

Forces

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Introduction

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Forces 2023 is an awakening, a sunrise chasing a full moon, each curiously sneaking to our horizon, each a singular celestial cyclops by night or day peeking out of its cave; they both search the terrain to see if it is safe to return each rotation. They trade for the responsibility of each new morning or the guard of each new night.

For two years, our outside-selves have hibernated. We have mostly seen walls. The sun seemed to forget to rise.

Walls became computer screens. Walls between friends and family morphed as they became mere moving heads and mouths on a screen or scrolling texts to ignore or to answer – or to half-ignore or to half-answer. It seemed for a few years the sun forgot to “also rise” and the abnormal became the normal of abnormality.

Maybe the full moon is a yawn, an awakening? A whole note as pure and as central as middle C, singing out a mouth wide-open solo note, clean and full.

The *purpose* of this journal is to document – through creative written word and art and photography – our world and journey through each year. Thus, the journal ultimately is to be observed as a complete object, a new moon, absent at first, then, with “Slender silver crescents filling slowly” to an eventual rising sun. Each year, therefore, becomes an addition to an already aging legacy that has revolved around itself; **Forces** has survived 9/11, COVID, a “once a century winter storm;” in fact, **Forces** started when Ronald Reagan was president.

Hopefully, it continues to reflect our journey forward from typewriter to computer, to the present as a gracefully filling vessel that allows us to navigate this everchanging – undeniably – sometimes troubled, sometimes miraculous, world we travel through.

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Forces Editor - R. Scott Yarbrough



Sphere of Sparkle
Kirsten Schmidt