



# **A Year of Ordinary Moments**

Rich Curtis

*Argotist Ebooks*

Cover image by Rich Curtis

Copyright © Rich Curtis 2010  
All rights reserved  
Argotist Ebooks

As a performance art piece I became a licensed notary public in 2009. Since that time I have notarized many things, none of which have been legal documents. I am fascinated by the idea of being legally bound to TRUTH. My personal view that truth is inherently subjective runs counter to the notion of a legal and absolute truth. As part of this project I devised an exercise of witnessing one true thing each day. For the most part I tried to pick the most obscure, least significant event of a given day. I distilled each of these moments into one sentence. The body of this text is the result of my daily observations.

# **A Year of Ordinary Moments**

1/1/09: Florence, AL

Rose looked obviously bored with our New Year's party.

1/2/09: Huntsville, AL

My parents bought two-dozen cans of roasted peanuts from Bed, Bath and Beyond.

1/3/09: Florence, AL

Two boys in black tee shirts walked side-by-side down the street.

1/4/09: Florence, AL

John slowed down as he passed his grandmother's house.

1/5/09: Florence, AL

A tiny green tinker bell rested near a crack in the sidewalk.

1/6/09: Florence, AL

A woman asked if I would like some coffee and refreshments.

1/7/09: Florence, AL

Sandra stood in front of flashing hazard lights.

1/8/09: Florence, AL

A grackle picked the flesh from road kill on the highway.

1/9/09: Tuscumbia, AL

The door to the museum locked behind Keith as he took out the trash.

1/10/09: Florence, AL

A man who resembled Jerry Lee Lewis played piano with his feet.

1/11/09: Florence, AL

My wife bought hair dye at Rite Aid.

1/12/09: Sheffield, AL

A woman pushed a shopping cart filled with large bags of dry dog food.

1/13/09: Florence, AL

A man bagged groceries while wearing old work gloves.

1/14/09: Florence, AL

Several students sat around a table playing cards in the Fitness Center.

1/15/09: Florence, AL

David told me I had a booger hanging out of my nose.

1/16/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Lori hung photographs of the Ku Klux Klan on the museum wall.

1/17/09: Florence, AL

Lori's car began to sputter and shake.

1/18/09: Florence, AL

Sandra left the real estate office for the last time.

1/19/09: Florence, AL

A water bottle crouched in the gutter near the Frank Lloyd Wright house.

1/20/09: Florence, AL

Lisa gave me a big hug.

1/21/09: Florence, AL

A young lady in my class painted a piece of drawing paper red.

1/22/09: Florence, AL

Bridget wrote a card to Wayne for his birthday.

1/23/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Carlos said he was happy to have a job.

1/24/09: Huntsville, AL

The gracious host at Schnitzel Ranch honored an invalid coupon.

1/25/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Wayne rubbed his eye as he recounted a childhood memory.

1/26/09: Florence, AL

Daisy curled up next to me on my bed.

1/27/09: Sheffield, AL

A woman showed me her collection of coloring book pages.

1/28/09: Florence, AL

Four female soccer players struggled to understand what their coach was saying.

1/29/09: Florence, AL

A young woman avoided eye contact while she drank her cup of coffee.

1/30/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Tim convulsed with laughter while riding an exercise bike.

1/31/09: Florence, AL

A little boy danced in the middle of Wal-mart.

2/1/09: Florence, AL

Several baseball fans watched the game from the bed of a pick-up truck.

2/2/09: Florence, AL

A grizzled man with a white beard smiled at his free cup of coffee.

2/3/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Both Patty and Sarah wanted to square dance with Bobby.

2/4/09: Florence, AL

A man's arms trembled as he attempted to lift one end of a refrigerator.

2/5/09: Florence, AL

A young girl dipped her hand into a fountain when her mother was not looking.

2/6/09: Florence, AL

A couple stood smoking outside the wine store.

2/7/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Glen admitted he was feeling nervous.

2/8/09: Florence, AL

Nancy sat in a rocking chair on her front porch and talked to a friend.

2/9/09: Florence, AL

A hand reached out from a slow-moving car and threw down an empty cigarette pack.

