

My favourite COVID read: Marilyn Darling

From my younger self to my older self:

My favourite COVID read has been non-fiction. In particular, I've been reading my *own* non-fiction - my journals from younger days.

I was never very good at journaling in a disciplined way but thankfully, there were moments I knew I should capture.

Over the past months I've had time to leisurely read those old journals.

I've discovered the time - back in the mid to late 1990's - when I was struggling to find work. 'Why the heck would anyone hire me?'

Then watching tiny, almost random, ideas flashing across the screen of my mind. Seeing some moments of creative foment, where I would write things like, 'I try to force an idea, but nothing gels. I'm waiting for the vision that is so clear and elegant that it's obvious that it must be done and that I must do it.'

Or: 'Am I just incapable of creating a significant piece of thought work, or am I just untrained or not ready yet?'

I could not have known then that the work I would create during this time would influence philanthropy and nonprofits across the United States and into Africa and Asia; that a community of people using what I created would come together as 'like minds' to try to break through

deeply embedded practices. Sort of like an army of David's tackling their own Goliaths. (For readers who are interested, the work I created is called Emergent Learning.)

Would I give advice to my younger self about all of this? Not really. Life is a series of challenges and discoveries and then new challenges.

The only advice I would give is this: 'Stick with it girlfriend. You're almost there!'