

DEDICATED TO ALL MY FRIENDS + FAMILY

**THE HOUSE  
OF  
OUR TIMES**



## THE SMALL HOME:

WE'RE A SMALL PEOPLE IN A SMALL HOUSE  
SO, THIS WILL BE A SMALL POEM,  
YET IT WON'T CONTAIN THE GRAND GRATITUDE  
I HAVE FOR YOU ALL  
CAUSE NO HALLS OR WALLS  
COULD HOLD THE VAST VARIETY OF BLESSINGS  
THAT SPRING FROM MY FAMILY'S **FOUNTAIN.**  
DEDICATED TO THE SEITZ FAMILY



## THE CREAKY BACKYARD DECK:

HERE'S TO ALL THE WEIRD NOISES COMING FROM  
OUR OLD, RED DECK AT SUNSET,  
IT'S A SPECTACULAR VIEW: SUNGLOW, MOUNTAINS, SPRING, +  
THE CLOUDS ARE MOVING ALONG  
WE SIMPLIFY THE MAKING OF A MEMORY  
WE SIMPLY SMILE, LAUGH,  
+ PUSH OFF THE WORRIES OF TOMORROW  
CAUSE WHY THE HELL NOT?  
DEDICATED TO D.L.S.

# **THE CALENDAR ON THE FRIDGE:**

**NEXT SATURDAY?**

**HOW ABOUT MONDAY?**

**A WEEK FROM NOW?**

**HOW ABOUT TOMORROW?**

**CAN I SPEAK FOR THE BOTH OF US?**

**WE'LL ALWAYS MAKE TIME FOR ONE ANOTHER**

**CAN I JUST BEGIN TO ASSUME,**

**THAT NO MATTER THE SEASON,**

**BUSY OR DULL**

**THOUGH OUR SCHEDULE MAY BE FULL,**

**WE'LL ALWAYS MAKE TIME FOR ONE ANOTHER.**

**DEDICATED TO S.B.L**

# **TENNIS SHOES BY THE DOOR:**

**TENNIS SHOES NEAR THE DOOR, SHOESTRINGS UNTIED**

**SMALLER SHOES THAN MINE,**

**PAIRED UP IN THE CORNER,**

**RANDOM COMMENTS AND TAKES,**

**LAUGHS ACROSS THE TABLE,**

**JUST ONE GLASS FOR US,**

**CAUSE WERE LIL' ONES**

**BUT BIG HUGS AS A FAREWELL,**

**+ THE LIL' TENNIS SHOES WILL BE BACK SOON.**

**DEDICATED TO S.L.M.**



## OVER PRICED CHOP STICKS:

WE'RE COOKING IN THE KITCHEN,

WELL REALLY, IT'S JUST YOU

BUT I'M CLEANING

+ YOU'RE TELLING ME TO STOP FUSSING

+ KNOW WE'RE BOTH CHUCKLING

I ALWAYS TELL PEOPLE "HE'S LIKE MY SON"

+ IT'S TRUE, CAUSE YOU'RE YOUNG

+ YOU'RE THERE FOR ME, LIKE FAMILY

WE BOTH HAVE A GOOD TIME,

EVEN IF WE'RE BOTH A LITTLE DUMB.

DEDICATED TO R.A.P.

## THREE KNOCKS AT THE DOOR:

SO CONSISTENT,

SO PREDICTABLE,

IT'S NICE,

ITS STABLE,

ITS "GOOD", AS YOU WOULD SAY

SO CALM,

SO PRESENT,

YOU'D NEVER MISS ANY MOMENT

YOU'LL BE THERE FOR ME FOR SURE,

WITH THREE SOFT KNOCKS AT THE DOOR.

DEDICATED TO C.C.M.