2/10/09: Florence, AL

A woman walked toward her car with her head bent down into her coat.

2/11/09: Florence, AL

The whipping wind thwacked me in the ear with a dead leaf.

2/12/09: Auburn, AL

An old man in Waffle House asked his waitress to play her favorite song on the jukebox.

2/13/09: Florence, AL

Bridget handed out Valentine party favors.

2/14/09: Florence, AL

John emptied his grass clippings onto the median in front of his house.

2/15/09: Florence, AL

The new clerk at Rite Aid was confused by the cash register.

2/16/09: Florence, AL



A young boy hid behind a tree in his yard until I crossed the street.

2/17/09: Florence, AL

Dexter and Daisy scratched at the door frightened of the thunder.

2/18/09: Florence, AL

I saw three students who had skipped my class standing outside smoking.

2/19/09: Florence, AL

A man in line at the grocery store asked me if I had been to 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension.

2/20/09: Florence, AL

A customer at Hobby Lobby bought a set of jungle print vases and accent pillows.

2/21/09: Tusculmbia, AL

Mary Settle instructed me on how best to unfold the legs of a table.

2/22/09: Florence, AL

Lori's eyes widened as she watched Hugh Jackman dancing on television.

2/23/09: Florence, AL

Barbara leaned her head out of her office door.

2/24/09: Sheffield, AL

David sat on his porch swing and delighted in his coffee and cigarette.

2/25/09: Florence, AL

The postman at the counter could not find the code for Glasgow on his computer.

2/26/09: Florence, AL

One man grabbed another man by his shirt collar.

2/27/09: Florence, AL

Four men from South Africa sang about working in the diamond mines.

2/28/09: Florence, AL

Lori tried to draw a caricature of me without me noticing.

3/1/09: Florence, AL

The dusting of snow melted quickly in the sunlight.

3/2/09: Florence, AL

Thomas avoided me in the parking deck by quickly jumping into the stairwell.

3/3/09: Florence, AL

Ethan leaned back in his office chair with his hands folded on top of his head.

3/4/09: Florence, AL

Lori curled up in bed with a smile on her face.

3/5/09: Tuscumbia, AL

A woman crouched over a white pickle bucket and mixed tile grout.

3/6/09: Florence, AL

Chiong stood outside with her students as it rained.

3/7/09: Decatur, AL

A waitress with augmented breasts walked through Big Bob Gibson's.

3/8/09: Florence, AL

A doll that had survived a house fire hid face down in the grass.

3/9/09: Florence, AL

Junior sat on his porch out of breath from raking leaves.

3/10/09: Florence, AL

Lori unwrapped Christmas lights from a wooden star.

3/11/09: Florence, AL

A woman smiled as she carried a bag of clothes down a hill.

3/12/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Wayne, Jake and Max played music together on stage for the first time in several years.

3/13/09: Florence, AL

Bridget's face filled with complete surprise when she walked into her house.

3/14/09: Florence, AL

The rain thinned out to a drizzle then stopped.

3/15/09: Florence, AL

Lori gave me the silent treatment.

3/16/09: Florence, AL

A young boy drew a picture of his father's hearse.

3/17/09: Florence, AL

A student asked me if she could leave class early to visit the tanning salon.

3/18/09: Florence, AL

A man who resembled a walrus watched me as I passed his truck.

3/19/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Jim demonstrated a working model version of an Edison Phonograph.

3/20/09: Tuscumbia, AL

A woman violently shook a tambourine and yelled out.

3/21/09: Florence, AL

A young boy balanced on the edge of the street curb while talking on his cell phone.

3/22/09: Florence, AL

A woman screeched through the empty church parking lot.

3/23/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Lori made sure to tell Keith she was leaving work for the day.

3/24/09: Tuscumbia, AL

BeLinda slowly limped into the office lobby gritting her teeth in pain.

3/25/09: Florence, AL

Clarke walked casually across the roof of his house.

3/26/09: Florence, AL

A Kenyan lady organized clothes at Loaves and Fishes.

3/27/09: Colbert County, AL

A woman grew frustrated from being blocked in by the NACOLG bus.

3/28/09: Florence, AL

A field of golden rod swayed in pre-storm winds.

