

by Shayne Phua

Disclaimer, Acknowledgement & Introduction

This is a partial fiction book. The friend I am writing to is imagined but should refer to readers if there could be any connection felt.

While the words in email format are my thoughts, and recollections of experiences from the events that followed the outbreak of Covid-19, the handwritten text are fictional thoughts inspired by a collection of real events, through news, social media, and hearsay.

The views and opinions expressed in the handwritten text are those of the characters only and do not necessarily reflect or represent the views and opinions held by individuals on which those characters based. No identification with actual persons (living or deceased) is intended or should be inferred.

Profanities are not censored and contents are not purified. Any expression of hate is not intended to cause any harm, but discomfort is understandably inevitable, therefore I apologise in advance.

Photos of Doors taken from outside the houses and within are collected from relatives, friends, and friends of friends. I hereby want to thank all of them for their contributions to this book.

These doors act as dividers between my experiences and the thoughts of fictional characters. They are also expressions of being confined indoors in contrast to being forced outside the home or away from home for the migrant workers' case.

However, as a person who has a comfortable home to stay indoors, the recollections of my experiences failed to express individuals who were distressingly trapped at home.

With that in mind, my experiences and the book presentation should not lead to the impression of being indoor during the pandemic as equivalent to having an advantage.

Titled 2019 as it marks the beginning of the global pandemic, the prime focus that would probably continue to haunt us for many years to come. 2020 is called off and devoured by 2019, being a year of association with Covid-19. When will Covid-19 be a bygone? All in all, this book is my way of encapsulating the overwhelming events in 2020.



To



From shaynephua@gmail.com



Trip Cancelled

Hey there,

How's everything going with you? I've been waiting for the trip since the start of school. I look forward to it so much! Now It's not going to happen. I bought my flight tickets, from Singapore to Edinburgh, London to Berlin, Berlin to Stockholm, Stockholm back to Berlin, and Berlin back home to Singapore.

I got ready all the accommodation, booked one for each city, and even made plans with friends in Stockholm and in Berlin. I have planned to go to the film festival at Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic) alone. Can't wait to be completely left by myself once again.

Now, the entire trip is cancelled! What's worst is that it's postponing at all! It's just CANCELLED. What a way to start a long break, with crushed hopes.

I mean sure, without school, I can still go on trips after everything is over... but it's just not the same. I would love to experience life on their campus and living in student dorms. I



experience life on their campus and living in student dorms. I think it's really different from travelling. You get to fool yourself that you actually live there somehow.

Above all... feeling crushed because... I really miss the friends I met in Berlin. I thought that I will get to meet them soon. Guess I left a part of me in Berlin, and I believe that I will never get it back unless I go back again, to feel and understand things a little deeper than before.

To be very honest, when you have that much hope, you're bound to have a very naive brain. I kept thinking about how things wouldn't get that bad in Europe and in the UK and that it wouldn't get to the whole world. I'm feeling quite embarrassed now—about all these selfish thoughts and all the naive wishes, all just because I want to get there, not for anybody else or anybody's health.

I've also been seeing white people attacking Asians because of the virus. So much hate! Even if I do manage to get there I will definitely be in danger too. I keep imagining how they will start staring at me. Just like those young Danish people in the countryside at Guldagergaard who asked me to fuck off from their country. It's so sick. I didn't do anything for goodness' sake.

Have you experienced xenophobia, racism or any discrimination? I hope you haven't and will never have to. I'm sorry you had to go through that if you've had.





I'm sorry you had to go through that if you've had.



These are friends from Berlin and Sweden whom I met during my Artist Residency trip in Berlin, April 2019. Alright, that is all for today, till next time!

