

ROGUE



MONDAY 4TH MAY 2020

EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the Rogue! Before I give you a taste of what you have to look forward to in this week's issue, I'd like to start by saying Ramadan Mubarak to fellow Muslims fasting this month! I particularly wanted to acknowledge this as now we're stuck in quarantine - there's no escape from food.

So, to all my buddies out there who're fasting, you're doing a great job avoiding the kitchen! Stay strong. Just a couple more weeks (or so) to go!

And now, a smorgasbord of gourmet sustenance for the soul. On the menu this week, we have stories to inspire and entertain you; current affairs features for you to reflect upon; an opportunity to compare transatlantic notes on isolation and a few other delights.

Grace Scott's piece tells the story of magnificent Captain Tom Moore and the work he's done to bring the nation together in these Corona Conditions. Mr Keeble-Elliott gives us some food for thought on the politics of Covid-19 and whether or not international governments have risen to the challenge of facing the stormy weather or fallen under pandemic pressure. There's further insight into how US citizens are coping with lockdown in

our Around the World with Covid19 series of Interviews. Speaking of which, if you're thinking about applying to colleges in the US, Shiraz Kirmani's book review might just be your holy grail for both Ivy and liberal arts applications. Finally, Iris has written a fascinating piece on Kanye's face masks which, I hope, will not become a last resort for the NHS... and, of course a primer on Ramadan in Lockdown from yours truly. Enjoy!

Thank you all again for 'tuning in',

Just keep swimming.



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ROGUE NEEDS YOU!

We're looking for contributors, whether that's weekly or just a one off, no journalistic experience is required we're open to all! Rogue is not just looking for articles and artwork, we're also looking for any content you feel others might enjoy. Have you heard or seen something funny on Microsoft Teams, got a picture of a pet working from home, heard some good gossip, learnt a new skill you'd like to share, want to set a quiz, got a good (clean) joke or just got a question that needs to be answered? We want to hear from you!

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BY ZOYA LULU KIRMANI

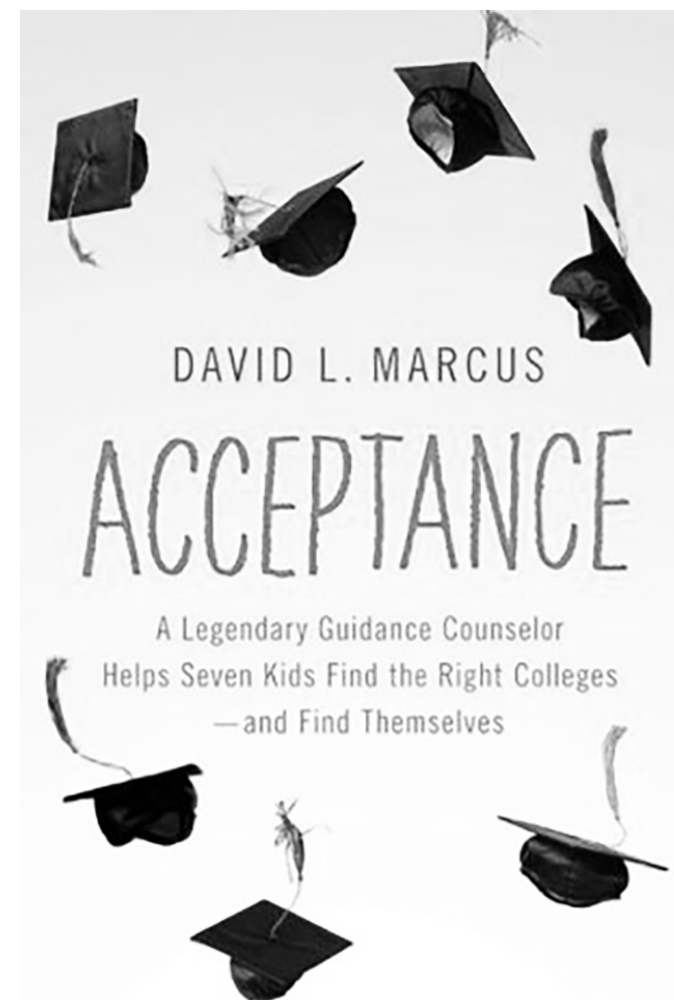
ACCEPTANCE

It seems impossible for them, but for seven particular kids at Oyster Bay High school, Long Island, New York, their dreams come true with the help of a legendary guidance counselor, Gwyeth Smith or "Smitty". The story of kids who find the perfect college for them and develop life skills that open doors that reveal who they truly are and what they want to be.

