

# Marginalia

## **The Tactile Mind Weekly #44**

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*Coffee Shop Notes*

Sara Stallard

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This is a snapshot of a journal spread, courtesy of Cat Cassidy.

<http://www.thetactilemind.com/weekly/img/cassidy1.jpg>

Hailing from the Seattle, Washington area, the 26-year-old mother of Mally and Jahren shares with us a glimpse into her life and art in the margins.

In the journal entry, inspired by an encounter with a homeless man on a coffee table on Broadway, named Shanti, who showed her his drawings, Cat illuminates her experiences with colorful lines, shapes and poetic words, along with collaged mementos. She doesn't so much tell as much as show the feelings and impressions the day left on her. A restaurant. AJ's salty tears. Shanti. Balance. A cookie fortune. Something about being caught without an umbrella.

Her art gallery consists mainly of her friends and family, to whom she gives away her creative work. Like her twin sister, Clare Cassidy, Cat is also an avid photographer and has amassed quite a collection of lovely portraits of her family and herself. Here is an example,

<http://www.thetactilemind.com/weekly/img/cassidy2.jpg> and yes, she and her children are Deaf.

The unwavering devotion to her artistic side is not an escape into flights of fancy, rather, it is her lifeline. Communicating her visions of beauty through art and writing keeps her sharp. Otherwise, as she exclaims, she would spontaneously combust.

This creative catharsis has long been part of Cat's life. Featured here are two pictures, one from a friend's journal and the other of Cat herself, her face having been decorated by her friends.

<http://www.thetactilemind.com/weekly/img/cassidy3.jpg>

<http://www.thetactilemind.com/weekly/img/cassidy4.jpg>

Both pictures date from 1995. Recently, she says, she has been collecting quotes found in bathroom stalls, choosing them for their wit and wisdom.

When she is not doing new pages in her journal or scribbling in the margins of books and on the back of other paper, Cat is busy with life. Among the things that occupy her days are visiting her parents, slow internet connections, getting in the shower on time, Jahren's telling the audiologist off, Mally going to school for the first time (Cat had previously home-schooled her daughter), snow days, working with a signed video series for children, and the arrival of the mail.

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