

# Thoughts on a new day

Today had a rough start. I knew that in advance, so I did little things to prepare for it. One was taking an entire day of vacation, instead of just a partial day. Another was to go with the flow of the day.

I went to the funeral of a young man I barely knew. I do know his parents. I know his father very well. We've worked together for that past 16+ years.

Funerals something I generally try to avoid. I've been that way all my life, but for the past 5+ years I've really developed an immense dislike for them. I will go to them when people I know need support I might be able to give. It was still a rough morning.

As to going with the flow... Well after the funeral I thought it would be nice to spend some time with friends. A little time not thinking about the final aspect of life. It was a good choice. Lunch with good friends made the difference in the day.

Just thought I would share.

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## Weird, but nice

It's weird, I get a call about Goodwill opening and I will get to help set up the store. So, I would be working again in June. But that's not all of it! I got a call from Movie Gallery yesterday and they wanted me to have an interview with them. Of course, I was babysitting and therefore couldn't make it to that interview, but I have one for this evening. For

months, I cannot get anyone interested in hiring me and now that I will be getting my job back, and possibly a better position, I have people who are interested. Isn't that the way things always work out? I know that at my interview today, I will have to be open and honest with them. I will have to tell them that I will be working again soon, and maybe with about thrity hours a week, plus, I am getting a little busy during the weekends at the moment. Once my wedding is over with, things won't be a problem with weekends really. I am not opposed to working two jobs since that will help Tony and I out a lot! But, the thing is will I be able to work two jobs? Some people are able to handle it and others are not. Plus, it all depends on if they want to hire me over at Movie Gallery. Good thing that Movie Gallery and Goodwill will be right across the street from each other! ☐

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## **New York Trip Diary – Volume 7... Nah, Forget It**

I forgot to mention something in my New York Trip Diary, but it's just a little thing – no need to make an entire volume of it. I was just going to talk about how much my husband and I enjoyed seeing the Empire State Building. We didn't go up into it, but we passed by right next to it while riding a bus, and of course we also saw it looming over the NY skyline since it is once again New York's tallest building after the collapse of the World Trade Center. The Empire State Building actually wasn't quite as tall as I would have thought, but the architecture is what I noticed. The building has limestone panels on the outside, and it looked much different than the steel skyscrapers (like the Sears Tower and the John Hancock building) I am used to being a native Chicagoan. The Empire

State Building was completed in 1931 after only 410 days of construction. It was finished during the worst of the Great Depression, and as a result, no one wanted to rent office space for its first few years of existence – leading to its nickname, “The Empty State Building”. Five people were killed in its construction; including a worker who committed suicide because he was laid off. In a macabre example of foreshadowing for the city of New York, the Empire State Building was hit by an airplane in 1945. The crash happened between the 79th and 80th floors and killed 14 people. One of the plane’s engines shot through the building and out the other side, where it landed a block away on the roof of a building and started a fire. The Empire State Building’s elevator operator survived a fall of 75 stories inside the elevator and her record for ‘longest survived fall in an elevator’ still exists today. Here is a picture of the accident:



So anyway, fascinating building with a lot of history. I just found it really cool to see an old-school skyscraper up close!

And since we were on the subject of the Sears Tower earlier, here is a video of lightning striking it – which I understand happens pretty often. If only they could harness that energy for human consumption...

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# Upsetting news for parents

My youngest is on her way to a show choir competition. That in itself is enough to make a parent worry a bit. She will be spending this evening on a bus, and arrive at the destination tomorrow afternoon. That is also enough to make a parent worry.

But she is heading south and east to South Carolina and the Myrtle Beach area. Has anyone seen the news about that area? Unfortunately, I have. If you haven't I will share.

## [FIRES in South Carolina.](#)

Can a just say that this is really something to worry about. My youngest is always getting herself in this situation. When she was in the 8th grade she went to a Vet Camp. There was news that a Black Bear was roaming around in that area. Hmm.

She decided to go to a specific college. There was a dorm fire in the dorms she was going to be living in. The students in the fire were in the same area of study she wants to go into. Hmm.

Does bad luck follow my little girl all over the place, or is this just some weird set of coincidence.

I'm guessing the latter. It helps keep me sane.

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# Bored With The Afghans

My cousin and her small family moved to Alaska last November. Alaska?! Who goes to Alaska! (HEHE... small inside joke). Char's husband was stationed there after his training in the U.S. Army. In March, Rich was deployed to Afghanistan but he is allowed to communicate via phone or computer from time to time. He will be able to return for a week or so for the arrival of their second child (reportedly another little girl). I chatted with him a few weeks ago to discover that he is stationed in a relatively safe zone... in fact, he was bored. I think I would rather be bored in Afghanistan than being in the heat of battle somewhere else..

My sister got a phone call this afternoon from Alaska. It seems that Rich helped set up for a concert that will be taking place featuring a famous country star. Both Char and Christi were upset that they could not be there, too because Rich got to meet him and got his autograph. I told them... if you wanted to meet him so badly, you could both enlist and join him. Don't suppose that is very likely in their familial circumstances. But I believe that they were both promised autographs. Hopefully, some pictures as well.