Rather than focusing on improving their test scores or grades, by discovering who they are, they're able to choose the right college. The book is littered with valuable advice useful for all teachers, students and parents alike, making it a recommendation for all those who are looking for colleges or helping someone look for colleges.

Personally, I found the story of each student applying to college endearing and entertaining. The book reads like fiction, making it a whole lot more than just college statistics. The book is written in the form of a narrative but feels more like a fairy tale with a happy ending. Although, the book isn't all fairy tales as each student faces many obstacles along with their achievements. The real success is how they overcome the seemingly impossible challenges they face. Thus, an exceedingly beneficial insight to life pre-college life.

These kids who are given the help of "Smitty", who has a refreshing take on the methods of college search madness, can truly gain from the college application process when they focus not only on scores and data, but also on the bigger questions of who they are, what they want, and how to make it happen. I highly recommend this book to all, as realistically, most students won't have a magical guidance counselor by their side. I found that, like many others, I was able to relate to some students and gain useful information from other's stories.



BY SHIRAZ KIRMANI

WAS KANYE WEST AHEAD OF HIS TIME?



Kanye West is known for his open-minded stunts and puzzling themes which make you think. His 2013 – 2014 YEEZUS tour was no exception, especially since this album was his most experimental one yet with conflicting lyrics and powerful beats. This tour was different from the rest due to the appearance of Maison Martin Margiela masks for each section of the show. Maison Margiela is a French luxury fashion 'house' founded in 1988 and high end for a reason.

They teamed up with Kanye regardless of his outspoken nature, determined to work with him. The 4 masks were impeccably designed covering Kanye's entire head with busy fabric and organised mirrored gems. Some wondered how he performed or whether he could breathe but most were intrigued as to why? Why cover one of the most famous faces on earth especially when that face is arguably egotistical or eccentric. There are two reasons for this. The lesser one was in the name of Art. Kanye is applauded for his creative flair and different views (that chiefly come up in his bipolar scenes) whether that's his lyrics, clothes, his home or even his album art. However, the main reason was revealed after a girl in the crowd of his San Antonio, Texas show took it upon herself to tell Kanye to take off his bejewelled Margiela mask. Mr. West was not pleased and explained that he was covering his face because he didn't want high end brands trying to make him seem a certain way and put him in a box, "they tell me 'save face Kanye!' but forget that whatever it's supposed to mean, it's about my dreams... it's about creating, not about the idea of being a celebrity, not about the idea of being a black man tryna do fashion, not just about the name Kanye." These masks symbolised his freedom and his will to do what others didn't want him to do. He continues to say that the fans and that girl who asked him to take off his mask could see his face anytime they wanted and that he was giving so much more than you can see on TV, "I'm actually putting myself at risk every time I say anything on TV." The 4 masks

mentioned were for a different section of the show which was set with a mountain in the back and dancers also in much simpler masks. I suppose Kanye was ahead of his time.

Today masks have changed from being an art piece or cultural statement to an everyday necessity. Face masks are now being adopted to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and PPE is more important than ever. To not increase the already limited supply of masks, people and designers have experimented to stylise the common outline. Whether that with doodles and stickers or even making reusable sustainable ones from scratch. Considering our inability to communicate visually through smiling and with our need for kindness more than ever, it has been a self-expressive creative process to help get through this trying time. Homemade masks may not be as effective, but a mask is better than none at all. New balance has joined in too with the slogan 'made shoes yesterday. Making masks today' testing and manufacturing masks in their US factory. Of course scammers have taken advantage of the virus by providing fake products that fall apart after a few uses so it is incredibly important that we double check what we are buying and not to fall for such scams; the BBC and police have made sure to update us and warn us.



