

The two friends, made in Oregon, and traveling together across the land in story and song, reflect on a difficult day...

Birdie: How re you feeling?

Bernie: There's still work to do.

Birdie: How many times have you said that over the past forty years?

Bernie: Well, if I had a dollar for every time...we'd not have needed any contributions to run the campaign. Some truths hold

Which as a phrase itself, holds in the air for a while.

Birdie: Some folks have said they want their contributions back.

Bernie tucks his head a little lower, but keeps walking at the same pace.

Bernie: Shows just how much a minimum fifteen dollar minimum wage is needed. Supporting this or any movement can hurt in many ways...it shouldn't have to be financially painful as well.

Birdie: They'll eventually see that the money was well spent - that it brought all of these needed ideas of change to the forefront. Better to purchase a political revolution than to buy a President.

Bernie: You're starting to sound a bit like me, Birdie.

Birdie: Fair game when your species starts to tweet.

Bernie grins that grin we've all come to love - the one in which we realize that even in the fire and struggle, there's a man underneath who truly, deeply, cares about us all.

Birdie: What next?

Bernie: What now. There's still a present to be opened. There's still work to do.

He pauses again. A bit of the gleam now, a bit of the fist raises in his eye.

Bernie: We'll hold her to task. Every time today with "Hillary believes...". Now she can either follow through or be seen as not keeping her word.

Birdie: But all your ideas, coming out of her mouth.

Bernie: Ideas are owned by everybody who wants to keep them safe. Make them come to life.

There's a lull. They keep walking as Birdie notices that Bernie has tilted his head, as if listening to something externally, and trying to keep it internal. And Birdie is correct. Bernie hears the voices, the words being spoken, the epithets being hurled.

Birdie: History will be kind to you.

Bernie: It's that wonderful Debs quote, "Too long have the workers of the world waited for some Moses to lead them out of bondage. He has not come; he never will come. I would not lead you out if I could; for if you could be led out, you could be led back again."

Birdie: Moses led them to the mountain, but not into the promised land.

Bernie: Everybody activates differently. Some through anger. Some through fear. Some through love. For some, today was necessary - to defeat the oligarchy, we have to also defeat my name.

Birdie: And you're ok with that?

Bernie pauses. Looks out over the field.

Bernie: It was never about me.

Birdie: I knew I landed on your sign for a reason.

Bernie: And that is?

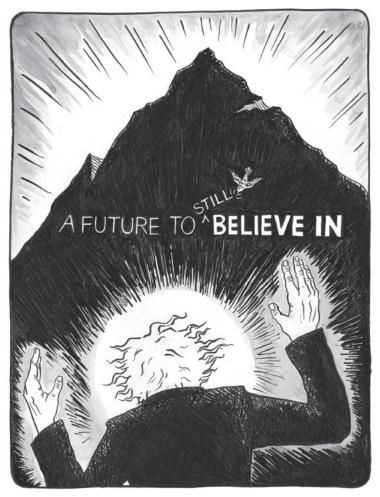
Birdie: Because I knew you would never cause me, or us,

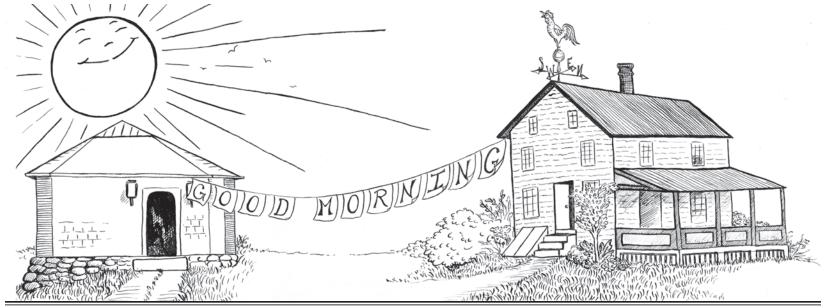
harm.

And with that, this chapter ends...and a new one begins. #ForeverBernie (Originally published July 12th, 2016)



Birdie: What now, Bernie?
Bernie: Same thing we do every day Birdie,
try and change the world...





August 28th 2017 Vol. 5 No. 5.828

STILL BERNIN' FOR YOU

Why are we here? Not there. Not THERE. But here. Not in the big picture, but here, right HERE, today, not in the big picture why are we here, but to hear Bernie.

Because something inside still burns, still BERNS, yet nothing BERNS in stillness, even when one proclaims #StillSanders (and we are not speaking of some distillery hidden away).

Yet, if we do distill our beating heart, into the very essence of why here and not there, then we're left with the image that ought instill in us, a greater image, an imagining if one will, of why this movement, is everywhere.

Maybe then, the big picture, is exactly why We are HERE. As he says, #NotMeUs

BERNIN' DOWN THE HOUSE

Watch out - you might get what you're after - a Bernie 2020 campaign, both for President, but also to continue the fire that was wrought within the 2016 campaign.

Because we're united here today, with many ideas, yet under one banner.

As we like to say 'round our magazine, we're thankful that Dorothy and Elias named him as he did, for "Feel the Alvin" just doesn't have the same ring to it.