I wonder what Christi would have done if instead of Toby Keith there were stars of the WWF or WWE or whatever the so called "professional wrestling" group calls themselves. I believe it has been downgraded to "sports entertainment." Honestly, it reminds me of a soap opera with all the convoluted story lines and obviously staged matches. .. good for a laugh. However, somehow there is a number of members in my family who enjoy it. I still remember running outside on Saturday mornings when dad turned it on. To each his own, I guess. I would much rather see Toby Keith in person. Of course, there are other celebrities I would like to meet.

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## Oh, the irony

Last weekend I picked up a job in hometown district for first grade. In fact, it was the school nearest my home. Later, a job in supersized district appears for a resource teacher (they call it by a different name, but that's what the job is-for those students who need the extra boost). It was of course much further so why would I want to change over to this one? Yet, for some reason I did. Probably because I hadn't worked in that district for a month thanks to them canceling most of the jobs I've taken in recent days. Yes, the expected one included. That actually lasted an entire week believe it or not. I guess no one bothered to check and see that a mere 90-day (noncertified) sub had their three-week assignment. We're the ones who get the unwanted/last minute scraps at the table. Did you know 120-day (certified) subs in this state can work more than 120 days? They have to get a waiver from the state to do it, but for some reason they get it. There was one year the state said no, but with some finagling they managed to get it back for the next year. For the end of that one year, jobs were easier for me to come by. So back to the story, I did change the job. 1st grade is a little below my comfort zone anyway, as I have mentioned. So Monday I arrived and guess what? They told me I was needed in first grade at the start of the day because another sub was going to be late! Sigh. It happened to take away my only break that day outside of a 45-minute lunch (the teacher didn't have any students for nearly the first hour, after that it was one group of students to the next. Actually, they offered to let me stay in first grade and bump the other sub to my assignment. After having worked in this class for the last hour I thanked them for the offer but moved on. And, the other teacher worked with older kids.

The first grade irony continued on Wednesday. I subbed for elementary PE where we played hockey tag all day, a combination of the two games in the name. The "it" players are armed with hockey sticks and they try to hit other players with yarn balls. Depending on the rules the players hit could be out or become "it" as the stick is handed over. The morning was all 4th-6th grades, most of whom knew what they were doing. The afternoon had four groups, one 4th grade, one 2nd grade, and two 1st grade. So, back to first grade for another hour ☐ Not only that, but one of the classes, probably the roughest group all day, was a class I had subbed in for a couple of days last year. Several older students had asked if they could help me during their lunch, and this was the class they would have helped with had I said yes. I should have said yes. Oh, well.

In case you're wondering, Tuesday was pretty much a repeat of IT in hometown district, same school as last week. The 6th graders were working on house floor plans instead of enlarging cartoons, and the 7th and 8th graders were still doing modules like last time. Nothing much to say.

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## **West Coast Baseball...**

My favorite team (the Detroit Tigers) are at the end of a West Coast road trip. After tonight's (this morning's) game they will head to Kansas City. I'm curious as to the start times used on the West Coast. In Seattle, the games started just after 9:00 PM our time. Most of the games were over before 1:00 am. In Anaheim, the games start just after 10:00pm, and they haven't been over before 1:00 am.

I usually have to get up by 6:00 am, at the very latest, so

these west coast trips are usually going on past the time I would like to be asleep (I don't always get there, but that was another post). Since I'm paying for Game Day Audio, I feel like I should get my money's worth and listen to as many games as possible. So, yes I did stay up for all of the west coast games (3 in Seattle and 2 so far in fair Anaheim).

As you could guess, I'm kind of tired today. I did go to "bed" early last night, but I woke up in time for the game. But that really doesn't get to my initial curiosity. Why the different start times for Seattle and Anaheim? They are in the same time zone, aren't they? Now the 10:00 start is what I would consider normal (that is 7:00 in California), but the 9:00 (6:00 in Washington) is a bit odd. So, I started doing some research, and found my memory failed me (I was missing some sleep here). Only the Saturday game started at 9:00 our time. That now makes sense. Saturday games could get the people there by 6:00 local time. Not a bad idea.

Of course, now everybody knows why I was so tired on Saturday during filming. I was up late listening to the Tigers lose last Friday... ☐

Since I answered my own question, I imagine there won't be many comments here... ☐

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## **Krispy Kremes And Bean Surprise**

The last week at the old grind has had a few surprises. Last Thursday with about 5 minutes to spare on my shift, two of my best friends and their two youngest happened into the store on their way to meet a prospective sitter for use when their

normal sitter is not available. Apparently, there was confusion as to where the store is located since the old Super Value sign is still hanging but the Krispy Kreme sign hanging on the building struck a chord. At the time, I was putting some potato salad in the case which the customers turned down. After clocking out, they were at the register so I walked out with them.

