

## 10 Things I've Learned from the Pandemic

by Margot Francini

It's difficult to see the good things among all the bad  
The peaceful among the anxious  
The calming among the agitating  
But during this strange lull I've learned some things  
Established some of my values  
Or rather  
Remembered them again  
Welcomed them back into my life

So this pandemic  
It isn't entirely bad  
It doesn't have to be something  
That derails my life  
And curbs progress  
Because during this time  
I've learned  
I am the one who dictates whether or not I grow  
It is my reaction to the situations I am presented with  
That I can control  
It is my adaptation to these testing situations  
That I can control

I've learned  
Rather  
I've relearned  
That nature is beautiful  
The most beautiful.  
A cohesive collection of multitudinous entities  
Infinitely more varied  
Than our enclosed  
Domestic  
Lives

I've learned  
Friends are so valuable  
Each one of them  
A unique identity that adds value to my life  
Variety

Spontaneity  
Laughter  
Joy  
I've learned  
Loss is not all-encompassing  
It can be contained  
Emotional loss can be regained  
Through memory  
Through security  
Through strength  
Loss cannot envelope my conscience  
If I do not let it

I've learned  
Rather  
Again  
I've relearned  
There is an infinite amount of knowledge  
To be sought  
And attained  
Really  
I now have to ask myself  
Not  
What do I know?  
But  
what don't I know?  
A virtually infinite amount of facts  
Ideologies  
Philosophies  
Motives  
Analyses  
How exciting it is  
To have so much potential

I've learned  
A lot of this knowledge  
Comes from books  
From literature  
Mind blowing, right?  
Somehow  
News to me  
In my teenage years

I've learned  
To take things slow  
Appreciate the little things  
Essentially  
I've learned  
All the cliches are true  
They're the key to a good life  
A happy life  
Peace

I've learned  
Maybe my mom does know what she's doing  
Maybe I should listen to her  
Her advice  
At least consider it  
This is something I had forgotten  
In my teenage years

I've learned  
There are good people in the world  
That really  
They are the majority  
Scratch that  
I knew there were good people  
But I thought they were hidden  
I thought they had lost hope with the world  
As had I  
Lost patience  
Lost purpose  
Lost perspective  
But no  
They're there  
For us  
They're there  
When we need them

I've learned  
Happiness  
More happiness  
Can only come with change  
It's common sense  
That's it