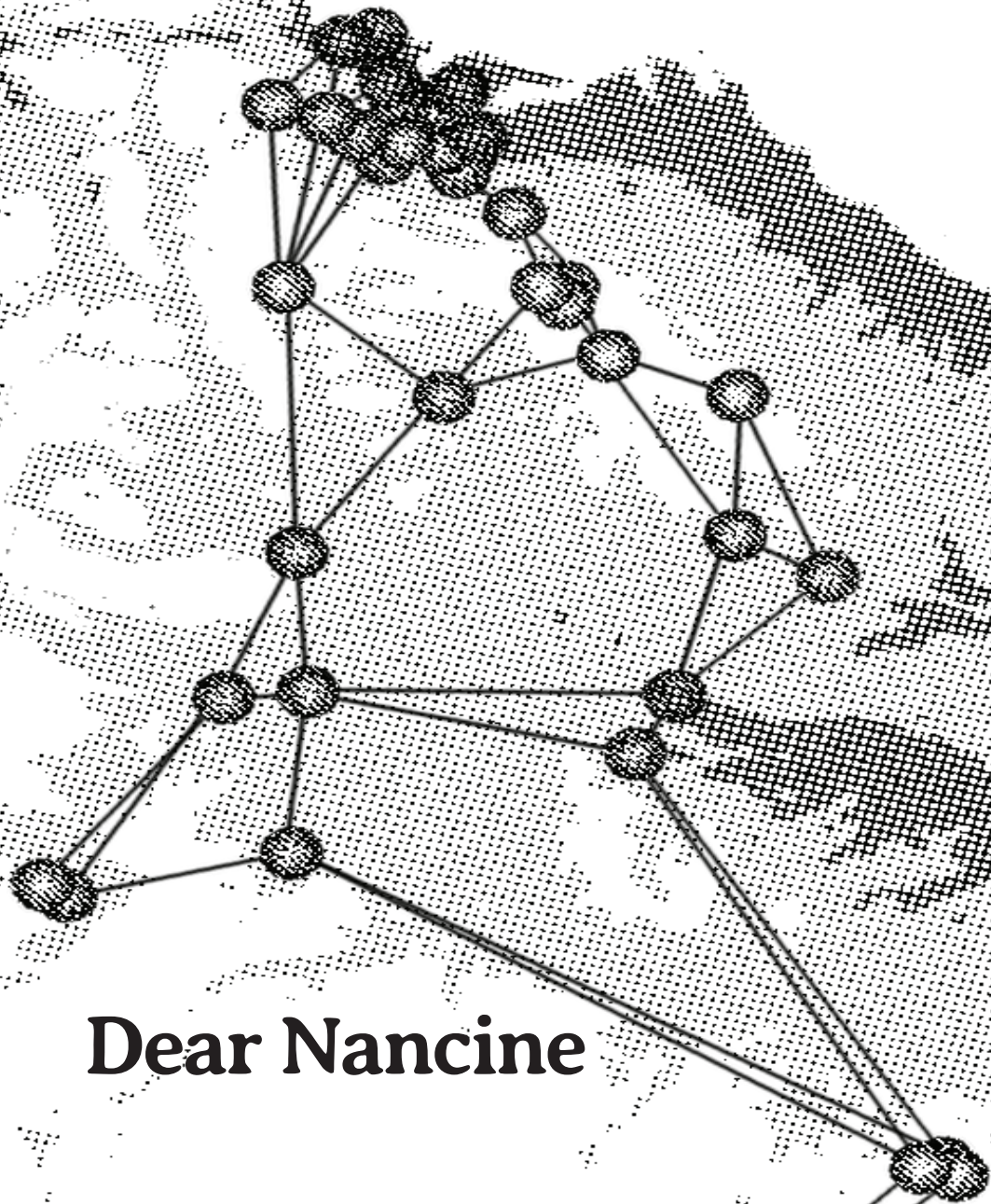


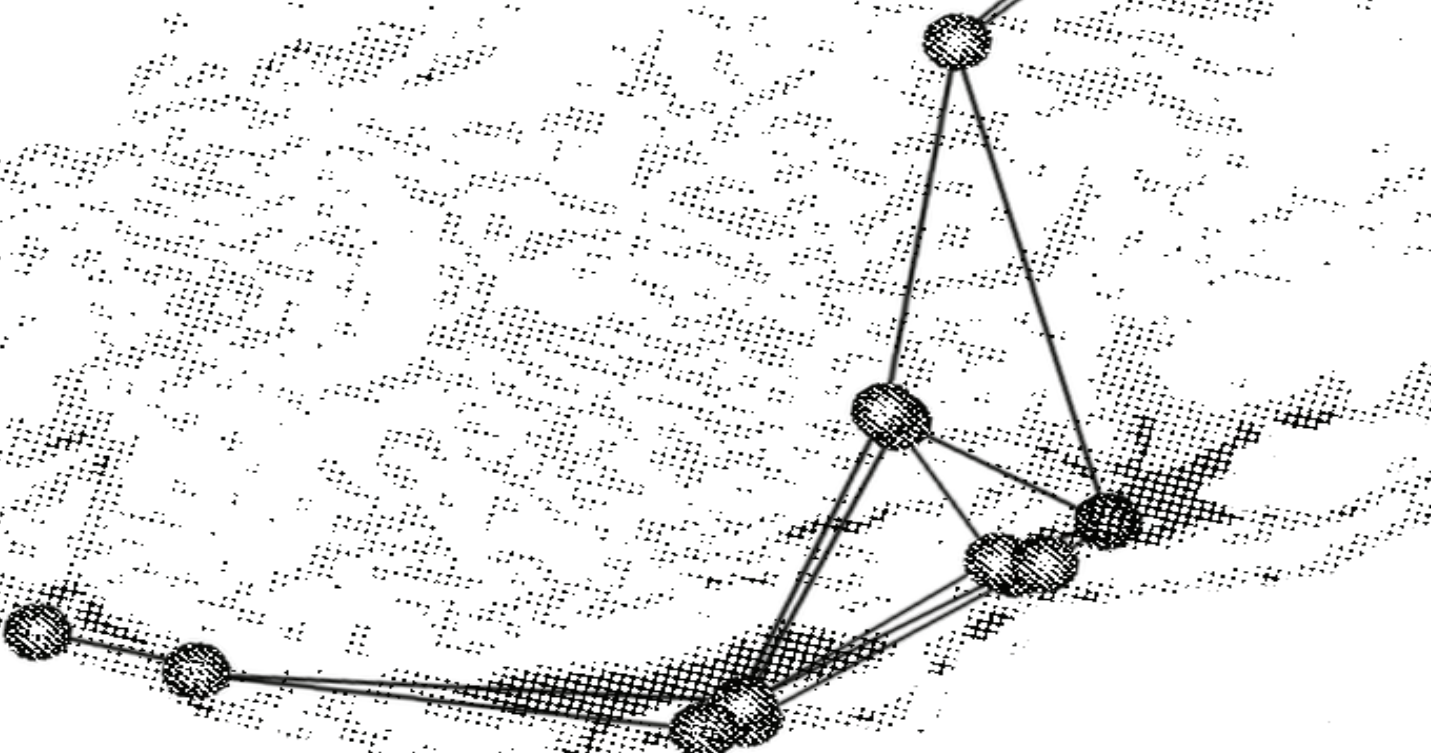
thingNY

2138 CRESCENT ST #D3

ASTORIA NY 11105



Dear Nancine



4-29-21

Dear Nancine¹

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE. SPENT THE BETTER PART OF THE LAST MONTH CATCHING UP ON THE LETTERS YOU SENT. MY MAILBOX AND KITCHEN COUNTER ARE BOTH FULL, AND WITH THE POST OFFICE SO BACKED UP... UH... IT MIGHT BE MY FAULT.

BUT THAT PROBABLY SPEAKS MORE ABOUT GUILT... ABOUT EVERYTHING. MORE ON THAT LATER, PROBABLY.²

ANYWAY, PROMISED TO MAIL YOU SOMETHING IN MAY, SO HERE IT IS.

BEEN OBSESSED WITH MAPS LATELY.³ I WANTED TO BE A CARTOGRAPHER WHEN I WAS YOUNG. BUT I HAD A DIFFERENT IDEA OF WHAT THAT OCCUPATION WAS.⁴ I THOUGHT IT WAS TO SUGGEST TO STRANGERS THE OPTIMAL PATH TO FOLLOW.⁵ FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WAS A CORNER OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE WE KNEW (READ: WERE TOLD BY ADULTS) THAT DANGEROUS