

Daniel Uncapher

Logic Puzzles

“INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS”

Between climate change, single-use plastics, Donald Trump, and my relationship with Sarah, I can hardly get out of bed these days. Last week (Monday through Friday), I managed to achieve just one productive action each day, which is a good deal more than the universe deserves. By the weekend, however, I didn't feel like I'd accomplished anything at all, which made me feel so bad I wanted to hurt myself. Can you help me remember all the wonderful things that I did last week?

- 1 I cleaned my body before cleaning my clothes, and I did some cleaning on Wednesday. I'm not sure what smelled worse: my hair or my underwear.*
- 2 I went grocery shopping exactly two days before trash pick-up so I could throw out the rotting milk, bagged salad, and Chinese food in the back of the fridge.*
- 3 I never make the bed on the weekend.*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Make the bed					
Shower					
Buy groceries					
Do laundry					
Take out trash					

Daniel Uncapher is a PhD student at the University of Utah whose work has appeared in *The Sun*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Tin House Online*, *The Carolina Quarterly*, *Penn Review*, and others. A disabled bisexual from North Mississippi, they hold an MFA from Notre Dame, where they were a 2018-2019 Sparks Fellow.

“SELF-DIAGNOSTICS”

Everyone I know is a little fucked up sometimes, and that’s okay, but it’s not always good for our relationships. I’m the only one who even has a doctor, and I avoid her as much as I can. Like anyone else, we’ve developed our own mechanisms, and though we try to disguise them, it’s easy to see them if, like anything else, you know where to look.

- 1 *The person who never gets out of bed also happens to smell the most like human discharge.*
- 2 *John, who doesn’t smoke pot, doesn’t start texting until 2 AM, and Sarah, who has never had an episode in her life, often goes to bed with a bleeding face.*
- 3 *In the middle of his last hypomania, jogging through the streets just trying to find someone to talk to, Daniel saw the woman with red eyes at Starbucks, lying about a refill to save 50 cents.*
- 4 *Pavel, cool as a cucumber, heard some pills rattle in the pocket of the craziest boy.*
- 5 *When Rebecca woke up to get high at the kitchen window, she stumbled into John, his credit card next to his computer.*

	Anxiety	Insomnia	Bipolar Type II	Addiction	Depression	AMEX card	20mg Lexapro	Dry mouth	Cum stains	Acne scarring
Sarah										
Daniel										
Rebecca										
Pavel										
John										
AMEX card										
20mg Lexapro										
Dry mouth										
Cum stains										
Acne scarring										

“WHO WOULD DO A THING LIKE THAT?”

I guess you could say everything kind of came to a head the other day, and I don't really know what the lesson is. Can you help us figure out who to blame?

- 1 *I guess it started when Pavel threw up on Rebecca, which you have to admit is pretty messed up, circumstances notwithstanding.*
- 2 *I wasn't exactly depressed, at least not as depressed as the person at the center of it. I mean one of us insulted John, and the other became his new best friend.*
- 3 *Sarah left the Potbelly's feeling triumphant long before the police came, Pavel bleeding all over the counter. No one felt bad for Pavel.*
- 4 *John handled it with predictable momentum, pacing angrily around an empty apartment with his divorce lawyer, which he never thought he'd have.*
- 5 *They'd slept together downtown at some kind of business party neither of them had any business being at, anyway, especially after so many drinks.*
- 6 *Hurting to see my friends in shambles, I took John out of the old apartment and bought him dinner, hoping to get his mind off legal proceedings. It didn't work.*
- 7 *And when Rebecca gets depressed, she goes to Indiana, which, no matter how culpable she may be in all this, is a fate that no one deserves.*

	Depressed	Elated	Sick	Angry	Hurt	Indiana	The Loop	Potbelly's	Logan Square	The old apt.	Slept with	Insulted	Divorced	Befriended	Beat up
Sarah															
Daniel															
Rebecca															
Pavel															
John															
Slept with															
Insulted															
Divorced															
Befriended															
Beat up															
Indiana															
The Loop															
Potbelly's															
Logan Square															
The old apt.															

Subject	Emotion	Location	Event