

## **BEGINNING PAPER**

for JANNIE every thing and always —

## TITLE PAGE

Someone's missing ...

...and I think it's me

## NOT!-ERN LOVE

Rejected! (was it the "poodle poop"? the "SCROTUM"? not good with a breakfast BAGEL...

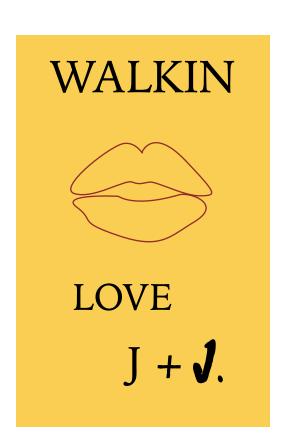
## BABIES

Which baby will get away with stealing hubcaps.

Which baby will be arrested for stealing stamps for his stamp collection?

MET







## PRIVACY

Elizabeth jokes that her Carlton is "a nerd pretending to be a nerd." Was Jerry crazy pretending to be crazy ?

## **DIARIES & NOTES**

When luminous artist Sandy-man Williams, who was not quite yet my dear young friend, saw the first version of *Someone's missing...* on my kitchen counter he jumped right in and began reading a diary page: "I love this— 'I feel shattered again and again."

I was amazed—not sure if anyone could or would want to read the handwriting. "Of course," he smiled, "everyone wants to read other people's diaries."

This seems to be true but some readers are frustrated trying to decipher my loopy cursive and Jerry's struggling script. Reading these pages aloud as stellar young sculptor—Eli Gray valiantly transcribes—sometimes has me in tears and unable to speak—then a hug or a gentle punch and on we go—so for you the following:

# NATHAN

THE PERFECT IS THE ENEMY OF THE GOOD

#### **BIRD FOOD**

MAIL IN BROWN TRUNK By front door -(try to get it before J. + just give him mags + junk) Please

N <u>ot</u> e	Bedroom lamps
4	are ancient/fragile
15	Please turn on
$\frac{x \ 9}{135}$	by cord switch

PRIORITY - J.

Keep engaged as much as possible - not all the time but - helping -

# MACON

### I Jere smiling

If he can help - sweep take out garbage - play music - ability varies but if he can just feel he is a part of whatever Also - if he wants to show something - a book - art a photo Anything that gets him laughing - smiling <sup>pets + babies</sup>

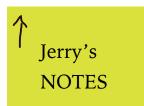
If ironing play Seinfeld

Hydration - lots of water - dilute juice - 1/4 - 3/4 water coffee ok coke last resort + not past 2:00 PM

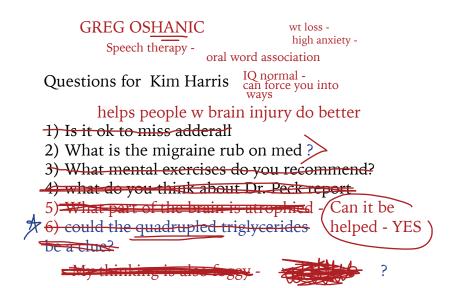
# **MEMORY IDEAS**

Keep a book all the time. Cutting toxic coffee

## MEDITATE



an idea I came up with ... " Interactive writing "



Peck "Something going on wy your physical capabilities wh is really a medical issue ." Test results lower than I would have predicted - reduction in ability in thinking"

on work to they check for 15.85 plenty B12 & mercury

B12

What will make them heal - natural DNA

Composition Book Interactive writing-

Dear Jerry will you play interactive Journal with me? - by which I mean we write each other each day, in one sentence the highs and lows of that day, for example, yesterday my low was feeling so low that I had us looking a driving in circles looking for LAB corp and I would like for the high to have been in my studio but due to a Qi deficency I felt happier walking home in the lovely fall almost beach-like air and of course begining and ending the day in your arms.

Oct 12-03

as I wrighs this Joan is phone, tucing to ber mother. She is telling Marge about how bad she feels. I don't feel like doing a long walk. Instead I will do a spin in the year. I wonder what the faces of this couple on their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary say to you - I wonder.

