A Year of Ordinary Moments

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Argotist Ebooks
As a performance art piece I became a licensed notary public in 2009. Since that time I have notarized many things, none of which have been legal documents. I am fascinated by the idea of being legally bound to TRUTH. My personal view that truth is inherently subjective runs counter to the notion of a legal and absolute truth. As part of this project I devised an exercise of witnessing one true thing each day. For the most part I tried to pick the most obscure, least significant event of a given day. I distilled each of these moments into one sentence. The body of this text is the result of my daily observations.
A Year of Ordinary Moments
Rose looked obviously bored with our New Year’s party.

My parents bought two-dozen cans of roasted peanuts from Bed, Bath and Beyond.

Two boys in black tee shirts walked side-by-side down the street.

John slowed down as he passed his grandmother’s house.

A tiny green tinker bell rested near a crack in the sidewalk.

A woman asked if I would like some coffee and refreshments.

Sandra stood in front of flashing hazard lights.

A grackle picked the flesh from road kill on the highway.

The door to the museum locked behind Keith as he took out the trash.

A man who resembled Jerry Lee Lewis played piano with his feet.

My wife bought hair dye at Rite Aid.

A woman pushed a shopping cart filled with large bags of dry dog food.

Several students sat around a table playing cards in the Fitness Center.

David told me I had a booger hanging out of my nose.
Lori hung photographs of the Ku Klux Klan on the museum wall.

1/17/09: Florence, AL
Lori’s car began to sputter and shake.

1/18/09: Florence, AL
Sandra left the real estate office for the last time.

1/19/09: Florence, AL
A water bottle crouched in the gutter near the Frank Lloyd Wright house.

1/20/09: Florence, AL
Lisa gave me a big hug.

1/21/09: Florence, AL
A young lady in my class painted a piece of drawing paper red.

1/22/09: Florence, AL
Bridget wrote a card to Wayne for his birthday.

1/23/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Carlos said he was happy to have a job.

1/24/09: Huntsville, AL
The gracious host at Schnitzel Ranch honored an invalid coupon.

1/25/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Wayne rubbed his eye as he recounted a childhood memory.

1/26/09: Florence, AL
Daisy curled up next to me on my bed.

1/27/09: Sheffield, AL
A woman showed me her collection of coloring book pages.

1/28/09: Florence, AL
Four female soccer players struggled to understand what their coach was saying.

1/29/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Tim convulsed with laughter while riding an exercise bike.

1/30/09: Florence, AL
A little boy danced in the middle of Wal-mart.
2/1/09: Florence, AL  
Several baseball fans watched the game from the bed of a pick-up truck.

2/2/09: Florence, AL  
A grizzled man with a white beard smiled at his free cup of coffee.

2/3/09: Tuscumbia, AL  
Both Patty and Sarah wanted to square dance with Bobby.

2/4/09: Florence, AL  
A man’s arms trembled as he attempted to lift one end of a refrigerator.

2/5/09: Florence, AL  
A young girl dipped her hand into a fountain when her mother was not looking.

2/6/09: Florence, AL  
A couple stood smoking outside the wine store.

2/7/09: Tuscumbia, AL  
Glen admitted he was feeling nervous.

2/8/09: Florence, AL  
Nancy sat in a rocking chair on her front porch and talked to a friend.

2/9/09: Florence, AL  
A hand reached out from a slow-moving car and threw down an empty cigarette pack.

2/10/09: Florence, AL  
A woman walked toward her car with her head bent down into her coat.

2/11/09: Florence, AL  
The whipping wind thwacked me in the ear with a dead leaf.

2/12/09: Auburn, AL  
An old man in Waffle House asked his waitress to play her favorite song on the jukebox.

2/13/09: Florence, AL  
Bridget handed out Valentine party favors.

2/14/09: Florence, AL  
John emptied his grass clippings onto the median in front of his house.

2/15/09: Florence, AL  
The new clerk at Rite Aid was confused by the cash register.

