

Dogblog 4.0 launch, and the rest of my life.

dogblog.neocities.org 02/03/2025

Big old site update and also I'm going to design school ...

Dogblog 4.0 is up! This update has been a long time coming ... I really didn't like the previous 3.0 layout. The only reason I deleted 2.0, the last version to feature sidebar navigation and the clover picture(s), was because it got too complicated and started to stress me out. So I made 3.0 excessively simple to avoid that sort of feeling, but let's be real here ... it was BORING! And it was UGLY! And it really didn't feel like ME!

With this new layout, I brought back some of the whimsy and coziness of 2.0 (actually, I think it's even cozier ...), but I also took great care to streamline my file directory and even make my HTML more coherent and legible, so I shouldn't get too stressed out to update the site and delete everything *this time* lol.

There are still a couple more things I need to work on, but overall I'm really happy with this layout. I think it's my best work yet and I can't wait to jump off from here and keep adding more cool stuff.

As for the blog, if you've been following my site you might notice I've started over *again*. I Really hope I can stick with blogging this time, though, because I'm trying a new blog style that I think I'll like a lot. I want to try writing this blog almost like a diary. I was thinking the other day about the fact that I was actually a very avid journaler this time last year. I kept up my journal every single day and I only stopped when I **LOST** the notebook I had been journaling in at the time at the end of the summer. I was really upset about it and hadn't kept a journal since, but if I'm keeping what's essentially a web-based journal, I'm never going to lose it. Right? So hopefully I'll be sticking with this blog style and updating more frequently than I did in the past.

Okay. We've been over the site, we've been over the blog, and now I want to talk about the rest of my life, because I've been pretty quiet on here the past couple months, working on all the background stuff, but my life is actually pretty awesome lately!! I think too much has happened in the past couple months to talk about everything at once, so I suppose I'll have to write more in-depth on various events individually, but recently my biggest news is that I got into college! My dream school, actually. And a program I'm actually passionate about. Wild stuff! I'll be moving across the country to Cincinnati and studying graphic design for the next five years. My family is moving with me, save my twin sister, who will be studying in St. Louis. To be frank, I'm elated. If you've been keeping up with the various scrapped dogblogs, you'll know that I was born and raised in a small town in the Sonoran Desert. You'll also know that I totally hate it here. BUT I like Cincinnati ... there's trees there! And I like the buildings and the traffic lights. I feel like every other street in Ohio looks like the prettiest street in Arizona. That's an exaggeration. Some pieces of Arizona are really pretty. I'll miss the Prescott National Forest.

But there's, like, two trees and two people I'll miss here. Overall I'm excited. I'll let the days pass quickly, and soon enough I'll wake up somewhere else every day. That's life and that's the dream!!!

In lesser news, I'm reading lately. I wish I could say "I'm reading more" or "I'm reading again," but to be honest I've never been a reader. Ever. As a kid I found it boring, I think mostly because I had a teacher when I was younger who told me not to read age-appropriate children's books, funny as it sounds. I had a high "lexile" or reading level, I guess, and I was told to only read classics and more advanced books. But that shit's boring if you're eight! So I thought reading was boring and I never read for fun and then I never read for school, either. SparkNotes is my main bitch. And now my reading skills are probably pretty shit for an 18-year-old. Or, well, I don't know. I do well on standardized tests and essays, but I find it really hard still to just sit down and read a book. The issue is, I need something to fill my time that at least *feels* productive. I have a short school day and no job, so I come home before noon and then I just. Like. Play minecraft and read people's blogs for ten hours and maybe binge eat and then go to sleep. I've been doing cool stuff periodically that I want to write about, but my typical day is really, like ... depressing and it makes me feel bad about myself. So I took up reading.

First, I finished a book my painting teacher lent me last semester. Elliot Gish's *Grey Dog*. It was mid, but I like books about mentally ill women (especially lesbians!) so I was able to get through it. Albeit very slowly. It took me more than a semester. After I finished *Grey Dog* I figured out how to use the hold system at my local library and I picked up a copy of Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*. My friend A.R. said she would do "buddy reads" with me once I set up an account on [The StoryGraph](#) and *The Handmaid's Tale* was the first one she suggested we read. I liked it a lot and, like I said, there's time to fill, and I finished it in 4 days. Good read, relevant! To pass time I'm working my way through Steven Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, even though I'm not really interested in YA. My friend M.S. recommended it to me. I'm actually quite enjoying it! I started the day before yesterday and got about halfway through, but I haven't picked it up since. Next in line I've got a hold on George Orwell's *1984* and *Animal Farm*, bound together as one book, and then A.R. and I will read Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* as our next buddy read for BHM.

