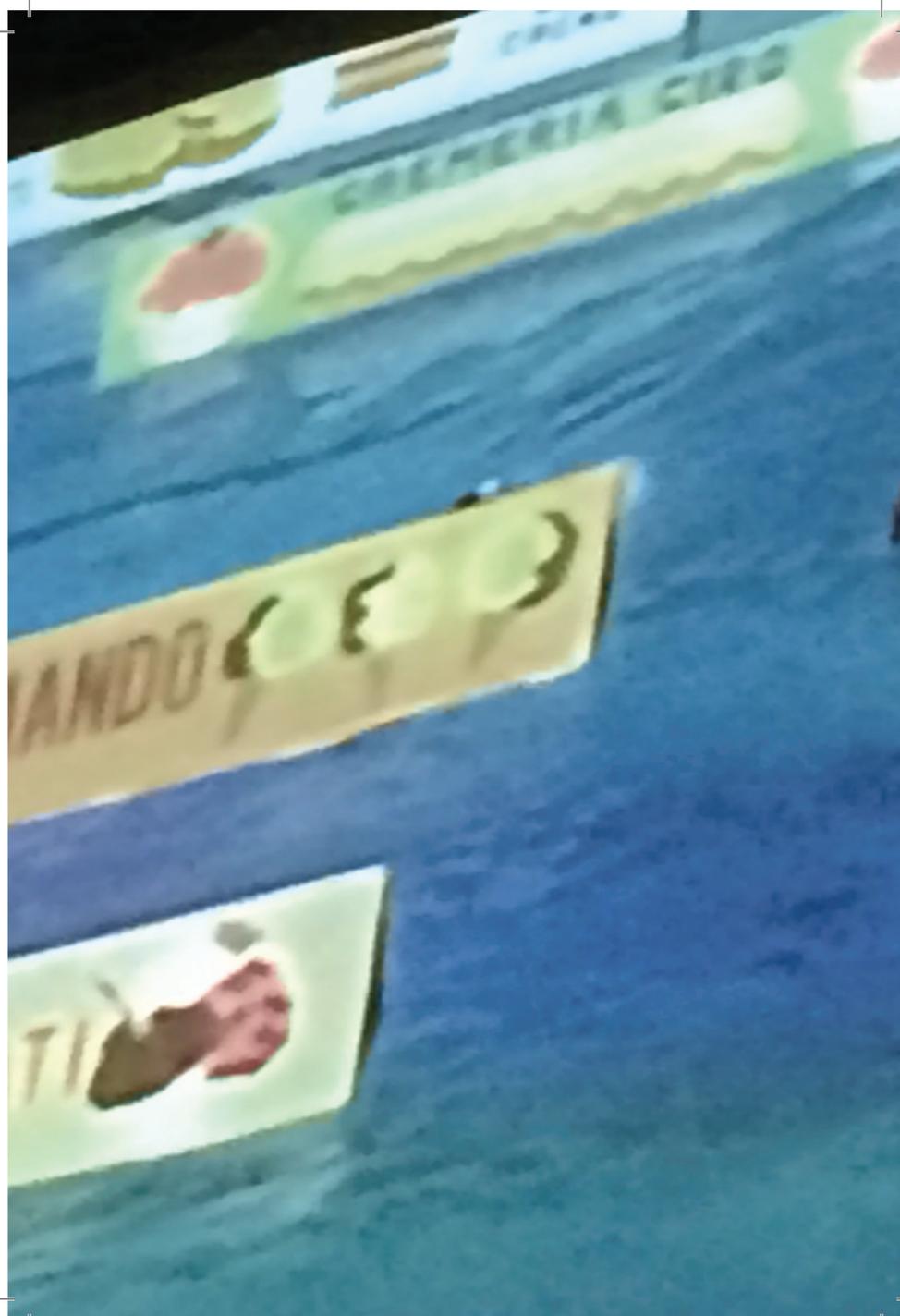


The Panama City Papers





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Subject Day 1&2
Date Wed 07/22/2015 08:48

Hi babe
Saw this fire on a hill
and thought I should write u some
notes on the trip.



Try to be Chris Kraus about the whole thing maybe...

