The Quaranzine



Writing inspired by the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Featuring...

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Kat Giordano / Cavin Bryce Gonzalez /
KKUURRTT / Lindsay Lerman /
Tao Lin / Giacomo Pope /
Donald Ryan / Tom Snarsky /
Zac Smith / the Tabs Out Podcast

Edited by Zac Smith. Released online March 26, 2020

The CDC Says by Nick Farriella

when you work from home to keep your routines

so, this morning I sat on the floor staring at my refrigerator for forty-five minutes

to simulate how it feels to be in traffic on my commute

with much of what nourishes me out of sight

on the other side of some door I can't reach the handle to

but no one flipped me off or called me a fucking dickhead

so, I haven't kept that routine, yet well, I have

if you count my thoughts and the undertones of my boss's emails.

Earlier, I imagined quitting my job while working from home

Where would I go?

To bed?

The shower?

What equates packing up my stuff? Somehow, the closing of a laptop doesn't suffice.

TINY EXPLOSIONS by Lily Arnell

I keep my binoculars next to me So I can see the birds closer I'm beginning to understand why People love Orange is the New Black Which is not to say that I love it I watched all of season one in bed yesterday After making a quiche and Organizing pantry shelves I am trying to make good and funny Comic strips but they all suck They all remind me of 6th grade When I thought I was a good artist And drew lots of wolves And today is 70 degrees and raining Which feels like the sky's sick joke But it wouldn't matter if it was sunny anyway Because I have diarrhea From the quiche I made yesterday

SELECTED (PANDEMIC) TWEETS by the TABS OUT CASSETTE

PODCAST

@tabsout 9:19 AM · Feb 28, 2020 I was actually infected with Coronavirus at a basement show in the 90s when no one was talking about it.

@tabsout 12:52 PM·Mar 5, 2020 Bernie hit a witch with his 1994 Subaru Outback and is now cursed to primary an establishment Dem every 4 years

@tabsout 6:48 PM · Mar 7, 2020 All you ambient/drone musicians better clean those two or three keys on your synthesizers that you actually use. Probably caked in corona. @tabsout 10:33 AM · Mar 17, 2020 The Governors of all states going through with elections today should be forced to hang out with me while I smoke weed and talk about literally anything as

@tabsout 4:32 PM · Mar 17, 2020 Cover an album you've never heard before. Song for song. Just what you assume it sounds like.

punishment

@tabsout 10:25 AM · Mar 19, 2020 My only advice to parents trying to figure out education at home: Start with space. Space is fucking crazy. Put on a Sun Ra record and talk about space.

Reply to @tabsout

Plus framing time in millions - trillions of years is helping my anxiety

@tabsout 10:20 AM · Mar 20, 2020 100% of the sales from our Bandcamp will go directly to the virus. Today only.

@tabsout 4:04 PM · Mar 21, 2020 It's a beautiful day! Folks are getting out, listening to podcasts. People are riding bikes and listening to podcasts. Squirrels and birds are all about in the sun listening to the Doughboys and shit.

@tabsout 9:10 AM · Mar 23, 2020¹ At least it's Friday

¹ March 23rd 2020 was a Monday.

Six Pandemic Poems by Giacomo Pope

This is a Poem About Being Under Quarantine

I'm stuck inside my house and Zac is making all the rules.

I wanted to write about a moose. I wanted to write about the grass.

About how they are both warm in the sun, how they both taste sweet, after it rains.

But Zac is making all the rules and I'm here, stuck inside my house.

For at Least Twenty Seconds

Running my hand over red Bricks and paint feeling Skin softly dragged from me

I think my hands are cleaner Than they were before

Quarantine Ideas

Sex idea where Purell is lube to prevent STIs

Purell idea where you have sex to avoid diseases

Sex idea because you can't have sex

Idea sex by putting people's thoughts into your brain

Alienating yourself from everyone so you don't have to buy Purell or have sex

Love to You and your Family

Signing my emails Hope you're not sick.

I don't care though.