BY IRIS NUREDINI

POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



In Chinese, the word crisis is composed of two characters - one represents danger, and the other represents opportunity. How have the political leaders performed during the current crisis? How many have succumbed to danger and how many have risen to the opportunity?

We have heard a lot about Donald Trump and his ridiculous speculation about drinking disinfectant as a cure for Covid - 19. (Don't!). One would expect his popularity rate to plummet but in reality, he is just as popular (with his supporters) and just as unpopular (with his detractors) as he has ever been. What some forget is that American Presidents lack the power of many Prime Ministers especially over internal policy. The federal system in America means that most decisions over Covid -19 will be made by State Governors and State congress, so the President can carry on without having to accept the blame for short term decisions. Ultimately Trump will be judged in November at the Presidential election. Most believe elections in America stand on the state of the economy. If the up-coming recession is as bad as some expect then Biden could be the next President. If not, we will probably have another 4 years of Trump.

There has also been discussion about the success of female leaders such as New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Only 7% of world leaders are women and yet many have led successful campaigns against Covid - 19. Four of the top ten countries - in terms of deaths compared to those tested positive - have been led by women. Is there a reason for this? There is evidence that when there are more women in government there is

more transparency, accountability and good governance. All of which helps develop trust. Another suggestion is that women are better listeners. Evidence of this comes from those countries which followed WHO advice from the start, going hard and going early, as Jacinda Ardern put it.

However, most leaders, male or female, have had a good crisis. Many leaders have put themselves front and centre of efforts to tackle the crisis and this increased media profile has improved their popularity rating. Emmanuel Macron's popularity has increased 14 points, Narendra Modi in India is even more popular with now 68% approval ranking and even the Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's popularity is up to 71%. It is those leaders who have been seen as inactive, like Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe who have suffered loss of popularity.

Of course, in the UK our Prime Minister has been in the news first as a patient in intensive care and more recently as a new dad. What we have learnt from his enforced absences is that the UK system does not function well without a leader. Surprisingly for a democracy our system of decision making is very undemocratic and, with no votes taken in SAGE or COBRA or the cabinet, the PM is needed to make the final decisions. Perhaps luck has been on Johnson's side as the most difficult decisions are still to come. Currently he and his party are holding up in the opinion polls with just over 50% approval. It will be interesting to see how he is perceived over the next few months.

BY MR KEABLE-ELLIOTT

THE NATION'S HERO

BY GRACE SCOTT

Captain Tom Moore, the name that everyone is talking about. The former British Army officer who fought in the Second World War, rose to fame as he pledged to walk 100 laps of his garden for the NHS, raising money in the process. Aged 99 he pledged to do this before he turns 100 on the 30th April. Aided by his walking frame and proudly wearing his service medals on his breast pocket he completed his 100th lap with a special guard of honour by the 1st battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment and soldiers of the Yorkshire Regiment looking on. His goal was to raise £1000 for the NHS but has reached an incredible £28 million! Not only has he raised an incredible amount of money, but he has also released a video singing to Michael Ball's rendition of You'll Never Walk Alone, reaching Number 1 in the UK Chart, becoming the oldest person to do so, Sir Tom Jones previously holding this record. No hard feelings though, and Sir Tom Jones joined Captain Tom on a BBC News Video Call on the 25th April congratulating him.

As if this was not inspirational enough, Captain Tom has had many experiences in the 100 years he has been alive. Being posted to serve in India in October 1941, it took his Battalion six weeks by sea to arrive and being in the Burma campaign during the Second World War. He has had his battle with cancer, the death of his wife Pamela and recovered from a broken hip that left him needing a hip replacement which left him walking with a frame.

Boris Johnson and Matt Hancock are just a few of the politicians who have recognised Captain Tom's huge achievement, with Boris Johnson calling for Captain Tom to receive Knighthood.