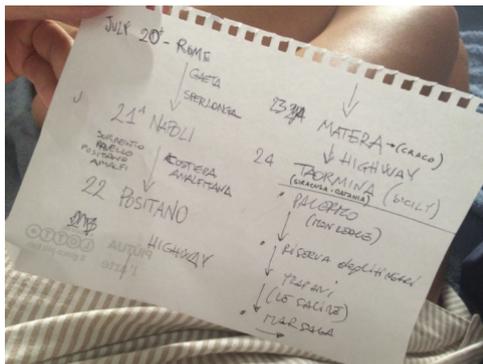
I'm sitting on the back of this royal blue BMW 1200gs
On the back of this BMW I have a lot of time to think,
fuckin think,
It's probably 37 or 38 degrees Celsius
It's real bright sun

Meaning I'm incredibly hot but we are on the coast now so there's a breeze at least but I'm a little worried about getting overheated in the helmet and wearing jeans because apparently that's the only precaution I can take between me and a spill on the road – a pair of designer skinny jeans from galleries Lafayette (Grenoble branch)

Don't worry about the spill though, it's not gonna happen

So we are driving towards Napoli through a bit of a shit town I didn't get the name right now and the plan is to go through to the Amalfi coast because it's too hot and hectic to drive thru cities at this point

Plus there are thieves there



(Itinerary attached but not correct exactly and not written by me)

Last night we stopped in Gaeta which was pretty I think it had some sort of naval base, a nice harbor,

some old churches, disintegrating walls that crumbled
on my shoulder when I leaned on it, some rough
looking cats (felines), lots of stairs
I found an excellent restaurant for dinner which I was
proud of

Seafood

I had too much (so much) because I hadn't eaten
anything during the day because of the heat and the
bad timing leaving the city.

- mixed seafood sauté (clams mussels razor clams)
- marinated swordfish (I discovered this dish in
Ischia (island i went to last week with thermal
baths and mud and cliff I jumped) and am
currently obsessed with it and will make it when
I learn how)
- black rice with cuddlefish maybe cuttlefish
but cuddlefish is cuter
black because it's with the ink from the squid
- salad with good tomatoes
- lemon sorbetto in a champagne type flute (for
the heat and the cleanse)

- end of meal description

Anyway

I keep seeing hookers on the side of the highway
It's so hot and that must be fucking shitty

So

Leaving Rome and getting to Gaeta yesterday was
actually hard

This morning also hard

It's not an easy thing to go on this trip because I've never
travelled a long distance on a motorcycle, I don't have

a good sense of the route because I don't have my phone working well, it's incredibly hot and I ended up having to figure out a lot of logistics about my hiking bag (we had to ship it to final destination in Sicily

because it was too big for the bike), figure out how to get to Berlin for Aug 1.

It's a bit stressful

Plus I'm riding with my friend who is entirely Texan/Louisianan and cannot really deal well in Europe, which I expected but wasn't entirely prepared for. And he's

s-l-o-w (part of the southern thing)

But it's ok

It's slightly challenging and I'm not sure if I'm describing it well in this email

But I'll explain one day perhaps

Everything about how he decides things doesn't make sense to me for example, the shitty town we just stopped in looked terrible to me and I would have never decided to stop there, the shop he stopped at for a snack is actually a Slavic grocery store (not Italian), in full sun, leaving me baking...



There's been a couple things like that that just don't make things go smoothly but it's just going to be getting in the rhythm of this trip and timing things

so we can eat when restaurants are open
and having more common sense

However

Exiting the Slavic grocery store we met a woman from
Houston, Texas by way of this shitty Italian town who
also loves New Orleans and told us to just keep getting
on the road

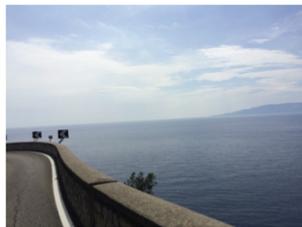
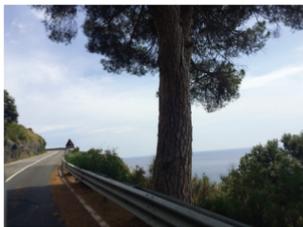
Which is where I am at now

and I just heard a real loud sneeze
of a guy on the back of a fruit truck in front of us
And I keep smelling all the fig trees (my fragrance I wear)
and cool sea breeZes

It'll be fine

I can't drive this thing but if I could maybe I could make
this trip make more common sense
Maybe I'll take a lesson on it and be a little more
autonomous and ride til I die!