Can't catch COVID-19 Through the internet.

From A Distance of Two Meters

Spent, like, approximately fifteen minutes reading tweets on the ways people live now the world is ending

That everyone is unhappy with a life indistinguishable from, like, my last fifteen-million two-hundred and forty-two thousand minutes of days

A World-ending anxiety that I have got so much wrong,

for so long. I go for a sleepy walk in the park, a wanting to be touched but there's no one with arms that are long enough

Supporting My Friends

Buying indie lit From Amazon To support Artists and To clean my Dirty Asshole

Pandemic: Day 4: Return to Bone Mountain

by Kat Giordano

we were walking in the woods with lotus dragging us behind her by the pink, skull-print leash.

i watched her eat a deer turd, watched her shove her nose in a hole to hoover up the musk of a chipmunk that may or may not have existed. then she dove into the leaves and pulled out an old bone caked with some kind of organ, with no effort to distinguish it from the ones we buy her at the store that are bacon-wrapped and bent into the shapes of pretzels. like they were all just the same thing.

then she smelled something and we were off again. i looked at her and said, "she probably thinks everything is just like this, she probably thinks the whole world

is just trees and this is what we do
when we leave the house every day,
we just run around in the woods all day
and come home and there are no cars
or other people and we don't have to
work."

"yeah."

"yeah, and when we go to the store or something we're just like, buying bones."

"that's kind of sad though."

"yeah, i guess. but it's nice that she thinks it's like this, right?" Tossing Self-Control into The Infinite
Pit of Time That Exists Mere
Moments Before You Make a Bad
Decision
by Zac Smith

Kjersti Skomsvold spent \$19.95 on the remastered, PlayStation 4-compatible version of Final Fantasy 8. While it downloaded, she left her apartment and walked to the pizza place two blocks up the street and placed an order for a large pizza with pineapple and feta cheese and an order of mozzarella sticks. While the pizza was being made, she walked over to the Nepalese-owned convenience store and purchased sour watermelon gummies, coconut water, Sprite (to mix with vodka), Dutch butter cookies, a bag of Masala Munch, and two family/party-sized bags of Andy Capp's Cheddar Flavored Fries. She left the Nepalese-owned convenience store and stood on the sidewalk and swung the plastic bag around while looking at a bird scavenging a squirrel corpse in the twilight. She was alone. She touched her face. The man from the pizza place called out to her that her pizza was ready. She picked up the pizza and walked back to her apartment.

She put the coconut water in the refrigerator and laid out all the food next to the couch. She washed her hands. She looked at the tv screen – the remastered, PlayStation 4-compatible version of Final Fantasy 8 had finished downloading. She opened the window to let in the cool spring air. She ate two THC-infused gummy bears. She thought about how long you can keep leftover pizza in the fridge. She thought about the bird scavenging the squirrel corpse. She played the remastered, PlayStation 4-compatible version of Final Fantasy 8 for forty-five minutes and said, "Oh my God, what the fuck is this game" in a low monotone.

Selected (Pandemic) DMs by Cavin Bryce Gonzalez

1. workin security

oh shit did they give you a gun

Zac

hahaha just a mask and a list of symptoms and some gloves not even the rivht mask

Cavin

incredible god bless america

Zac

at least cavin can work like a true american

Giacomo

I Am An American cant go inside without a brain scan (literally a temp gun that shoots yr brain)

Cavin

WHAT a brain scan?? what does it...scan?

Zac

hahaha temp its just a temp gun that shoots yr brain

thermometer?

Giacomo

yeah for yr brain so no contact

Cavin

i don't understand the brain part like...if you have a special brain fever?

Zac

just so theres no contact i assume it is scanning the blood betweej skull and skin which is super thin comared to the test of the body

Cavın

[redacted] confirmed cases at work feel like dogshit if i could adford to b home i would b brian is melting

Cavin

is your brain cool?

