

DECEMBER – FIRST WEEK NEWSLETTER

Quote of the week – This quote has taken many forms, but the original is the best. It's by Rose Tremain, English novelist and short story writer –

“Life is not a dress rehearsal”

I love this quote. Too often people believe there's a never-ending supply of time. I don't want to get negative now, especially around the holidays, but I'll say it again...use your time wisely. Don't wait for the right time. Promise yourself that the upcoming year will be your greatest yet!

Song of the week – On a glorious day back on December 15th, 1915, Francis Albert Sinatra was born. Chairman of the Board, Ol' Blue Eyes...in my opinion, one of the coolest cats ever. This isn't going to be an autobiography but just recognition for another example of living life to the fullest. He even recorded a song about it, My Way. I was going to pick that song but let's keep it Christmasy (is that a word?). I like this one. Two minutes of fun-

<https://youtu.be/hLf0-lro8X8?si=UR6Zbt4PVW6lZXNg>

Drink of the week – Ok, it's time. This is the classic “outdoor, walking in a winter wonderland, I need something to warm me up” drink. Can you guess it? How about this? It can cure a cold too. Seriously. It does. Of course, it's the Hot Toddy. I'm warming up just thinking about it. Here we go –

Ingredients:

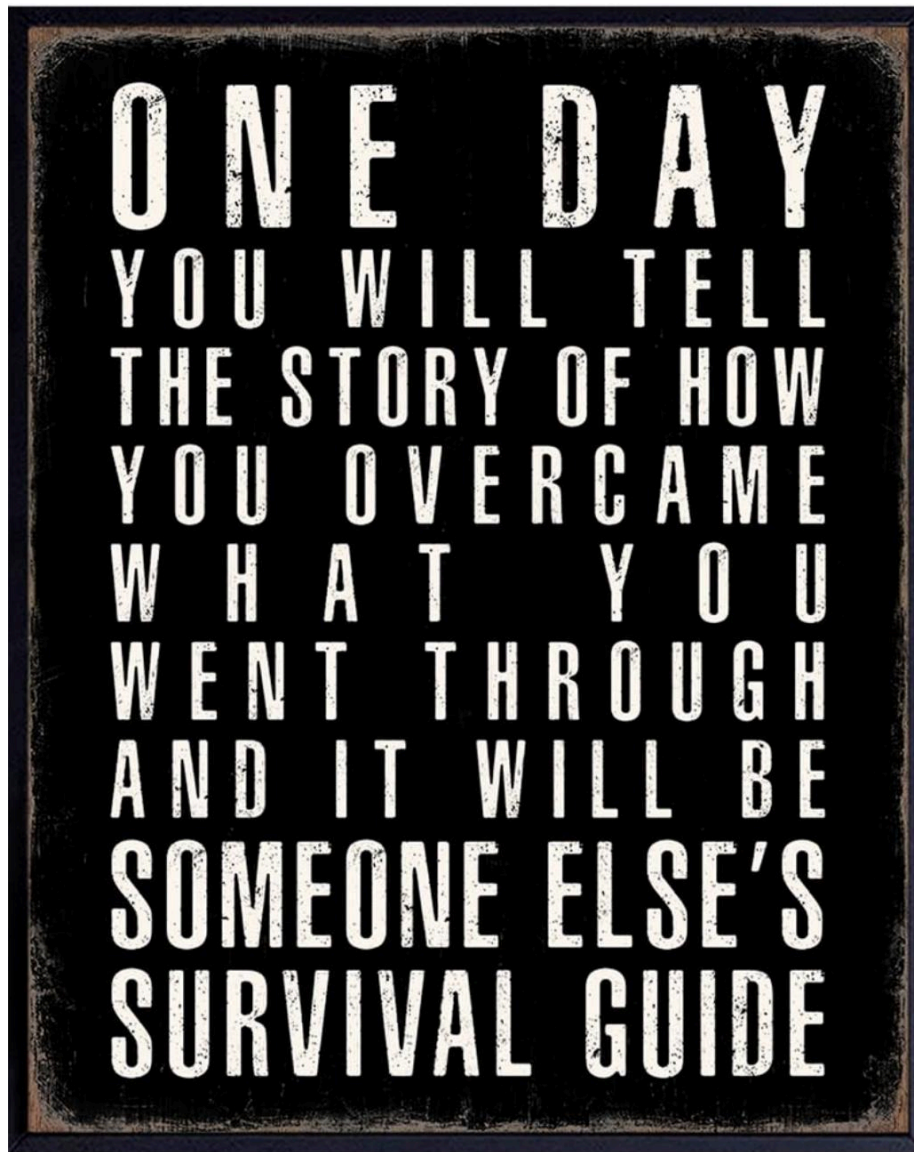
- Boiling water, enough to fill a mug
(It doesn't have to be boiling, just very warm/simmering. Use a microwave for convenience)
- 1 lemon peel or slice
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar. You can use honey as well
- 1/4 ounce lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 2 ounces whiskey (bourbon, rye, Irish or scotch)

Steps:

Heat the water. Add the hot water, whiskey, lemon juice, and sugar/honey to the mug, and stir until the sugar/honey dissolves. Add the lemon slice for garnish. Enjoy!



P.S. No more colds!



Art of the week – Pieter Bruegel the Elder's The Hunters in the Snow completed in 1565 is more complex than it

appears. I wish I could have a bigger picture and go into more detail but here's some insight.

He was famous for painting the peasant life, yet he would create complex scenes out of ordinary activities. Upon closer inspection, there's so much going on here. Take the hunters in the foreground. Basically empty-handed except for one prize and you can see the rabbit tracks in the snow in front of them, almost mocking them that they couldn't catch them. The dogs even seem down. The geometry of the painting sets up the scene so you are looking down from a mountain, like one of the crows flying overhead. And that's just a few examples. There is so much to explore in this masterpiece. I hope you take the time to check it out on your own. In the meantime, here are a few pictures of it —





Bonus video of the week – Jeffrey Wright portrays the best Felix Leiter in the James Bond films. I picked two

clips, the first when he and James meet. The second, where they...part ways. James never really had any friends or family in his life. It's how it had to be. But I know he considered him his best friend. They forge a great friendship during their time together.

Here, they meet for the first time -

https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxFldaS7U0OUyR78zL64eUwZFYQGY_Tks9?si=baf9dOspwtPj7eSS

And, how it ended...

https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxD1ABY4j7fIW2ij4YSBiixPhvKsd1E9ua?si=Bc_xyyzto9UINX7x

But I'm not ending on a sad note! Let's play this, pour a drink and sing along! During the 80's when

“Springsteen, Madonna, way before Nirvana,

There was U2 and Blondie

and music's still on MTV!”

<https://youtu.be/JnOBggLe0tY?si=lckmB7NflyTV0wz0>

Follow on Instagram at Top Shelf Luxury Lifestyle and check out my YouTube channel with the same name.

That's all for this week. Don't hesitate to live the life you've always imagined! Cheers!

Merry Christmas Darling!