If any of you folks on the internet have book recommendations, feel free to send some my way via email! Or leave a comment on my Neocities profile if you want. I like fiction, but I want to start reading nonfiction, too. I like fiction about mentally ill women, bonus points for homosexuality, extra bonus points for no [healthy and/or happy] romance between said homos. I want to read more feminist literature as well. Don't be shy to get in touch! ^.^

This entry is getting long and I think that's most of what I want to say. I've been enjoying cool, rainy days, but for the past 72 hours or so it's been way too hot here for early February. I'll leave you with some pictures I've taken on my little digital camera. I hope all my readers have a wonderful day / night, awoof!!

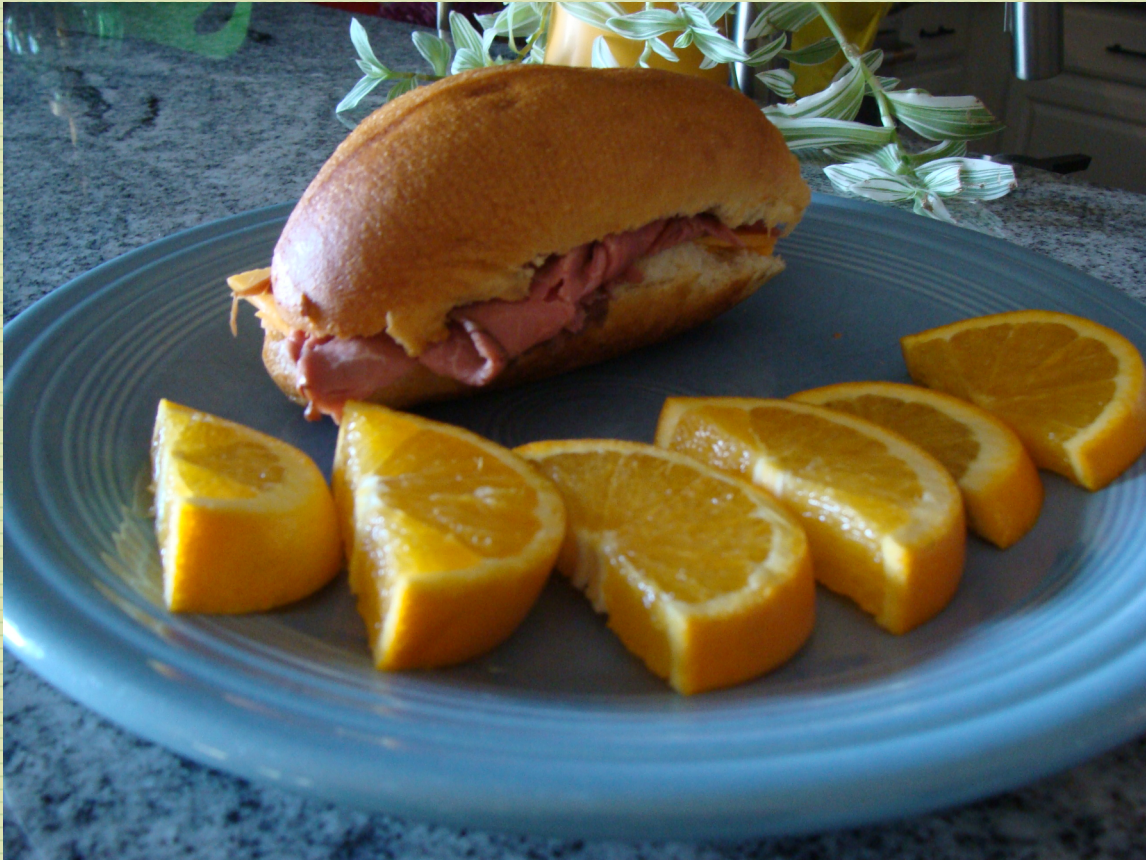
Images are from as early as New Year 2025 and they are not in chronological order.











If you made it this far, thank you for reading. <3