3/29/09: Florence, AL

A neighbor asked if Lori and I would like to have some free-range eggs.

3/30/09: Florence, AL

Masaki walked through the art department building to tell everyone goodbye.

3/31/09: Sheffield, AL

Peggy steamed the suit jacket for a man portraying Brother Dave Gardner.

4/1/09: Florence, AL

My class did not fall for the trick I attempted to play on them.

4/2/09: Florence, AL

Lori struggled to breath through her nose.

4/3/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Six fat women sat around a table gobbling up food at the Chinese buffet.

4/4/09: Florence, AL

A neighbor planted flowers around her mailbox.

4/5/09: Wayne County, TN

Lori and I climbed up a hill to find an ancestral cemetery.

4/6/09: Florence, AL

A couple dressed all in black quickly left Subway only to return moments later.

4/7/09: Florence, AL

Three adults were jumping around on an inflatable moon bounce.

4/8/09: Florence, AL

At Troughbridge's, a woman asked her waitress how much a bag of chips costs.

4/9/09: Florence, AL

A dead catfish floated inside a white pickle bucket left on the curb.

4/10/09: Florence, AL

Hail pattered the roof as tornado alarms blared in the distance.

4/11/09: Florence, AL

A large woman ascended the spiral staircase with her tiny yapping dog.

4/12/09: Huntsville, AL

Mom told Lori and me the story behind her Easter decorations.

4/13/09: Florence, AL

Two girls sat on a bench and sketched pictures of the same lamppost.

4/14/09: Florence, AL

The graceful arch of a dancer's arm was frozen as she posed.

4/15/09: Montgomery, AL

A man's dreadlocks were getting sucked out of his car window as he drove.

4/16/09: Auburn, AL

An anorexic looking girl took orders at the sandwich shop.

4/17/09: Florence, AL

A stretched canvas leaned against a trash heap.

4/18/09: Tuscumbia, AL

A boy stood atop the brick wall wearing a cardboard mask.

4/19/09: Florence, AL

A robin bathed itself in the puddle from a backed up storm drain.

4/20/09: Florence, AL

A girl who was not disabled struggled to roll the wheelchair she was sitting in.

4/21/09: Florence, AL

A woman asked for four bundles of cotton candy.

4/22/09: Florence, AL

A circle of students sun bathed in the grass.

4/23/09: Florence, AL

The woman giving a lecture struggled to speak English.

4/24/09: Muscle Shoals, AL

Craig laughed as I ran while pushing his wheelchair.

4/25/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Laura's paper airplane took a nosedive into the gravel.

4/26/09: Florence, AL

A kid sped down the sidewalk on his bicycle until he slammed into the curb.

4/27/09: Florence, AL

A mockingbird chased away a large crow from the roof of the grocery store.

4/28/09: Florence, AL

The violin soloist played barefoot.

4/29/09: Florence, AL

Ashley's guide dog rested its chin on her knee.

4/30/09: Florence, AL

A giant box sat on the neighbor's front porch.

5/1/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Glen chose not to wear his usual baseball cap.

5/2/09: Florence, AL

Two cats tortured a chipmunk near a bush.

5/3/09: Tuscumbia, AL

A clothes hamper full of rolled up architectural blueprints sat on the street curb.

5/4/09: Florence, AL

A man whispered a comment about the blind woman in line at the bank.

5/5/09: Florence, AL

Leah leaned against the classroom door waiting for it to be unlocked.

5/6/09: Florence, AL

The dumpster next to the dormitory over-flowed with plastic bags of unwanted things.

5/7/09: Florence, AL

The insurance adjuster wiped his brow with a towel after walking on the roof.

5/8/09: Florence, AL

I received a lock of Robert's hair in a letter.

5/9/09: Florence, AL

Rainwater in the gutter flowed in the wrong direction.

5/10/09: Florence, AL

John held his fork with a fist as he ate.

5/11/09: Colbert County, AL

The woman who was cleaning trashcans at the gas station gave me a toy police car set.

5/12/09: Florence, AL

Chiong's car was gone when Lori and I left the art building.

5/13/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Eric shit on himself and laughed as Cheryl and I cleaned him up.

