

7am Woke up to NPR at the usual time, even though it's **WACKY WEDNESDAY**

late start at school (a COVID concession)

I'm middle aged now, so there's **NO SUCH THING** as falling back to sleep for 30 minutes.

Instead I finish this **BOOK:**

(a Xmas gift from G)

I Loved the first 100 pages. Then I got **FRUSTRATED** that it was just **GUILTY VIGNETTES** about **CAPITALISM** without any real **CONCLUSIONS**.

8am Our usual **ROUTINE...**

- eat breakfast!
- Brush hair!
- ss - Brush teeth!
- socks!!!

doesn't have to leave the house

Chronically late 8 year old

Mama, where are my **BEAN BAGS???**

Sitting on heating vent

...with **ONE** exception: Mom got here **YESTERDAY** from **NEW HAMPSHIRE!**

Mama, Nana's still **SLEEPING!!**

ZZZZ

The OFFICE

9am Mom awakes. I'm in charge of **COFFEE** - the espresso machine can be **FINICKY**.

I guess I'm doing **HOURLY** comic day.

I make a little notebook: time to **GET TO WORK**.

just folded **PRINTER** paper

This is my 3rd time doing **HCD**. It seems I can only manage every **OTHER** year...

7am... 8am... 9am...

...just long enough to **RECOVER** from the last time!

9:30am Day 27/30 of Adrienne's yoga challenge. I'm 4 days behind.

Friends, it's time to **QUIET** your monkey mind.

Today's practice is **MELLOW** - what a **RELIEF!**

10am Time to get **DRESSED**.

Leftover January **CHALLENGE** no. 2: wear the same \$44 wool dress every day for 30 days.

Reward: \$30 towards a new dress.

At least I don't have to **THINK** about what to wear each day.

But I sure miss wearing **JEANS!**

I'm **UPPING** my **TOOTHBRUSHING** game after a **MONTH** of dental trauma.

remember, it's a **TOOTH** brush, not a **TEETH** brush

loads of **ANCIENT** fillings

unexplained **SENSITIVITY**

Temporary **CROWN**

11am digital housekeeping

CALENDAR UPDATE!

Book club **COMMUNIQUE?** ✓

Pay for **AFTERCARE?** ✓

Girl scout **COOKIE** updates?? ✓

DONATO ✓

But we **DO** finally make it up to the **MOUNTAIN** view.

Mom is in **COLORADO** (in pant!) to **SKI**, so we wrestle with resort websites on **TWO** laptops

Wait, what's the password again? ... **Schizor** treat...

No, click here

now log in **HERE**

Steamboat **VOUCHER**

12pm **DOG WALK!**

BERTIE is in **≧SNIFF≦** mode, so it takes us 45 minutes to walk less than a mile.

neighborhood **DOG PEE** ROCK

"Bertie wuz here"

There's a **NEW** house for sale 2 blocks over. A good reminder that we **CAN'T** stay here.

\$999,999 reduced! 1700 FT²

3 BR/2 Ba, built 1954

ADN Airbnb ready!

1pm Leftovers for lunch while I **ZOOM** with my most consistent **COMICS** community

AL

MAREK

ALEC

ELISE

GARY returns from the dentist **FULL** of cheer.

so how was the **CROWN?**

oh, it was **AWFUL!** it hurt so much!

getting my **OWN** crown installed in a few days

2pm **MEAL PLANNING**

Dinner in One **MELISSA CLARK**

Smitten Kitchen **KEEPERS** **DEB FERDINAND**

PRODUCE list

I need to get working on these **HOURLIES**, but the house is **FULL** of people and other **DISTRACTIONS**

BLA BLA

WTF

CHOW

So I **FLEE** to the neighborhood Starbucks* for a **SLIVER** of focused time among the **CU** students

My favorite **PISTACHIO** latte

NTS NTS NTS house music

* the 2 non-corp cafes nearby are closed for **RENOVATIONS**

3pm and then it's weekly **ERRAND** time... this time with **MOM** along for the ride.

We hit **NUDE FOODS**, our local zero waste grocery store only \$25/week!

Minimal **PLASTIC!**

where trade my **EMPTY** produce box for a **FULL** one.

To compensate, we stop at another store for the remaining list items

Lettuce

APPLES

SPINACH!

where **ALL** the produce comes **INDIVIDUALLY** wrapped in plastic. Sigh.

3pm cont. Mom can't get over the **COLORADO**-specific supply chain issues:

tsk tsk!

(there are **NO** eggs to be had)

She also seems to have **FORGOTTEN** some unwritten **FOOD** shopping rules?

can I tap my card now?

just wait, Mom

how about **NOW?**

Peas

Boop

4pm and then the **REMAINING** **ERRANDS**

pharmacy:

DUM-DUM heart pops

Valentine supplies

MOM'S SALINE DROPS - it's DRY here!

REPLENISHING the **WINE** stash at **HAZEL'S**

P.S. **DRY** JANUARY is over!

5pm It all fits tidily in the back of our **NEW**-to-us 2015 **FORD** Cmax Energi!

the only plug-in hybrid we can afford!

We've had it for 1.5 months - since we hit a **DEER** on the highway in our hand-me-down **Volvo**.

NOW it takes us...

... to pick up **VIVI** at **AFTERCARE**.

I'm making **VALENTINES**, Mama

nice!

where's your coat, **Bibi?**

oh... I left it **OUTSIDE**

At home, my **LEAST** favorite thing:

NUDE FOODS

HAZEL'S

ALL the groceries to unpack, and it's time to make dinner **≧RIGHT NOW≦**

6pm I get to it while Mom helps **V** with her weekly **HOME** work, then the **VALENTINES**.

if Mariko has 5 friends...

I feel like a **SILLY** housewife in these **APRONS** I wear

... but if I don't **PROTECT** this dress from household duties, how can I wear it for 30 days?

No matter how "quick" the recipes claim to be, dinner takes a minimum of **ONE HOUR**

To prepare for a cook like me

what's for **DINNER?**

AND it's a task you have to do **AGAIN** and **AGAIN** and **AGAIN**, **OVER** and **OVER** and **OVER**...

7pm **FINALLY**, the result:

Skillet shrimp scampi 5 with \$OP3ZO \$\$

pretty good!

from Melissa Clark's Dinner in One salad wine (Maribougnon cab. sauvignon)

Dinner convos with our little family of 3 can feel like **PULLING** teeth...

Nana!

There was that **RESTAURANT** Dad loved... what was it called?

oh, Patricia!

but with Mom here, it all feels more **JOLLY**.

Or maybe it's the **WINE**.

8pm I **BEG** off bedtime/closing duties for the evening.

After all, there are **THREE** adults, one child, and one **DIRTY** kitchen here...

PLUS these hourly comics won't write & draw themselves 😊

THE END!