i've read the last chapter of my autobiography by mistake, and i am determined to fill in the middle chapters meaningfully.

i lost both my parents in the last 3 years. mom died of a heart attack within 40 minutes, and dad lost his body and mind to lung cancer within 2 months, exactly 2 years and 2 months after mom. and surprise surprise, at their funerals, nobody talked about their degrees or the amount of money they had accumulated. all they talked about was how they made them feel seen. may peace be upon them, both.

and now, I am determined to integrate my work as a source of creative power into my life. in fact, i've always known that i don't belong in big corporations, just by knowing that i have to think about the order of the names who are cc'ed on emails to make sure the order of hierarchy is not breached. when mom left, i felt like i needed stability instead of juggling between 2 part time, 1 full time jobs that supplied me with a constant cocktail of dopamine. i needed to ground. i needed to grieve. so i did. first, by accepting a full time position at the world bank's technology & innovation lab, then at the international finance corporation.

my current job as a product manager at <u>ifc</u> is to <u>bring ai into our internal knowledge management platforms</u> (ai ain't taking any jobs in big enterprises anytime soon). i collect business requirements, translate them into technical verbiage and ship products that 1) summarize 2) draft 3) analyze tens of documents that an investment officer needs to work on every day. i now know that the meaning of my name in python is else if (elif), chunking, temperature settings and api rate limits are not rocket science and that it takes a time to build products that people <u>actually</u> need.



Being able to communicate clearly in writing

Prompt Engineering

my best job though was when i became the first intern (then the director of platform solutions + built a superb team of 10+) that the founders hired to build an <u>ai-powered expert network</u> that matches people with consulting gigs in 2020, and went on to producing a <u>youtube series</u> with my college best friend, interviewing founders while traveling to ethereum hackathons around the world. i am so, so glad i did as they showed me "work" can be that, too.

and 6 months ago, dad left, and i've been feeling like i have no time to lose. i need to move. i need to build a life that is the truest version of who i am during my limited time on this earth. i must - must - work with people who i can connect with, instead of people who seem to care more about corner offices than how they show up for others.

so, i took the scrappy notes on my notes app and quietly started building this editorial platform, "humanbeyondtech". i dreamt of it to become a space where technologists, the ones that put their humanity first, can exchange ideas. it would:

- break down the complex academic articles in ai for non-technical mortals like me to have a say
- build products that would make people's lives easier
- have a print edition with a sleek, coffee table like design
- have a consulting arm to generate income, so that we can do art collaborations that actually touch our souls
- host pop-up dinners and facilitate thoughtful conversations through the q&a card games to connect people beyond the surface
- organize retreats for founders in beautiful farms across the country and create a sense of belonging, to mother earth first, to a community second.

in the meantime, i started <u>building a community around ai in</u> washington dc with the ai collective.

- i organize technical workshops to onboard non-technical folks to ai
- host sci-fi movie nights to open engineers' minds to what can go wrong (join us to watch 2001:space odyssey in jan?)
- design ai x mental health x policy series to discuss how we can build products responsibly.

i am also recording an ai podcast (a cooking show!), where i invite community members to cook a dish from their childhood in my little community garden plot, while we discuss the issues of the ai-powered world.

i don't know how it will all come together, but i feel like i am on a path that feels right - to me.

and yesterday, i came across every and wrote this email to send blindly and say "i want to work with you". today, i saw this job opening. maybe magic does happen in the end.

you, as a team, have accomplished many of the things i have been dreaming of, in a beautiful, well-thought-out, transparent way (the colophon section - ah, just warms my heart). big, big congratulations for everything you have done, from the bottom of my heart.

i would love to join you and tell your story to the entire world. i would love to help build a community around your mission, host online & irl events, bring in storytellers in thoughtfully curated dinners, and work towards a mission alongside creative, discerning, anchored souls.

or just be friends and bounce ideas as we navigate our paths in this wild, wild world.

thank you for reading this far, if you did so. and thank you, for making this world a better place.

happy holidays. <3

elif