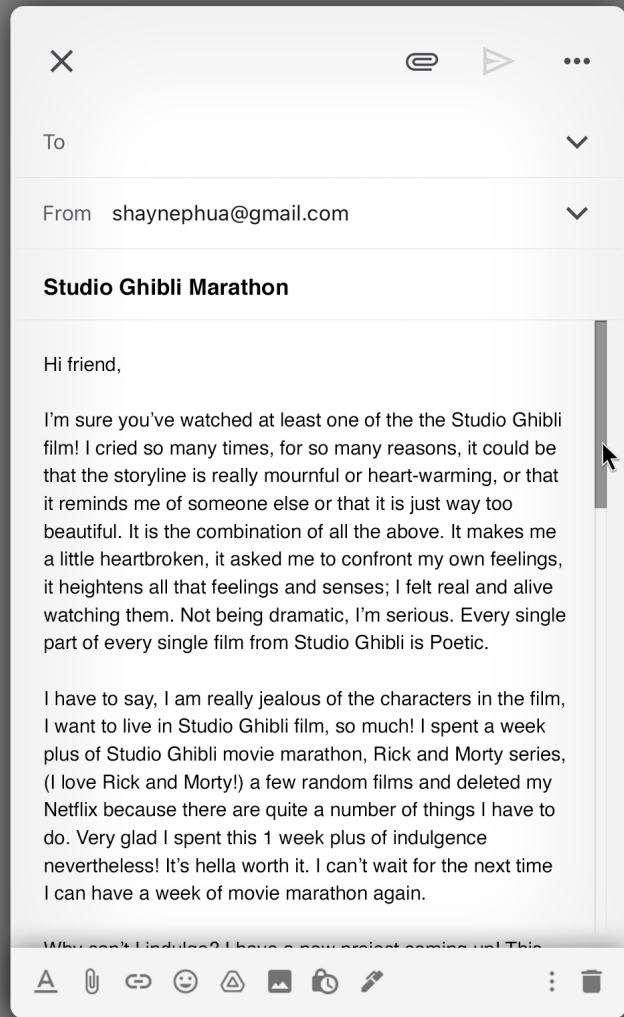






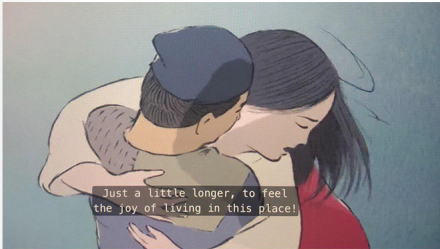
I GOT A NOTICE TODAY THAT I'VE FETCHED AN INFECTED PASSENGER AND I HAVE TO BE QUARANTINED. I DON'T WANT TO PUT MY FAMILY'S LIVES IN DANGER. I CAN'T GO HOME! MAYBE I SHOULD SLEEP IN THE CAR. I'LL ASK THEM TO STAY IN THEIR ROOM WHEN I GO BACK FOR A SHOWER. I THINK THAT'LL WORK. WHAT ABOUT THE FOOD? NO, THIS IS NOT GOING TO WORK OUT. QUARANTINE MEANS I MUST BE AT HOME ANYWAY. SIGH... I HAVE TO DISCUSS IT WITH MY FAMILY. WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO GIVE ME A SWAB TEST? I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK SOON. I'M ALREADY EARNING LITTLE DURING THIS PERIOD. IT CAN'T GET ANY WORSE, CAN I? BUT EVEN IF I GOT NEGATIVE FROM THE TEST TODAY, WHEN IS THE NEXT TIME I'M GOING TO FETCH ANOTHER INFECTED PASSENGER? WHEN WILL THIS END? WELL, I JUST HOPE I'M NOT INFECTED FOR NOW.







Why can't I indulge? I have a new project coming up! This means that this break...technically is not a break. I wonder when can I finally have a break. A longer one. I would like to read more books and watch more films! I hope I can live in Berlin in the future, Berlin is a heaven for Freedom! If I am back there again, I am going to read books and have a bottle of beer at the same time, on a picnic mat, out in the park. If you had a choice to live anywhere in the world, where would you like to live in? What would you be doing?





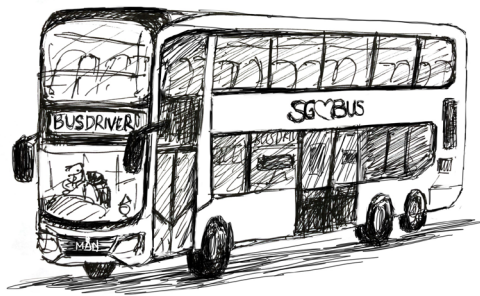
(okay, this is Rick and Morty, not a Ghibli)

Hope to hear from you soon! Stay safe and be well.

My Best,
Shayne



08-68





I AM GETTING MORE ANXIOUS EACH DAY.
PEOPLE LIKE US ARE BOUND TO BE ONE
OF THOSE WHO WILL GET INFECTED FIRST.

THIS IS LIKE A TICKING BOMB.
I'VE GOT A FAMILY TO FEED, WHAT
CHOICE HAVE I GOT?

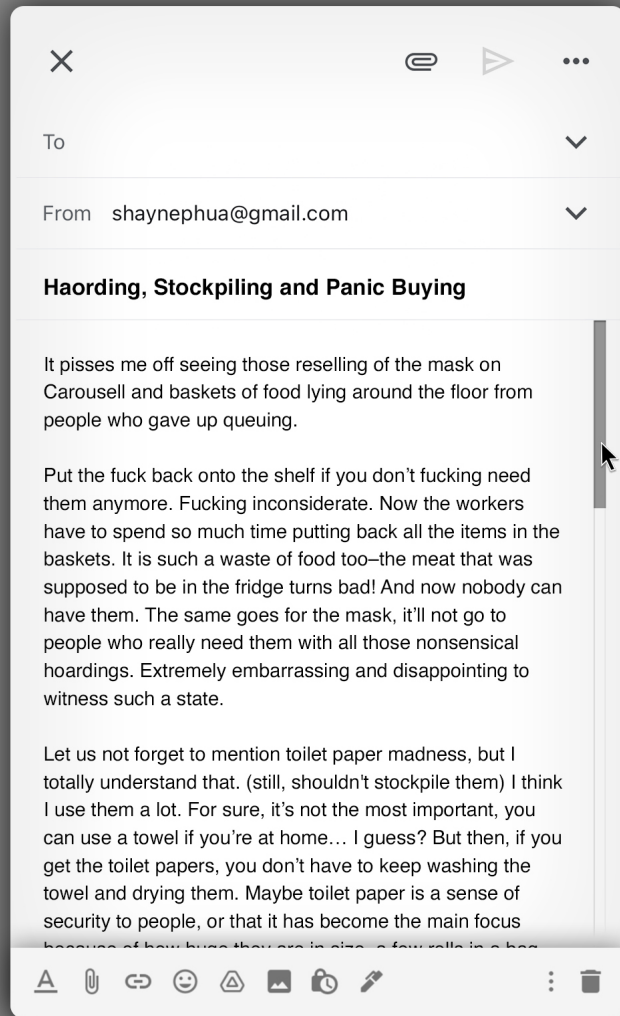
QUITTING THIS JOB WOULDN'T GUARANTEE I'LL
GET ANOTHER. IT'S A DEAD- END EITHER WAY.

THE LAST THING I WANT IS TO GET MY FAMILY
INFECTED BY THE VIRUS BECAUSE OF ME.
WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING A DISTANCE AT HOME.

IN AN UNCERTAIN TIME WHEN FAMILY
SHOULD STAY CLOSE TOGETHER FOR SUPPORT,
WE ARE FORCED TO KEEP AWAY FROM
EACH OTHER. WHEN IS THIS GOING TO END?
I REALLY MISS HUGGING MY LITTLE ONES.

I'M SURE MY FAMILY IS VERY WORRIED ABOUT
ME. HOW AM I TO ASSURE THEM WHEN
I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT THIS WILL LEAD
TO. I DON'T WANT TO IMAGINE THE WORST,
BUT THOUGHTS KEEP BOTHERING ME.







because of how huge they are in size—a few rolls in a bag size. People hoard everything they need, a bag of toilet paper is just larger. Make sense? I don't know, what do you think? Also, did you panic-buy anything? I hope you don't stockpile to re-sell!!