OLDER KIDS SOLD DRUGS. (THIS WAS THE EARLY 90'S, SO DRUG DEALERS AND QUICKSAND WERE THE MOST DANGEROUS THINGS ON THE PLANET) THUS, WHEN MY LITTLE FINGERS WERE CHARTING |||TH STREET, A WELL-PLACED DRAGON COULD SUGGEST THAT GOING DOWN ||2TH STREET WAS A BETTER ROUTE⁶ TO MY CASTLE (READ: THE HOUSE MY PARENTS BOUGHT FROM THE ITALIAN FAMILY,⁷ WHO BOUGHT FROM THE IRISH FAMILY,⁸ WHO BOUGHT IT FROM THE WHATEVER FAMILY⁹... I LOSE TRACK OF WHOSE SPACE I OCCUPY)

MAYBE MAPS (AND LETTERS FOR THAT MATTER) OCCUPY SO MUCH OF MY MIND BECAUSE OF HOW UN-ATTAINABLE OR INACCESSIBLE SO MANY PLACES (AND PEOPLE FOR THAT MATTER) ARE TO ME. THE WEALTH OF DETAIL IN EVERY MOMENT OF EXISTENCE IS SIMPLY OVERWHELMING. IF I CAN JUST GET IT DOWN ON THE PAGE, OR WEBSITE, OR SONG, I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME SENSE OF THINGS, OR FIGURE OUT THE BEST ROUTE TO TAKE, OR AT LEAST FIGURE OUT WHAT ROUTES I'VE ALREADY BEEN ON. I LIVE IN MEMORY OF MY SELF.