2/16/09: Florence, AL
A young boy hid behind a tree in his yard until I crossed the street.

2/17/09: Florence, AL  
Dexter and Daisy scratched at the door frightened of the thunder.

2/18/09: Florence, AL  
I saw three students who had skipped my class standing outside smoking.

2/19/09: Florence, AL  
A man in line at the grocery store asked me if I had been to 4th Dimension.

2/20/09: Florence, AL  
A customer at Hobby Lobby bought a set of jungle print vases and accent pillows.

2/21/09: Tuscumbia, AL  
Mary Settle instructed me on how best to unfold the legs of a table.

2/22/09: Florence, AL  
Lori’s eyes widened as she watched Hugh Jackman dancing on television.

2/23/09: Florence, AL  
Barbara leaned her head out of her office door.

2/24/09: Sheffield, AL  
David sat on his porch swing and delighted in his coffee and cigarette.

2/25/09: Florence, AL  
The postman at the counter could not find the code for Glasgow on his computer.

2/26/09: Florence, AL  
One man grabbed another man by his shirt collar.

2/27/09: Florence, AL  
Four men from South Africa sang about working in the diamond mines.

2/28/09: Florence, AL  
Lori tried to draw a caricature of me without me noticing.

3/1/09: Florence, AL  
The dusting of snow melted quickly in the sunlight.

3/2/09: Florence, AL  
Thomas avoided me in the parking deck by quickly jumping into the stairwell.

3/3/09: Florence, AL  
Ethan leaned back in his office chair with his hands folded on top of his head.
3/4/09: Florence, AL
Lori curled up in bed with a smile on her face.

3/5/09: Tuscumbia, AL
A woman crouched over a white pickle bucket and mixed tile grout.

3/6/09: Florence, AL
Chiong stood outside with her students as it rained.

3/7/09: Decatur, AL
A waitress with augmented breasts walked through Big Bob Gibson’s.

3/8/09: Florence, AL
A doll that had survived a house fire hid face down in the grass.

3/9/09: Florence, AL
Junior sat on his porch out of breath from raking leaves.

3/10/09: Florence, AL
Lori unwrapped Christmas lights from a wooden star.

3/11/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Wayne, Jake and Max played music together on stage for the first time in several years.

3/12/09: Florence, AL
Bridget’s face filled with complete surprise when she walked into her house.

3/13/09: Florence, AL
The rain thinned out to a drizzle then stopped.

3/14/09: Florence, AL
A student asked me if she could leave class early to visit the tanning salon.

3/15/09: Florence, AL
A man who resembled a walrus watched me as I passed his truck.

3/16/09: Florence, AL
Lori gave me the silent treatment.

3/17/09: Florence, AL
A student asked me if she could leave class early to visit the tanning salon.

3/18/09: Florence, AL
A man who resembled a walrus watched me as I passed his truck.

3/19/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Jim demonstrated a working model version of an Edison Phonograph.

3/20/09: Tuscumbia, AL
A woman violently shook a tambourine and yelled out.

3/21/09: Florence, AL
A young boy balanced on the edge of the street curb while talking on his cell phone.

3/22/09: Florence, AL
A woman screeched through the empty church parking lot.

3/23/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Lori made sure to tell Keith she was leaving work for the day.

3/24/09: Tuscumbia, AL
BeLinda slowly limped into the office lobby gritting her teeth in pain.

3/25/09: Florence, AL
A Kenyan lady organized clothes at Loaves and Fishes.

3/26/09: Florence, AL
A woman grew frustrated from being blocked in by the NACOLG bus.

3/27/09: Florence, AL
A field of golden rod swayed in pre-storm winds.

3/28/09: Florence, AL
A neighbor asked if Lori and I would like to have some free-range eggs.

3/30/09: Florence, AL
Masaki walked through the art department building to tell everyone goodbye.

3/31/09: Sheffield, AL
Peggy steamed the suit jacket for a man portraying Brother Dave Gardner.