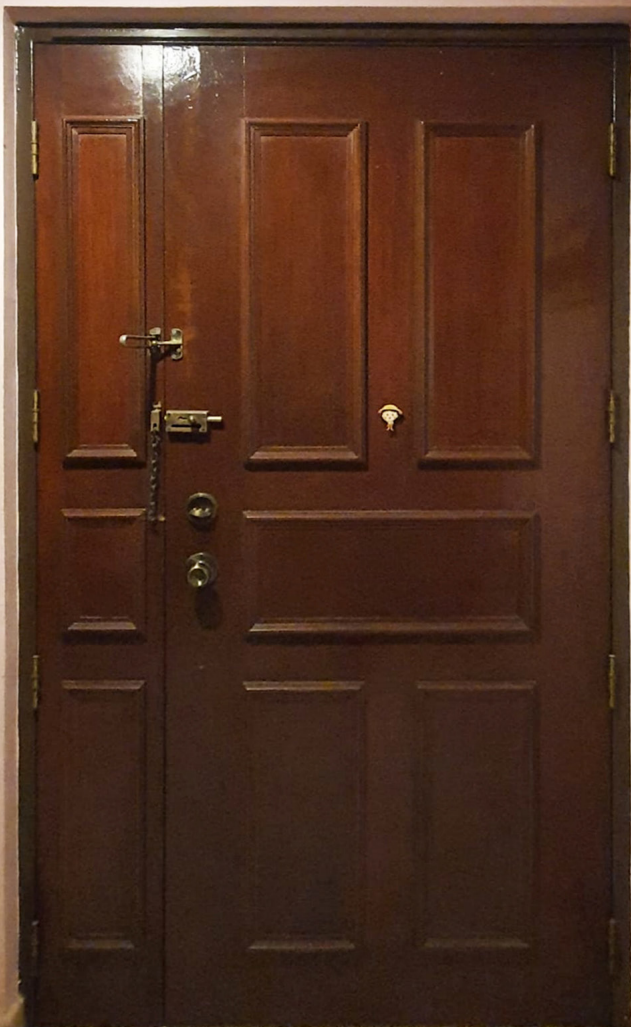


Here's my fridge, I know it's full, but I did not stockpile!



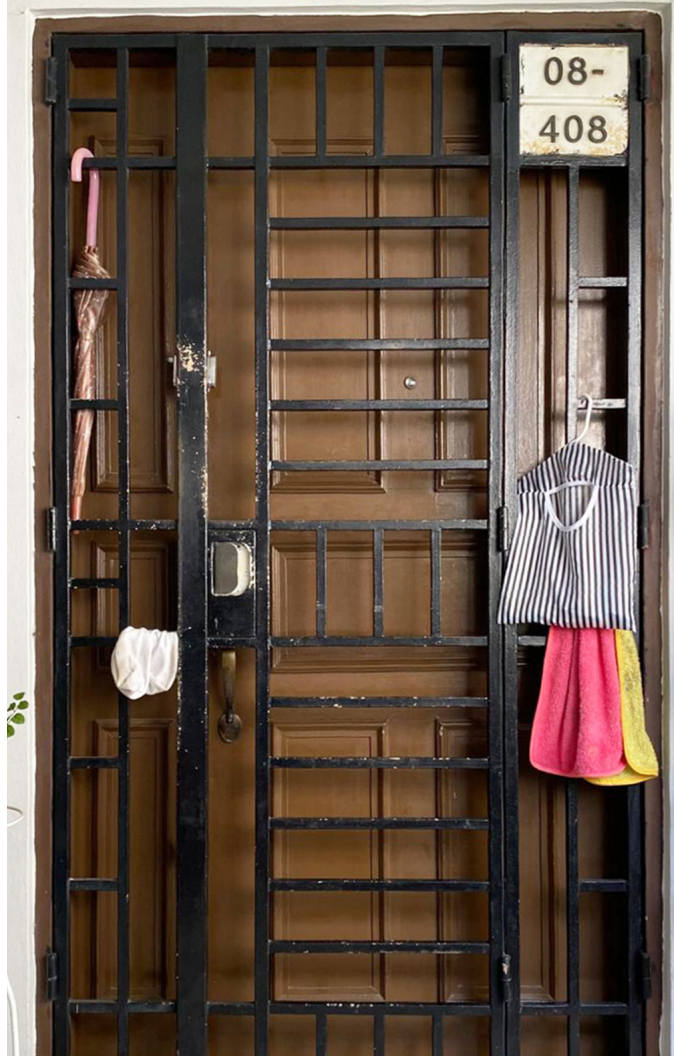
Sometimes my lunch looks like this.

Take Care,
Shayne





I'VE NOT BEEN AT HOME FOR A WEEK- SHOWERING AT THE HOSPITAL AND SLEEPING IN THE AMBULANCE. WEARING THIS SUIT THE WHOLE DAY WHILE DRIVING IS REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT I'M ALSO GETTING USED TO IT DAY BY DAY. I TRIED TO BUY LUNCH TODAY, BUT I WAS TURNED DOWN BY THE STALL OWNER. I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND THAT... I SHOULDN'T PUT OTHERS' LIVES IN DANGER. A TAXIDRIVER SAW EVERYTHING AND BOUGHT ME LUNCH. IT IS REALLY THOUGHTFUL OF HIM, HENCE I FELT A LITTLE MOTIVATED. I HAD ASKED HIM TO PUT THE FOOD IN A DISTANCE AWAY FROM ME ON THE FLOOR. AND I TOLD HIM I'LL PICK IT UP WHEN HE LEAVES. I UNDERSTAND PEOPLE ARE WORRIED. I NEED TO FIND NEW WAYS TO GET MY NEEDS. I'VE BEEN EATING BISCUITS TO KEEP MYSELF FULL WHILE DRIVING AROUND, AND I'M SO SICK OF IT NOW. I REALLY MISS MY FAMILY. WHEN WILL IT BE SAFE FOR ME TO GO HOME?





To



From shaynephua@gmail.com



Zoom Meeting

Hey friend,

How are you? Have you been using zoom often? Since, the only way to meet safely now is through Zoom calls. I used to not like phone calls, video calls, in fact, I hated them. I guess my ex-boyfriend trained me well on video calls, I feel okay with it now. I find it really awkward to be on video calls in the past, I am not even sure why. Do you feel the same way? Or am I weird? I think it might be because not knowing what to say on video calls is really uncomfortable—your only attention is the screen, you're forced to look at the person on the screen, and you hardly have any excuse to be distracted or to look somewhere else. Whereas, when you're out with these people or that person you're talking to, you are put in the same environment at the same time, you don't always have to face them, and it feels normal—It's the surrounding, you and your friends or whoever.