When I close my eyes I see u
When we go to Stresa together one day I'll be fully
comfortable with my Italian immersion
Maybe it'll impress u



I'll try to send this soon, maybe from one of these high
tech wifi gas stations with paninis and gluten and
espresso and gelato too

I see Mount Vesuvius now

Also makes me think of u

Not sure why

Maybe because of that girls tshirt I saw on the ferry
from Napoli "Together is my favorite place to be"
and then the volcano erupts and we get covered
in lava and ashes!

Xx

STL











Subject Day trois quatre
Date Fri 07/24/2015 07:18

Hi darling mec
I'm near a seashore
 but also going up a mountain at the same time
Weather is different and actually it's about to storm

Fig tree leaf scent still very prevalent
 now mixed with rain on asphalt

Feels sort of like a storm similar to those in the summer
in the northeast (USA) as opposed to those I've been used
to in New Orleans (south)

It's cool air and grey silvery clouds
 and not violent and fast

I see the shore and there's more waves I can see starting
from nowhere and the color of the sky is blending real
well into the color of the water

Pic:



I just stood up on the seat of the back of the motorcycle
to get that photo and it's really windy
and I almost fell over

Guys I just waved at:



I think we are lost but this is a really good road
to be lost on

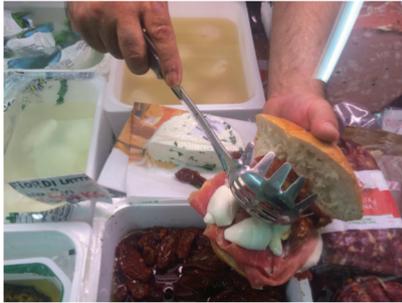
There's also olive trees so there's the silver of those
undersides of the leaves that are adding to the whole
silver feeling

I sort of want to ride without my helmet so I can see
more stuff up (like sky)

Now we are parked on the side of a olive grove, I hear
thunder, dog barking, children playing on a beach.
But I don't see a beach, but it must look really stunning
if it's hidden behind olive grove back there

Other cool things that happened today:

- It's not really hot, so air feels nice while riding and not blaring sunlight
- There's a lot going on for me to look at in the sky today
- >-->>Lightning
- We went to a tiny grocery store and the deli man made me these sandwiches



- And we got stuck getting a little lost and we were turning around and I noticed a plum tree with really pretty colors so I wanted to take a picture and then I got off bike and noticed the whole garden which had so many things and then a lady popped out and she was in green too and she threw me some pears:



The place we stopped last night was a whole different story

I'm still trying to get my mind around it because
I'm not really sure how to describe it

We are lost

Have to continue this letter later

Neither gps is working and it's about to storm

Somehow I have to help

--

Made decision to stop riding thru rain ("I'm really not prepared for that" I said), but considered it for that experience and have been weighing the options

But raindrops were stinging my skin and face so I opted out and I don't have any clothes for that kind of travel

We are stopped at a country side pizzeria

It's been open for more than 100 years

They are playing Bob Marley

On the terrace I'm sitting at drinking a very long coffee smoking cigarette

We are the only people here besides 5 people working here

He set out a table cloth for us even

And there's a playground for kids – Spielplatz?

I remember talking to you about that and we walked there

I also see a castle on a hill and other farms on hills

Rain is coming down at angle – from the left

--

Been waiting rain out for a while so I guess I can try
to describe yesterday

The town we were in was called:
Acciaroli

You know I wanted this snow globe so badly

It was 5€ though

And it was a weird souvenir store with also underwear
and sewing materials for sale

Everything about the town was a less nice version
of where we came from (Amalfi coast)

It seemed like a beach town that stopped being popular
or stopped developing in the 80's

Reminded me of a beach in Florida called Pensacola in
a way that they stopped developing things maybe in the
90's

except for some things (a bar
called Florabama, where there are bikinis on the ceiling
from girls they cut them off)

And a drink called a bushwhacker,

more on that later

This town last night was just full of children everywhere,
I've never seen anything like it before

And old people

But I noticed that the mothers of the children
were really GOOD at being mothers in a way that I was
able to notice how intuitive they were

Not sure how else to describe that mother observation
but it was nice

there was a movie theater and I walked in to see what
it looked like inside and there was an entrance
with popcorn and everything then a girl taking tickets

and then the theater was an outdoor screen with a bunch of chairs lined up

We ate a really good dinner at the Hemmingway bar, I found out later that he was going on an aging fisherman's boat here every day.