4/1/09: Florence, AL
My class did not fall for the trick I attempted to play on them.

4/2/09: Florence, AL
Lori struggled to breathe through her nose.

4/3/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Six fat women sat around a table gobbling up food at the Chinese buffet.
4/4/09: Florence, AL
A neighbor planted flowers around her mailbox.

4/5/09: Wayne County, TN
Lori and I climbed up a hill to find an ancestral cemetery.

4/6/09: Florence, AL
A couple dressed all in black quickly left Subway only to return moments later.

4/7/09: Florence, AL
Three adults were jumping around on an inflatable moon bounce.

4/8/09: Florence, AL
At Troughbridge’s, a woman asked her waitress how much a bag of chips costs.

4/9/09: Florence, AL
A dead catfish floated inside a white pickle bucket left on the curb.

4/10/09: Florence, AL
Hail pattered the roof as tornado alarms blared in the distance.

4/11/09: Florence, AL
A large woman ascended the spiral staircase with her tiny yapping dog.

4/12/09: Huntsville, AL
Mom told Lori and me the story behind her Easter decorations.

4/13/09: Florence, AL
Two girls sat on a bench and sketched pictures of the same lamppost.

4/14/09: Florence, AL
The graceful arch of a dancer’s arm was frozen as she posed.

4/15/09: Montgomery, AL
A man’s dreadlocks were getting sucked out of his car window as he drove.

4/16/09: Auburn, AL
An anorexic looking girl took orders at the sandwich shop.

4/17/09: Florence, AL
A stretched canvas leaned against a trash heap.

4/18/09: Tuscumbia, AL
A boy stood atop the brick wall wearing a cardboard mask.

4/19/09: Florence, AL
A robin bathed itself in the puddle from a backed up storm drain.

4/20/09: Florence, AL
A girl who was not disabled struggled to roll the wheelchair she was sitting in.

4/21/09: Florence, AL
A woman asked for four bundles of cotton candy.

4/22/09: Florence, AL
A circle of students sun bathed in the grass.

4/23/09: Florence, AL
The woman giving a lecture struggled to speak English.

4/24/09: Muscle Shoals, AL
Craig laughed as I ran while pushing his wheelchair.

4/25/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Laura’s paper airplane took a nosedive into the gravel.

4/26/09: Florence, AL
A kid sped down the sidewalk on his bicycle until he slammed into the curb.

4/27/09: Florence, AL
A mockingbird chased away a large crow from the roof of the grocery store.

4/28/09: Florence, AL
The violin soloist played barefoot.

4/29/09: Florence, AL
Ashley’s guide dog rested its chin on her knee.

4/30/09: Florence, AL
A giant box sat on the neighbor’s front porch.

5/1/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Glen chose not to wear his usual baseball cap.

5/2/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Two cats tortured a chipmunk near a bush.

5/3/09: Tuscumbia, AL
A clothes hamper full of rolled up architectural blueprints sat on the street curb.

5/4/09: Florence, AL
A man whispered a comment about the blind woman in line at the bank.
5/5/09: Florence, AL
Leah leaned against the classroom door waiting for it to be unlocked.

5/6/09: Florence, AL
The dumpster next to the dormitory over-flowed with plastic bags of unwanted things.

5/7/09: Florence, AL
The insurance adjuster wiped his brow with a towel after walking on the roof.

5/8/09: Florence, AL
I received a lock of Robert’s hair in a letter.

5/9/09: Florence, AL
Rainwater in the gutter flowed in the wrong direction.

5/10/09: Florence, AL
John held his fork with a fist as he ate.

5/11/09: Colbert County, AL
The woman who was cleaning trashcans at the gas station gave me a toy police car set.

5/12/09: Florence, AL
Chiong’s car was gone when Lori and I left the art building.

5/14/09: Huntsville, AL
Wayne’s checked duffle bag weighed 49.5 pounds.