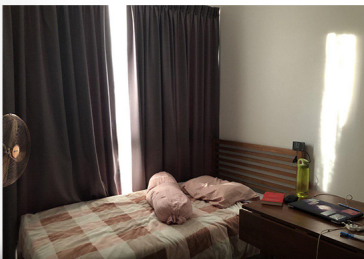
On a video call, that surrounding is removed, and you invade their surrounding as they invade yours—it is a clash of different spaces, co-existing through both screens. Besides that, the meeting is too sudden and too instant. You may say...





that, the meeting is too sudden and too instant. You may say, we planned it, how is it sudden? The experience is definitely different when you meet your friends outside or in any setting, because they walk towards you—there are these gradual steps they move towards you, and you slowly accepted their existence subconsciously. Now, wouldn't you agree with me that video calls are a little too sudden, a click, and they will appear! No matter how well-prepared you are, it will be sudden as it is not gradual.

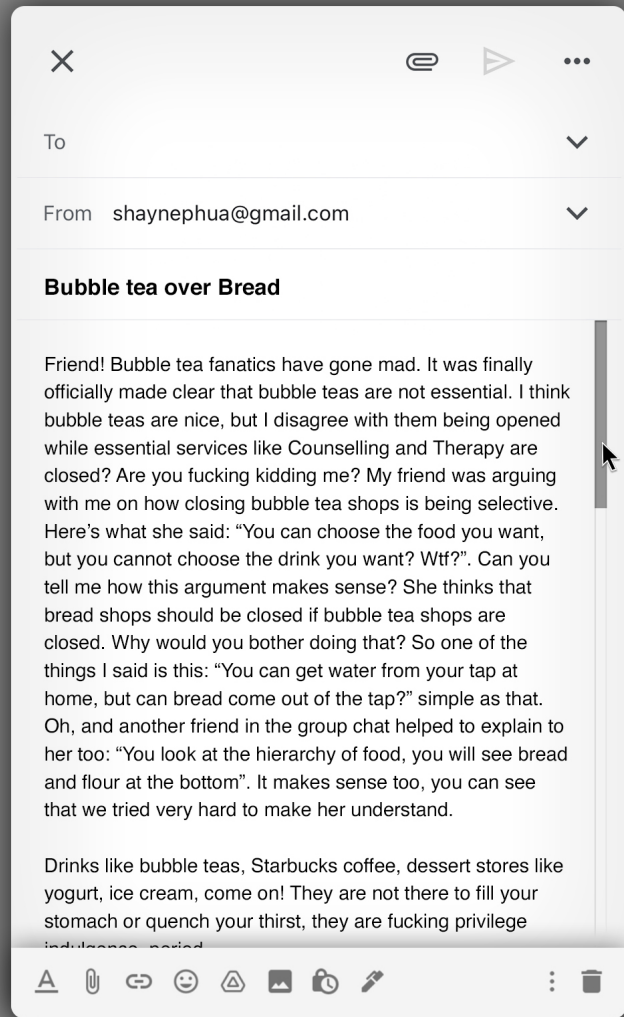
Another thing I really hate is being watched while having video calls. Whether it is for a split second, I dislike that. I used to do my work in the living room, as the only available table in the house is there. Now that I have to go on Zoom meetings, I took the table from the balcony and grab a chair from the storeroom to set up a new workspace in my own bedroom. I need absolute privacy. I never thought my room could fit in another table, but it works, and it'll stay there with or without COVID-19. I really enjoy my new workspace with this much-needed privacy.





YESTERDAY, MY SUPERVISOR CALLED TO TELL ME THEY
COULD NOT AFFORD TO PAY FOR MY SALARY ANYMORE
AND I HAD TO BE LET GO. IT ALL HAPPENED TOO QUICKLY.
TWO MONTHS AGO, DUE TO MALAYSIA'S MOVEMENT
CONTROL ORDER (MCO), CROSS BORDER TRAVEL WAS
RESTRICTED. I DECIDED NOT TO GO HOME AND STAYED
HERE BECAUSE I NEED TO KEEP EARNING. A WEEK AGO,
I WAS PLACED ON UNPAID LEAVE BECAUSE MY COMPANY
PROJECTS WERE HALTED. NOW, I AM JOBLESS AND
HOMELESS. THEY ANNOUNCED THAT WE CAN RETURN
HOME, BUT HOW DO I PAY FOR COMPULSORY HOTEL
QUARANTINE? I DON'T HAVE THAT MONEY. I AM HAVING
ONLY A MEAL PER DAY NOW TO SAVE MONEY. I NEED TO
GET A NEW JOB AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I CAN'T LET MY
FAMILY KNOW THAT I LOST MY JOB. I DON'T WANT
THEM TO WORRY.







indulgence, period.

No, I am not done. My dear friend reemphasised her point in a similar but in different sentence. I find it seriously absurd, so I must share with you what she said. Here's what she said: "My point is if you're not giving people the freedom to choose what to drink then don't give them the freedom to choose what they want to eat too."

At the end of the day, she somehow accepted our argument that we shouldn't limit the amount of crowd waiting for their food, and in that case food stalls definitely shouldn't be closed, whether it is a restaurant and hence, premium food. I regretted not explaining how bubble tea doesn't quench your thirst, maybe that will make sense to her? Because we seriously don't eat food for fun, whether it is an expensive restaurant and hence non-essential.

Have we come to a point where we've forgotten what really are our needs? Is this a privilege problem?

Honestly, this is so ridiculous, so I don't want to get back to this common-sense argument. So even if I regretted not making more points which will make a lot of sense, I don't bother getting into this with her again. We're definitely done with that. It's a waste of time. Goodness sake.

Are you a bubble tea fanatic? But you're not as extreme as the friend I mentioned above, I hope.

