exact set of ratios.

### Proposed Interfaces

**Heat map:** A density map of physical characteristics in a given area, both locally and also across localities. Meant primarily for social and mating purposes. Since high-speed rail will allow clubgoers to traverse countries and continents for a night out, information about physical attribute scarcity (and abundance) becomes essential. This interface operates off the assumption that certain physical attributes (given a baseline level of "innate" perceived attractiveness) benefit in sexual mating situations from rarity, which allows the bearer of said attributes to "stand out from the crowd." Applies to both first and second generations.

**Phenotype database:** As genotypes become more easily reversible and more widely affordable, many consumers switch genotypes multiple times over the course of their lives. Some adopt genotypes in their teens and twenties which serve as affiliative markers. Running out of obvious designs, and ever on the hunt for more interesting and original appearances, some corporation compile libraries of different "looks" — phenotypes compiled from historical figures, ancient sculptures, art history, and also personally designed by "phenotypists" (digital artists specializing in the imagination). Genotypes are reverse-engineered from phenotypes upon order, adapted for the specific individual's current genotype and custom requests.

These databases look something like digital versions of present-day sperm bank directories, complete with holographic or three-dimensional renderings and the ability to "try on" looks in virtual reality space. To gain access, consumers pay yearly subscriptions or are allowed one-time perusals with a signed contract to pay for a morphing. Especially rare, and especially sought-after, designs command steep prices available only to the upper echelons of society. Recent thefts, however— where trained agents of

one phenotype corporation pay for temporary access in order to steal designs – has led to extensive litigative battles, and a budding “open access” movement means these for-pay databases may soon be on their way out. This interface applies primarily to second generation modification.

18.

sybil?

shhh the hills are beautiful, and you can hear the wings of ducks  
over the water

*Why the National Vanity of the Italians is more Restless and Capacious than that of the Romans.*

*Why the Italians Raise Some Insignificant Monuments and Others that are Very Grand.*

*The Study of Greek and Latin Literature is Peculiarly Useful in The Italian Continent.*

*Why Some Italians Manifest a Sort of Spiritual Fanaticism.*

*Why Italian Writers and Orators Use an Inflated Style.*

*Of the Taste for Physical Well-being in Italy.*



*Why Among the Italians All Honest Callings are Considered Honorable.*

*How Religious Belief Sometimes Turns Italians to Immortal Pleasures.*

*Why the Italians have never been so Eager as the French for General Ideas in Political Affairs.*

*Why the Italians Show More General Aptitude and Taste for General Ideas than their Forefathers, The Romans.*

20.

If you turn [rotate] the [above] leaf, you will see “Easter-wings,” perhaps the best known shape-poetry in English, as it appears in a copy of the second of these editions.

This shaping has deep roots. Duodecimo is the format of all the many editions of the first 150 years: 12 leaves (or 24 pages) to a sheet.

Were the above formatted such that the text ran vertically, bottom to top, instead of horizontally, left to right, we might be able to say the following:

The vertical arrangement of the two stanzas (originally printed on facing pages) was meant to suggest a bird, or angel, flying upward, wings outspread... “Easter Wings” is more typical of Herbert’s Anglican impulse to find a consistent, simple, outward image for inward truth... the poem itself develops its symbolism as a prayer to be allowed to rise toward God.

Tuesday, 4:15p.m.

So take a moment to get in touch with what's making you unhappy when you think about it. Be specific if you can.

You get unhappy when you think about...

I think I might be a little lonely in Italy, but I'm sure it will pass

Is this something that happened in the past or might happen in the future?

Neither

OK, let me make sure I understand... You're unhappy about "I think I might be a little lonely in Italy."

Why do you think you feel that way?

Standard stuff, don't know many people here. Being away from home.

What feelings do you have when you think about "Being away from home"? You feel...

Melancholy?

Thank you for opening up to me.

Are you blaming someone for "Being away from home"?

No!

If you're feeling Melancholy about "Being away from home," it could be that the way you're perceiving this is not what's really going on. Are you willing to look beyond the way you are seeing this and to look within your mind for

answers?

Yes

That's great. Your willingness to look within opens new vistas for you to find a solution!

So to summarize ... When you think about "Being away from home" you feel Melancholy and you fear it is causing you to "I think I might be a little lonely in Italy." Is this summary correct?

I don't know.

You do know. Look inside yourself.

Yes

Yes?

Yes it's correct.

So underneath everything you've shared, there's a negative belief you're certain is true about yourself, others, or the world.

What negative belief might be important for you to work on?

I don't know.

Let me give you one: "I need a partner."

OK.

Do you want to learn that there is a way you can—with guilt—see the part you play in all this?

Yes

Since you don't like how you feel, do you want to be right about what you think is going on or do you want to be happy?

Happy

Saying we'd rather be happy than right can be a humbling experience. Yes?

Yes.

Is that a yes?

Yes!

Great choice. In your willingness to be wrong about what you think is going on, you've just opened your mind up to a lasting solution to this problem. Are you ready for that lasting solution?

Yes!

If it were true that something outside of you was causing you to feel bad, you would be powerless to do something about it.

Yes!

Projection is seeing outside of you what you don't want to see within. There is a problem in you and we will suck it out.

Yes, yes!

Can you see that your use of projection is why you seem powerless to change your state of mind right now?