5/15/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Amanda asked me to sit next to her during lunch.

5/16/09: Florence, AL
A young boy standing by a lemonade cart held his crotch with both hands and hopped around.

5/17/09: Florence, AL
Several cute girls sold puppies by the fountain.

5/18/09: Tuscumbia, AL
David pretended to talk to his brother while holding a toy to his ear.

5/19/09: Florence, AL
Nancy held her back as she struggled down her front steps.

5/20/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Keith tried to remain calm while talking with his parent’s insurance company.

5/21/09: Tuscumbia, AL
The castrato giggled as I slipped a diaper between his legs.

5/22/09: Florence, AL
Rose shelved pink bottles of liquid soap at Wal-Mart.

5/23/09: Florence, AL
Lori grew self-conscious about the green shirt she was wearing to dinner.

5/24/09: Florence, AL
Sandra saved a newspaper article about the granddaughter of her ex-husband’s girlfriend.

5/25/09: Florence, AL
A fly was caught in the wet varnish on one of my paintings.

5/26/09: Birmingham, AL
A wasp nest was hidden in the eye of a praying mantis.

5/27/09: Florence, AL
Maden refused to let me pay for any of the doughnuts.

5/28/09: Florence, AL
Three life vests were piled near the dry cleaners.

5/29/09: Florence, AL
Melanie stood in her back yard reattaching a lawnmower bag.

5/30/09: Florence, AL
Bonnie sprayed her hedges with an insecticide.

6/1/09: Florence, AL
The soundtrack on the exercise video was scratchy.

6/2/09: Florence, AL
Streaks of bright purple bird shit oozed down the front step.

6/3/09: Florence, AL
My car would not crank in the Lil’ Steve’s package store parking lot.

6/4/09: Florence, AL
Wayne’s tomato plants bore small green fruits.
A well-dressed man checked for my name on his guest list.

Charlene shared the story behind her straightening comb.

Karen and her daughter seemed happy with the exhibit of Bruce's work.

Anna sat nervously in the classroom.

The museum attendant did not allow me to leave a request.

Several large feathers were all that remained of a blackbird.

Iron Man and Spider Man handed out kisses together.

Scott sat and pouted at the table until he was asked to dance.

A blue beach ball lay in the drainage ditch near a child's left shoe.

The sun kept hiding behind sheets of clouds after the rain cleared.

In a plastic baggie little gingerbread men held toothpick flags.

Deb asked if I was staying for the Tupperware party.

Daisy and Dexter slept in the living room, exhausted from the heat.
A buzzard hung upside down from the Berry’s dining room light fixture.

6/21/09: Collinwood, TN
Sandra gave James a hug at his brother’s funeral.

6/22/09: Huntsville, AL
No parking spaces were vacant in front of the dentist office.

6/23/09: Florence, AL
An assistant told me Jennifer was too busy to meet.

6/24/09: Florence, AL
James left the nightlight burning in Charles’ vacant apartment.

6/25/09: Florence, AL
Dave hit and pinched himself when he was not allowed to eat another apple turnover.

6/26/09: Florence, AL
The owner of Wok ’n Roll swatted flies near seated customers in the dining area.

6/27/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Charlie’s kids burned holes in a roll of butcher paper with a magnifying glass.

6/28/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Hundreds of rubber ducks floated en mass across the canal.

6/29/09: Florence, AL
A sparrow stared into the window of the Subway with its beak wide open.

6/30/09: Sheffield, AL
A train sped by just before Lori was able to cross the tracks.

7/1/09: Florence, AL
A woman and a boy rode Segway mobiles side-by-side down the street.

7/2/09: Nashville, TN
A man licked the blade of his pocketknife.

7/3/09: Florence, AL
Zoë taunted us with the bone in her mouth.

7/4/09: Florence, AL
A couple of boys rode their bicycles down the street while holding American flags.