5/14/09: Huntsville, AL

Wayne's checked duffle bag weighed 49.5 pounds.

5/15/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Amanda asked me to sit next to her during lunch.

5/16/09: Florence, AL

A young boy standing by a lemonade cart held his crotch with both hands and hopped around.

5/17/09: Florence, AL

Several cute girls sold puppies by the fountain.

5/18/09: Tuscumbia, AL

David pretended to talk to his brother while holding a toy to his ear.

5/19/09: Florence, AL

Nancy held her back as she struggled down her front steps.

5/20/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Keith tried to remain calm while talking with his parent's insurance company.

5/21/09: Tuscumbia, AL

The castrato giggled as I slipped a diaper between his legs.

5/22/09: Florence, AL

Rose shelved pink bottles of liquid soap at Wal-Mart.

5/23/09: Florence, AL

Lori grew self-conscious about the green shirt she was wearing to dinner.

5/24/09: Florence, AL

Sandra saved a newspaper article about the granddaughter of her ex-husband's girlfriend.

5/25/09: Florence, AL

A fly was caught in the wet varnish on one of my paintings.

5/26/09: Birmingham, AL

A wasp nest was hidden in the eye of a praying mantis.

5/27/09: Florence, AL

Maden refused to let me pay for any of the doughnuts.

5/28/09: Florence, AL

Three life vests were piled near the dry cleaners.

5/29/09: Florence, AL

Melanie stood in her back yard reattaching a lawnmower bag.

5/30/09: Florence, AL

Bonnie sprayed her hedges with an insecticide.

5/31/09: Florence, AL

Sandra invited a guest to Sunday lunch.

6/1/09: Florence, AL

The soundtrack on the exercise video was scratchy.

6/2/09: Florence, AL

Streaks of bright purple bird shit oozed down the front step.

6/3/09: Florence, AL

My car would not crank in the Lil' Steve's package store parking lot.

6/4/09: Florence, AL

Wayne's tomato plants bore small green fruits.

6/5/09: Florence, AL

A well-dressed man checked for my name on his guest list.

6/6/09: Florence, AL

Charlene shared the story behind her straightening comb.

6/7/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Karen and her daughter seemed happy with the exhibit of Bruce's work.

6/8/09: Florence, AL

Anna sat nervously in the classroom.

6/9/09: Huntsville, AL

The museum attendant did not allow me to leave a request.

6/10/09: Florence, AL

Several large feathers were all that remained of a blackbird.

6/11/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Iron Man and Spider Man handed out kisses together.

6/12/09: Muscle Shoals, AL

Scott sat and pouted at the table until he was asked to dance.

6/13/09: Florence, AL

A blue beach ball lay in the drainage ditch near a child's left shoe.

6/14/09: Florence, AL

The sun kept hiding behind sheets of clouds after the rain cleared.

6/15/09: Killen, AL

A man stood on his truck and unloaded bundles of scrap sheet metal.

6/16/09: Tuscumbia, AL

In a plastic baggie little gingerbread men held toothpick flags.

6/17/09: Florence, AL

Lori zipped down the sidewalk test-driving our new electric scooter.

6/18/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Deb asked if I was staying for the Tupperware party.

6/19/09: Florence, AL

Daisy and Dexter slept in the living room, exhausted from the heat.

6/20/09: Florence, AL



A buzzard hung upside down from the Berry's dining room light fixture.

6/21/09: Collinwood, TN

Sandra gave James a hug at his brother's funeral.

6/22/09: Huntsville, AL

No parking spaces were vacant in front of the dentist office.

6/23/09: Florence, AL

An assistant told me Jennifer was too busy to meet.

6/24/09: Florence, AL

James left the nightlight burning in Charles' vacant apartment.

6/25/09: Florence, AL

Dave hit and pinched himself when he was not allowed to eat another apple turnover.

6/26/09: Florence, AL

The owner of Wok 'n Roll swatted flies near seated customers in the dining area.

6/27/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Charlie's kids burned holes in a roll of butcher paper with a magnifying glass.

6/28/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Hundreds of rubber ducks floated en masse across the canal.

6/29/09: Florence, AL

A sparrow stared into the window of the Subway with its beak wide open.