Giacomo

almost got beat up by some fuck head todY

Cavin

your brain must be cool

my brain is smoking a cigarette Rivht Now

Cavır

2.

i wish i could live stream what my job is like rn

had to stop a guy from hopping over the barricade to steal fucking masks had a dude some fuck head lawnscape straight bow up to me and i was like homie u can hit me and lose your job and get sued or you can answer these three real easy fucking questions this was be he wanted to buy a coke inside. you know whats literally on the side of the next building? outside? a vending machine [expletive deleted]

its even cheaper from the vending machine

Cavin

3.

this girl bro
walks up "i need my Rx" i go thru the Q's
she aswers no to all of them
i let her in

Cavin

oh boy]

Zac

walks out not 1 minute later "yeah they dont have shit in there —" on the phone lied about a Rx just to get in and view our supplies

Cavin

4.

i started an anime last night about space janitors

the year is like 2046 and all the space debris keeps smashing into shuttles so crews get made to pick up space litter basically

and theyre treated like regular ass janitors despite being literal fucking astronauts its rlly cool

the english dub is fucking hot garbage / hilarious

Cavin

5.

its 2pm and i havent eaten yet despite being up since 7am so sad that i have to go back to bullshit corona virus nonsense tomorrow

Cavin

hahahaha ugh dude don't go

Zac

i have too so sad Cavin

say you have a fever

Zac

even if i dont go like they'll let me call off but then i'll be homeless i have \$200 in savings at best this will be an easy-ish two weekd at worst? corona virus

Cavin

shit dude party it up today

Zac

hahahaha yeah im ballin hummus and chicken wings

6.

love that i have to shave this morning so that my N-95 face mask filter will properly adhere to my face while i

screen potential COVID patients today 😈 💯

Cavin

typing on a broken phone with fucking latex gloves on at least there's no glass in my fingies this mask is like having an asthma attack all the time

Cavin

100 fucking degrees im taking these gloves off

Cavin

7.

Just watched a girl spray hand sanitizer on her bike seat and then rub her ass back and forth on the seat?

Cavin

Two Poems

By KKUURRTT

Introduction

Hi Zac,

I took acid last weekend and things got really weird. While still high, but on the comedown, I wrote a poem. Hope you feel like this could fit your digital zine. I had already sent an earlier draft to Cavin, but I don't necessarily think he fucked with it.

Psychedelics in the time of Coronavirus

love love love and art is art and art is the art of art and

love in the time of psychedelics of

art touching art touching other art touching art touching

other art art touching art touching the love of other art love in

psychedelics in love with art touching other art

Harder, Dumber by Lindsay Lerman

I.

I send something to Zac for his pandemic zine — something stupid and stoner-intellectual and kind of academic — something too floaty and disconnected.

He writes back to say "this is too heady, send me something dumb!" and I'm so thankful [editor's note: It had citations! Multiple citations!]. I know what he means [editor's note: it used the phrase "negative atheology"!].

I had been trying, in the first thing I sent, to wrestle with the question of just how trapped we are — in our homes, in our heads, in the economic-political-social structures that put us here, but it was stupid [editor's note: It was the opposite! It was brilliant! Too brilliant for a publication with a pun for a name!]. It was nothing but a set of questions it's actually very easy for me to ask, because

the answers are unknowable and they have no bearing on my life right now – asking them requires nothing of me.

II.

Here's the harder question, the dumb question Zac encouraged me to ask, even if he didn't know it:

Should I text everyone I've ever loved to say I love you and I'm sorry for the times I haven't known how to love you,

and I forgive you for not knowing how to love me?

III.

Maybe at the end of the world there are just some people admitting that they could've done better. this zine is halfway over



please wash your hands

Bill Gates Seems Evil by Tao Lin

Ronald Reagan didn't say the word AIDS. He said

people can't sue corporations for vaccine damages.

Now Trump is slashing all the red tape, etc.,

and Bill Gates is involved.

Bill Gates doesn't trust nature at all. He has a technology that makes everyone the same. He was the person who did Event 201.