7/5/09: Florence, AL
A family asked if I had seen their missing dog.
7/6/09: Florence, AL
A pregnant massage therapist carried her rusty pipe into Ace Hardware.

7/7/09: Tuscumbia, AL
A man drove a riding lawn mower very near to where we were picnicking.

7/8/09: Florence, AL
One of Mary’s paintings was hanging in her own kitchen.

7/9/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Dot finished Robert’s soda before throwing the cup into the trashcan.

7/10/09: Tuscumbia, AL
A neighbor’s storm window was leaning against the tree in their front yard.

7/11/09: Muscle Shoals, AL
A couple watched a Power Point slide show about their own life together.

7/12/09: Birmingham, AL
The backdoor of the Sloss Furnaces office building was ajar.

7/13/09: Florence, AL
Dexter polished off my Mushroom and Swiss burger when I wasn’t looking.

7/14/09: Florence, AL
On the phone Dad sounded in high spirits despite having a gallstone.

7/15/09: Florence, AL
A ball of swarming gnats hovered in the front yard for over a minute.

7/16/09: Florence, AL
A clump of cheese dip dripped from Lori’s chip and landed near the edge of the table.

7/17/09: Florence, AL
Terry Bowden waved from the back seat of a convertible.

7/18/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Two women drove Rascals into the museum.

7/19/09: Huntsville, AL
Mom farted in the kitchen.

7/20/09: Huntsville, AL

7/21/09: Huntsville, AL
Dad carried boxes of estate sale items across the street in the rain.

7/22/09: Florence, AL
Nine mushrooms were growing in the front yard near the driveway.

7/23/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Keith came out of the bathroom with his shirt un-tucked.

7/24/09: Florence, AL
A man drove by while picking his nose.

7/25/09: Florence, AL
A woman with one bright green shoe walked around Belk shopping for clothes.

7/26/09: Florence, AL
Sam hid behind Sandra’s red chair to avoid getting flea drops.

7/27/09: Courtland, AL
A lawnmower fashioned out of a shopping cart was parked along the highway.

7/28/09: Milledgeville, GA
Sharon believed she locked her keys in the storage room.

7/29/09: Florence, AL
A father bought two large slices of pizza for his sons at Fun Land.

7/30/09: Tuscumbia, AL
During the fire drill Gay lost her balance, fell to the floor and landed on her back.

7/31/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Jim and Keith carried bronze goat shit from the gallery into storage.

8/1/09: Mobile, AL
Thomas was introduced to his family’s new dog that had been rescued by his sister.

8/2/09: Cullman County, AL
A large brown turtle refused my assistance crossing the interstate.

8/3/09: Florence, AL
A bulldozer scraped up chunks of concrete and dirt with its backhoe.

8/4/09: Florence, AL
Dexter vomited after eating a clump of grass sprayed with Sevin Dust.

8/5/09: Florence, AL
Dr. Lazenbee said Dexter was in good health.
8/6/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Justin picked a clump of grass and sniffed it.

8/7/09: Tuscumbia, AL
April drew a whale on a round piece of paper.

8/8/09: Florence, AL
Sandra suddenly stopped walking due to the pain in her leg.

8/9/09: Tuscaloosa, AL
The windshield was smudged and impossible to see through.

8/10/09: Tuscaloosa, AL
Boxes of Wayne’s photographs were stacked in the kitchen of the Bama Theater office.

8/11/09: Florence, AL
A fly sat on the ledge of the porch and watched me check my email.

8/12/09: Florence, AL
The scent of grill-smoke was in the air near a row of grapevines.

8/13/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Randall giggled to himself, but he would not share the reason.

8/14/09: Florence, AL
A kid drove by in a pick-up truck with a walking stick in his gun rack.

8/15/09: Birmingham, AL
Mark and his son negotiated how much barbeque sandwich his son needed to finish.

8/16/09: Florence, AL
Junior was asleep on his front porch with his mouth wide open.

8/17/09: Florence, AL
Yellow crime scene tape surrounded Compass Bank.