## **THE SNAPBACK ON THE COATRACK:**

LOOK IF I WAS A BOXER,  
WHICH GOD KNOWS I'D BE TERRIBLE AT,  
I'D WANT YOU IN MY CORNER  
COACHING ME THROUGH THE HITS + BLOWS  
WITH YOUR SNAPBACK TURNED BACKWARDS  
YELLING AT ME NOT TO QUIT, 'CAUSE I QUIT SO EASILY,  
BUT MAYBE WITH YOU IN MY CORNER  
I COULD LEARN TO PERSEVERE MORE CONSISTENTLY.  
DEDICATED TO T.P.M.



## **A PAIR OF BABY NIKES:**

THEY ALMOST FIT IN THE PALMS OF MY TINY HANDS  
+ HE'S GETTING HEAVIER,  
NOT THAT I'D HAVE TO TELL YOU,  
YOU'RE ALREADY SO PROUD OF HIM,  
+ YOU SHOULD BE  
+ YOU SHOULD BE  
PROUD OF YOURSELF,  
'CAUSE, YOU'RE A GOOD MOTHER  
BUT, IF I MAY BE SO BOLD, I KNEW YOU WOULD BE.  
DEDICATED TO B.S.K.



## **+ KEYS ON THE HIP:**

**HOW DOES IT FEEL?**

**NO, REALLY.**

**TO SEE YOUR EYES IN ANOTHER?**

**TO LIVE FOR ANOTHER?**

**TO KNOW LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?**

**TO BE ABLE TO HOLD THE WHOLE WORLD IN YOUR HANDS?**

**HOW DOES IT FEEL?**

**IT MAY BE A WHILE FOR ME,**

**BUT I'D REALLY LOVE TO HEAR THE STORY  
OF HOW YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD KEYS ON THE HIP  
BUT NOW YOU HAVE YOUR SON IN YOUR HANDS.**

**DEDICATED TO A.M.K.**



## **ALL THE WASHED DISHES:**

**SHOULDER TO SHOULDER,**

**LIKE I'VE KNOWN YOU FOREVER**

**SHUFFLES ON THE WOOD FLOORS**

**SOFT SOCKS IN THE WINTER**

**+ THE KITCHEN GLIMMERS AFTER DINNER,**

**AFTER WE'RE DONE DOING THE DISHES TOGETHER**

**I'VE NEVER HAD A LITTLE SISTER**

**BEFORE YOU.**

**DEDICATED TO J.M.B.**



## THE GOODWILL RECLINER:

I CAN SEE THEM NOW,  
REMEMBER ALL THE POOR MAN'S FURNITURE ITEMS WE HAD,  
LIKE THE SCRATCHY GREY COUCH,  
THE DENTED + SCRATCHED LAMPS,  
+ MOST OF ALL THE GOODWILL RECLINER,  
THAT I CAN SO CLEARLY SEE YOU LAUGHING IN,  
BECAUSE SOMETHING DOWDY SAID,  
I'M NOT A HOARDER BY ANY MEANS,  
BUT MAN, I WISH THERE COULD BE A MUSEUM  
OF THE MANY TRADED, WORN-OUT ITEMS WE COLLECTED  
IN OUR SMALL APARTMENT.

DEDICATED TO P.S.N.



## THE MANTLE OVER THE FIREPLACE:

"CAN'T YOU DO THIS FAITH THING ON YOUR OWN?"

"NAH,"

"WHY?"

"WITHOUT FRIENDS LIKE HIM, MY FIRE WOULD HAVE GONE OUT  
—LONG AGO"

+ I WOULD NOD MY HEAD IN YOUR DIRECTION

"SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE DEPENDENT"

"MAYBE, BUT I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON HIM FOR  
ENCOURAGEMENT"

DEDICATED TO A.M.B.



