

# Letters to the Library



**Describe yourself in a sentence or two, for example your age and occupation (or, if you do not have one, what you like to do). What is your household like?**

I am a 31-year-old English teacher for high school. I live in an apartment with my 29-year-old boyfriend who works as an IT professional and our 6-year-old cat.

**What is your day to day routine like now? What has changed? What has not changed?**

Get up later than usual. Make tea. Have Zoom meetings with my distance-learning juniors. Discuss Edith Wharton and Mark Twain. Try to keep spirits up. Engagement has changed. My love of teaching has not.

**What precautions have you taken against the virus? How have you prepared? Were there any difficulties (shortages, high prices etc.)?**

The boyfriend and I are primarily at home. We only go out for food perhaps once a week and maybe go for a walk when the weather is nice. We have gotten a lot of frozen food so that things don't go to waste. We almost ran out of toilet paper but luckily we got to the store early and were able to grab some. My aunt is handy with a sewing machine so we received masks from her and my mother gave me her supply of hand sanitizer. Finding hand soap is difficult. But different days bring different difficulties with shortages. We manage okay.

**What have been the biggest challenges for you during this time?**

Presidential briefings, people's distrust of CDC, science, blaming the media for everything, denying that this pandemic is serious, family members denying the seriousness of this pandemic. It is a lot and it is hard for me to sort and deal with. I accept staying home and being careful, the rest of it keeps me up at night.

## **How have you stayed busy?**

I built my first PC, I've been reading my back catalogue of novels (Starship Troopers, Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, the Wheel of Time series, among others), catching up on some documentaries and returning to nostalgia for support - rewatching Dragon Ball Z with my boyfriend has been particularly enjoyable.

## **Have there been any positives to this situation?**

I've been doing a lot of thinking about myself and how I take care of myself - essentially how very little of that I do. I'm attempting to fix that side of me, so some mental cataloguing and some physical fitness are going to help.

## **What local Wallingford places/businesses do you miss most?**

Archie Moore's, the Library (I use the library so much and it is absolutely the hardest thing for me about this pandemic. I like to be surrounded by books and it helps me focus and get my work done) restaurants in general. Not being able to go on a date sucks. I miss going to the movies.

## **How have you stayed social while social distancing?**

I keep up with friends on social media and have been playing games online with friends. Sometimes I hike with my family if it is nice outside. I miss being able to hug my friends and family though. Thank goodness I am living with my boyfriend, I think I would go crazy not being able to be with him.

## **What is the first thing you are doing when things go back to normal?**

Going to the beach. Being with friends. Hugging my friends. Laughing with them, going to bars with them.

**How did you celebrate the Holidays? Did you see family in person, digitally, or not at all?**

Today was mother's day so my family got together for a hike. It was lovely but I miss having dinner with them.

**How will you be celebrating Wallingford's 350<sup>th</sup> Jubilee? If you were here for the 325th Jubilee, do you have any memories you would like to share?**

I didn't know this was happening - but I wonder how Wallingford will celebrate it.

**What do you miss most about the Wallingford Public Library? What is the first thing you will be doing when you can come back into the building?**

I miss the books and taking the kids there to play. I can't wait to pick out new books for my kids and for myself.

**If you have any photographs, drawings, or paintings that you have created that do a good job of portraying life during COVID-19, please upload them here.**