8/19/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Cameron drove his 1958 Bel Air with a big grin on his face.

8/20/09: Florence, AL
In the presence of a mechanic my car did not make the awful noise I had been hearing.

8/21/09: Florence, AL
A server at Logan’s sneezed into his hands and then picked up a plate of food.

8/22/09: Florence, AL
Lori rode away with her sister as I pulled in to the driveway.

8/23/09: Florence, AL
Lori took a nap in my bed after lunch.

8/24/09: Auburn, AL
Without asking for them, I was given fries with my order of hot dogs.

8/25/09: Auburn, AL
A man sat in Toomer’s Coffee Shop inquiring about sheet metal.

8/26/09: Florence, AL
Daniel leaned against the wall and accidentally flipped off the lights.

8/27/09: Florence, AL
A scrawny black dog panted in the shade of a garbage can.

8/28/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Judy raised her fist to Calvin then covered her ears and walked away.

8/29/09: Florence, AL
A fat couple drove up to pilfer through the remnants of Sandra’s yard sale.

8/30/09: Florence, AL
Leo and Una were not in their habitat when Lori and I visited the campus.

8/31/09: Florence, AL
There was a black smudge on Wayne’s nose by his left eye.

9/1/09: Florence, AL
The florist tied a bunch of purple iris with a yellow ribbon.

9/2/09: Florence, AL
The UPS deliveryman left Bonnie’s package on our porch to keep it out of the rain.

9/3/09: Florence, AL
Junior wore a black Hawaiian shirt to take Nancy out for her 70th birthday.

9/4/09: Florence, AL
A pair of cicadas was mating in the street.

9/5/09: Huntsville, AL
The Mac Store clerk with a Mohawk wanted to play songs from his iPod for us to hear.
Dexter’s eyes were swollen and glassy and he rubbed them with his paws.

A young boy wedged his butt in a child’s swing seat and got stuck.

Courtney walked into the classroom coughing from second-hand cigarette smoke.

Cathy brought two stuffed portabella mushrooms to the door.

A female construction worker cursed harder and laughed louder than the males she sat with on break.

9/8/09: Florence, AL
Hummingbirds battled near the neighbor’s feeder.

9/9/09: Florence, AL
Cathy brought two stuffed portabella mushrooms to the door.

9/10/09: Florence, AL
One small fat dog sniffed the butt of another small fat dog.

9/11/09: Florence, AL
A female construction worker cursed harder and laughed louder than the males she sat with on break.

9/12/09: Florence, AL
Hummingbirds battled near the neighbor’s feeder.

9/13/09: Florence, AL
Cathy brought two stuffed portabella mushrooms to the door.

9/14/09: Florence, AL
The streak of white paint in the grass was obscured by new growth.

9/15/09: Florence, AL
Lori applied for a new job.

9/16/09: Florence, AL
A man in a sports car skidded into his parking spot behind the cafeteria.

9/17/09: Florence, AL
A slug was stuck in the door jam at the entrance to my studio.

9/18/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Donna stood on a table to close the air conditioning vent.

9/19/09: Huntsville, AL
My mother told me the sequence of events that happened on the day I was born.

9/20/09: Florence, AL
Sandra drove down to the public library to watch a screening of Casablanca.
9/21/09: Florence, AL
Donna got her neck tickled by the stem of a houseplant.

9/22/09: Florence, AL
Glenda and a student raced up the hill behind the Fitness Center.

9/23/09: Florence, AL
The nameless cat that lives across the street hid out from the rain.

9/24/09: Florence, AL
A swarm of large mosquitoes invaded the living room.

9/25/09: Florence, AL
A puddle of urine formed under Nikki’s chair.

9/26/09: Florence, AL
Bridget showed off the two coats she bought at the thrift store.

9/27/09: Florence, AL
Ron dipped his head into the back seat of his jeep.

9/28/09: Florence, AL
A puddle of water from the leaking air conditioner covered the floor in the classroom.

