

## Amber's Update



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Email has become a real pain in the ass.

I am so grateful  
you've taken the time  
to read mine.

Wading through the list view of email to find the few that I actually want to receive or need to take action on is, let's face it, an unpleasant task.

It didn't used to be this way.

Every once in a while I go on a spree of trying to unsubscribe to as many as I can, but it doesn't seem to help. I've set up filters and rules, I send things to junk, I report the particularly egregious ones.

All of these recommended strategies doesn't really help make the task any more effective or pleasant.

Everything is shouting for my attention, both the ones I want to read, and the ones I don't.

Good grief, even the President is emailing me every day asking for help.

I feel like if I was doing a good job of managing my email, I wouldn't be able to get anything else done all day.

What makes it worse is that mixed in with the emails you need and want, like appointment reminders, bank statements, and invitations (*and my newsletter!*) are scams and phishing emails that are downright dangerous.

Even worse, scammers are coming after our elders. My mother was a recent victim of a scam that thankfully we were able to contain. It could have been much worse. Most everyone I know with parents who have email have had similar experiences.

My mother was distraught, felt violated, and was left thinking she can't trust anything.

She is right. It's getting harder and harder to tell the difference between legit and lethal emails.

My email mailbox piles up into both read and unread emails that will never be

sorted, which I now have to pay to store in the cloud. I go through my emails every day and I still have 538 unread emails and very close to 25K emails I've read but haven't deleted. I have 800 emails that are so obviously junk that my junk folder caught them. Except, of course, the few important ones that get swept into that corner and need to be rescued.

So I have to sort through those too.

I have a friend who is retiring this week and has got her work emails down to zero unread messages. I admit I am impressed, but I don't think I will ever achieve email domination like that.

There is no prize or tiara for this achievement.

I'd rather spend my time reading a book or writing. Anne Lamont says that *"Writing and reading decrease our sense of isolation. They deepen and widen and expand our sense of life: they feed the soul."* This is what I aim to do through my writing.

Thank you for letting me take up a little space in your inbox, I know how special that is!

And I love emails from my readers,  
a ray of sunshine in my inbox that really stands out from the junk!

Despite my email woes, I've had a great month.  
I've started my next book. I have some new writer friends I hope to feature here in the future.

And I've seen lots of signs from the universe.  
Or just some whacky coincidences,  
if you are more inclined toward that explanation.  
Read on.



*Some, but not all, of my new Circle of Writers friends and their books.*

## Three Things

1





## Teeth

I am a little bit obsessed with teeth.  
I just notice signs with or about teeth. No deeper meaning here.  
Or maybe there is?

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## 2



These are SIGNS.  
The first was a chance encounter in Chicago [I wrote about here](#).  
The middle is an actual sign at an intersection in Dayton Ohio.  
On the right is Nate and his yellow typewriter, [read here](#).

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## 3

On the left, a sign on a business in Chicago.  
On the right, graffiti in San Jose, California.  
Are they related? Maybe.



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**Share this newsletter with someone!**  
**Add something fun to the inbox of a friend.**



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**Cute Dog Drawing**



*Best regards*

Amber McClain Shaw, writer/artist/ambivert

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