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April 23, 2021

Dear Friends,

National Poetry Month. Still.

Seek out poetry in other months, all the days. It seems daunting, but it's not. [Here's a poetry gala next week you can attend for free.](#) Remember, you don't need to understand a poem in the way we used to have to nail down the meaning of a poem in middle school. You can just enjoy it for the sheer sake of the combination of sounds. And sometimes, as below, it helps us see ourselves in a new light. Read aloud. Slow down.

The People of the Other Village

By [Thomas Lux](#)

hate the people of this village
and would nail our hats

to our heads for refusing in their presence to remove them
 or staple our hands to our foreheads
 for refusing to salute them
 if we did not hurt them first: mail them packages of rats,
 mix their flour at night with broken glass.
 We do this, they do that.
 They peel the larynx from one of our brothers' throats.
 We devein one of their sisters.
 The quicksand pits they built were good.
 Our amputation teams were better.
 We trained some birds to steal their wheat.
 They sent to us exploding ambassadors of peace.
 They do this, we do that.
 We canceled our sheep imports.
 They no longer bought our blankets.
 We mocked their greatest poet
 and when that had no effect
 we parodied the way they dance
 which did cause pain, so they, in turn, said our God
 was leprous, hairless.
 We do this, they do that.
 Ten thousand (10,000) years, ten thousand
 (10,000) brutal, beautiful years.

LINKS YOU MIGHT ENJOY

Are you [languishing](#)? It might be the name for what you're feeling, that spot between flourishing and depression. I mentioned this article to my therapist today and he remembered the spider in *Charlotte's Web* languishing. Of course, I looked it up after our call. Sure enough, he had remembered correctly: *"Maybe," said Charlotte quietly. "However, I have a feeling I'm not going to see the results of last night's efforts. I don't feel good at all. I think I'm languishing, to tell you the truth."* (But how on earth did he remember that?)

Being trans is [not something you put on and take off](#). It's part of who you are.

We are now deeply into the homemade pizza phase of The Pandemonium. I cooked a pizza on [a baking steel](#) for the first time this week. How did I ever live without one? Oh, I remember! I would turn a baking sheet upside down and preheat it in a 500-degree oven, then put the pizza on the hot metal to cook. Both work! But my lord, the crust that comes from that baking steel is something else.

I have loved [her quilt work](#) for such a long time.

Further evidence of [how much dogs love their people](#).

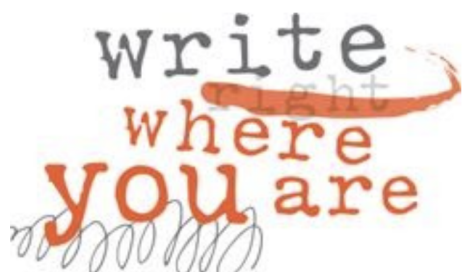
The [four books](#) Bill Gates has given five-star reviews to on Goodreads are worth looking into.

The three guilty verdicts in the Derek Chauvin case this week were [accountability, not justice](#).

[I love her art](#). And she is teaching classes now, I see. Go there and make art with one of my favorite people.

UPCOMING CLASSES

Please join me and Victor Lee Lewis for this five-week exploration of racism and its undoing as we unpack systemic racism, white privilege, the myth of colorblindness, and how to be a more effective ally. These courses open new ways of thinking about this seemingly intractable problem and provide experiences that fundamentally change us. [Go here](#) for information.



Write Where You Are: A Virtual Writing Retreat for Women (June 17-20, 2021)

I am holding a small, 10-woman, virtual writing retreat on June 17-20, 2021. We will study together, we will write together, and we will laugh together over that weekend. We will explore in new ways, spending time out of doors and with color and poetry and short stories and each others' stories and much much more. It will be unexpected and fun and meaningful and I am very excited about it. [More detailed info is here.](#)

FREE THINGS!

FREE WRITING PROMPTS FOR 2021 - Do you want to get back to a consistent writing routine in the New Year? I am offering free writing prompts **every Monday-Friday** in 2021. If you'd like to receive them, you can do so in either of the following ways:

By text: Text "writing prompts" to me at 828-248-7513 to sign up for free. Your first prompt will arrive via text the day after you sign up (Monday - Friday).

By email: [Go here](#) to sign up for free. Your first prompt will arrive the day after you sign up (Monday - Friday). We added this method because some of you couldn't participate by text. I hope it is helpful!

I'll see you next Friday from my Orange Desk! Enjoy the last week of April! Time is fleeting!

Patti

Sent to: _t.e.s.t_@example.com

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Patti Digh, LLC, 638 Spartanburg Highway, Suite 70 #337, Hendersonville, NC 28792, United States

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