

BK notes - all these wonders

+Reread 'Unusual Normality', 'The House of Mourning', 'A Phone Call', 'A New Home', 'Coming of Age in a Mausoleum', 'Undercover in North Korea with Its Future Leaders', 'Prom', 'But Also Bring Cheese'

--Moving forward from loss

*Grief is love facing its oldest challenge, and although it takes some time it is up to the task.

*The certainty of death makes life more meaningful.

*It's good to just listen instead of judging, making needless comparisons, or just generally worrying about making someone feel better in a difficult time.

--Resiliency, in general

*Accept what you cannot change.

*No matter how the odds stack up, there is always a way to keep our heads held high.

*When all there remains is to fall, do so gracefully, and on your own terms.

*Letting other people define you is a way to give up your power.

*The grass is always greener where you water it.

*People who are different come up with ways to avoid exposure and ridicule. They may be reluctant to invite others over.

--Living freely

*The courage to do what is right must always conquer the fear of being hurt.

*There shouldn't be any fear of putting into the world the things that belong to you and that you believe in.

*The world always tells you what you are not. This makes it difficult to figure out and express what you are.

*Revenge and anger root us in the past – forgiveness sets us free into the future.

*Hate is like taking poison so that the other person will die.

*All the world's darkness cannot extinguish a single candle.

*There is no prison for the mind, heart, or spirit.

--Other comments

*A lifetime of struggle based solely around survival leaves little trust in happiness or normalcy.

*People glorify the kinds of difficult lifestyles that they've never lived.

*The positioning of our planets give us faith in a larger sense of order.

*It's vital to have people in your life who will laugh.

*The parent is responsible for learning who the child is – it is not for the child to teach the parent.

*The inhumanity of the death penalty is reflected in the jailers. They cannot get to know the condemned for it risks their ability to kill in cold blood.

*No matter what the day brings, things can change in a moment.

*Scattering and separating the youth is a good way to quash the possibility of revolt.

*Questions about personal gender are rarely about sex – it's a way to address the feeling that certain parts of the body are like warts that should be removed as quickly as possible.

*A day off means no email.

Part two / notes versions two (from second reread of stories)

BK notes – all these wonders reboot

+Check Hasan Minhaj ('Prom'), Kate Tellers ('But Also Bring Cheese')

+Reread once – 'Unusual Normality', 'A Phone Call', 'Coming of Age in a Mausoleum'

+Reread twice – 'The House of Mourning', 'A New Home', 'Undercover in North Korea with Its Future Leaders', 'Prom', 'But Also Bring Cheese'

*'Prom' is my all-time favorite Moth story (so far). I'm not sure I heard it told by Hasan Minhaj, but I'd like to. I consider it a classic Moth story in the way it finds a universal connection between the deeply personal and the mundanely average, the storyteller guiding us across that bridge humor, honesty, and perspective.

*I liked Tellers and 'But Also Bring Cheese', this one I did hear played over speakers in a group setting. It's about her mother dying and it highlights why Moth stories are particularly good at telling stories about loss, grief, and mourning. As a side note, the story (____) is another great example and one I consider among the very best of the Moth.

*'The House of Mourning' – awesome story, but it's about a five year old told by an observing adult. It would be interesting to hear it from the child's point of view once she is willing to share her experience.

*'A New Home' – very much like it, moving, and a great example of storytelling bringing the audience right to the edge of the scene.

*'Undercover in North Korea with Its Future Leaders' – it's a good story, and novel. It lacks a little bit of the personal connection that I find a common denominator among my favorite Moth stories. I read Suki Kim's book, ____, and I enjoyed it a great deal. Her work is important and although she has the skills, courage, and passion to bring this work into the world, it's unlikely that the Moth stage is the best way.

Notes

*Although many suggest that the presence of the body is distressing, people seem more likely to wish they saw the body than they didn't.

*Grief is love standing toe-to-toe with its oldest enemy. As always, love is up for the fight.

*Someone in raw panic just needs time to calm down. Perhaps after some talking, the feeling may pass.

*When someone doesn't buy into anything, waiting around to see what that person will buy into can be a fascinating waiting game.

*Scattering the youth is a common strategy to discourage organization, uprising, or revolt.

*An oppressive regime breeds doubt in the truth of the outside world and its ability to improve life. Its deepest horror is that it makes citizens complicit in depriving their own humanity by forcing them to perpetuate the regime's lies.

*There is a big difference between some idiot yelling from the window of a speeding car and the respected neighbor down the street. When each says the same offensive thing, the hardest part is rejecting the statement by recognizing what the neighbor shares with the driver.