



A chapter closes...and a window opens

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Dear ones,

It seems surreal to be able to say that, just shy of three years since I wrote the proposal for [IT'S ONE OF US](#), and a decade after the story was conceived. But after this week, the tour is 90 percent done, the book launched into the world, and while it's nearly time to start thinking about what's next, I am not pushing that goal. I want to continue enjoying this fallow moment just a bit longer. There is time. I can get back to work next week.

I had a very special moment on the last day of week 2. I had an hour to kill so I stopped by Litchfield Beach on my way to the airport. It was a sunny but breezy afternoon, the wind bringing enough coolness that I was chilly. I taped a quick video of the mostly empty beach. And it hit me.

This story started with the image of a woman walking alone down a windy, chilly beach. It was the first scene I wrote, even though it ends up being the last little scene in the documentary script, which closes the book. And here I was, on an unscheduled, unplanned stop at the end of my second week of touring, standing alone on a windy, chilly beach. It was a capital M Moment. A full circle closed that I will treasure always.

Ironically, my flight ended up being canceled and I spent the night at said beach, a little north of where I stopped. On my balcony the following morning, as I ate breakfast and watched the waves' relentless crashing, I realized what I'd done wrong in the draft of the new book, and wrote up a few quick scenes about how to fix it. Thanks for the gift, universe!

I knew this book was special when I was developing the story, but I don't think I anticipated just how special it would be. Yes, it's my 25th; yes, it's landed a number of major picks and hit several bestseller lists. But what I'd hoped would happen has. We are having open, frank, and intimate conversations about what happens when you have trouble building a family naturally. I have had so many conversations, in public and in private, about infertility, miscarriage, loss, fear, disappointment. And joy, happiness, fulfillment, love, faith. You have lifted

Randy and me up so much this past month with your words, your messages, your hugs.

This is not a conversation I ever thought I would engage in, much less on an international platform. Especially in a thriller. I never did do the therapy the doctors at the fertility clinic recommended, and for years, I was terrified to speak these truths aloud. But now, with this story out in the world and so many of you responding in kind, I feel like I've crossed the Rubicon. And I think this book is helping others cross it as well.

I have a [media roundup](#) of the places [IT'S ONE OF US](#) has appeared, which includes [an essay I wrote for Crime Reads](#), my [in-conversation with Nick Petrie and Barbara Peters at Poisoned Pen](#), a truly intimate conversation with [Lauren Lowrey on the Ampstigator podcast](#), a sit-down with [Emily Ley of Simplified fame](#), and so much more.

I couldn't be more grateful to all of you for buying the book, leaving such amazing reviews, and in general supporting me through this process. Yes, a door is closing. But the infinite universe that's showing itself through the window is going to be a remarkably fertile playground.

One last thing before we move on... If you haven't listened to [Julia Whelan read IT'S ONE OF US](#), you really should. The entire time I was writing Olivia, I was hearing Julia's narration. The real deal literally brought me to tears.

[▶ LISTEN TO A SAMPLE OF IOOU](#)

▶ The Bookshelf

Are you all caught up on the novels? I want to entice you with a few short stories. One is already out, two are ready for pre-order...

[THESE COLD STRANGERS](#): *We Could Be Heroes* Collection, Amazon Originals

[LOUCHE 49](#): *Infinity Anthology*, edited by Catherine Coulter

[X HOUSE](#): *In These Hallowed Halls*, a Dark Academia Anthology, edited by Marie O'Regan and Paul Kane

▶ Poll

Last month, I asked what kind of contest you are most likely to enter, to which a whopping 65 percent of you said anything works, but you never win. Boo, Hiss! Well, I hope your luck changes! After that, the most popular response was gift cards. Good to know... 😊

This month's poll (since I'm on a plane as I write this...)

What's your favorite way to travel?

Plane ✈️

Train 🚆

Automobile 🚗

Bus 🚌

Walk 🚶♀️

I don't like to travel 🚫

Continue

📖 What I'm Reading



I've been too exhausted to do much but stare into space when I stop for the day, but I did get in a couple of books this month. Also, the first three episodes of Daisy Jones and the Six were sheer perfection, so I'm including that book as a must-read for you. It really is a remarkable work of pseudo-fiction, one of my all-time favorites.

[Danielle Girard – UP CLOSE](#)

Danielle is a favorite of mine, and this new installment in her Detective Kylie Milliard series is a doozy! I love this gritty, elegant thriller, and so will you!

[Barbara Butcher – WHAT THE DEAD KNOW](#)

Talk about a book that will shed some light on the other side... this remarkable memoir is both a research primer on death investigation and a touching look at humanity and the spirit it takes to usher us to the next life.

[Nora Ephron – HEARTBURN](#)

I'm listening to the audiobook, and hearing Meryl Streep read is like seeing a movie in my brain. A superb look at the disintegration of a marriage with Ephron's trademark wit and verve.

See above... hands down one of my all-time favorite books.

☐☐ **March Recipe: Tarragon Chicken Salad**



It's Spring, and that means it's time for Tarragon Chicken Salad! I adore this classic recipe with grapes and nuts. It's fresh and tasty and makes me feel like I should be playing croquet and hosting bridge tournaments. And it's dead easy to make, too. I recommend you scale this recipe up for an afternoon with friends, and scale the tarragon to your preferred level, too.

THAT SOUNDS GOOD!

You can find all of my recipes [here](#), and if you want some wine to go with the meals, [The Wine Vixen](#) has you covered.

☐ **Contest**

Every month*, I draw a name from those of you who open the newsletter and send that lovely person a \$30 gift card to the bookstore of their choice. It's my way of saying thanks for being here. Enter below!

**Last month we did the 5 gift cards, so there wasn't a regular newsletter winner.*

I WANT THAT GIFT CARD!

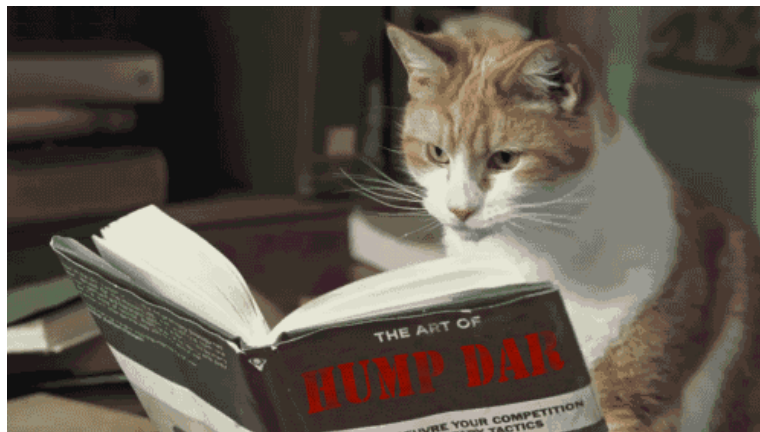
I'll be back in April with fun news. In the meantime, don't forget to turn your clocks forward (backward? I can never remember. No—spring forward, fall back) enjoy the extra daylight, buy some Xyzal for your inevitable pollen allergies, and get that lovely body moving. In the infamous words of Ferris Bueller: "Life is short. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you might miss it."

xo,



Are you still here?

Here's a kitten for your troubles!



Did you like this newsletter? Share it with a friend!



J.T. Ellison

P.O. Box 218453,
Nashville, TN 37221
United States

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jtellison@jtellison.com
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