6/30/09: Sheffield, AL

A train sped by just before Lori was able to cross the tracks.

7/1/09: Florence, AL

A woman and a boy rode Segway mobiles side-by-side down the street.

7/2/09: Nashville, TN

A man licked the blade of his pocketknife.

7/3/09: Florence, AL

Zoë taunted us with the bone in her mouth.

7/4/09: Florence, AL

A couple of boys rode their bicycles down the street while holding American flags.

7/5/09: Florence, AL

A family asked if I had seen their missing dog.

7/6/09: Florence, AL

A pregnant massage therapist carried her rusty pipe into Ace Hardware.

7/7/09: Tuscumbia, AL

A man drove a riding lawn mower very near to where we were picnicking.

7/8/09: Florence, AL

One of Mary's paintings was hanging in her own kitchen.

7/9/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Dot finished Robert's soda before throwing the cup into the trashcan.

7/10/09: Tuscumbia, AL

A neighbor's storm window was leaning against the tree in their front yard.

7/11/09: Muscle Shoals, AL

A couple watched a Power Point slide show about their own life together.

7/12/09: Birmingham, AL

The backdoor of the Sloss Furnaces office building was ajar.

7/13/09: Florence, AL

Dexter polished off my Mushroom and Swiss burger when I wasn't looking.

7/14/09: Florence, AL

On the phone Dad sounded in high spirits despite having a gallstone.

7/15/09: Florence, AL

A ball of swarming gnats hovered in the front yard for over a minute.

7/16/09: Florence, AL

A clump of cheese dip dripped from Lori's chip and landed near the edge of the table.

7/17/09: Florence, AL

Terry Bowden waved from the back seat of a convertible.

7/18/09: Tuscumbia, AL

My sculpture was still lying behind the dumpster.

7/19/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Two women drove Rascals into the museum.

7/20/09: Huntsville, AL

Mom farted in the kitchen.

7/21/09: Huntsville, AL

Dad carried boxes of estate sale items across the street in the rain.

7/22/09: Florence, AL

Nine mushrooms were growing in the front yard near the driveway.

7/23/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Keith came out of the bathroom with his shirt un-tucked.

7/24/09: Florence, AL

A man drove by while picking his nose.

7/25/09: Florence, AL

A woman with one bright green shoe walked around Belk shopping for clothes.

7/26/09: Florence, AL

Sam hid behind Sandra's red chair to avoid getting flea drops.

7/27/09: Courtland, AL

A lawnmower fashioned out of a shopping cart was parked along the highway.

7/28/09: Milledgeville, GA

Sharon believed she locked her keys in the storage room.

7/29/09: Florence, AL

A father bought two large slices of pizza for his sons at Fun Land.

7/30/09: Tuscumbia, AL

During the fire drill Gay lost her balance, fell to the floor and landed on her back.

7/31/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Jim and Keith carried bronze goat shit from the gallery into storage.

8/1/09: Mobile, AL

Thomas was introduced to his family's new dog that had been rescued by his sister.

8/2/09: Cullman County, AL

A large brown turtle refused my assistance crossing the interstate.

8/3/09: Florence, AL

A bulldozer scraped up chunks of concrete and dirt with its backhoe.

8/4/09: Florence, AL

Dexter vomited after eating a clump of grass sprayed with Sevin Dust.

8/5/09: Florence, AL

Dr. Lazenbee said Dexter was in good health.

8/6/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Justin picked a clump of grass and sniffed it.

8/7/09: Tuscumbia, AL

April drew a whale on a round piece of paper.

8/8/09: Florence, AL

Sandra suddenly stopped walking due to the pain in her leg.

8/9/09: Tuscaloosa, AL

The windshield was smudged and impossible to see through.

8/10/09: Tuscaloosa, AL

Boxes of Wayne's photographs were stacked in the kitchen of the Bama Theater office.

8/11/09: Florence, AL

A fly sat on the ledge of the porch and watched me check my email.

8/12/09: Florence, AL

The scent of grill-smoke was in the air near a row of grapevines.

8/13/09: Florence, AL

Jeff and his daughter passed by on their morning stroll.