## **+ THE BIBLE ON THE COFFEE TABLE:**

**"WHERE'S ALL THOSE CHRISTIANS?"**

**"THERE'S ONE"**

**+ AND I POINT IN YOUR DIRECTION**

**"WHY DO YOU SAY HIM?"**

**"CAUSE I THINK GOD PUT HIM HERE TO BE MY INSPIRATION"**

**DEDICATED TO A.J.B.**



## **MILK STAINS ON THE DINING TABLE:**

**IT'S KINDA FUNNY,  
WE SAY WE'RE GONNA READ,  
BUT WE END UP TALKING  
TILL I HAVE TO LEAVE FOR WORK  
BUT NOT BEFORE  
I WIPE UP THE LITTLE RING OF MILK  
YOUR GLASS LEFT.  
DEDICATED TO P.A.G.**





## **SOFT LIGHT FROM IPHONE NOTIFICATIONS:**

**TOO COLD HERE, I KNOW  
TOO DRY HERE, I KNOW  
TOO FAR FROM FAMILY, I KNOW, I KNOW  
BUT I REALLY WISH YOU LIVED HERE,  
FOR SOME MORE LONG CONVERSATIONS  
ABOUT THE NEWEST A24 FILMS  
OR DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE CITY I LIVE IN  
+ I KNOW YOU VISIT OFTEN  
BUT I'D STILL PREFER IT,  
IF YOU BROUGHT YOUR HOME HERE,  
INSTEAD OF RECEIVING LATE NIGHT IPHONE NOTIFICATIONS.  
DEDICATED TO P.R.H.**



## **A TRUCK IN THE DRIVEWAY, IN THE P.M.:**

**HEADLIGHTS CROSS OVER THE FRONT WINDOW FRAME  
BEFORE YOUR SHOULDERS ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR  
+ YOU'VE TRAVELED ACROSS THE WORLD  
BUT HAVE FEW STORIES TO TELL  
YOU'VE BEEN YOU LOVED, POPULAR WITH ALL SORTS OF FOLKS  
BUT YOUR HEAD HAS STAYED THE SAME SIZE  
YOU'VE ONLY BECOME A BETTER MAN  
BUT YOU'RE STILL THE SAME TO ME  
WHICH IS A GOOD THING,  
'CAUSE, THAT'S ONE MORE FRIEND I GET TO BOAST ABOUT,  
JUST A HUMBLE MAN IN HIS SMALL TRUCK  
DEDICATED TO G.M.R.**

## **FOLDED COFFEE CUP SLEEVES:**

**WHAT A PERFECT WAY TO START MY WEEK,  
A LITTLE CONVERSATION  
A LITTLE LUNCH BREAK,  
JUST LIKE THE BOOKSTORE IN THE BASEMENT  
OF OUR UNIVERSITY'S CAFETERIA BUILDING  
I'M SO GLAD WE KEPT IN TOUCH  
TO MEET UP FOR A LITTLE LUNCH  
JUST A LITTLE COFFEE  
+ IT'S LIKE CATCHING UP WITH FAMILY.  
DEDICATED TO J.K.S.**



# THE ROOF OVER MY HEAD:

I'LL ALWAYS HAVE TWO HOMES  
I'LL ALWAYS BE PULLED IN TWO DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS,  
IN TWO DIFFERENT STATES,  
LIVE IN TWO DIFFERENT REALITIES

ONE:

WITH YOU DRIVING, PLAYING WITH THE VOLUME KNOB  
YOUR LEGS IN AN UNORTHODOX POSITION,  
AS WE'RE BOTH NODDING OUR HEADS TO SOME JAM'S  
ON OUR WAY TO SOME FAST-FOOD RESTAURANT  
(PROBABLY MCDON'S)

+ WE COULD TALK ABOUT ANYTHING, REALLY  
GOD, FRIENDS, COMPLAINTS, EXCITEMENTS, + NOW  
FATHERHOOD

+ TWO:

ME MISSING THOSE MOMENTS,  
SPENDING TIME WITH MY BEST FRIEND :A)  
DEDICATED TO M.B.W.