From Monday 27th April, all mail is being stamped with a special postmark to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Captain Tom Moore. The Royal Mail postmark reads 'Happy 100th Birthday Captain Thomas Moore NHS fundraising hero 30th April 2020.'

Captain Tom's fundraising page is still going click [here](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tomswalkforthenhs) www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tomswalkforthenhs to donate.

Captain Tom's inspirational message has touched the hearts of the nation saying, "To all those people who are finding it difficult at the moment the sun will shine on you again, and the clouds will go away."

Captain Tom, you are truly an inspiration to all. Thank you, Captain Tom, we wish you an incredibly Happy 100th Birthday on the 30th April and we salute you.



NEWSP

TEXAS

As a cross country and track runner, in terms of staying healthy, nothing much has changed as I take precautions to ensure I don't get sick. My routine has changed as now I don't have to get up at 5am for practice nor feel tedious every day. I've been able to find time to truly work on myself, both mentally and psychically, at my own pace. The only aspect of my life changed is the interaction outside of my home. School and friends now moved virtually to my own room. I'm putting more effort to maintain my relationships now. The increasing amount of cancellations due to the coronavirus has made me have to reorganize to live my life virtually. The pandemic has pretty much affected everything in my life and I know it will never be the same. The pandemic has not affected my family as much as others around the world. However, many of our parents are working from home now and routine tasks such as grocery shopping are now taken with much caution. Just like me, everyone else in my family is doing their own thing during the day; zoom calls and work. However it has sparked paranoia and distress for my parents, as the pandemic only worsens, affecting politics, society and the economy. I feel like I can't discern between fantasy and reality. I'm just in shock about how many beautiful, meaningful lives have turned into a growing death toll on the news. All of my thoughts and feelings about the situation are formed from others, their opinions all over the media. The situation at hand for me is not the proximity of the actual virus but a sense of empathy for others. Others including the medical staff, infected, and susceptible (weakened immune system) people. I feel I need to use this time to develop myself and expect the worst. I feel like I'm ineffective with helping as all I'm supposed to do is stay at home and watch it get worse.

In the US, the state government technically has more power over the federal government. The US is a mess right now with each state doing something different, either ignoring or following the US government recommendations. In basic

terms, Trump can't actually force states to do what he wants. So I don't have an opinion as I'm not informed enough about everything going on. In the state of Texas, I think we've dealt with it pretty good compared to other states such as New York's state government, they were slow to respond to this outbreak. I agree with Trump changing certain businesses' production to produce essential and needed materials to combat this pandemic. The only thing I disagree with is that we're opening up the economy way too fast when the pandemic is not over. For example, Georgia has begun opening shops again and Florida opened up its beaches. In addition, there is a shortage of testing which needs improvement. Like I said, I'm not informed enough to condemn other's efforts to help.

I was quite annoyed at first when many friends and our generation (teens) took this outbreak as a joke. Americans love that one week of spring break to travel and socialize. Their ignorance to this while enjoying their time at seaside Florida, only enhanced the outbreak for all of us. After a few weeks of a perception of Covid-19 as irrelevant and a non-threatening with continued parties and social events, it switched to paranoia and distress. While most are following social distancing others don't. I'm dealing with this pretty well, following the aspect of quarantine. In addition, washing hands, keeping clean, running by myself and disinfecting outside objects.

A lot of people have moved onto social media to help with boredom and use it as a distraction. Instagram, SnapChat and TikTok are extremely popular right now. However, I personally feel like we can do so much more than just that. We need to use this break from our hectic lives to the best of our ability. Focusing on both our mental and psychical health. We can use this time to make the best of ourselves without society's pressure or routine. Finally, spending time with family which we are often too busy to do.

I'm not sure what the government has done, because I just hear bits and pieces of how Corona is affecting things rather than the actions taken to prevent it. But the policy of staying at home and social distancing has helped the community to stay safe.

The best thing about quarantine is personal time and more freedom with your time. Instead of having a routine, you can choose what to do and when (kind of). Like now I don't have to wake up at 5am to go run and I've been able to do my art. In addition, I have been playing the saxophone and piano more. However I truly do miss running with the team as workouts are hard to do by yourself. I miss all my friends and not being able to go out and participate in activities together.