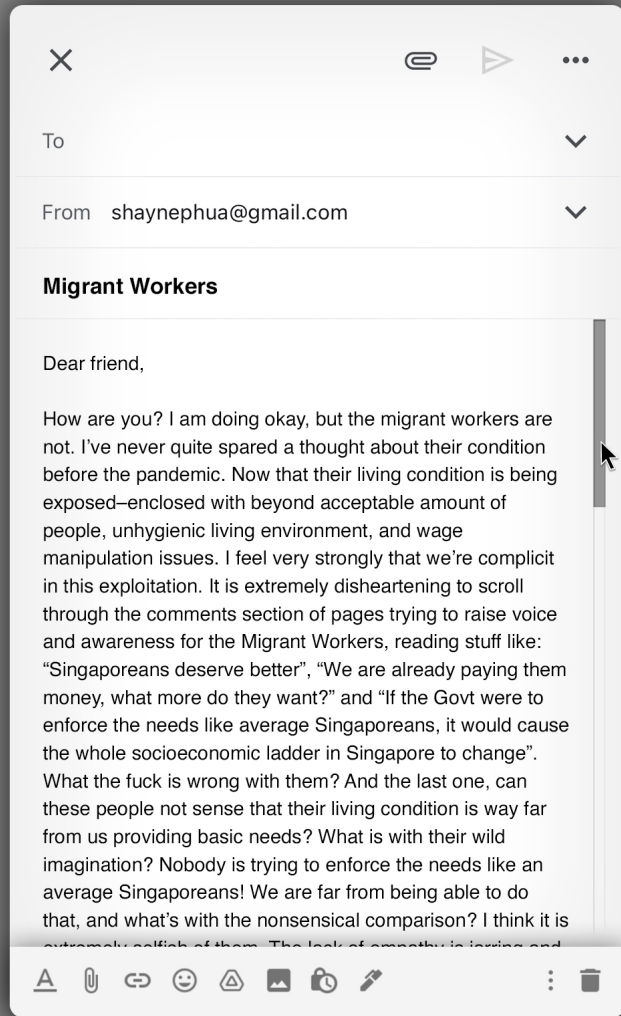
How are things going lately? Hang in there.





IT IS LIKE THEY PUT US IN A PRISON. WHEN CAN WE GO OUT? WE HAVE TO STAY HERE EVERYDAY AND THE HEAT IS TOO MUCH IN THE ROOM. EVERYBODY SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR BECAUSE IT IS COOLER. ONE BY ONE, MY ROOMMATES ARE FALLING SICK AND TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL. THERE ARE ONLY TWO ROOMMATES LEFT. I TOLD MY WIFE ON THE PHONE, AND SHE CRIED, WORRYING THAT I WILL BE THE NEXT. I DON'T WANT TO MAKE HER MISERABLE, BUT I HAVE TO TELL HER THE TRUTHS. I AM NOT EVEN IF I WILL COME OUT OF THIS ALIVE. YESTERDAY, SOMEONE IN THE BUILDING OPPOSITE OURS TRIED TO SUICIDE AND EVERYBODY IN HIS ROOM MANAGED TO PULL HIM BACK, MAYBE SOME ^{BAD} THINGS HAPPENED TO HIS FAMILY BACK AT HOME. THANKFULLY HE DIDN'T JUMP AND IS FINE NOW. THE MOOD IN THIS PLACE IS BECOMING SO BAD, I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE.







extremely selfish of them. The lack of empathy is jarring and pathetic. It is no wonder why we've been able to let all of these issues swept under the carpet for so long.

Pathetic and selfish comments aside, it is very heartening to see people getting together and coming up with ways to donate and ways to help out during this period. There is still hope after all.

Lastly, I also learned about the term 'Trickle-down economics' and how this is nothing but a myth. From someone I consulted on this issue: "If trickle-down really work, inequality would have decreased over the years. Wealth doesn't trickle down from the 1%, it only accumulates".

So, I don't know? What's stopping us from taxing more from the wealthy and reducing the pay of our politicians? Because we're afraid the rich will leave and politicians will quit? Does it not mean that we've accepted that we're worthless? Worthless piece of land with worthless people who assume they deserve to live there because they're born there. Worthless privilege people who only look at and look after themselves. On politicians quitting: there are a lot of capable people out there willing to take over their job by the way, for the Nation, for people, not for the money. Wake the fuck up, Sheep of the wrong shepherd!

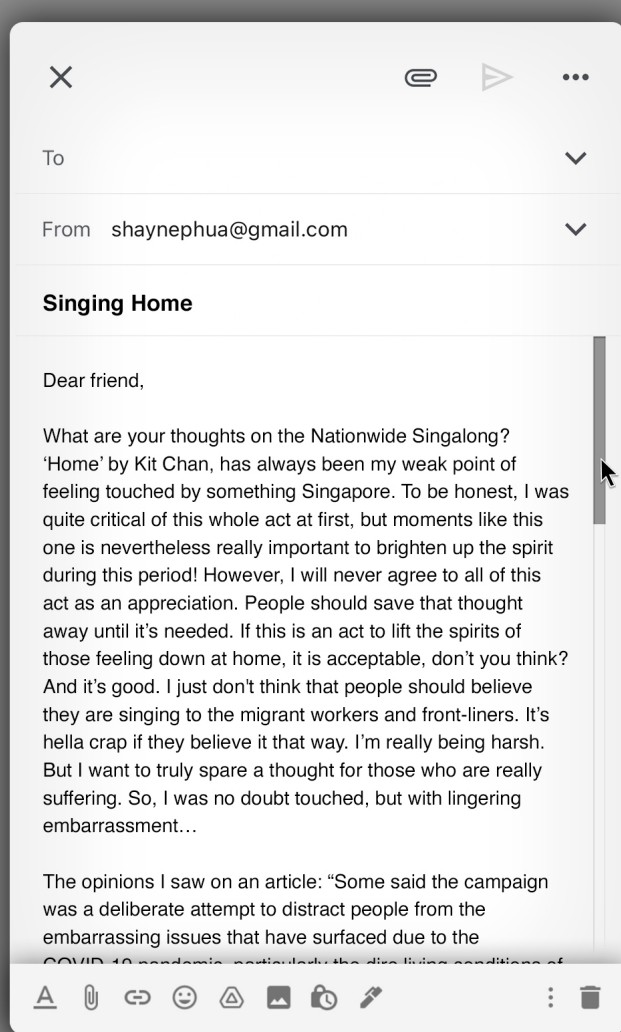
I'm sorry for ranting to you all the time...and thank you for hearing me out.