8/14/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Randall giggled to himself, but he would not share the reason.

8/15/09: Florence, AL

A kid drove by in a pick-up truck with a walking stick in his gun rack.

8/16/09: Birmingham, AL

Mark and his son negotiated how much barbeque sandwich his son needed to finish.

8/17/09: Florence, AL

Junior was asleep on his front porch with his mouth wide open.

8/18/09: Florence, AL

Yellow crime scene tape surrounded Compass Bank.

8/19/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Cameron drove his 1958 Bel Air with a big grin on his face.

8/20/09: Florence, AL

In the presence of a mechanic my car did not make the awful noise I had been hearing.

8/21/09: Florence, AL

A server at Logan's sneezed into his hands and then picked up a plate of food.

8/22/09: Florence, AL

Lori rode away with her sister as I pulled in to the driveway.

8/23/09: Florence, AL

Lori took a nap in my bed after lunch.

8/24/09: Auburn, AL

Without asking for them, I was given fries with my order of hot dogs.

8/25/09: Auburn, AL

A man sat in Toomer's Coffee Shop inquiring about sheet metal.

8/26/09: Florence, AL

Daniel leaned against the wall and accidentally flipped off the lights.

8/27/09: Florence, AL

A scrawny black dog panted in the shade of a garbage can.

8/28/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Judy raised her fist to Calvin then covered her ears and walked away.

8/29/09: Florence, AL

A fat couple drove up to pilfer through the remnants of Sandra's yard sale.

8/30/09: Florence, AL

Leo and Una were not in their habitat when Lori and I visited the campus.

8/31/09: Florence, AL

There was a black smudge on Wayne's nose by his left eye.

9/1/09: Florence, AL

The florist tied a bunch of purple iris with a yellow ribbon.

9/2/09: Florence, AL

The UPS deliveryman left Bonnie's package on our porch to keep it out of the rain.

9/3/09: Florence, AL

Junior wore a black Hawaiian shirt to take Nancy out for her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

9/4/09: Florence, AL

A pair of cicadas was mating in the street.

9/5/09: Huntsville, AL

The Mac Store clerk with a Mohawk wanted to play songs from his iPod for us to hear.

9/6/09: Florence, AL

Dexter's eyes were swollen and glassy and he rubbed them with his paws.

9/7/09: Florence, AL

A young boy wedged his butt in a child's swing seat and got stuck.

9/8/09: Florence, AL

Courtney walked into the classroom coughing from second-hand cigarette smoke.

9/9/09: Florence, AL

Cathy brought two stuffed portabella mushrooms to the door.

9/10/09: Florence, AL

A female construction worker cursed harder and laughed louder than the males she sat with on break.

9/11/09: Florence, AL

One small fat dog sniffed the butt of another small fat dog.

9/12/09: Florence, AL

Hummingbirds battled near the neighbor's feeder.

9/13/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Jim had to ask a man to stop touching the uniform that was on display.

9/14/09: Florence, AL

The streak of white paint in the grass was obscured by new growth.

9/15/09: Florence, AL

Lori applied for a new job.

9/16/09: Florence, AL

A man in a sports car skidded into his parking spot behind the cafeteria.

9/17/09: Florence, AL

A slug was stuck in the door jam at the entrance to my studio.

9/18/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Donna stood on a table to close the air conditioning vent.

9/19/09: Huntsville, AL

My mother told me the sequence of events that happened on the day I was born.

9/20/09: Florence, AL

Sandra drove down to the public library to watch a screening of Casablanca.

9/21/09: Florence, AL

Donna got her neck tickled by the stem of a houseplant.

9/22/09: Florence, AL

Glenda and a student raced up the hill behind the Fitness Center.

9/23/09: Florence, AL

The nameless cat that lives across the street hid out from the rain.

9/24/09: Florence, AL

A swarm of large mosquitoes invaded the living room.

9/25/09: Tuscumbia, AL

A puddle of urine formed under Nikki's chair.

9/26/09: Florence, AL

Bridget showed off the two coats she bought at the thrift store.

9/27/09: Florence, AL

Ron dipped his head into the back seat of his jeep.