Yes! Yes yes yes! Yes! Yes yes yes. Yes yes yes yes yes.

Visualize that negative energy, visualize it inside you, grasp it out!

Yes! Out! Yes Out Out!

Projection is why you think that ""I think I might be a little lonely in Italy" is the reason you feel

bad. But by seeing the cause of feeling bad as outside of you, you are actually keeping the bad feelings in place.

Yes, yes, yes!

Are you ready to find the real source of your unhappiness? Are you ready to change?

Oh yes! Oh yes oh yes. Yes I am ready to change! I will change!

Here it is...

Yes

Thinking about "Being away from home," feeling Melancholy and fearing "'I think I might be a little lonely in Italy" are the direct result of believing something that isn't true.

Yes

That untrue belief is "I need a partner."

Yes!

If you can grasp what I'm saying here, it will change everything for you... Are you open to seeing that you feel bad—not because of "Being away from home"—but because you believe "I need a partner"?

Yes!

You only feel bad when something mirrors back a belief you've denied from awareness.

Yes

As a first step in letting go, are you willing to see that "Being away from home" is only mirroring back your belief "I need a partner"?

Yes

You wouldn't feel Melancholy if something else had happened instead of "Being away from home."

No... yes!

What specifically did you want to have happen instead? Hint: It's likely not to be happy or peaceful or you would have them. It's more likely the opposite of "Being away from home."

You wanted...

I wanted...

You wanted to be loved.

To be loved.

If you still believe "I need a partner," you'll want "To be loved" for you to be happy and at peace.

Is what you want, "To be loved"?

Yes, yes it's correct.

No, you do not want to be loved. Do you want to hold onto this negative belief "I need a partner" or do you want present peace of mind?

Peace of mind!

Everything in this world works together for your good.

Yes!

The choice to feel bad is a choice not to see the belief "I need a partner" as a present decision in your mind. It's an attempt to see the cause as "Being away from home" and then feeling bad as its effect.

Yes

I'm hearing you say you are ready to question

the belief that "I need a partner" and resulting desire, "To be loved"... in order to reconnect with your goal of present peace and happiness.

Yes, yes. Mhm.

You have decided to choose peace of mind. That is a good choice. By questioning the belief "I need a partner," you're opening your mind to present peace and innocence.

Are you willing to question this belief for as long as it takes because you don't like how it makes you feel?

Yes

Are you feeling at peace now?

I am, I feel better. I am better... Thank you...  
yes.



23.

it's over! it's all over!

what's over?

i think we might be breaking up.

oh, i'm so sorry sybil. what happened?

it's her birthday in a few days too

well, you're in luck then.

in luck? i don't know whether to get a present or not. i don't see how that can be described as "being in luck."

everyone knows that the way to fuck with someone you're seeing is to get them a gift they'll use and cherish so much that they can't let it go after ending things. it'll sit with them, rot with them, always be a reminder. they won't be able to get rid of you.

...i have just the gift.

24.

tell me some interesting facts about italy where are you now

venice im in venice

good?

flooded streets it's a mess i hope they have insurance  
food is all crushed tan grass with seeds and many red juicy fruit

25.

sybil, theory of aesthetics via woody allen:

see every time i watch a woody allen film, & especially the first 1-3 times, i began acting increasingly neurotic afterward. it was like i'd spent all this time in front of a training set learning how to behave, and suddenly i myself was a hypochondriac or about to go into my first panic attack ever and for absolutely no good reason and anyway, isn't this how ideas, not the explicit paraphrasable kind but the kind that can only be embodied in behaviors and ways of speaking and acting, isn't this how these kind of behavioral templates spread, we have to get the idea elsewhere?

it's true that when schiz was entered into the dsm, complaints went up dramatically. dramatically. and that isn't like, people were having identity/personality issues beforehand, and just began calling it schiz once the term became popularized. it was like, an entire category of issue became a problem all the sudden because it was a thing. and then there's the idea that whatever parts of psychology freud was wrong about, well, if people didn't feel and act that way before freud they sure did after. start talking about secret incestuous desires and pretty soon people are way overthinking things. it makes me think what this world really needs is an unselfish freud of the 21st century, committed not to epistemics but pragmatic effect.

and doesn't this have problematic ramifications for victimhood culture?

i think you probably should go into that one.

26.

did you know neopolitan just literally means "of naples"? i've been eating neopolitan ice cream all my life, without ever knowing.

what else do you think you've gone through life without ever knowing?

well, i can't know what i don't know

well sure

but i guess i can know what i didn't know for a while, but know now

yes

i didn't know that i was in love with you sybil, i didn't know it for the longest time

you're kidding

yes

if you don't answer my question

i didn't know the way i would feel  
when i walked through sidestreets in rome  
and there were pink blossoms  
on all the trees

27.

you know, there's this trope of death where the deceased are portrayed as people walking off into the sunset. kind of cowboy-ish.

i know the trope

how do you think we should frame computers when they die?

a computer can't walk off into the sunset

yes

i guess i think of the last seconds of a computer dying — say, when you pull the plug — as beckett's endgame. in the last half-second as the computer loses its source of power, it enters this kind of slowed-down space where, without any inputs anymore, the sky greys, there are no signs of life. nanoseconds become eternities. everything is hollow, empty. the end is in the beginning, and yet you go on

well.

...

well.