Simone Henry



MICHIGAN

// The corona has affected me in many ways. The biggest thing though is that I can't go and hang out with my friends like I used to, and I'm now unable to go to school. The pandemic hasn't really affected my family in a huge way but we do know some people with other family members who are stressed about the virus and it's overwhelming to think about. So my family is hoping that we don't create the same stressed environment in our house. I don't really care about getting the virus but I am worried that my dad or my mom could get it.

I think my government handled this situation in the best way possible. We haven't experienced anything like this before and I know that it's very hard to make decisions for a whole state. I feel like Michigan didn't really have a choice about what else they could do. They are trying to keep as many people from getting the virus and preventing the increase in the death rate, so a massive thanks goes out to our healthcare staff.

I think that different citizens dealt with the outbreak differently because at first, only old people were majorly affected and so teenagers and younger generations didn't really take it seriously enough, but it's changing because of the great increase in the affected number of people. My family and I are staying inside most of the time we only go out to get groceries, and we always go to the small pharmacies to get any medication. We obviously use hand sanitizer or wash our hands after anything that holds risk of spreading the virus.

Some people are protesting about how the government is making us stay inside but I think it's the best way to deal with everything that is going on. In my opinion, our government should try their hardest to think of everyone instead only focusing on a particular group of people.

The best thing about being quarantined is definitely getting more sleep and also being able to have enough time to watch all the shows on Netflix that I was planning to do. However, the worst part is that I'm really lonely and that I can't see any of my friends every day, I feel that talking to them online is completely different and doesn't bring these positive feelings like I had when I saw them outside.

Liliya Rhein



OHIO

// The coronavirus has affected the way I live my life. We have to wear masks in public. We can't be close to friends or distant family and when we shop. There is a requirement to have only one person per cart as well as staff putting up a glass window at the checkouts to prevent any further possible spread.

My family seems more irritable due to staying inside, especially the children in our family. I think it's hard for them with no interaction in the outside world such as schooling. My thoughts are, I'm glad my state has taken action because during the time we have been on lockdown the earth is having time to heal itself. We are stopping people from spreading the virus and flattening the curve as medical professionals are trying to find some type of cure or vaccine.

I think my government is right by keeping us at home but I also feel like they care less about poor people, the ones who cannot afford health care like wealthy people do. The government gives less to them, to avoid a negative economic impact.

In my opinion, our government has done something wrong in regards to the health care system. They deny testing to certain people because they cannot afford healthcare, so instead they send them home to just isolate themselves in case they have the virus. Perhaps, this shows that our government focuses more on the economy of the state, rather its own population.

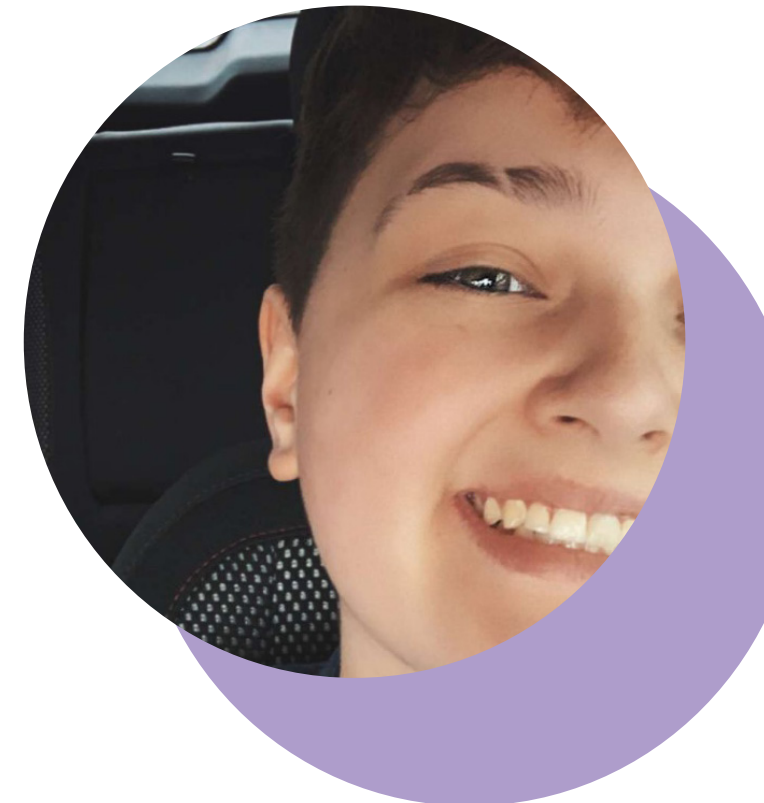
I think that our government could offer at this time some free healthcare to those in need and more assistance to people who cannot afford groceries and other essentials for their families. For the most part there are some people who have reacted very seriously to this outbreak and stayed at home, only going out in the state of emergency, but there are also groups who don't seem to care much about this situation, because they are simply not taking this seriously.

