

July 27, 2020

I have a lot of feelings today, so I don't even know if this journal entry will make sense. I'm trying to record some "events," or life during the pandemic, but, at the same time, I'm currently living life during the pandemic. And sometimes it's hard to have connected, sensical thoughts during this time. Panic sets in. Or I get angry. Or then I think about something else. I don't feel like my typical, calm self. I don't like it, but that's the way it seems right now.

There is a new guy who started at work today. You know what else? Today was the day when my boss decided that it was a good day to call us all back to the office. With the number of cases on a continued increase. Now. Now was a good time to have all of our butts in our seats back in the office. We had been working well – and I KNOW that at least half the office, if not more – were working better from home. And there was no conversation, a check in on what people were feeling. It was just an email – "Remember that we will be working full time in the office on Monday." Remember means that we would have been told previously that this was happening. Remember means that we knew that this change was coming. This was not the case. It was just a cold, out of the blue email.

I am so sad. Grieving, partially. I have a 4 year old and 9 month old at home. And as crazy and upsetting as this time has been, I was given the gift of being home and spent hours with them. Now – now I'm back in the office spending all of my between moments surfing the web. Not with them. Not reading to them, not checking a work sheet, not being able to write an email from home while one puddles in the sprinkler and the other plays in the park n play. It fucking blows. And my office is not the kind of place where I can "talk" to my boss. Ha. Ha ha ha ha. It's a double blow because I had to leave them and because I hate my work environment. My job is easy, and it's alright. And working from home felt like living the dream.

I am wondering if my boss is giving into everyone around him, and simultaneously having to look good in front of the new guy. Who, by the way, isn't new. He's sat on a Board with my boss for some time. More of the same – older, single white men – to perpetuate the system. They are buddies (besties??). My sense is he was selected because he is being brought on board to be the new director. If that's the case, at least he doesn't know jack about my job, and maybe, in time, I will be left alone to do my own thing and create my own schedule. I feel like I have to go to therapy just for this – let alone addressing my parent's own racist and bigotedness that's coming out or how I'm dealing with stress and not hurting my own family. It just feels like a super shitty time to be alive, or at least American, right now.

In another pandemic/work related intersection point to note, my boss brought donuts – 3 boxes for 4 people again. This is not a really good time to be bringing in foods to share. I am so angry. His attempts to look good, jovial and welcoming come off to the informed as short-sighted, uninformed and idiotic.

We also got an email today that we will be provided masks for what amounts to another 6 weeks, and after that we are asked to provide our own. Which, sure, for some places wouldn't be a big deal. But I'm feeling ignored and uncared for after being ELATED on my boss's response. We were provided masks in June and July. But as the virus continues to spread and the R increases AND we are called back to the office full time, we have to provide our own masks? What the actual fuck? What the hell? What is going on? And to go and ask and talk to him about why? I will be seen as a bother and weak and whining and

asking too much of my work place. What is it about small places and organizations that lean red are this way? Didn't we all just experience a work-from-home situation that was effective, good for moral, and, considering how the virus is being spread in the US, still relevant? How can I work when these are the kind of things I think about instead of focusing on my job? Social distancing only works when we social distance, MFs!