9/28/09: Florence, AL

A puddle of water from the leaking air conditioner covered the floor in the classroom.

9/29/09: Florence, AL

A woman on the street asked if I would paint a portrait of her.

9/30/09: Florence, AL

A cluster of bugs marched down the limb of a tree eating the light green fungus.

10/1/09: Florence, AL

Wayne closed his eyes while listening to Jeanie read a poem about their travels together.

10/2/09: Huntsville, AL

Mom dressed Chanel in a ladybug costume.

10/3/09: Huntsville, AL

Sandra brought Lori a small wreath for the front door.

10/4/09: Florence, AL

A man was enveloped by cigarette smoke while standing by his backdoor.

10/5/09: Florence, AL

Mel fumbled with an envelope then offered his left hand for a shake.

10/6/09: Florence, AL

A woman balanced her parfait on top of her latte to answer her cell phone as she walked.

10/7/09: Florence, AL

Suzanne smoked while sitting at the desk in her office with the door open.

10/8/09: Florence, AL

A man had the same haircut as his tiny dog.

10/9/09: Tuscaloosa, AL

A nurse at Druid City Hospital took a photograph of me in the maternity ward.

10/10/09: Tuscaloosa, AL

Jon's house smelled of cigarettes, liquor, marijuana and cat litter.

10/11/09: Florence, AL

A faint whistling sound came from the back of Judy and Charles' house.

10/12/09: Florence, AL

Chiong laughed at my shaved head and face.

10/13/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Zach kept sipping water from the fountain.

10/14/09: Florence, AL

One redneck explained what sushi was to another redneck.

10/15/09: Florence, AL

Shortly after arriving home Lori went to sleep with a migraine.

10/16/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Kim was sobbing when she answered the phone.

10/17/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Megan unrolled some red book binding thread from her spool.

10/18/09: Florence, AL

Chico dragged his hind legs in the grass and whimpered to be petted.

10/19/09: Florence, AL

A waiter at Ricatoni's stood outside and watched the building get painted.

10/20/09: Florence, AL

A man in a straw hat ran an electric pipe snake into the sewer.

10/21/09: Florence, AL

A pair of Japanese girls asked me directions to the nearest McDonald's.



10/22/09: Florence, AL

One bag of recycling was left on the side of the road.

10/23/09: Florence, AL

Megan shared a video of a pair of mating tortoises.

10/24/09: Florence, AL

Susann's yapping dogs were in a crib under the canopy.

10/25/09: Florence, AL

Sandra served chocolate cake barefoot.

10/26/09: Florence, AL

Two squirrels narrowly escaped certain death by truck tires.

10/27/09: Florence, AL

Dexter came into the living room chomping on a piece of my drawing charcoal.

10/28/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Keith carried a box of mail to his car.

10/29/09: Florence, AL

The woman at Auto Zone told me to watch out for her broom.

10/30/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Cameron dropped a friend off at the county court house.

10/31/09: Florence, AL

A cluster of children climbed on to a hay-filled trailer being pulled by a four-wheeler.

11/1/09: Florence, AL

Megan thought she saw Chiong's car in the parking lot.

11/2/09: Florence, AL

A couple embraced in the parking lot of Subway.

11/3/09: Florence, AL

Lisa left the meeting early to pick up her daughter.

11/4/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Jim draped a fur collar over the mounted head of a teddy bear.

11/5/09: Florence, AL

Sharon walked into class with two garbage bags full of leaves.

11/6/09: Decatur, AL

Our waitress came back with her jacket on and smelling of cigarette smoke.

11/7/09: Tuscumbia, AL

A man with a little dog dragged a table as he walked by.

11/8/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Vern showed me the old milk bottles he had collected.

11/9/09: Florence, AL

Mary was outside sweeping leaves from the walkway.

11/10/09: Florence, AL

A boy carrying an ice cream cone reached in his back pocket.

11/11/09: Florence, AL

Lori turned the car around to pick up five ferns off the side of the road.

11/12/09: Florence, AL

Lisa spoke frantically on her cell phone as she leaned against the wall.

11/13/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Cameron flirted with the girl behind the counter at the coffee shop.

11/14/09: Sheffield, AL

Vern showed off his collection of vintage car tags.