BOUND TO BERN

But not books. Not magazines. The printed word, seeking truth, in a manner that mainstream media has forsaken.

Let to our own devices, it is events and venues such as these, that are the pathway to a better world. Word of mouth - just as the Bern spread from state to state.

What we write on the page, echoes in eternity - printed, ink and pulp, living through the ages - as this movement will & must.

THE BERNINATOR

When all the land is in ruins, and the regime of President v45 has forsaken the country, only one guy will remain...our twenty seven dollars is on...Bernie! The Berninator!

Helping the people to rebuild their thatched roof cottages! (So, sure, we've taken the Trogdor metaphor and somewhat turned it around, but maybe that's because sometimes things have to burn down, so they can be built back up again. Whether true or not, that's where we are. Onward, to a better day!)





Want to know an easy way for corporations to pay lower taxes?

Pay a living wage and share the profits with those who make revenue possible - the workers.



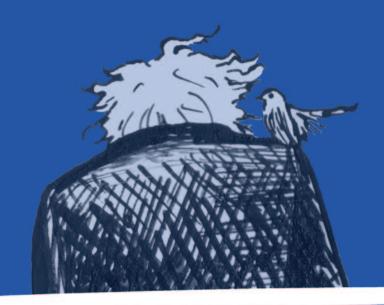




THIS MACHINE KILLS



THIS MOVEMENT DEFEATS



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This issue of Art Young's Good Morning is made possible by those who appear on, or sponsored the daring riders who appear on, the cover - and who we somewhat alphabetically name here with our endless gratitude - Cathryn Smith, Connie Pazaras, Debbie & Robbie A. Collins, Jacque S. Milano (Madalyn Critz and Zoe Critz.), Jane Jenab, Jenn Morandi, Jill Guthire (Henry & Katja), Kat Crippen (along with John Tangeman, Kristen Norbut and Nick Hohn), Lynne Guido, Patricia Drake, Rebecca Daly, Rick Lawlor, Ron Lawlor, Sheri A. Thompson, & Stevely Fabian.



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Published by seraphemera books in Bethel Conn.

www.artyoungsgoodmorning.org - editor@artyoungsgoodmorning.org fb: artyoungsgoodmorning twit: AYgoodmorning ISSN 2474-7734

August 28th 2017



The following excerpt from "The After-Berning" is written by Joy Marie Mann, about her experience at The People's Summit. Keep an eye out - she'll be around today, interviewing folks for Real Progressives and her podcast "Savage Joy"...

Saturday

I grabbed a chair at the very front, middle table and spotted a small crowd form to the left. Activist Nomiki Konst, was meeting some of

her followers. I got in what constituted as a "line" and took notice of how she is so much like all of us. There was nothing intimidating about her. She was sweet and kind and passionate. She complimented my tattoos and I told her about some of my activism. She gave me several high-fives and told me I was doing "amazing things". I gave her a tight hug, took a selfie of us and thanked her for being part of the revolution. At this point, my Facebook friends were joking with me that I was photo-shopping all of the people I was able to meet.

As I got situated, I noticed Rob Quist walking in. Rob is the Bernie-endorsed progressive who was the Democratic nominee for Montana's House seat in the 2017 special election. Even though Rob is a musician and has never been involved in politics, he earned 44% of the vote. I've seen his picture many times, but in person, he has the most beautiful aura. I approached him and shook his hand. I can't compare his eyes to any eyes I've ever seen. They captivate your soul. He inquired if I had followed his campaign and we spoke for a little while. I asked for a photo and he gave me the most kind, warm hug afterwards.

I went back to my seat and daydreamed about those eyes and what they have seen. A woman came over and asked if she could join me. She stated, "I want to sit up front, so I can be close to Rob". I responded with, "Oh, I know! Isn't he dreamy"! Her reply was, "I agree, he's my husband". We laughed and she put her hand on my back. I can only imagine how red my face must have been.

The Keynote

I decided to leave immediately after that workshop to start waiting in line to see the Keynote speaker, himself. I know from seeing him twice before, the lines start hours beforehand. I reached my destination and even though I was over 3 hours early, there were easily over 1,000 people already wrapped around the enormous auditorium. When the line finally started to move, tears starting to form. I felt so incredibly fortunate. I was about to see my hero for the third time. The man who changed my life. The man who inspired me to become an activist. The man who has educated millions.

I found a seat and made conversation with the people on both sides of me. I took out my infamous "You say you want a revolution" sign and got ready for my man to take the stage. That sign is my "baby blankie". It has come with me to every rally, every march, every protest, every door I knocked on, etc. I made it 2 years ago and you can tell. Some of the stickers are curling on their edges, two of the corners are bent, some glitter is missing and it's been folded down the middle. There is so much history with it and it's not being retired any time soon.

RoseAnn DeMoro took the stage to say a few words and introduce our Grumpy Grandpa. Thousands of us jumped to our feet and cheered "Bernie! Bernie! Bernie! Bernie!" As I expected, tears fell down my cheeks and my heart became full. He gives me hope, at a time when I have next to none. One of my favorite moments is when Bernie asked, with his savage finger in the air, "How is Donald Trump the President of the United States right now" and many of us answered (VERY loudly) "Hillary Clinton"!!!!