Sort of a Key West type place.

Too much gluten but VERY GOOD pizza

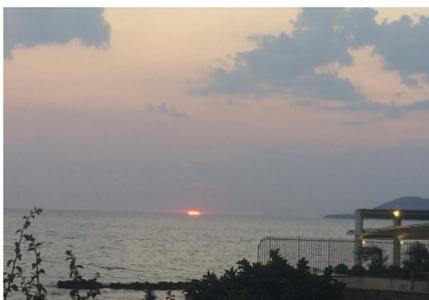
And walked into the port and there were tons of teenagers and a jetty and next to the jetty was these cubes huge cement cubes

And then a procession of nuns



the sunset was good and weird

– the sun got real real pink red and it was like a neon bar – Flavin – because a cloud was covering the top



Anyway

Back to this town

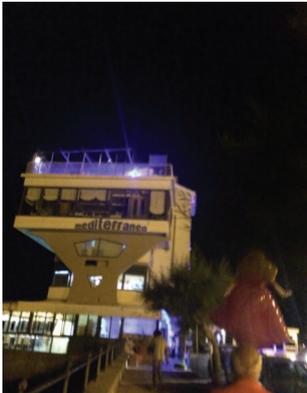
I saw these 4 Pomeranians and it made me laugh
so hard

I went into another store and got two really amazing
things: a backpack shaped like a big hand, a poncho
that is shaped like a watermelon wedge

Things shaped like other things

I wondered into this insane building too

Night time view and daytime view:



And it was super weird and I needed to ask someone
about the story of it but I was a little too unfocused
because there was a lot going on in there

Robby just turned on his iPhone to track the storm radar
and it's 68 degrees and he exceeded his cell phone data
bill past \$100

Traveling with this person is a whole other story
I need to figure out how to describe
But I'll tell you about the call from my dad I got last
night when he was on Fisher's Island (NY) playing golf

One thing I didn't think about so much was how it would be walking into restaurants (small town or city, and any type of business actually) with a guy with neck and face tattoos (arms aside). Who don't talk much.

Where I am:



Nice thing I saw yesterday that I didn't take a picture of: in a city on a bottom of a hill there was a house with a lot of tomatoes growing and they had about 30 of them on a rooftop I saw from above drying out in the sun and there was yellow and white striped awnings

170 miles to go to Tropea, where we are staying the night
Near volcanos and near to Sicily

That's all 4 now my babe
STLff

Subject Re: Day trois quatre
Date Fri 07/24/2015 15:09

I forgot to send the snow globe picture,
here's the snow globe





N M A

Corallo

INNO-18T





Subject Day 4
Date Fri 07/24/2015 15:02

I apologize for the “mass email”
but you three are the ones I wanted to
write to today and don’t be offended but y’all are a very
good group (curated)

Here I am



I’m writing to you from the back of a BMW 1200gs
motorcycle

I am in Italy

I see a sign for a town called Vallo Yesterday
I saw a sign for a town called Lone (Amalfi coast)

I'm inland more and going through some mountain
farm small small towns



There are a lot of tomatoes and olive trees and fig trees
Scent of the fig leaves also very strong
We just rode through a bit of a storm and then waited out
the rain because I'm really not prepared to deal with that
raindrops really sting
Getting on some sort of highway now

The first three days were really incredibly hot
and there's been a heatwave

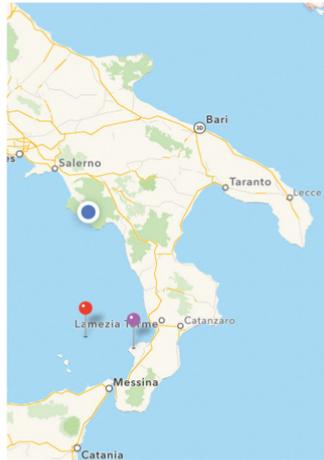


So now This is a welcome relief to have some cloud
and rain and more interesting sky to look at,
to not be in blaring heat on the back of a motorcycle
with a helmet on.