11/15/09: Tuscaloosa, AL

Wayne threw a cardboard sign at me.

11/16/09: Tuscaloosa, AL

A little girl asked when she would be able to get her own cell phone.

11/17/09: Florence, AL

A cheerleader shuffled across campus shivering from the cold.

11/18/09: Florence, AL

Ashton walked out of class half an hour early.

11/19/09: Florence, AL

John shook his head disapprovingly as he walked into the building.

11/20/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Paul explained how ice cream trucks used to back into the loading dock.

11/21/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Laura resisted leaving class early with her father.

11/22/09: Florence, AL

Sam ran frisky through Sandra's house.

11/23/09: Florence, AL

Lori burned her mouth with hot chocolate.

11/24/09: Florence, AL

A painter waved with a brush in his hand.

11/25/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Jim politely declined our invitation to Thanksgiving dinner.

11/26/09: Florence, AL

A car pulled into our driveway and then turned onto Junior and Nancy's front lawn.

11/27/09: Florence, AL

A postman pulled up in his delivery truck with a young boy in his lap.

11/28/09: Florence, AL

Five people stood in a row watching tree trimmers cutting down limbs.

11/29/09: Florence, AL

Robin repeatedly pulled at the knee of her brown tights.

11/30/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Buddy pointed out where he used to load milk crates into delivery trucks.

12/1/09: Florence, AL

Judy was out of breath from carrying a bag to her garbage can.

12/2/09: Huntsville, AL

Dustin gave me a sarcastic thumbs-up.

12/3/09: Huntsville, AL

A mother and daughter sat for me to draw their portraits.

12/4/09: Huntsville, AL

Dad climbed to the top of a rolling ladder to take a photograph.

12/5/09: Florence, AL

Lori called my name from down the street as I unlocked the front door.

12/6/09: Florence, AL

Tim was packing up the scraps from a roasted chicken.

12/7/09: Florence, AL

The nameless cat from across the street came over to sit in my lap.

12/8/09: Florence, AL

Lori tested four different body sprays on her arm.

12/9/09: Florence, AL

The sushi chef at Wok 'n Roll walked into the kitchen to find a clean plate.

12/10/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Cameron popped off the lid to his cup of apple cider.

12/11/09: Florence, AL

A neighbor stapled Christmas lights to the tree in his front yard.

12/12/09: Florence, AL

An infant sat in his stroller wearing reindeer footies.

12/13/09: Florence, AL

Vance carried a plastic bag from his car.

12/14/09: Tuscumbia, AL

Anita excused herself from the room after farting unexpectedly.

12/15/09: Tuscumbia, AL

A young boy asked me if Andy Warhol influenced the Beatles.

12/16/09: Florence, AL

Juliann smiled to show off her teeth without braces.

12/17/09: Florence, AL

Faith smiled as she walked out of Hobby Lobby with her boyfriend.

12/18/09: Florence, AL

The server at Hannalore's wished us a Merry Christmas in German.

12/19/09: Huntsville, AL

A dropped plate shattered on the floor.

12/20/09: Florence, AL

Tommy tested the flicker mode on his Christmas lawn ornaments.

12/21/09: Florence, AL

In a rush to leave, Nancy dropped her walking cane.

12/22/09: Florence, AL

Shao Yu ran out of Subway looking for his mother.

12/23/09: Florence, AL

A boy yelled, "Roll-Tide-Roll!" as he kicked a football between two trees.

12/24/09: Huntsville, AL

Dad sorted out the pieces to a puzzle.

12/25/09: Huntsville, AL

Mom sobbed as she read a poem that Dad wrote for her.

12/26/09: Huntsville, AL

Dad stood at the gate, waving goodbye.

12/27/09: Florence, AL

A man stood in the toy section at Big Lots playing with one of the games.

12/28/09: Florence, AL

A single mother and her two children each carried bags of groceries from the store.

12/29/09: Florence, AL

A woman rode by on a little girl's bicycle.

12/30/09: Florence, AL

Chico dragged his hind legs in the grass and whimpered to be petted.

12/31/09: Huntsville, AL

A large man wearing a top hat walked slowly down the ramp.