MY WORKDAYS HAVE BEEN REDUCED, AND SO DOES THE PAY. IT IS TO THE POINT I COULDN'T MANAGE TO PAY THE RENT FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. I MOVED OUT OF THE HOUSE AND HAVE BEEN WITHOUT A HOME FOR WEEKS. IF I LET IT ACCUMULATE, I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO CLEAR THE DEBT. IT IS THE ONLY CHOICE I HAVE LEFT. CHANGI AIRPORT IS REALLY A GOOD SHELTER FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT A HOME. IT IS, HOWEVER, A LITTLE TOO COLD AT NIGHT. SOME KIND SOULS OFFERED US BLANKETS YESTERDAY, AND I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR IT. WHEN WILL I FINALLY BE ABLE TO PAY OFF THE DEBT?... I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT RIGHT NOW. I HAVE JUST ENOUGH FOR FOOD, I HAVE A PLACE TO SLEEP AND SHOWER. THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR NOW. I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT ANY OTHER THING.







COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the dire living conditions of migrant workers”

I can't fully agree on this event of Singing as a deception, but I am very supportive of such concern and thought. It is definitely insensitive of us—in the midst of raising awareness of such atrocity we've committed together—to enjoy the moment and sing together as if we are one united people. Let's not forget the hypocrisy of it all! How many of these people are those still wandering out, enjoying their lives as per normal, without any thoughts of the consequence.

How dare they have the conscience to sing and clap to show their phony appreciation?

I hope you're staying safe my friend.

Love always,
Shayne

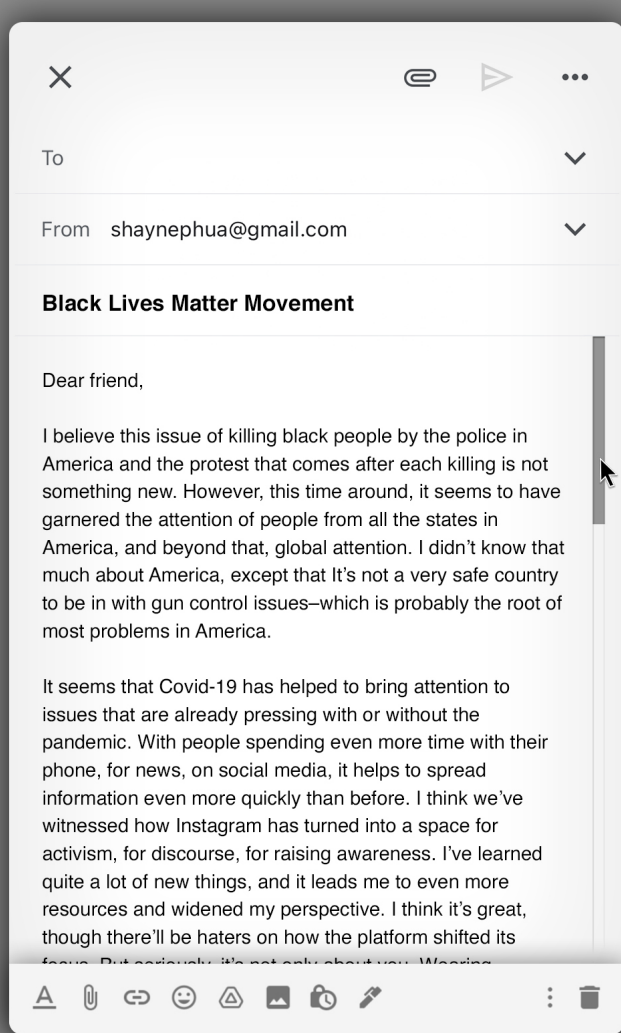


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THE HOSPITALS ARE ALREADY OVERWHELMED AND RAPIDLY EXHAUSTED, BUT PEOPLE ARE STILL FINDING EVERY CHANCE THEY COULD TO GO OUT. FOR BIRTHDAY PARTIES, FOR DRINKS, CAFE-HOPPING, YOGA, SAN CLASSES AND GYM AND SO ON. NO, I DON'T NEED THEM TO SING HOME OR TO CLAP FOR US IF THEY CAN'T EVEN SENSE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS SITUATION. I DON'T NEED THEIR PERFORMATIVE ENCOURAGEMENT, TO FACE THIS SHEER HYPOCRISY, IT MAKES ME EVEN MORE TIRED. CAN'T THEY JUST STAY AT HOME IF THEY HAVE NO BETTER REASON TO GO OUT? THESE RULES OF 1METRE APART AND LESS THAN 10 ARE FOR GATHERINGS THAT ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, NOT AN EXCUSE FOR PEOPLE TO KEEP DOING WHATEVER THEY WANT. THE CASES ARE RISING RAPIDLY, (I DON'T KNOW FOR HOW LONG CAN WE WITHSTAND THIS. I MISS MY FAMILY, I HOPE THEY'RE WELL AND KEEPING THEMSELVES SAFE.







focus. But seriously, it's not only about you. Wearing rose-tinted glass doesn't make the world beautiful.

It seems as if such space turning into activism space is violating the indulgence and "peaceful" privilege these privileged people have always been enjoying. I doubt this level of activism and loud noises would last that long anyway, so I'll never get why people whine about not having enough peace. Unless they have other underlying health issues, which explains why they needed peace and positivity. But hardly, is that ever the case. It is exactly because these issues need attention, people need help, which is why it is "loud". So complaining about these noises of people with serious safety issues is very insensitive.

I think this tweet by Bernice King is really powerful, so I am sharing with you, "If you're not working for justice, stop calling for peace." It makes a lot of sense because it is very inconsiderate for people who do nothing, sit and sleep with comfort at their own home, live their life without danger, to call for peace. They call for peace because the conflicts are beginning to affect their lives. Because they can't stand how the conflicts evolve, they think the better way is to have a peaceful protest, peaceful conversation, peaceful, but they can't even offer a solution.

Don't you think then, they should take a step back, keep quiet and listen, because there's really no place for their kind of peace. Their futile call for peace.



Toxic positivity is what I seriously hate. It never solves any real issue, it's all about sweeping things under the carpet and suppressing people with their positivity that others simply do not have the privilege to enjoy.

With this Global Anti-Racism issue, in Singapore, we've started to bring about this Chinese Privilege issue, Nationwide this time round. It takes time to understand and to acknowledge 'Chinese Privilege' in Singapore. But basically, as Chinese people, before defending ourselves, we should listen. Listen to what the minorities have to share on their experiences, in order for us to learn.