In my favorite fairy tale Rapunzel saves her prince - her tears heal his blind eyes when she finds him - but he has been searching for her too - they both are seekers.

I wish so much I could help you but the very idea that you need help is an insult to you - your memory problems are not real to you and maybe they are not real at all - It breaks my heart that you play games not with me but against me - the 7-11 napkins waved in my face why? -

I have no idea of how at this point to continue this relationship - I will try to relinquish what you percieve as control

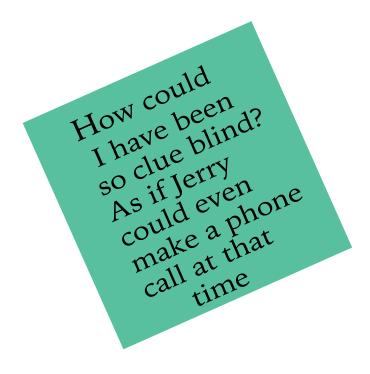
If - Dr. Harris had said there was no hope for you I would just love and care for you but I find myself bitter angry - and ever more mean because there is hope for you to improve and when you hear from the doctors you seem interested in doing so -

I do not know if you won't or simply cannot do even so much as re - arege arange your bathroom -You fight me instead of taking my loving offers of help - you act emasculat<del>ed</del> you could re-masculate yourself by taking charge of some things - like

getting the ADT system reconnected -But you can't or won't I know I just have to accept this & figure out how to continue - I hate myself in this relation ship - I am mean - out of fear & frustration & I must stop -I love you - truly & have to assume if you could help yourself & me you would -I'm feeling deeply sad about this - but deeply happy about other things - Life goes on Joan

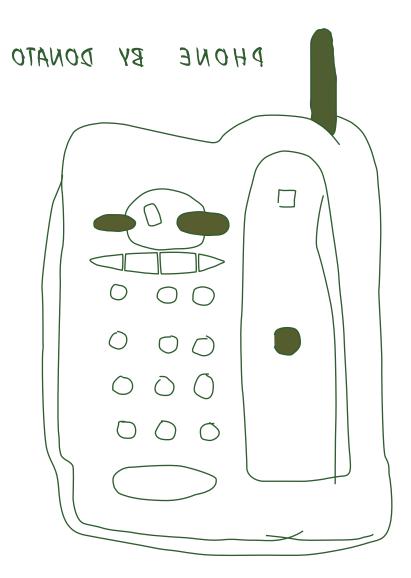
12 - 19 - 03 Dear Joan,

It's very cozzy here in our warm winter room. I am looking at you - with your big dickary. on your lap. OK, so I have to write about the highs and lows of my day. I have been turning the christmas tree lights on and off several times today. More than likely these tree lights would not <del>bum</del> burn. I don't like what I have been writing, it is not interesting in any way! able wrighing writing about not being the to write, is what I am doing. I think it may be somewhat more interesting than other things, I might write about!



Words for Joan The see Applies

Dear Joan, 1 am writing to to you. To you <u>men</u> seems encorect. It is getting vary bot in this room. Joan is <u>mention</u> (making noises with her mouth. But of course, since it is a noise coming from 'Joan', it is music. Since I began this - writing it has become cooler in the room - but not encome cooler in the room it <u>me</u> does not make much<sub>44</sub>



I don't know what to write about. OK, I have .. got this pencil.. working, so it can . write in such a way that one can read what has been written The only problem is that I cannot recall what I was trying what I wanted to recall

#### 

New Year's Day

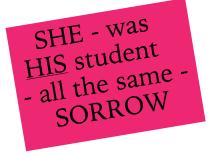
This is it, the year of the pure heart. So many plans for this day - Park friends a Euphoria bath together but we laid low together instead I have confusion of how to aproach the year. My instinct is to stay low, with Jerry and intense studio and spiritual life - meditate more & voga classes & Perdue's Hinduism for fun. but I fear isolation and would love to teach again & stay connected with the art life at school -I think to take a computer class at painting - the thought distresses me The wanting to be a part of things desire - distresses me. And now it feels time is short -I think the work I did for my show & the lasers was splendid & I want it to be seen - to exist in the world - and yet - Jere - So glad he is still here -May be this will be the year of healing & regaining strength - Heaven JANUARY 2006 is here

#### 

The darkest of dark days w/ a call at breakfast from P. - "Bad news" - beyond bad beyond comprehending -Kathy World of Mirth - her little girls - her husband - murdered New Years day - in their home -We met Ashley - tears of sorrow & she didn't know her - Jere had sobbed he was her student & the prettiest girl there is no making sense of it - little girls 3 & 6 - It is lightening -

We went to help Eleanor undecorate here tree - it was just ment to be me but Jere was eger to help - over eager & broke ornaments - Eleanor was distressed & wanting to keep them both happy -

I feel shattered - again and again.