Another great moment was when Bernie said, "Donald Trump didn't win the election; the Democrats lost the election". That statement brought all of us to our feet! It reminded us of what we could have had. What our country would be like now, if the rightful candidate were not cheated. If WE were not cheated. There was a short pause afterwards and I didn't pass up the opportunity to scream, "You're our president, Bernie"!

Bernie spoke for about 75 minutes and then Jane joined him on stage. RoseAnn DeMoro announced that they would be doing a Q & A. That news was incredibly exciting because they had never done something like that! The three of them sat in comfy chairs and they responded to peoples' questions per video clips. My favorite question was when Kendrick Sampson asked how Bernie keeps fighting when he loses. Bernie said, "You have to sacrifice a lot and keep going", Jane agreed, "Yeah, we put another mortgage on the house". Bernie's eyes bugged out and he exclaimed "We did"! It was incredibly adorable and endearing. It's always been obvious how in love they are with each other. After the Q & A, RoseAnn had Bernie stand at the edge of the stage, with his back to us and she took the most phenomenal photo. Thousands of us, together. In unity. In love. In hope. With him, symbolically in front.

Levi

I decided to grab some lunch at this point and walked to the long, buffet tables. I heard a very recognizable voice say "Hi, Joy". My heart sank as that voice sounded identical to Bernie's. I turned around and it was Bernie's son, Levi Sanders. I couldn't believe he knew who I was. He shook my hand, grabbed a sandwich and asked me to join him for lunch.

We sat down on a couch together and had a pretty incredible conversation. I was way too damn nervous to eat, but he downed his food with no problem. Levi was so personable. He even said "The Clinton News Network". That particularly made me smile because he sounds, looks and has so many mannerisms like his Dad, I couldn't help but envision him saying it too, (but in private).

I also caught myself wondering if I have ever met anyone who said so may F-bombs. We talked about the election and I

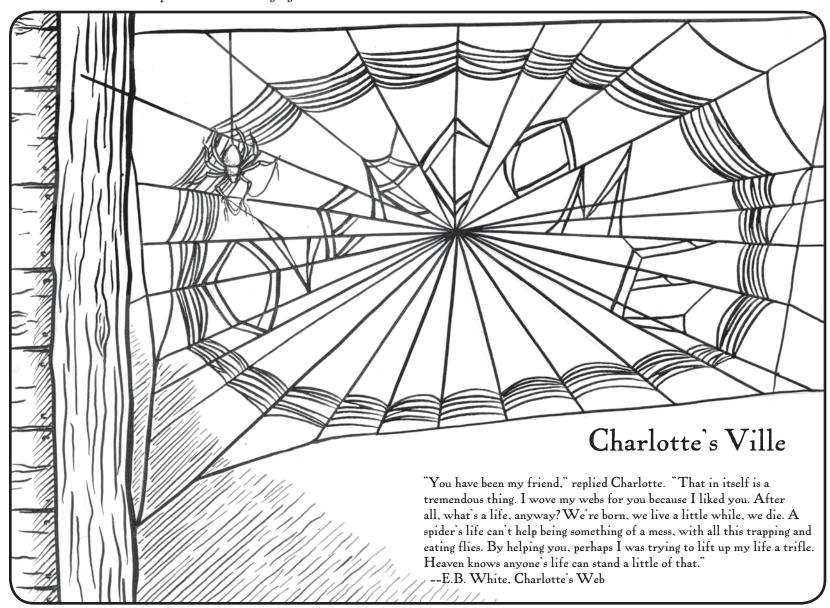
was very candid with him. I told him I wrote Bernie in and he responded, "So even though Bern said we should vote for Hillary, you wrote him in". I countered, "Yes and for several reasons. First, he told us that if she wanted our votes, it was incumbent on HER to earn them, (and she hadn't even come close). Bernie also stated that if he ever tells us who to vote for, don't listen, which Jane retweeted shorty before the election. And lastly, he taught us all how to be strong. To stand up for what we feel is right, no matter what. I couldn't bring myself to vote for someone who has caused so many of us so much pain. I couldn't give my vote to someone who had stolen so many of ours". Levi nodded his head as though he understood and respected my reasoning.

I began to tell Levi about my activism in Harrisburg and how his father had planted that seed in me. He asked me if I was one of the people who thought Bernie could "do no wrong". I answered "hell, no". I added that there are several things I don't agree on with Bernie and that I have no problem acknowledging that. I told him

that is one of the things I find the most endearing; he is human. He is fallible. He makes mistakes and he has flaws; however, at the end of the day, his intentions are pure and he wants what is best for us. Levi told me he liked what I had to say and then asked me if I would speak on a panel with him, later that afternoon. I think I may have blacked out for a little because I don't remember exactly how I responded. I do, however, remember asking, "What do you want me to speak about" and him replying, "Whatever you want to". That prospect was daunting, to say the least.

You can read the entire piece at http://www.facebook.com/artyoungsgoodmorning (in the Notes section) or by simply scanning this QR code with your smartphone ----->







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