## **THE CIGARETTES ON MY BOOKSHELF:**

**YOU'RE FAR TOO KIND,  
FAR TOO CONSIDERATE,  
BUT TRY YOU'RE BEST TO CONSIDER YOURSELF  
SOMETIMES YOUR HUMBLENESS BRINGS YOU  
TOO DAMN LOW  
DAMNIT, YOU GOT THE BEST QUALITIES OF A FOOL  
+ YET EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU'RE WISER EVERY YEAR  
+ YOU CONTINUE, TO CONTINUE TO SHARE  
+ I WOULD SHARE A CIGARETTE WITH YOU ANYWHERE.  
DEDICATED TO M.H.D**



## **SANDALS BY THE CARPET STAIRS:**

**YOU'RE A BUSY ONE,  
HUSTLING TILL YOUR MENTAL LIST IS ALL DONE  
BUT YOU KNOW ME FAR TOO WELL,  
I AM QUITE CONTENT TO CALL YOU FRIEND,  
CAUSE YOU'RE MY ROLE MODEL  
IN REACHING ONE'S GOALS.**

**DEDICATED TO H.J.V.**



## **THE BACKPACK UNDER THE DESK:**

**YOUR LIFE IS LOUD IN ALL THE BEST WAYS,  
+ PEOPLE DON'T MIND THE NOISE BECAUSE,  
IF I MAY BE SO CLICHÉ,  
YOUR LIFE IS THE SOUND OF MUSIC  
SO, DAMNIT SLAM THE TABLE,  
+ MAKE SOME MUSIC,  
+ DON'T STOP TILL YOU LEARN TO BE PROUD OF IT.**

**DEDICATED TO M.L.J.**



## **THE POLAROID IN MY NIGHTSTAND:**

**YOU'RE THE BEST TO TAKE PHOTOS WITH,  
A WIDE SMILE SHINES IN THE GLOSS OF A POLAROID,  
LAUGHTER VIBRATES THROUGH THE FILM  
+ PEOPLE KNOW,  
THEY'RE A LITTLE JEALOUS  
CAUSE THEY JUST WEREN'T THERE.**

**DEDICATED TO T.R.M.**

## **THE CHAIRS UNDER THE KITCHEN LIGHT:**

**WHO'S GOING TO CLEAN UP ALL THE WORD VOMIT AFTER WE  
SAT IN THE CHAIRS FOR HOURS TALKING ABOUT TOO MANY  
THINGS?**

**I'D SWEAR I WOULD HAVE FALLEN OFF THIS LIFE WITHOUT  
YOUR TIME SPENT WITH ME,**

**SO, THANKS FOR ALWAYS SITTING WITH ME,  
MAKES THIS WORLD A LITTLE LESS SCARY.**

**DEDICATED TO J.A.P.**



## **THE DENTED COUCH CUSHION:**

**YOU WERE ALWAYS THERE AT THE WORST OF TIMES,  
TO BE THE BEST  
I THINK I ALWAYS HAVE A LITTLE MESS,  
THAT I'D NEED SOME HELP WITH,  
+ YOU WERE ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP ME CLEAN UP  
TO VACUUM UNDER THE COUCH, SHAKE THE CUSHIONS OFF  
+ TEACH ME TO LEARN TO REST AGAIN,  
+ TO BE AT PEACE WITH ONE'S SELF.  
DEDICATED TO L.E.W.**



## **ALL THE STOLEN BEER GLASSES IN THE CABINET:**

**YOU KNOW WHERE EVERYTHING OF MINE IS,  
YOU COULD LOCATE THE HIDDEN + SECRET,  
ISN'T THAT WHAT A GOOD FRIEND CAN DO?  
YOU COULD FIND IT ALL,  
THEN MOCK ME,  
+ WE'D LAUGH TOGETHER,  
IN SUCH AN EASY STEP, YOU HUMBLE ME,  
THAT'S HOW I KNOW OUR FRIENDSHIP IS  
A GOD ORDAINED TYPE OF THING.**