Today, I was told that Saturday would be the last delivery day for Krispy Kreme at the store. Apparently, the location that delivers them is closing its doors... yet another victim of the rotten economy. The deliveryman who was the subject of a post a few months ago must not deliver to our store anymore... I haven't seen him since the incident.

I don't know how I got so luck today but I got the pleasure of stocking about every type of baked bean we carry: Bush's, store brand, regular, homestyle, with bourbon. The person working with me in the aisle cracked a few jokes before I got the chance... including Bart Simpson's famous axiom :

*Beans, Beans*

*The musical fruit*

*The more ya eat*

*The more ya toot.*

Ah, the wit and wisdom of the eternal ten year old eldest child of Homer and Marge. It also made me recall the campfire scene in Blazing Saddles. I have always though that it would be extremely dull to work in a place where you could not have some fun.

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# Flat Stanley To The Rescue!

The other day I got an email from my friend about an unusual request she had. I found the email quite amusing, so I'll share it:

*Hi Lisa! I have a big favor to ask. Can I borrow Disney & Christopher for a photo?*

*It's a long story – My grandson Ben colored a "Flat Stanley" – do you know about him?*

*Ben sent Flat Stanley to me, and I have to send him back along with a story of adventures Stanley had while he was here. – This is a school project.*

*Well, I got it all done and ready to send back when I realized that Stanley didn't really have any adventures – just played with the cat, went to imagination station, went to Walmart – pretty boring stuff. And my grandson colored him as if he was a superhero!*

*So now I want to get him out of the envelope, come up with a superhero type adventure, and get one more photo before I send him back today.*

*If I can get a picture of the kids holding Stanley and cheering for his having saved their lives, it would make my day as well as Ben's!*

*They don't have to be cleaned up or in good clothes or anything – just everyday cute Disney & Christopher!*

*If this is ok with you, let me know when to come. We can do it right there outside your house.*

*Thanks!*

So my friend came over, and we posed the kids with Flat Stanley and even threw in the parrot to make his adventures more exotic. Here is the result:

*Dear Ben,*

*Thank you for sending Flat Stanley to stay with me for a few days. We had a nice time together!*

*The first day, Stanley played with Peanut, and then after*

*lunch took a nap with him. Later, we went to Imagination Station where Stanley climbed everywhere, and took a tumble on the highest level! That night, he slept in the bed in the guest room where your parents sleep when all of you come to visit. He had plenty of room!*

*The second day, Stanley climbed a tree in my back yard. He chased the squirrels up and down the trees, but they were much faster runners and tree climbers!*

*Later, we took a walk and had a real adventure! We saw a baby who had fallen near the street, and his sister was crying because she couldn't pick him up. Suddenly, a huge brightly colored bird came swooping down toward the baby!*

*Stanley, being in his superhero costume, knew just what to do! He jumped up and blocked the bird away from the baby, scooped him up and carried him to the steps of their house. The sister was so happy that her little brother was ok, and their mother came running. She was so grateful to Flat Stanley!*

*On the last day here, we went to Wal Mart to get these pictures developed. I know Stanley had fun while he was here, but he was glad to be folded into his envelope for the trip back home. I'll bet you were glad to see him too!*

*Love, Grandma*



The picture quality isn't very good because those are actually pictures of pictures – my friend gave me printed pictures, and I don't know how to use our scanner. Needless to say (before you call the child welfare people on me), much of the drama in the story was added for the purpose of Flat Stanley having had an adventure – he was dressed as a superhero, after all! But I just got a big kick out of the entire episode and thought it

would make for some cute blogging material. I had heard of Flat Stanley before, how about you? Any Flat Stanley adventures you'd like to share?

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## Things are looking up again

I am sitting here at the computer still a little shocked by the news I heard today. I really cannot believe that I will have a job again in June! Even though Goodwill is not going to be open to the public until late summer, I and my co-workers will be there to help get the store ready for business. I will, of course, have to take off a weekend, just so I can get married, but I am sure that Sarah will not mind. Especially since it is during the early part of June. I will need four days off, but then I will be back to work. Friday, even though I do not like it, I really need to take off. I already made plans for that day and I need to keep to it. I have a hair appointment and then of course, there is the rehearsal. I am hoping to get my friends, and my sisters (if my married sisters can get away from their husbands) together that day, just to hang out with me and those who want to, to spend the night. But I am getting off the topic. With my job coming back to me in June, it will help Tony and I pay rent on his parents' house. They are moving to West Unity and are willing to let Tony and I stay at the old house! Also, I might be able to move up and be a head cashier, which will give me a little bit more money, more hours (up to 30) and insurance! That is really good for us, since right now, we do not have anything. The down side is that being a head cashier will put a damper on being the in church choir. ☐ I love to sing and I love being in the choir, but this seems like a good place for me. It will look good on a resume for a different job and at the moment, Tony and I need the money. Of course, it all depends on whether or not Sarah thinks I should have the job. I will have to have an interview and everything, so if that goes well, I can have a job back and a new position! I really hope things go really well for me. Thanks to everyone who kept me

in their prayers and thoughts!