R. I. P.

BUT...

1.

2. Read: definitely

3. Read: forever

4. Also of occupations in general.

5. Younger-Me knew there was an inherent subjectivity to mapmaking. I guess that's good. Thanks, Younger-Me, for planting the kernel for my Later Self.

6. I now have a more adventurous spirit. College change my opinion on drugs, but still terrified of quicksand.

7. Under \$70k... in Queens? I'll take it.

8. Under \$35k... in Queens? I'll take it.

9. Too complex an understanding of common property... in Queens? I'll take it.

HAPPY TO REPORT THAT I'M IN A DIFFERENT STAGE OF MOURNING, AND I BET YOU ARE TOO, Nancine.¹⁰ AFTER ALL, MISERY ISN'T A PERMANENT STATE. IT'S A TEMPORARY OCCUPATION. AND, LIKE THE SMALL SLIVER OF SPACE I OCCUPY DAILY (NORMALLY AS ABUNDANTLY SHARED WITH AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE (YES, I KNOW THAT MAKES YOU SHUDDER A LITTLE))¹¹ IT'S TEMPORARILY JUST MY OWN.

MAYBE PRECISELY BECAUSE I OCCUPY SUCH A SMALL SLIVER OF SPACE THESE DAYS, I AM INTENT ON CHARTING¹² THAT SPACE, MY SELF, AND THE PLACES IN MY DREAMS, IN GREAT DETAIL:

...THROUGH HISTORY...

... ANCESTRY...

... TRAUMA...¹³

... THROUGH OBJECTS FOR YOU...

... MAYBE FOR MY LATER SELF TOO...

YEAH.

OBJECTS ARE LIKE FEELINGS. SOME YOU HANG-ON TO. SOME YOU DISCARD. SOME ARE BEST TO SHARE WITH OTHERS. SOME ARE PUZZLES. SOME ARE JUST PRETTY THINGS FOR YOUR WALL.

Nancine¹⁴, WE¹⁵ INTEND TO GIFT YOU OBJECTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH. THEY'RE YOURS TEMPORARILY. HANG ON, DISCARD, SHARE AND DISPLAY AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE. JUST KNOW THEY'LL COME IN THE MAIL ALL MONTH, FROM VARIOUS HANDS, BUT ALWAYS ADDRESSED TO YOU,

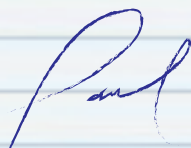
Dear Nancine.¹⁶

Nancine¹⁷, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR NAME COMES FROM, BUT I SURE LIKE IT A LOT. HERE'S A SONG ABOUT IT:



18

YOUR DISTANT FRIEND,



10.

11. We are just different people, N.

12. The charting stage of mourning.

13. *Wound* (17th C. Greek). A [deeply] distressing or disturbing experience, or emotional shock [which may be associated with physical shock][which can lead to long-term neurosis] or a physical injury.

14.

15. I'm just one mapmaker of many, after all.

16. Titular

17.

18. I made this QR code for said song. Scan it with your camera phone to go to dearnancine.com/song

P.S. -

ENCLOSED, YOU'LL FIND A CUT UP MAP OF DISPARATE¹⁹ AND CONCURRENT²⁰ PARTS THAT MAKE UP A WHOLE. ON THE FRONT SIDE, A MAP OF THE WORLD²¹... AND A CLUE:

www.dearnancine.com/ _____ ?

ON THE BLANK BACK SIDE OF EACH PIECE, A PLACE FOR YOU TO WRITE A FEELING, HABIT, QUALITY, EMOTION, ATTRIBUTE, RECURRING THOUGHT, MEMORY, OR BELIEF THAT MAKES UP YOUR WHOLE. MAYBE PARTS OF YOU THAT NOT EVERYONE SEES.

WHEN YOU'RE OUT OF PIECES, GLUE OR TAPE THEM CLOSE TOGETHER IN ANY ORDER ON THE BACK OF THIS LETTER. THINK ABOUT THE SPACE YOU OCCUPY, AND LEAVE ROOM FOR OTHERS.

YOU'LL NOTICE TWO PIECES MISSING. THEY'RE ALREADY PASTED ON THE BACK OF THIS LETTER. I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOU, Nancine,²² BUT I KNOW THE PIECES WE SHARE, AND I WAS EXCITED TO GET IT STARTED FOR YOU.



WHEN YOU'RE DONE, FEEL FREE TO GET THIS STARTED FOR SOMEONE ELSE. CUT UP YOUR OWN LITTLE MAP, AND GIVE IT TO SOMEONE AT HOME, IN YOUR POD, OR DROP IT IN THE MAIL FOR A DISTANT FRIEND.

19. *Prepare unequally* (Latin) Markedly distinct in quality or character.

20. *Running together* (Latin) Existing, happening or done at the same time, operating or occurring at the same time, running parallel; meeting or intersecting at one (a) point.

21. See www.native-land.ca

22.

