

We have taken refuge in the ordinary. With the ship of state sailing headlong into a hurricane while the incoming captain drifts deeper into mental decline, the citizens outside of government have to go on. Some of them do this blithely, believing in the fiction they have been fed by the incoming administration. The other half of the country is left feeling helpless and sometimes hopeless.

We can work for the future, deploying our skills and beliefs toward the next election. That is undoubtedly necessary. But there is something else that we need to do that has very little to do with government. We have to go on with our daily lives—doing our jobs, feeding the dogs and cats, shoveling snow—if we get a winter in our warming planet,—cooking our meals, taking care of our personal relationships. Sometimes, we fail to remember how important these things are.

That does not mean that we forget or neglect our duties as good citizens. We need to engage with others on issues that face us. We must not sugarcoat the insanity that our government is becoming. We cannot hide our heads in the sand when confronted with the knowledge of what our reckless electoral behavior is going to do to the rest of the world. But, along with working in any way we can to ameliorate the chaos we American citizens have inflicted on ourselves, our immigrants, and the rest of the world, we need to address our daily responsibilities.

When we feed the chickens, milk the cow, cook the potatoes for our daily sustenance, we need to keep our minds on what we are doing. It is necessary for the welfare of others and ourselves, and it is, I think, beneficial for our mental health. We need to have joy in the ordinary, in the everyday activities that make up our days. Having a direct connection to what is absolutely necessary for each day's survival, as those of us do who live and work on the land, gives us a way to live in the chaos that is to come. Never say we childless cat ladies can't find ways to cope with life as it is.