The sensation of a teacup filled to the brim - the slightest jolt & the tears pour out. Another dark day, the picture of the precious murdered children on the front page - beyond enduring - comprehending and Jere's - doc - We try to have hope - Statins & more wine Iknt & more love & laughter I will not be grim -freinds & yoga - it is falling into place -

Paul M. called about getting together in NY -And Sara - for yoga -And Ashley is a gift the universe just sent me -Thank you - all these dear people Phylis Di Maurizi this morning -& Mary too - Sally in her way - Mary H Blessings all



Jerry's beauty kindness loving humor -

This pretty little book should be filled w/ joyous thoughts - so look for them. We did not go to the memorial service for Kathy & her family - I don't know if it was right but I felt we were on grief overload - I spoke to Amy Morefield about I's show - and we are late on the studio visit which she seemed ok about that. She lives five houses from Kathy so she is rocked by that. Is it right to have this show w/ J's health unpredictable? Talk to Ashley -It will be a beautful show & good for the students. Maybe J. could be better or no worse. It seems it will be ok if no new work emerges - ask Ashley -We stayed in today- except a walk - I still control - "No outdoor shoes" - when he can't really understand - Jeeze I want to stop - "Don't put fingers on the records" - I will have a day w out one controlling comment - There is a lot of sweetness and love but I know the controlling frustrates & hurts Jere & even today angered him for which he apologized when I'm the one at fault. I will get better -



Returned from Mya Tulum infused w beauty a transfusion of beauty

SEPTEMBER 2006

### 9 - 18 - 2006

SO much beauty, splendor here at Mya TULUM and yet~The setting is lovely the yoga teacher Susan & her friend Don & Barbara are all fine friends. Jere has been dear and disoriented "Where is the car?" I am so patient until I am not & then I am childish & mean - enumerating complaints with my logic to a bewildered person whose perception is beyond my comprehension but his feelings are not -

Friday

I have not wanted to write - Sorrow -

This morning as I walked over I feared Jere's anger or sadness -

but he just gave me a sweet smile - Still he was so

draggy drug-stumbling & ravenous -

I came back & 3:30 & more so I stayed long to feed & walk & bathe him

because th new nurse was clueless - kept talking about him - even when

he would say to her "<u>Who</u> are you talking about!?" & I told her very srongly to speak to him -Then she would talk to him like he is deaf -

She made it much harder too harder to leave -

& Jeeze I look like hell - really w/ exhaustion Nate even said I look like I hadn't slept in a week

Saturday

Things seem to be going well I spent 5 hrs & then came back to find J - gone from the room door open up & down the 6 flights. Fire alarm goes off - running calling - "Jerry! Jerry! Jerry!" Find him in the lobby after looking off the fire escape for a body on the ground - held him & sobbed & out for a walk as the fire engines roared up - returning to find the Jere had pulled the alarm

May 2008

Sunday

J. & I are like the bad children of assissted living. They want me to go & I stay They want him to stay & he goes -We are making friends -It is like being on a ship we're all in it together
7 hrs + 2

Slipping away is the hard part - for us both -

May 2008

Monday

Exhausted - say good by to J - too abruptly - the nurse Linda trys to calm him - he gets angry "You don't understand - We have a BOND" -

In the night he grabbed women -He grabbed one by her forearms & harmed her Steve said - "He put her in the hospital" - she'll be out 10 days -I was devastated again -I was not told this til late in the day Tues after having a nice morning meeting w Pamela the activity director