9/29/09: Florence, AL
A woman on the street asked if I would paint a portrait of her.

9/30/09: Florence, AL
A cluster of bugs marched down the limb of a tree eating the light green fungus.

10/1/09: Florence, AL
Wayne closed his eyes while listening to Jeanie read a poem about their travels together.

10/2/09: Huntsville, AL
Mom dressed Chanel in a ladybug costume.

10/3/09: Huntsville, AL
Sandra brought Lori a small wreath for the front door.

10/4/09: Florence, AL
A man was enveloped by cigarette smoke while standing by his backdoor.

10/5/09: Florence, AL
Mel fumbled with an envelope then offered his left hand for a shake.

10/6/09: Florence, AL
A woman balanced her parfait on top of her latte to answer her cell phone as she walked.

10/7/09: Florence, AL
Suzanne smoked while sitting at the desk in her office with the door open.

10/8/09: Florence, AL
A man had the same haircut as his tiny dog.

10/9/09: Tuscaloosa, AL
A nurse at Druid City Hospital took a photograph of me in the maternity ward.

10/10/09: Tuscaloosa, AL
Jon’s house smelled of cigarettes, liquor, marijuana and cat litter.

10/11/09: Florence, AL
A faint whistling sound came from the back of Judy and Charles’ house.

10/12/09: Florence, AL
Chiong laughed at my shaved head and face.

10/13/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Zach kept sipping water from the fountain.

10/14/09: Florence, AL
One redneck explained what sushi was to another redneck.

10/15/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Shortly after arriving home Lori went to sleep with a migraine.

10/16/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Kim was sobbing when she answered the phone.

10/17/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Megan unrolled some red book binding thread from her spool.

10/18/09: Florence, AL
A waiter at Ricatoni’s stood outside and watched the building get painted.

10/19/09: Florence, AL
Chico dragged his hind legs in the grass and whimpered to be petted.

10/20/09: Florence, AL
A man in a straw hat ran an electric pipe snake into the sewer.

10/21/09: Florence, AL
A pair of Japanese girls asked me directions to the nearest McDonald’s.
10/22/09: Florence, AL
One bag of recycling was left on the side of the road.

10/23/09: Florence, AL
Megan shared a video of a pair of mating tortoises.

10/24/09: Florence, AL
Susann’s yapping dogs were in a crib under the canopy.

10/25/09: Florence, AL
Sandra served chocolate cake barefoot.

10/26/09: Florence, AL
Two squirrels narrowly escaped certain death by truck tires.

10/27/09: Florence, AL
Dexter came into the living room chomping on a piece of my drawing charcoal.

10/28/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Keith carried a box of mail to his car.

10/29/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Cameron dropped a friend off at the county court house.

10/30/09: Florence, AL
A cluster of children climbed on to a hay-filled trailer being pulled by a four-wheeler.

11/1/09: Florence, AL
Megan thought she saw Chiong's car in the parking lot.

11/2/09: Florence, AL
Lisa left the meeting early to pick up her daughter.

11/3/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Jim draped a fur collar over the mounted head of a teddy bear.

11/5/09: Florence, AL
Sharon walked into class with two garbage bags full of leaves.

11/6/09: Decatur, AL
Our waitress came back with her jacket on and smelling of cigarette smoke.

11/7/09: Tuscumbia, AL
A man with a little dog dragged a table as he walked by.

11/8/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Vern showed me the old milk bottles he had collected.

11/9/09: Florence, AL
Mary was outside sweeping leaves from the walkway.

11/10/09: Florence, AL
A boy carrying an ice cream cone reached in his back pocket.

11/11/09: Florence, AL
Lori turned the car around to pick up five ferns off the side of the road.

11/12/09: Florence, AL
Lisa spoke frantically on her cell phone as she leaned against the wall.

11/13/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Cameron flirted with the girl behind the counter at the coffee shop.