I'm sure you've heard of 'Xia Xue', the notorious blogger and influencer. She is the best example of a defensive Chinese person in Singapore. I still couldn't understand why is it so hard for her to empathise. I don't want to spend too much time talking about her, but only briefly: a big bully of the disadvantaged, the minorities, the marginalised communities in Singapore, the icon of a typical right-wing person, and an icon for selfish Singaporean. She spread messages of hate and harm and often gets away with it. I think it is very disheartening. I really hope you are not one of her followers.

I realised I was really selfish at the beginning of the pandemic, seeing White people causing harm to Chinese-looking Asians, I felt like I am in danger too, for looking like a Chinese person, and of course, being a Chinese person. I can never hide away all of these. I felt hated for looking like the way I am. I started to imagine how



dangerous it would be If I were to travel to those places filled with Asian-hate crimes. I felt unfair. No, I still do. But have I ever thought about how this is an issue for so many (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) BIPOC people with or without this crisis?

They have always been facing discrimination, in many parts of the world. I promise myself to be more sensitive, and let's make this promise together? I hope the world heals. RIP George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tamir Rice, and many other wrongfully killed Black People.

I'm with a heavy heart, but love as always,
Shayne







I TRIED MY BEST TO KEEP A DISTANCE AWAY FROM EVERYBODY WHEN I'M OUT IN THE PUBLIC AREA, I UNDERSTAND EVERYBODY IS WORRIED, BUT IT IS STILL VERY HURTFUL TO HEAR THE EXPERIENCES FROM FELLOW NURSING COLLEAGUES WHILE WE ARE TRYING OUR BEST FOR SOCIETY, IT IS EXTREMELY DISHEARTENING TO RECEIVE CRITICISM FROM THE PUBLIC AND TO BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST.

WE TOO, ARE SCARED OF THE VIRUS, BUT DO WE HAVE A CHOICE? WE HAVE TO FIGHT IT. THEY ARE SO UNAPPRECIATIVE! SOMETIMES, JUST TAKING A BREAK OFF FROM WORK, PICKING UP MY PHONE TO CHECK ON SOCIAL MEDIA, AND SEEING OTHER FRIENDS STILL GOING ABOUT THEIR LIVES AS PER NORMAL, I FEEL SO FRUSTRATED THAT I'M STUCK HERE. I HOPE THE PUBLIC CAN BE MORE CONSIDERATE AND KNOW IT'S NOT THE TIME FOR PARTIES AND CELEBRATIONS. THEY SHOULD STAY AT HOME AS MUCH AS THEY CAN. THIS IS A SOCIETY. WE HAVE TO COLLABORATE SO THAT IT WILL FINALLY COME TO A STOP.





To



From shaynephua@gmail.com



Yemen Crisis and Anti-Maskers

Dear friend,

When people are fighting for nonsensical and selfish rights to not wear a mask...

"Yemen is suffering from the worst humanitarian crisis in the last 100 years. They're currently fighting off an epidemic (Cholera), pandemic (COVID-19), famine and war all at the same time." This is taken from one of the Instagram Activism post. Instagram: @muslim

Another is this:

"If Yemen Was 100 People....

80 need humanitarian aid to survive.

60 have nothing to eat.

58 have no access to clean water.

52 have no access to health care.

11 are malnourished.

But Yemen isn't 100 people.

Yemen is 28.5 million people"

Instagram: @shityoushouldcareabout





And let us think about whatever has enabled the war in Yemen. Let me crop out another bunch of text, and this is by Rebecca Barber at Lowy Institute: "As concerns about the spread of Covid-19 in Yemen have escalated, arms sales have continued. In April, Canada lifted a moratorium on arms exports to Saudi Arabia, and in May, the US approved a possible sale of thousands of armoured vehicles to the UAE. Germany has approved US\$341 million in arms sales to Egypt and \$8.5 million to the UAE this year alone. In other words, members of the Security Council have called for a ceasefire while simultaneously providing arms to enable the fighting in Yemen to continue".

And then read about how people in these privilege countries fight and debate about being forced to wear a fucking mask.

FUCK.

Have you seen it? Fucking selfish.

Oh! How civilised are these people in the First World country!

This is so distressing. I'm sorry for not delivering any good news. Let me know if it is too much for you, maybe we shouldn't talk for the time being. Boundaries are important.