Google it. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates wants to make human-implantable capsules which can show who has been vaccinated against the coronavirus.

He hates vitamin C. Don't take any vitamin C in case it doesn't help at all. Don't touch your face.

Mandatory quarantine for visitors to Hawaii. Mandatory virtual book club. Mandatory virtual happy hour.

The thing about owls and larks not being on Netflix and not tweeting and not being on Facebook or Instagram.

Untitled

by Tom Snarsky

The dad berating his son for screwing up Their Texas Roadhouse takeout order flashed me

A look that could singlehandedly take

A left from the right lane and lay on the horn

Like you being in the way was your fault, The six-foot-spaced line outside Total Wine

Rounding the corner so as to witness this Incident from every possible vantage. God Is probably out on the porch smoking a cigarette,

Figured leaving us alone for a hot second Couldn't do any harm. Gentle Animal Planet

Sounds drone on behind us as we wear deep

All the little channels / in our farm.

SELECTED (PANDEMIC) TWEETS

by Anthony Dragonetti

@dragoneddied 1:16 PM·Mar 15, 2020 effective immediately?? all traffic lights in NYC suspended until further notice??? drunk driving is temporarily legal?!

@dragoneddied 12:27 PM·Mar 17, 2020 got a warning on my work laptop about 'bash' trying to access key logger and I just clicked deny so I think I thwarted their security

@dragoneddied 2:55 PM·Mar 17, 2020 going to take this opportunity to get incredibly fat

@dragoneddied 12:43 PM · Mar 18, 2020 having the horrible realization that paper towels are also sold out because people are going to wipe their ass with them

@dragoneddied 1:06 PM·Mar 18, 2020 trying to create a heartwarming viral video where me and my musician friends try to play a song as a band over video chat but everyone's lag is different so it sounds like total dogshit

@dragoneddied 1:39 PM·Mar 19, 2020 you've heard Mother Nature is angry and that's why she's "getting rid of the real virus" but now imagine she was incredibly horny

@dragoneddied 2:03 PM·Mar 19, 2020 you have a quarantine routine checklist? how does it feel to be a huge nerd lol fucking loser

@dragoneddied 3:42 PM · Mar 19, 2020 got bored, gave myself bangs

@dragoneddied 6:34 PM · Mar 19, 2020 had the chance to "fall" in front of one of those comically small cop cars they drive through Central Park but I chickened out

@dragoneddied 7:01 PM · Mar 19, 2020 murdering an old man over the last box of entenmann's chocolate chip cookies at the corner store in the grips of marijuana psychosis

@dragoneddied 1:26 PM·Mar 20, 2020 my upstairs neighbor is screaming "BUT IM IN LOVE WITH HIM" so this is going well @dragoneddied 5:01 PM·Mar 21, 2020 standing naked in the window daring someone to call the police. they won't come. there's a national emergency. they've closed the airports

@dragoneddied 10:44 PM · Mar 23, 2020 (doctor looking inside my skull)

hmm not good

Four Pandemic Poems by Zac Smith

oh no

we have plenty of essentials but i need to ration out these doritos oh my god oh no

oh no 2

went out into nature to not lose our minds saw a kid coughing on a stick saw a bird fly into a car window & saw a tick on my dog

oh no 3

googling how to unsubscribe from family group chats doesn't seem to be possible

oh no 4

on the phone with her mom her neighbors had a fucking basement beer party

like a bunch of like 50-year-olds

now they're all posting on facebook about not being able to breath and having high fevers

before the party they were like "it's fine it's fine we all have coughs anyway ya know heh heh we'll be fine vote for trump"

now they're all gonna die

doomsday apocalypse coronavirus obliteration annihilation poem by Nathaniel Duggan

Hello caller if your world has been creaking like an empty bone then it is time to divest from your investments quarantine a dog go to the beach before it can follow you home. Because the horizon is a supermassive dying angel and the sky will once again bloody like tissue paper even in your bedroom ceiling's blankness where there is no sky. Somewhere buried beneath all this stirs a tiny but battlestarved beetle. How quickly any place can become your shell.