I also see the coast now from this highway



Here's sort of an idea at the time I've started writing this
email



We are blue

We have to sleep at purple tonight

There's a volcano I want to see at red

Not sure if we will make it tonight



Going through tunnels is especially fun
(sometimes there are ones with windows punched
on the sea-view side) and I'm still getting used to this idea
that I'm seeing as much as humanly possible by being
outdoors and exposed while traveling
I guess biking a lame old peddle bike would allow you
to see more but that isn't nearly as exciting
or adventurous

Perhaps

I'm with Robby

Aka

Cobra



I am in love with someone far a way

in Panama City

I decided to go on this trip with this man from Lubbock
I had only hung out with three or four times in Louisiana
based mostly on our keeping in touch since January via
text message while I was in France

and sharing things on Instagram

Meaning

Possibly not the “best” idea but I trusted that he could
ride a motorcycle since I had seen his trips through
pictures and I had had some sex dreams about him and
why the fuck wouldn’t I do this

We went out once to a fancy sit down
restaurant for dinner in Lafayette for a date while I was
still dating Charlie

White tablecloths and the whole deal

Robby doesn’t drink (though) adding to some very
boring/weird current dinner situations

We have another week left with the bike
And many miles (kilometers) to go
And sometimes I trust this guy to get us there.
Sometimes I don’t.

But I don’t really have anywhere to be til a flight out
from Catania on July 31

A lot of the things I’ve been thinking about are tourism,
Italy, farming, landscape

Holy shit

The landscape I'm in right now

Is this



The mountains are real shapely on the other side
of the bend I'm on now and covered with soft-looking-
everything

making me want to pet them

with a giant hand

Sort of like those foam green things florists use to stick
flowers into and that can hold water

More things I think about

(Because I have a lot of time to sit and think and look
around)

- Long distance relationships (“brutal love”)
- Having sex with people you do not love/ or even like very much
- kissing people you love
- lying (not telling the truth)
- Chris Kraus and Mary Robison
- Seeing towns that have no interest in tourists
- guns in America
- fascism
- am I ever going to have a real job
- art
- is this man smart and can read gps?

We keep stopping and getting lost but then I get to look around more and see weird things

I’m on a beach now and there’s a cemetery I’m gonna go look at



More things I thought of

- volcanos and black sand/stone beaches (sharpness and softness)
- crypts and what’s fashionable for headstones

- Maine
- hotels
- European Union
- hotels and places called Orion, Neptune, Siren, Poseidon, Eden, Moby Dick, Ulysses
- baskets tied on strings to send things up and down buildings
- what do I do if I get thrown from this motorcycle with my body (go floppy? Tuck and roll?
My reflexes are fast in fact)
- Kodak signs (faded yellow)

Landscape changed

Now looks like this



And the road we are on is my favorite so far
No traffic and just mountain and this sea view

and I'm hanging on the side of a cliff

And we just stopped at a very important religious site in Paola or Poala where St. Francis d'Assisi performed many miracles including making sure a bomb the U.S. Dropped on the site during WWII didn't go off and destroy the whole religious Mecca



Sorry it's out of focus

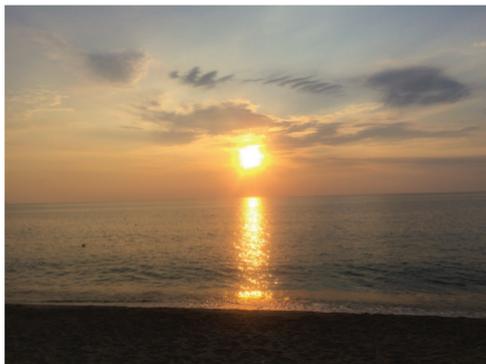
I only took the one

No miracles performed / witnessed

Hotel Torino 2 next to Hotel Torino

- making a residency program in one of these run down hotels
- wearing a cross
- stray dogs
- ristorante hale bopp

Went swimming off the side of the road at a real clear water beach at sunset



And that's all for now
With love and great admiration
I'll check in again soon
– Lvoff from 🇮🇹