**DEDICATED TO J.L.P.**



## **THE STICKY + GLOSSY COUNTERTOP:**

**I THINK I WOULD SIT ON THE COUNTERTOP**

**+ YOU WOULD BE STANDING,**

**HOLDING SOME COCKTAIL THAT DUSTIN MADE**

**+ I WOULD ASK SOME DUMB QUESTION THAT ONLY  
CARRIES THE TAIL END OF WISDOM**

**+ YOU WOULD, IN TURN, LAUGH**

**+ REPLY WITH SOMETHING SLY AND CLEVER,**

**+ ONLY CARRIES THE TAIL END OF SOMETHING DUMB**

**+ I WOULDN'T TRADE THIS MOMENT FOR ANYTHING.**

**DEDICATED TO E.A.M.**



## **MY SHEETS:**

**IF I MAY SAY SO, I'M PRETTY HAPPY RIGHT NOW**

**+ NOT TOO LONELY**

**BUT I'M LIVING IN CONSTANT ANTICIPATION**

**+ I JUST CAN'T WAIT FOR OUR EYES TO MEET**

**HOPE THERE'S SOME INSTANT, MOVIE-LIKE**

**CONNECTION**

**+ IF I MAY GET A LITTLE RISKY,**

**I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE FRICTION OF THE SHEETS**

**+ LOVE'S WARMTH BETWEEN THE TWO OF US**

**WITH THE SUNSET OR RISE,**

**TO HAVE THE SOFT, QUIET MOMENTS WITH YOU,**

**I CAN'T WAIT TO SUFFER, TRIUMPH, + REST WITH YOU**

**DEDICATED TO M.F.W. (MY FUTURE WIFE)**



# **THE FRONT DOOR:**

**THANKS FOR HOLDING THE DOOR FOR ME  
I KNOW IT TOOK ME AWHILE TO ACCEPT THIS  
I THINK I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR THE FRIENDS  
I KNOW I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR THE COMMUNITY  
I KNOW I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR YOU THE BLISS  
TOOK ME A LITTLE TOO LONG TO REALIZE THIS,  
YOU BUILT THIS HOUSE, YOU MADE THIS ROOF OVER MY HEAD  
WE'RE I'VE COME TO REST.  
DEDICATED TO J.C. (THE CARPENTER)**

# MY FRIENDS ARE BETTER THAN YOURS:

YOU'RE A LIFE SAVER,  
MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T KNOW  
BUT YOU SAVED MY LIFE  
ALL THE BACKYARD BARBECUES  
ALL THE CAR TUNES  
ALL THE DOORSTEP SHOES  
ALL THE FREE FOOD  
MAYBE YOU COULD JUST KNOW:  
YOU'RE A LIFE SAVER  
'CAUSE, IF YOU EVER READ "VOLUME 19",  
YOU'D KNOW THAT WITHOUT MY FAMILY + FRIENDS  
ID BE AT THE BOTTOM OF A RAVINE,  
OR A CREEK, A RIVER,  
WHATEVER, DOESN'T MATTER  
THE POINT IS, I WOULDN'T BE HERE WITHOUT YOU  
GOD BLESS,  
IM SWEARING YOU'RE MY TRUTH  
+ IVE GOT NOTHING LEFT TO PROVE  
I'M JUST HAPPY  
TO FINALLY FIND SOME CLARITY  
IN THIS LITTLE THING CALLED COMMUNITY  
DEDICATED TO YOU ALL

# THE HOUSE OF OUR TIMES:

COME IN

COME ALL

A REGALIA OF SENTIMENTALITIES

DREAMS TO REMIND US

LAUGHTER TO CALL US BACK

FROM PETTY DEBATES

+ PET PEEVES

SO, WITH THE SUN SHINING DOWN

IN THE PATCHY BACKYARD

IT LIGHTS UP THE MEMORIES:

A LIBRARY OF HANDSHAKES, HUGS, + WAVES

A COLLECTION OF PISSING OFF + COMING BACK

TO LITTLE HABITATS OF FUTURE POLARIODS

A FEW YEARS TO REMEMBER FOR THE REST

IT'S THE HOUSE OF OUR TIMES

COME IN

COME ALL

A SMALL, SMALL WORLD

ONLY HANDS TO HOLD

+ HELP TO GIVE OUT

IT'S THE HOUSE OF OUR TIMES

+ YOU'RE ALL INVITED.

DEDICATED TO THE HOUSE

THANK YOU  
-D.J.S.



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