And When It Was the Fourth Night¹ by Donald Ryan

Reading Sir Richard Francis Burton's *A Thousand Nights and a Night* for a video conference book club without a club® is the closest I get to working from home.

Even with nothing to do (and loving every second of it), still manage to dick around too much, which means still somehow perpetually playing catchup which means more than a Night in one sitting is too much.

We watch Nightmare on Elm Street 4: The Dream Master. To my surprise, the wife digs it. Like really digs it. Says if she can't find Alice and Dan fanfiction, she would need to spend this time writing some.

Which she finds. Along with some "very aggressive Freddy and Jason shipping."

Need groceries. We use the smaller buggy to justify our weekly shopping trip amidst the panic and hoarding around us. As if to say, why yes, we did come here specifically for the canned yams, this lone dented can of corn, and that last bag of Bucatini my wife wishes I'd stop calling "those thick boys."

Thought it best to ask our homebound neighbor if he needs anything. He opens the door to me standing at the curb. The old dude uses an oxygen tank in his day to day. Social distancing is the new polite. I don't need a dead Mr. Bill (oh no) on my conscious.

Okay, what the actual fuck is up with *Nightmare* on Elm Street 5: The Dream Child? C'mon, Alice. Get your shit together. Just because you dye your hair and upgrade your pad doesn't mean you can forget about your brother and his love of Dramarama!

This is my complaint when my boss texts to check in on how we are doing.

Along with: they don't make sfx like they used to.

I spend a lot of time staring out the window at the drainage runoff that has formed a creek between apartments. Despite being unclear, I find the bottle-brown water soothing. Wife casually mentions an asteroid no one is now talking about is set to pass us in a few hours. "This one's the small one," she says, "but if the one in April veers off course, we're fucked." Futures of hope and no hope.

Watched Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare. But the nightmare of 6 is the film itself. Not even Freddy Vision® could save us.

However, it's a comfort to know in 10 years, when and if we survive this bad dream, we'll be living in the land of bad haircuts.

In this time of crisis, there's now only one hope: *New Nightmare*!

And the crowd goes wild. And by crowd I mean the neighborhood children, running, playing, laughing in the glorious sunshine like spring breakers on St. Patty's Day. They've found a frog. Add this to the *pestilence and plagues*.

A ladybug lands on my wife's shirt. She freaks out, and I learn she hates ladybugs. Also learn insisting they're good luck "isn't helping."

Wife headlines, "It's going to flood next week." File this under *prophecies and revelations*.

We're almost out of *Elm Street*, so we order the *Friday the 13th* box set. Our plan is to get to *Freddy Vs Jason* before getting to the remakes but we'll see when/if it comes, because, you know, it's good to have a plan since from east to west no one has a fucking clue.

Scratch that. Wife wants to watch the remake so I guess we're watching the remake because what else do we got to do?

¹These *nights* are a confined blur of length and meaning.

Also reading #murdertrending for a teen book club that now isn't happening.

Continuity be damned!

Life consists of headlines.

Brother, this morning: "Crazy part is, all this going on and I look outside and it's beautiful."

Four Pandemic Poems by Cavin Bryce Gonzalez

Untitled

Making \$10 an hour to sit outside a clinic for 8 hours by yourself wondering who you talk to is infected with COVID-19.

Untitled

A rash is forming on my hands. Probably from the latex gloves. Mmmm, crusty skin! Hey, you, hey – fuck – HEY! You can't go in. Not until I ask you questions.

Untitled

The world is silent.

Even the fountains have stopped.

Wind blowing birds chirping sun in my skin.

It's not so bad really. I think, maybe, I'd like living in the city. If everyone stayed inside, I mean. Like I usually do.

