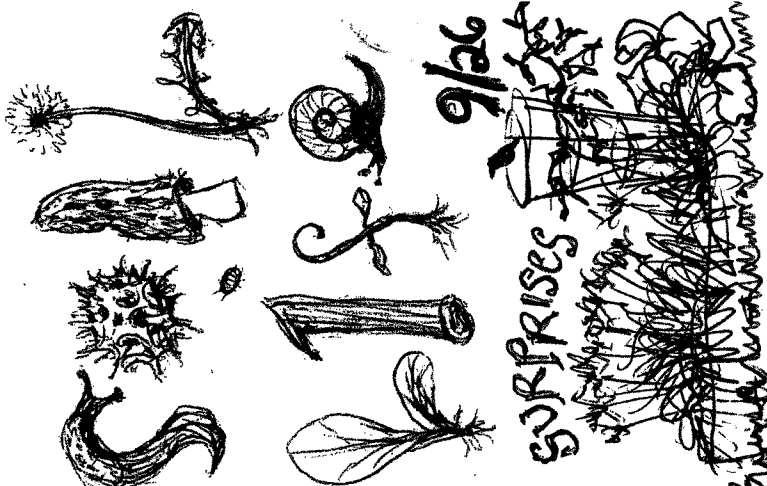




9/26

**SURPRISES**  
 NATALIE POTRANDEL  
 P.O. Box 352  
 Energy, IL 62933  
 natpotat@gmail.com  
 nataliepotranel.com

I've got enough garlic to  
 replant too.  
 Let me know if  
 you have any  
 good recipes  
 with garlic,  
 radishes, or  
 delicate squash!  
 Natalie Potranel  
 P.O. Box 352  
 Energy, IL 62933  
 natpotat@gmail.com  
 nataliepotranel.com

**STARTING SEEDS**  
 for a fall harvest  
 is my next experiment;  
 Radishes, lettuce, & spinach...  
 OH MY! It feels strange  
 to be doing this outside  
 of SPRING FEVER  
 time... we'll see how it grows!

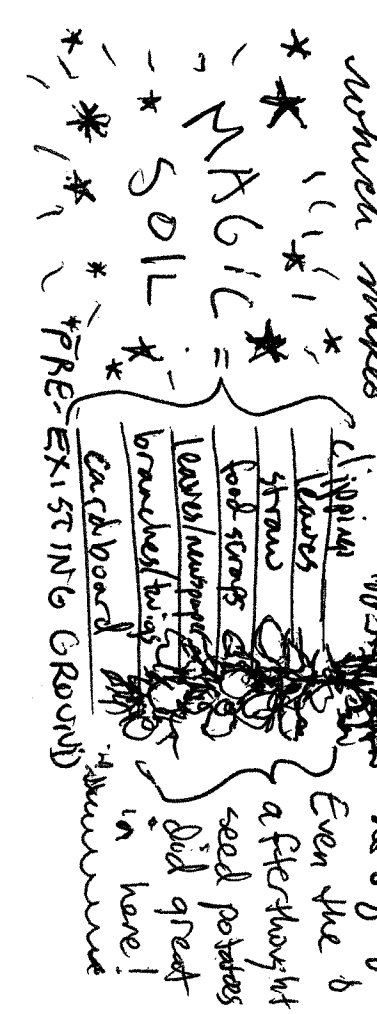
Meanwhile, the potted  
 potatoes experiment  
**FALL-ED big time.**  
 I got one (1) potato,  
 which is less than  
 the amt of seed  
 potatoes I started with



**LATE SUMMER**  
 in the garden  
 hungry hummingbirds  
 (& other pollinators)  
 fighting over chive  
 blossoms  
 &  
 rose-of-  
 Sharon  
 I harvested my  
 (first ever!)  
 winter squash  
 "Money Boat"  
 delicate  
 from that volunteer "cuke"  
 vine, which must've been  
 a dropped seed that did  
 better than the other official  
 spot!



It's all because this  
 patch of ground I've  
 been secretly using  
 as a compost pile  
 in a method known as  
**LASAGNA GARDENING**  
 which makes  
 'ACIC =  
 SOIL  
 PRE-EXISTING GROUND  
 { I'm planning to use  
 this method to re-  
 use the previously-plastic-  
 covered strawberry bed  
 that has clay soil  
 prepared underneath  
 Even the  
 a few thought  
 seed potatoes  
 did great  
 in here!



...which is the best thing the future can be, I think. "By 'dark,' I mean it is said to have been referring to the unknown and inexplicable. She made the observation in the context of a world that was in the midst of World War I, and she was arguing that the unknown was an opportunity to create a better future than the one that was being made into a better future. Her slightly hesitant caveat at the end was an amusing, but always made me smile."

that locked up the etymology of the word "confusion." It stems from the Latin for "pouring together"—a mingling of things that can't be separated, or a confounding togetherness, you might say. I think this sums up what we're in, in quite an inviting, beautiful way. And it reminds me of feminist ecologist Susan Haraway's injunction to "stay with the trouble" of living and staying with each other, particularly in troubled times. She argues when we stay with the trouble, rather than flee from it, we create further separateness, it provides the means to building livable futures in which "we require each other in unexpected collaborations and combinations, in hot compost piles." Yes, in *hot compost piles*—I love her phraseology; that's exactly what we're talking about here.<sup>8</sup>

Hamway adds, "We become, with each other, or not at all."

...anna Macy's loving yet brutal guidance becomes useful here; this realm is her specialty. Macy argues that uncertainty and confusion—specifically referring to the terrifying uncertainty about our future and whether humanity lives or dies—is not something we believe in or not, or that we can hope around, or that we can solidify somehow, or seek happy endings for, or get busy about, or find solutions for. No, she says, it's a *realizing* that's happening... and then a choosing to be a part of it. It's a push-button showing up. It's presence.

In Macy's podcast series, *We Are the Great Ones*, she and her cohort Jessica Serfaty explain the world of soccer game and predicting which teams will be going all in for the world we want to see. Macy also advises that we might be able to see the world we want to see.

"It's not up to you to know what the arrogant have in mind. I'm not going to let them lead me into doom that there's no hope when things have gone that far. I'm going to take them out of the field and play my own game."

She recommends replacing our

what we want to give our life to." For, indeed, it is a choice to opt to fight for life, beauty, and love. We can choose to accept uncertainty and ask those differences.

More and more I find myself confronting my fear of the unknown and my need to know "what's going to happen" by asking myself, *Could this be beautiful?* *Could I make it more beautiful?* Sometimes I stop and ask myself, *Who am I becoming?* There are only two answers.

There are only upsides to this approach. So why wouldn't you choose this path? To commit faithfully to life in this way brings life in all its uncertainty and possibilities. Moreover,

So here we are, the ones that get to figure it out, that get to devote ourselves to the creation of a possibility of a world that does not yet exist. And the only way that it comes into being is by us carrying it into being ourselves together.

Not by effort. Not by creating false certitudes, but by delving in uncertainty.

from Sarah Wilson's I EAT THE STARS.