
Adventure Awaits! Come with me?

1

Hi Friend(s)!

Hold on for a long dang email and a lot bouncing around cause y'all know I write like I talk and my brain can be cray cray



I've been brainstorming a blog/site idea for years and recent pandemic life has made me think- well, why the hell not now? I should give it a go! *Stay with me here* while I ramble and lead up to why I'm hollering at ya in the first place.

So, legit like 10 years ago I was like man, I'd love to start a foodie blog, and then I accidentally got into the whole cat blogging thing with Lincolnville Cats, talk about fucking random- but it was good while it lasted. I mean, I can't believe I just had a cat photography blog for like almost 3 years. That's nuts...I get bored easily, I'm sure you are aware of this--but this idea has remained in my mind all this time. I've had a couple drinks and wondered aloud on the couch with James several times about it over the years, and I was like "I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'LL CALL IT!- I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I WANT THE LOGO TO LOOK LIKE!" If you've known me for a fraction of a minute you know damn well I've been making up "business names" and "logos" for as long as I can remember, so it's no fucking surprise that of course I fucking had an idea of all that already. What? The idea was Heapin' Helpin' and my logo would be this cute spoonful - so James drew me a little drawing of just this on a random scrap of paper from our coffee table. And I tore that little scrap off the paper and taped it to my desk...*and there it sat for years. A reminder of a good idea...that has gone nowhere.*

So what happened? Why didn't I go for it? Well I'll tell ya why- I froze at the idea. I stifled my creativeness with thoughts like

- Where do I start?
- Who even cares?
- I don't have money to put into this project.
- I don't want to start something only for it to fizzle out.
- Will I be able to make any money from this?
- How can I do all this by myself?
- Do I have what it takes to make decent content + material?
- I don't know if I can be a web-based personality, I mean, can I?

You get the idea. What it boils down to is fear of the unknown. *Not to get all Brene Brown here but* it comes down to being vulnerable. It comes down to this weird place in our brain where we don't want to start something for the fear of it not working out, so this left me in a place where I "*shouldn't*" or "*couldn't*" go forward with it. And don't even get me going on comparison-Lord, have mercy, that will stop a good idea right in it's fucking tracks. (ya feel me?)

So what Hope, where are you going with this?

Well, fast forward to present days.

I've been journaling a lot lately, trying to work through some ideas and manifesting these ideas, and dreams. Through a series of journal prompts I was presented with a question:

How could others help you and how can you go about getting that help?

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Y'all! Have you met me one time? Do you know that typically I would read a question like this and shutter, because I hate asking for help **but** it hit me in that moment. That the idea of inviting others into this idea had NEVER ONCE crossed my mind. I read that question the other night while laying in bed with my book light on in the dark and felt so incredibly stupid at first and then incredibly energized. This dang little journal prompt had just blown the top off of my idea and made it so much better, and bigger than myself. I wrote the following:

You've got me thinking for real. This thought has never crossed my mind honestly. How could I ask for help? I have some of the smartest, funniest, creative friends in the universe, just sitting here that have their own voice and perspective. THIS is the material I want. I don't want to sit on a platform by myself creating solo-voiced content. I WANT A COLLABORATIVE EXPERIENCE!

And just like that I found the momentum I needed, quietly in the dark. I woke up the next morning so jazzed about this. I thought *HOLY SHIT*. Fuck a dang a blog with a specific focus. What about a collaborative **'zine style "lifestyle"** blog. A place where all of our creative talents converge. Food. Crafts/DIY. Creative Writing. Photography. Gardening. Yoga. Reviews of things we actually like. Book + Podcast Reviews/Suggestions...ALL THE FUCKING THINGS. Whatever goes basically. This is it!

This is the idea that *Heapin' Helpin'* always should have been. I'm not gonna sit back and be like wahhh all this time has passed and I've still done nothing with the little baby idea I dreamed up all that time ago. INSTEAD I am sitting here on a Saturday emailing all y'all because my perspective has changed entirely. This idea wasn't complete, it hadn't reached it's full potential until the idea of multiple contributors entered my wild brain space. **And now I'm ready to try.**

So I bought a domain name. I turned that little drawing of a logo into an actual vectorized digital image. I'm starting to design a web page. And my last thing I have to do before I can start actually doing the damn thing is INVITE OTHER PEOPLE to join me in this adventure.

This is where you come in.

What do you think? Do you want to participate, no pressure, on contributing on occasion (as often or as little as you'd like to) to this online 'zine? I added you to this email because you're an interesting, smart, funny, creative, beautiful soul with a unique perspective on the world and it would be so much more fun + meaningful with you than without you.

This is my toe dip email. I've only reached out to a handful of friends right now - and I'd love to get together and brainstorm but what I envision is a space of female voices, raw, and real, this-is-my-experience, this-is-whats-on-mind/plate/craftdesk/audible/earbuds right now kinda stuff.

Would you like to try this wild idea with me?

My goals are loose but I'm hoping by October 1st to have at least a trio of posts to share. And see what happens!

IF you're willing to give this a try with me I only ask you consider what your niche might be, dont fucking overthink it (hello woman brain) because you will not be tied to it.

Just like, legit, here's a challenge- pull out a piece of paper right now and just list like the top 5 or so things that come to mind. Here I'll do it myself right now [hold music plays]



1. Foodie
2. DIY Enthusiast
3. Cheapskate
4. Laughs
5. Yoga
6. Always Seeking A New Place To Go

Do this and then go to [this site](#) and crop yourself a photo to use as your contributor photo and holla back to me with it *and* your thoughts, ideas, your 5 or so things from above.

Or email me and tell me hell no Hope, I ain't into this at all.

But I think this could be a cathartic experience and a good + creative outlet during a strange time in our lives (inside and outside of #pandemiclife).

I don't even know how to end this email...it's basically a novel so we'll just go with this...

FIN

<https://www.theheapinhelpin.com>

^ go & see my babysteps!