Untitled

This guy is trying to buy Plan-B. Another guy just bought some condoms. Ayeeee, it's a party it's a party it's a par-TAY!

fence hoppers by Jack Campion

when i step outside for a cigarette
i step over the overgrown weed-eaten
flower bed that's slowly eating up my
front porch and listen to the shallow beats
of next door's constant music
they smoke weed a lot and
i don't really mind that so much but i do
mind the smell

one time they kicked a ball into my garden without asking me they just hopped the fence

and took it back

i went round to theirs after and

knocked on the door i told them to knock if they

did it again and i'd get their ball for them

you can't just kick balls into other people's gardens you know

they looked pretty irate and didn't say much in response later that night i didn't sleep a whole lot

most nights i just sit in the dark
i eat spaghetti and watch TV
whatever's on except the news which i
can't stand
i haven't even heard of this goddamn
disease

i don't think i need to worry about it i'm pretty healthy I eat a lot of spaghetti but shit is getting crazy to be sure

i try and stay away from it because any moment a ball could land in my garden it hasn't happened for a while i haven't seen anyone or heard any of the shallow beats the neighbours usually play i haven't seen any fence hoppers maybe i should go outside and see what's going on

Pandemic Questions by Giacomo Pope

Does MySpace have VideoChat?

Why does everyone Call Skype zoom now?

A Lifetime of Mojitos

If we all stop Buying corona

Who will eat The limes?

Self-Awareness

Thinking do I normally cough when I wake up?

How many times is it normal for me to clear my throat?

Will my parents die?

Will you still starve yourself at the end of the world?

by Lindsay Lerman

"I'm generally a vegetarian of the ovo-lacto type, minus the ovo, yet I'm keenly aware of the fact that Hitler was a vegetarian. When he visited Mussolini in Italy he rejected the state dinner. He didn't drink or smoke. I hold him up as an example of how an aversion virtue can be a negative sign."

Marilynne Robinson,
 The Paris Review no. 198

Hey babe I quit meat! Did I tell u?

yesssss girl! I quit gluten, so over it. Also all GMO products.

I feel soooo much better.

Girl that's great. I quit most booze. just makes me feel unclean, u know? I'm just rockin that sparkling water now lololollll I quit nightshades, lol! all, like *all* of them, nothing left to eat now lol

oh nice! decided to quit all juices that aren't cold-pressed. Just over here gettin my coldpressed juice on lol.

> Super important. I stopped with caffeine just like yesterday! God caffeine is such a druggg

ugh it is. But also I gave up dairy, did I tell you?

gonna start doing a juice fast every month, like how gross is fat right? I'm like practically all bones now, it's so disgusting. I do look way hotter than I used to tho lol whatever girl you're such a babe. And I totes do the same! I add in some supergreens tho, the powder form. found this woman-owned company that makes the best ones. so important to support other women #girlboss #badbitches

oh also collagen – I'm having collagen powder for like every meal. hope i don't starve lol

Get it gurl. drinks soon? we so need to celebrate

Three Poems **by Mike Andrelczyk**

plants (bored)

My wife has 47 different plants in our apartment

I like looking at them
And I feel like they improve the air quality
in here

Sometimes I wonder though, as I play with my lighter, like how people discovered you could get high from smoking cannabis like did they just smoke every plant?

carpet (bored)

Do you ever just stare deeply at the patterns of your carpet? Lots of swirls I guess there are ways to stop time

Exile and the Kingdom

Haha nah it's not that serious

I'm just looking at this Camus book cover with its minimal mountains and pale purple sun and it has this cool effect as if you're looking through blinds

I'm gonna read it I'm gonna read everything Haha nah I'm not

Last night my wife and I were playing New (it's old) Super Mario Bros. Wii (Wii the only video game thing we (heh) have, we rarely play but, like, quarantine)

Anyway we were on the last level
— in Bowser's castle —
And he's huge, and chasing you
and even if you're
wearing the propeller hat thing
you basically die every time

If given the choice between dying and plunging the country I love into a Great Depression, I'd happily die.

by Jesse Kelly



If given the choice between dying and plunging the country I love into a Great Depression, I'd happily die.

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thank you for reading



please don't die