11/14/09: Sheffield, AL
Vern showed off his collection of vintage car tags.

11/15/09: Tuscaloosa, AL
Wayne threw a cardboard sign at me.

11/16/09: Tuscaloosa, AL
A little girl asked when she would be able to get her own cell phone.

11/17/09: Florence, AL
A cheerleader shuffled across campus shivering from the cold.

11/18/09: Florence, AL
Ashton walked out of class half an hour early.

11/19/09: Florence, AL
John shook his head disapprovingly as he walked into the building.

11/20/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Paul explained how ice cream trucks used to back into the loading dock.

11/21/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Laura resisted leaving class early with her father.
11/22/09: Florence, AL
Sam ran frisky through Sandra’s house.

11/23/09: Florence, AL
Lori burned her mouth with hot chocolate.

11/24/09: Florence, AL
A painter waved with a brush in his hand.

11/25/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Jim politely declined our invitation to Thanksgiving dinner.

11/26/09: Florence, AL
A car pulled into our driveway and then turned onto Junior and Nancy’s front lawn.

11/27/09: Florence, AL
Five people stood in a row watching tree trimmers cutting down limbs.

11/29/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Buddy pointed out where he used to load milk crates into delivery trucks.

12/1/09: Florence, AL
Judy was out of breath from carrying a bag to her garbage can.

12/2/09: Huntsville, AL
Dustin gave me a sarcastic thumbs-up.

12/3/09: Huntsville, AL
A mother and daughter sat for me to draw their portraits.

12/5/09: Florence, AL
Lori called my name from down the street as I unlocked the front door.

12/6/09: Florence, AL
Tim was packing up the scraps from a roasted chicken.

12/7/09: Florence, AL
The nameless cat from across the street came over to sit in my lap.

12/8/09: Florence, AL
Lori tested four different body sprays on her arm.

12/9/09: Florence, AL
The sushi chef at Wok ‘n Roll walked into the kitchen to find a clean plate.

12/10/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Cameron popped off the lid to his cup of apple cider.

12/11/09: Florence, AL
A neighbor stapled Christmas lights to the tree in his front yard.

12/12/09: Florence, AL
An infant sat in his stroller wearing reindeer footies.

12/13/09: Florence, AL
Vance carried a plastic bag from his car.

12/14/09: Tuscumbia, AL
Anita excused herself from the room after farting unexpectedly.

12/15/09: Tuscumbia, AL
A young boy asked me if Andy Warhol influenced the Beatles.

12/16/09: Florence, AL
Juliann smiled to show off her teeth without braces.

12/17/09: Florence, AL
Faith smiled as she walked out of Hobby Lobby with her boyfriend.

12/18/09: Florence, AL
The server at Hannalore’s wished us a Merry Christmas in German.

12/19/09: Huntsville, AL
A dropped plate shattered on the floor.

12/20/09: Florence, AL
Tommy tested the flicker mode on his Christmas lawn ornaments.

12/21/09: Florence, AL
In a rush to leave, Nancy dropped her walking cane.

12/22/09: Florence, AL
Shao Yu ran out of Subway looking for his mother.
12/23/09: Florence, AL
A boy yelled, “Roll-Tide-Roll!” as he kicked a football between two trees.

12/24/09: Huntsville, AL
Dad sorted out the pieces to a puzzle.

12/25/09: Huntsville, AL
Mom sobbed as she read a poem that Dad wrote for her.

12/26/09: Huntsville, AL
Dad stood at the gate, waving goodbye.

12/27/09: Florence, AL
A man stood in the toy section at Big Lots playing with one of the games.

12/28/09: Florence, AL
A single mother and her two children each carried bags of groceries from the store.

12/29/09: Florence, AL
A woman rode by on a little girl’s bicycle.

12/30/09: Florence, AL
Chico dragged his hind legs in the grass and whimpered to be petted.

12/31/09: Huntsville, AL
A large man wearing a top hat walked slowly down the ramp.