The way I deal with the outbreak is that I've stopped going out to visit people. I stay home and wear masks and gloves when I go to the store to get groceries, and constantly wash my hands. There is an organization called 'Red Cross' that go door to door to give out to the poor like food, diapers, Easter baskets etc as a way to help out our community and spread hope.

To be honest, I would rather have my government act quickly with healthcare to find a different alternative instead of denying their citizens of help. Also, I would like my government to help people and figure out what to do with the unemployed and make sure they offer the right amount of assistance our people.

I think the best thing about quarantine is that there is a lot of room for some family time, though the worst part is that it gets very boring to constantly stay indoors and being unable to go out like I used to.

Madison Jobe



SOUTH CAROLINA

The virus affected me most by shutting down my town, work, and much more. It cancelled my vacation to Panama City, and I haven't been able to return to work for over a month now. I haven't seen much family, or my friends for a while now. The pandemic has affected my family greatly due to us all being separated from one another and unable to live how we typically would. Not being able to work and the stress of potential unemployment. With the US leading in virus numbers, I feel the situation is growing rapidly and I hate how it's all turned out. At first it didn't seem nearly as serious and it was only growing in large cities with large populations. However, once there were cases popping up in my small town I knew it was becoming a serious issue. I hate seeing the growing numbers in death, and I really just want society to return to how it was and everything to be back to normal. Seeing everyone in masks seems very foreign.

I mostly do agree with how the government has handled the pandemic. Certain measures (such as stay-at-home orders) were ordered a bit later than it should have been, especially for South Carolina. The current order in place is not very strict and there are still cases rising every single day. South Carolina's governor has stayed on top of things for the most part, but has not entirely handled it as well as other states. Our president has taken overall good measures for benefiting the citizens affected, and giving stimulus checks to those struggling without jobs. I do believe that the government can continue to improve as we learn more on the virus, and how it spreads. Places such as New York for example are rapidly declining and struggling with the virus. I hope that can be focused on and a fix is found soon.

When it comes to citizens and how they are reacting to the virus, I have seen where many are not taking it seriously. In my state for example, a group of teens went

viral after going against the governors orders. They decided to gather in a large group and party on the lake. As a result of their actions, the governor banned all lake and boat access. Citizens do need to take things more seriously, and stop going out and spreading the virus. The measures I've taken for the outbreak is staying at home, and minimizing most contact with everyone. I was exposed to the virus at my work over a month ago from an infant who tested positive. After being exposed I felt fine but later fell sick. During that period I was sent to be tested for the virus, and thankfully it was negative and I had a case of walking pneumonia. After that scare, I knew how serious it could be and decided it's best to try and not go out in public unless it is necessary.

With the current pandemic my town has struggled greatly. After being hit with an F3 tornado a few days ago we came together as a community, BUT still followed the virus guidelines. The governor flew out to my town and made it clear that although we needed to come together and help, we still needed to be cautious and careful of the virus. All volunteers had to be checked temperature wise and cleared to help. My community has made great efforts to be cautious while dealing with the tragedy of a tornado.