> I just can't write this

When was it -That I walked into the room He sitting there looking at his records & nuzzling Mousey -I sat on his lahap lap He "I just wish we could live together in a little house some where -" Ellen had said savor the good moments & accep the bad-

> When I told her this her eyes filled w/ tears

#### Triptan

sunday 30 august in the This a major struggle & confusion W/ Jere at MCV early found him "out" & out in the hall w/ his bear on the bed Back in the room we got him cleaned up and I was able to get some liquid & food into him - yogurt & an apple - We can see the sky now I curled up w/ him & rested - it was sweet - I said " It is late august, we are on a boat drifting - I could get few words from him ( he did call "Joan") when the nurse turned him I said "Jerry what can I do for you" "Please tell me." He tried to pull my shirt up so I untucked it & and he put his hands under hungrily -

I loved it. love him as I was leaving to meet Sal Tim & Chris B to move out of W. I thought as I looked accross the

room at Jerry

"With all my heart -I love you" - So I went to him & said it and he delighted - so I said it again & again -



My head feels like it monday 31 august Blow turned red in YOGA Up early & out to MCV to meet Lakhani's team - When the came in I was putting a cool cloth on Jere's head - he was having his first headache in my memory. Tried to talk to the Sultan (Dr L.) about side effects he blew up. "We agreed on this from day one!" Isn't there anything else we could try -"No! there is not enough brain left to work with" -Brutal. Lynmorre - accepted us Maybe there w/ Dr Boling we can adjust -I wept on Jere's chest thinking he was out. He put his hand gently on my head "Poor poor poor" and when I said " With all my heart I love you" "Thank you"

## AM migrain<del>q</del> - rough 1 triptan

My face just hung from my skull in pain & exhaustion Seeing my beauty in the ambulance makes me smile even now - The room is as sweet as I remember - the view & location by couches of ladies grooming - just like home -Jere & I just piered (SP!) into each other's eyes & delighted in each other's faces - "We are addicted to each other" I fed him melon & choc ice cream - and felt fine about him & Lynmoore all the long drive home but I called before dinner & heard about his -1/2 hotdog -"He slapped my hands away -I felt guilty about my nice market fair although he would not have cared much for it -MY JERRY

My prayers

"Please let me do the right thing -" I am speaking to me & hoping my subconscious knows what the right thing is

And "please let Jerry know peace" - that to the universe which I do not trust to be compassionate -

It was sweet w/ Jere today for the short while that he was eating but he slept deeply most of the three & a half hours I was there. Met w the Bon Secure Hospice & have confidence in them & the Lynmore staff - felt ok till I called - he was awake & I wondered -"What is he thinking" So FAR AWAY

> Lymore is lovely and yet final -- facility

#### wednesday 30 december

Jerry -

cont. 31 - movie, I'll feed you -I told Patti I was afraid I would jump on him "He's so adorable" -She said "Friends with benefits" We laughed & I would like it I think but I want to put what is left of my heart & soul into art for two months - I feel great longing for a lover - at the same time as being truly endlessly in love with Jerry - but I also do not feel strong enough in my body but I plan to be super strong & joyous in 2010 & forever more =I accept that I cannot be perfect - I just want to be kind - peace - ful & make art that connects -US

### thursday 31 december

Last day & I chose to not go with my friends toight. I wanted to stay with my feelings about Daddy & Jere & just now I opened this book to the day after Daddy left his little body - So blessed - I am to have had two great loves how tortured I feel to have not been more able to spare their suffering & now - I know Jere must be better when I am w/ him - & yet I am not so much now -

I prayed tonight - just felt comepelled to get on my knees Not much came - just a sense of - let me be at peace w/ what is. I do wish (but don't pray for) Jere's release from his body (they can't even brush his teeth - and yet his kisses are sweet - he blows into my mouth or breaths me in.

The friends were at Mary's tonight but it has been too exhausting to act like I'm not grieving - I just could not.

