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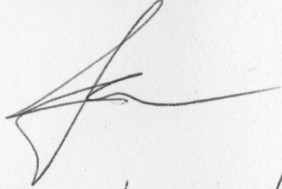
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Signed,



Student's name

James Fagan

Date

4/19/08

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Everyday Chaos: A Field Guide for the Modern Subversive

Hi. Thank you for renting or borrowing this informational video; the companion to the revolutionary guidebook: everyday chaos. Everyday chaos, of course was a field guide for the modern subversive. Our troubled times demand more innovative gestures than marching on capital hill or going on a hunger strike. To begin with lesson one, please continue reading and kindly un-pause your media-playing device. You are advised, politely, to share this information with anyone you so wish. I would not, however, recommend viewing the footage in the company of others without first examining its contents for yourself. It is absolutely necessary that you allow yourself as much creative lucidity, free from any and all distractions, as possible. The first revolution to be won is the revolution of the mind, as they say. Trust me.

To begin, the challenges and pitfalls of political activity to a generation versed in the languages of Facebook, Myspace and the Blogosphere are numerous. The over-saturation of technology, the exploitive nature of media and the near inability to impact shock in our society have created an environment in which acts of subversion and revolution are uniquely difficult to come by. In generations past, at the very least, it was not particularly difficult to find sources for sub-cultural angst or identify the accepted means for which it was possible to find a subversive voice in society.

For example, Subversive do-it-yourself manuals were counter-cultural expressions of the time periods in which they were produced. When *Steal This Book* by Abbie Hoffman and *The Anarchist Cookbook* by William Powell were distributed, the ideas were responses to the unstable social and political climates of the 1960s and 1970s. In this day and age, ideas can no longer sustain life within the pages of books penned by well-intentioned-though-slightly-misinformed-hippies. If a comparable DIY guide did exist today, how would it seek to quantify the cultural upheavals and technological changes that have influenced the means by which we, the people, voice our dissent? We're stuck, friend. You know it and I know it. If you're still resistant to the idea that you can't escape the passive, fleeting anguish of your veritable political paralysis, I urge you to share in my notion that this is due to a collective disillusionment and belief that the modes of protest used by generations past are unsuitable for the chaotic world we now inhabit. In my recently published book, *Everyday Chaos: A Field Guide for the Modern Subversive*, I argue that small, creative adjustments to our daily lives generate radical changes on a personal and political level. From inspired recipes for disastrous home décor to incendiary parades and alternative approaches to graffiti, *Everyday Chaos* offers a darkly humorous collection of subversive ideas and suggestions to inspire individuals to interact with the world around them, embracing danger and absurdity as necessary components of an active life. If dissent is the highest form of protest, then the first step towards having your voice heard is to inject dissent into every aspect of your day.

This is of course the shared source material for the video you have just now paused, again. Appropriately titled *Everyday Chaos: The Companion Video Primer to the*

Field Guide for the Modern Subversive. You may expect to discover me narrating along the lines of a disjointed power-point presentation, perhaps reminiscent of American educational archival footage, offering subversive lessons in creative dissension. Within the presentation, I shall formally discuss the boundaries between the current DIY culture and the subversive recipes most suitable for re-imagining dissent in a disordered world. Dually, if you should so allow, a questionnaire has been included inside either the guidebook or the accompanying video. I want to focus on you as the political creature I've heard so much about. Are you an alternately politically minded and unapologetically apathetic twenty-something? A committed revolutionary who sees no art or mystery in bureaucratic obstacles other than to tear them apart? Tell me about a time when you felt powerful. Anytime will do, so long as you focus your energy on remembering what it felt like to believe you could, at the very least, alter the course of your own life. The moments that convince us we are capable of adjusting our worldview are self-generating and infinitely powerful.

On one hand, the suggestion remains that creative adjustments to our daily lives generate radical changes on a personal and political level. The visual dialogue and the cohesiveness of the lessons, as well as the seemingly rigid structure of the formal presentation, will gradually disintegrate, provoking an honest discussion about the consequences and rewards of leading a life of disorder. This depends, friend, on who you and I regard as honest and what acts of disorder force us to confront our helplessness.

What is a life of disorder? A disorderly life embraces chaos. It does not mean burning your bra, destroying your television or interrogating your neighbor over his recent decision to purchase a third hummer (though it does not discourage you from

finding creative and thoughtful means for doing so.) An individual committed to a life of disorder does more than reject fox news and good hygiene. A disorderly individual approaches each day willing to disrupt the fabric of the status quo.

In less flowery, abstract terms, I offer a collection of ideas and suggestions to inspire individuals to interact with the world around them, embracing danger and absurdity as necessary components of an active life. If dissent is the highest form of protest, then the first step towards having your voice heard is to inject dissent into every aspect of your day. These are not concrete solutions or rigid, static guidelines. If you intend to leave any mark

The situation demands that we refocus our attention on the immediate. It is possible to generate change. We live in an altered political landscape that only vaguely resembles that of decades past, yet our cultural expectations that we should defy institutions remain just as high. You don't believe it because you've been deluded into thinking that the only problems worth tackling are too grand and unmanageable: end world hunger, end the occupation, free Tibet, cancel Ugly Betty. Our collective belief that nothing can be done results in our viewing ourselves as unwilling (but occasionally outraged) participants in a predetermined game with no discernible rules.

Remember when your old buddy, lets say Todd, found a roughed-up copy of the 'anarchists cookbook' in a box in his parents basement? Remember how the sudden discovery turned Todd into a total pompous prick? Didn't he go on and on about how he was weighing the merits of fashioning an impromptu knife out of a soup can and building backyard bombs out of common household cleaners? Yeah, Todd was a total douche.

You hated him that day, in part because he had convinced you he was in possession of something highly secret and, well, highly awesome.

What a feeling! To have stumbled upon something you clearly weren't meant to see (and, you probably weren't, since most of the recipes in the Anarchist Cookbook rely on shotty chemistry and will result only in your appendages strewn elegantly across the lawn). You eventually convinced Todd to let you borrow it, convinced that it would offer cost efficient solutions for blowing up pep-rallies and developing ninja radar. You poured over the pages one evening, fascinated by the improbable accessibility of napalm and the many intricacies of guerilla lock-picking. In a moment of fleeting idealism you may have genuinely believed you were no longer powerless; the answers had been available all along, conveniently packaged by an angry, misinformed hippy.

It's possible that the entire scenario I just described has absolutely no relevance to your life whatsoever. Maybe you have never cracked open The Anarchists Cookbook or known anyone named Todd (although I sure did, and he was a total asshole). Perhaps you did read it, deemed the instructions too complicated and the consequences of a partially obliterated garage too severe. Whatever the case, subversive acts should be treated with the same child-like curiosity. This is homage to that feeling. It's a celebration of operating as a renegade through even the most mundane aspects of life.

You have felt powerful before. Your memory of the event is vague but the attached emotions carry a heavy emotional weight. I see a relatedness between the girl who spends half a day fighting with Sprint because she felt her bill was too high and the lone graffiti artist leaving his mark on the side of public institutions. Don't you? The reality is that we have all felt empowered at one point or another when faced with the

visceral, irrefutable fact that our lives are a composite of tiny, incremental revolutions. They don't occur regularly in sweeping, cinematic moments but are supported and reinforced in the ways we structure our lives. This makes our challenges uniquely difficult but no less imperative.

To summarize, the short answer is simply that I am on a mission. I would very much like to include you in this mission, simply because it involves you either way. I want to change your life.