I would have preferred the government to act faster on the growing cases of the viruses. The sooner we would have acted, the better. They're doing a good job currently, but numbers are still rising and we still need to make an effort to get it under control.

There have been many pros and cons to quarantine. The cons: not seeing family, friends, etc, not being able to go and do activities as normal, not being able to go to parks, lakes, or enjoy time with others in general. Another disadvantage to it would be my university shutting down and putting everything online. It's made things hard to

adjust to. The pros however, are that I have more time to do the actual school work now that I don't have work to attend to. I have also had more free time to catch up on housework, chores, etc. With my immediate family (parents and siblings) I have also had more time with them as we all have stayed together in the house.

Brittney Taylor



BY VLADA MEDVEDEVA

RAMZAN 2020 EDITION

For those of you who don't know, during the 30 days of Ramzan (pronounced Ramadan in Arabic), Muslims fast from roughly sunrise to sunset. Generally, we wake up at ridiculous-o'clock-in-the-morning, around 3am, to have breakfast; bleary eyed and unsure of what planet we're on (don't even get me started on the lack of patience - I wouldn't recommend talking to me so early, last time my brother asked me to "pass the salt" it didn't end well. I take 'Hangry' to the next level). We go back to sleep, wake up at a reasonable hour and continue with a regular day of work, school and play.

We then break our fast at around 8:30 in the evening. Before I hear you ask... yes, we can brush our teeth, yes you are allowed to eat or drink in front of us, no we don't eat from 8pm-3am (as much as I'd like to) and no we cannot drink water! There is the common misconception that "of course you can drink water during the fast, otherwise you'd die!" - I swear that's a direct quote. However, we fast daily; not for 30 days straight - yet another unfortunate misconception, so we never go too long without eating or drinking.

For me, last year was thankfully pretty easy! I was distracted by my commute, by school, by staying focused on being frightened for my life when walking through West Croydon late in the evening. This year, we're trapped.

You know when you walk into the kitchen, open the fridge, realise there's nothing to eat, close it, just to reopen it 2 seconds later in the hopes that something has magically appeared? Yep, imagine doing that, but instead of seeing nothing, you see vegetables that look surprisingly good, that leftover pasta you've been meaning to eat before your vacuum-of-a-brother consumes it, the red grapes, strawberries and whipped cream calling your name! Only to have to close it and wait 9 hours before you can do anything about it. Dreams, crushed.

I mean, is it just me or do you not realise how much you actually eat? In the evening, I'll be working on yet another 20million hour sketch for my art coursework and find myself picking up a croissant to keep me going. Of course, that doesn't work. I'm hungry again at 11pm, eat cereal till 3am, forgetting about my sketchbook entirely. It's worse when my dad comes downstairs at a random hour to get a glass of water. Is it a dad thing? Or just, you know, my dad who thinks it's a sin to eat cereal at any time other than breakfast? We all know a bowl of Coco Pops hits different at 2am. Why my dad acts like he's just caught me robbing a bank when he finds me cuddling a bowl of Honey Nut Cheerios at midnight, I will never know.

Anyway, my point is, I eat when I get bored, which is a problem since 'quarantine culture' is essentially eating your way through boredom. Tell me once you've finished that English essay you don't feel like a cookie. Go ahead. Lie to me. And you might be saying, dude, you might want to eat a little healthier, cut an apple, eat an orange, god forbid you even look at something green before you start looking like a Coco Puff. But you forget, as I just did, I can't eat, period. Forget the cookie, I just want that stupid celery. I stare at it in the hopes that by diffusion and osmosis I'll be able to eat it without actually eating it. Of course, it's a hopeless effort but a girl can dream...

In all seriousness though, we mustn't forget why we fast. We fast to remind us of our blessings, to develop our inner strength, to be able to control our desires. So keep in mind those who are 'fasting' for days on end due to poverty or conflict, be grateful, be generous, be kind. Don't let that cookie tempt you. You're doing a great job my guys. Let your faith carry you to Eid.

BY ZOYA LULU KIRMANI