Dear Emil said come drink wine, we'll watch a

I am now willing to forgive myself for the times
I am now willing to forgive myself for the times I failed lerry

#### Jan 4 2°1°

# book Need my new Jan 5

Patti sisterling So loving in her tough love way - When I said I realized that my "I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm sorry ~~~~~" to the family I almost caused to collide w/ me on the way into W. burg - was - were words ment for Daddy - Jere My guilt that I could not spare them She said "what you have been through in the past five years only a concentration camp would be worse"- Well not so bad - but very hard & I have given until I just need a rest and I have given so much love - & so deserved but I must REST

**FRIDAY** January BE BE BE AT PEACE WITH WHAT IS BE AT PEACE WITH WHAT IS

1



# THURSDAY January

7

# JOYS

all my animal friends -Mousey, Poochini - the wildy cats - Moma C. Paw Paw Wonky & Fuzzy Wunkles - birds & squirls -Trees - berries flowers family - my girls friends - so many so dear moving, getting stronger making imagesbooks -

## FRIDAY January 8

This is a lovely book - and as al ways I feel the way I did 18 - on the balcony in Bangkok at dawn just arrived and wondering where life will take one - feeling full of possibility & hope - so much to love. - The hospice social worker Jen advised me today in our phone conversation as I am home under the weather" and away from J. for days now to not keep looking back & holding on to what we have been through the brutal or the endearing - & especially to relinquish the crippling guilt, to know Jerry's sense of time unmediated by memory is protecting him from knowing how long I am away. Being laid a bit low these 2 days I feel happy to just be with my little animals & to read The Museum of Innocence (gift from RR.) but frustrated in the attempts to begin the 3rd pic of Jere which could be the loveliest -

#### Jerry's tears - mine

he lifted my shirt & I had nothing on under - he held my little breasts with a look of longing I think a longing for life -

I must decide what I can do to make this part of life as sweet as it can be for him -

Andy helped me in so many ways Daddy = I painted - or more unpainted - by putting irredescent red on the offending hand & rubbing it away YOGA - MYRA

#### groove in forehead

# TU AY

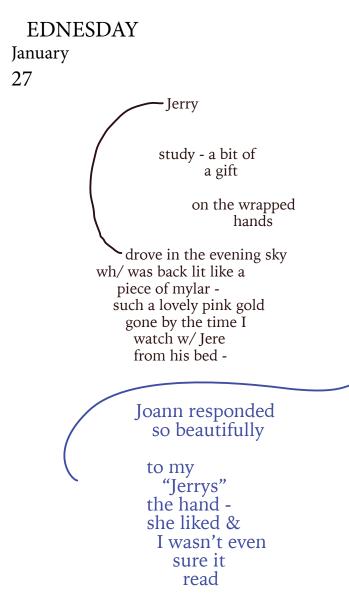
# Studio

but first - little dogoo was undeniably unwell & I took him & 2 bags of poop to the VET - (probably Sa'ls delicious chicken & I go to the people vet tomorrow ) I also noticed a dent over my left brow - the vet thought it odd - ) Loving my "Jerry's " my pictures of him & my Jerry We lay in each other's arms & when I pointed to the beautiful darkening sky he percieved it & delighted This was amazing because most often his eyes wander & not always together -He laughed at his brother's Riverview remembrance & said a whole sentence -(something like "what was that?") in response to a lady voice -I had been to see Ellen and told her of my sobbing trip home & she said it was "adaptive behavior" & she would worry about me if I weren't reacting to this massive grief - but I cannot continue this way - I must pray = but more as she

says - "for strength" because

being at peace w/ what

is is not possible





#### CLOTHES

Jerry never threw anything away. In the beginning he had few clothes and I had his uniform fisherman's knit sweater rewoven and the elbows patched and repatched many times. The one bedroom apartment above our studios held little but when we moved into a too big house two blocks away, a room began to fill with

thrift store finds and hand-me-downs. As he was gifted new nice things he did enjoy them but would let go of nothing and in the odd manifestation of brain illness, the piling on of layers of clothes, he was well supplied. It was sort of the style of the time, multiple shirts and jackets, and he was a stylin' guy but the hats on hats was pushing it even for MR MAN

# BACKGROUND MUSIC

This began as a horizontal when I was driving the windy roads to be with you in the last days.
— hands bound — and after it righted itself —

the body became the yellow
 candle used as a stopper in
 the blue clay pitcher holding your
 ashes - and my belly - it roiled
 like the ocean we poured
 you into