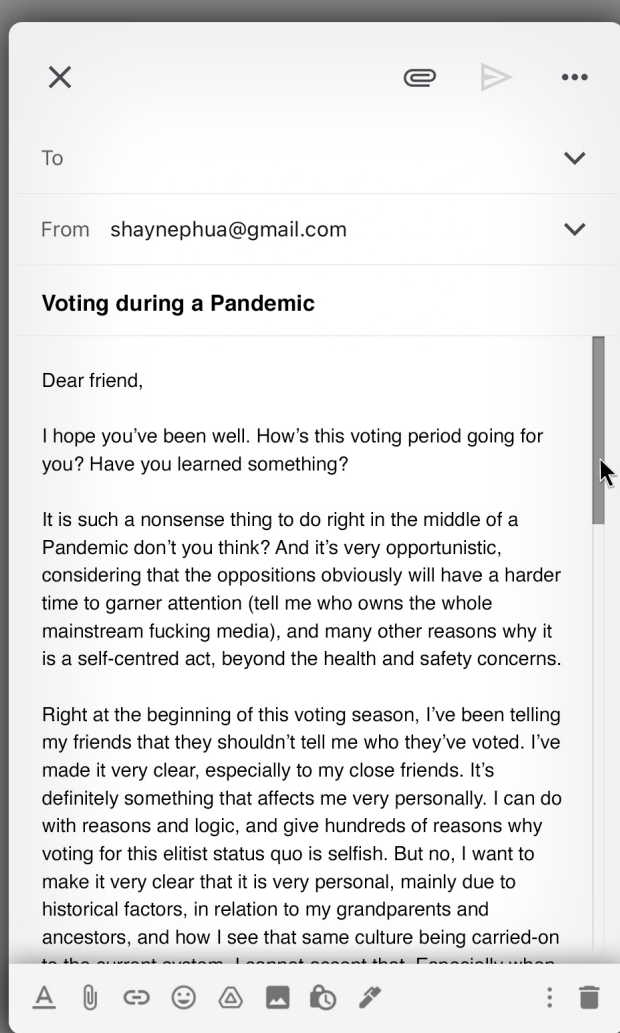
Love always,
Shayne





I LOST MY JOB DURING THIS PERIOD AND SIGNED UP AS A SAFE DISTANCING AMBASSADOR. PEOPLE ASSUME IT IS EASY TO BE ONE, JUST STROLLING AROUND THEY SAY, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW THE NUMBER OF UNRULY BEHAVIOURS WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH - THE AMOUNT OF NEGATIVITY WE ABSORBED THE ENTIRE DAY. DO PEOPLE THINK WE ENJOY TELLING THEM WHAT TO DO OR NOT TO DO? I DON'T. REALLY, PEOPLE GOT TO BACK UP A LITTLE. I SEE THEM GATHERING AS IF WE'VE GOTTEN RID OF THE VIRUS. I'VE BEEN SLEEPING IN A SEPARATE ROOM AWAY FROM MY SPOUSE AND DISTANCE FROM FAMILY AT HOME, BECAUSE OF THIS JOB. I HOPE THE SITUATION WILL GET BETTER AND THAT I CAN GET BACK TO MY ORIGINAL JOB. IF THE SITUATION PERSISTS FOR A VERY LONG TIME, I WILL BE UNABLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET. I'M HOPING FOR THE BETTER AND I WILL KEEP GOING







to the current system. I cannot accept that. Especially when we have good candidates on the opposition side. They need to stop acting like nobody wants to take up their job. Leave! And someone will. Stop all that propaganda already, it is absolutely disgusting.

Sadly, nope, my friends didn't respect that... And I understand. It is definitely hard to avoid this topic if you meet up with your friends during this period. Still, It hurts me very much. I will never be able to remove voting for the incumbent as equivalent to being selfish. It is of course also, a privileged thing to do. Some I could understand a little, due to worrying that the vote is not a secret because they are signing on to one of the national defence groups, and how it'll lead to not being promoted...LOL. That's what they said. This is why social media is doing great during this period, to disseminate information. (because whoever trusts and respects the mainstream media is clearly very ill-informed and naive.)

We seriously need more opinions from experts working in the field (political scientist, economist, social scientist, sociologist), and these experts will hardly ever appear on mainstream media, obviously, the reason being that we have serious censorship issues. Oh, how democratic we are! What a joke. I think you should check out Academia.sg if you haven't already. There's essays and commentaries from the experts and I learned a lot from their website.

So back to talking about social media taking over the



mainstream media, on the topic of voting being a secret, I've seen a few videos debunking the myth of voting not being a secret. At last, even I am convinced too! Considering that I was sceptical of voting being a secret. Voting is absolutely a secret, absolutely. It will not affect your position, your job, and your whatever application.

Another thing I would like to add on is how disappointing it is that Singaporeans know about the politics in America more than their own country. How can you not bother the events happening right at the place you live in, which you could make a significant change to the people living here? Unless you're not residing here, that makes sense.

At the last of this whole election period, I saw this very self-entitled article by rice media, "This is why I support the PAP". What's more horrendous is the number of likes I saw from my own group of friends, which is rather disappointing.

Hence, I want to end this off with extracts from a thread on Twitter, by Teo Kai Xiang, in reply to this privileged article. (Because he's speaking what I would like to highlight; he speaks my mind.) Here's from the first tweet of the thread: "I'm annoyed by this article. Because the real reason anyone supports the PAP is because they're more satisfied than they are unhappy with the current system. It's as simple as that. Let's not dress privilege up as something that it isn't." The fifth tweet of the thread: "People who want to avoid division and are 'risk averse' are just people who benefit the most from incremental change and the status quo. They think it



isn't necessary for us to reconsider our way of life (because they're not the ones falling out of the boat)." and the last tweet of the thread: "Worse, they try to delegitimise those who would go against their views as risk taker (who support flawed policy) or those who promote social division (with polarising ideas), when in reality, those divisions were already REAL and MATERIAL inequalities."

Lastly, I promise this is the last! I want to declare that I really hate centrist. Just imagine a see-saw: someone heavy is sitting on one end of the see-saw, and you look at the other end, another person is floating way up high because they are too light. Now the see-saw ain't moving. IMAGINE! How idiotic it is, for you to went forward but stood or sat on the see-saw, on top of where the pivot lies at the bottom.

POV: you're that fucking annoying neutral/centrist/moderate who thinks you're an angelic person. You don't see the power imbalance at all, because you have a choice to not be part of it. End POV. Do you feel how annoying they are? They often devalue the work of social activists, yet at the same time do not offer a call-to-action or any recourse for the disadvantaged communities. They should TAKE A STEP BACK, but not take a step back as in acting like they can see the BIGGEST PICTURE and the BEST bird's eye view, but take a step back to acknowledge their privilege, and examine what they could offer if they want the peace they called for.

Friend, I hope you're not one of them. I don't think you are.

Love always,





BECAUSE OF THIS COVID-19, THEY DOUBLED OUR
WORKLOAD, BUT THE PAY STILL STAYS THE SAME
TODAY, I WAS JUST RESTING FOR A WHILE
WITH MY MASK OFF—AS IT GETS A LITTLE
HARD TO BREATHE FROM TIME TO TIME. I ALSO
MADE SURE THERE WAS NO ONE IN CLOSE DISTANCE
THE CONDO MANAGEMENT PERSON CAME TO
REPRIMAND ME AND THREATENED TO REPORT
TO MY BOSS WHEN I TRIED TO EXPLAIN.
WHICH APPARENTLY, HE DID. HE COMPLAINED
TO MY BOSS. MY BOSS IS QUITE UNDERSTANDING
ON THIS ISSUE, BUT I STILL HAVE TO
FACE THESE PEOPLE EVERYDAY, I STILL
HAVE TO LISTEN TO THEM. CAN'T THEY
JUST SYMPATHISE WITH US? THEY
KNOW WE HAVE A LOT OF TASKS TO DO.
I HAVE ALREADY BEEN WORKING VERY
HARD. IT IS SO CRUEL OF THEM!





