

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 8:08 AM  
To: Jason Gray  
Subject: Comments

Just wrapping up a quarter-end project, should be down to your shop for some quality writing time in a bit. Hope my favorite nook seat is available.

So I'm eager to hear what you thought about the latest chapter, to see your additions and comments. Will it be ready for me when I get there? Great chapter, I think, with Edna Applejack making the scene. (Julie hates the name, but Edna says all the right things to me. We'll see what she says to you.)

Excited! After all this time, after all the stops and starts and hurdles, after hanging in there during your sabbatical ("sabbatical" – our therapist was right, I hardly get any hives at all now that I've stopped referring to your three years in the Costa Rican jungle as "your selfish and inexplicable abandonment of me and the dreams we dreamed together as co-authors and partners in general, all for the sake of finding a better bean, when your coffee was wonderful the way it was")...we have a great work in progress.

Allan

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 8:10 AM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: Comments

**Gr8t chapter. Luv Edna karaktr and name. Added mor bad kustmr behavyr in the coffeshop sene (all troo, will sware its not).**

**Adishuns r dun but comments take time. Don't want 2 rush him.**

**P.S. I wil relese my kostareekn spidrz to drive away the laydee in yor nook seet, hav them bak in the jar b4 yo get heer.**

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 9:47 AM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: Comments<sup>3</sup>

Can't wait to see your additions.

Didn't quite understand your comments comment (he commented [the trifecta! cubed that mutha! ha!]). Were you speaking of yourself in third-person again?

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 9:48 AM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: Comments<sup>3</sup>

Having Kolin read it. Gets cranky if I rush him.

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 9:52 AM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: Comments<sup>3</sup>

You're having Colin read our story? But it's rough, it's unpolished! Get it back from him. I'm not comfortable with people reading our stuff. Jason, we've talked about this, I don't think you fully understand how uncomfortable this makes me.

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 9:53 AM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: Comments<sup>3</sup>

That's why we rote.

Kolin will give good feedback. He's good, lips don't move when he reads.

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 10:12 AM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: No comment(s)

No, no, no. No! I'm woozy right now, Jason, I'm nauseous and woozy! That's too much pressure. It has to be perfect first. We'll get plenty of feedback from our agent and editor (when we get one of those). Get it back from him, pronto. If his feelings are hurt, we'll make it up with a (small) discount on the hardcover and a special thanks in the Acknowledgments, "to all the coffee jockeys who fueled our passion."

Sorry if I'm coming across as uptight. I'm really looking out for Colin, you know. He'd get short-changed on the things we've decided to add, and be wasting his time on things we're going to cut. He just doesn't know about all the changes we're planning.

Plus, he's going to insist we add a Bigfoot. (I lied and told him there's one in there, just to get him to stop talking about it.)

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 10:13 AM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: No comment(s)

**THATS WHY I BLIND KAHPEE KOLIN ON OUR EMALES, KEEP HIM IN THE LOOP ON PLOT CHAINGS.**

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 10:18 AM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: No comment(s)

What? No...really? Jason, this is our personal correspondence. I don't share them with anyone, even Julie. (Our biographer can publish them posthumously—when we're dead, or everyone else is!)

We need to be able to speak freely to each other, without worrying about offending anyone. Colin included. (For instance, what's with the bulge? He says he got a concealed weapon permit, but...sometimes it's there, and sometimes it's not.)

I'm running behind here now, probably take me another couple hours to wrap up.

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 10:19 AM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: No comment(s)

Probably goes without saying, but don't bcc Colin on this exchange, 'kay?

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 10:20 AM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: No comment(s)

**Ok but do yo no how to turn that off?**

---

To: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 10:24 AM  
From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Forward: Re: Blind comments

!!!! See below.

---

From: Colin Campbell  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 10:23 AM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: Blind comments

Allan, just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy your writing. And that includes your e-mails—can't wait for them to be posthumously published!!

So anxious to serve you today.

Your coffee jockey,

Colin "Big Bulge" Campbell

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 12:21 PM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: Blind comments

*Yes or no, I should gather up the spiders.*

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 12:31 PM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: Blind comments

Yeah. I guess. I really need to get some writing done. No reason I shouldn't come in, right? Is Colin there, working with you right now? Can you tell if he's angry? Hide the spiders, okay? Or better yet, destroy them (humanely!).

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 12:32 PM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: Blind comments

**I DONT THINK COLIN IS ANGRY. (SAYS HE IS. BUT HIS WORDS ARE HARD TO REED. LIKE A TALKING SFINX.) IF HE GIVES US BAD KOMNTS, HOPEFULLY WIL B BALANSD BY GOOD KOMMNTS FROM ALL THE OTHERS. YINK AND YANK AND STURM AND DRANK.**

**S.P. ... Don worry about the spiders, they r hiddn, I use them on Colin 2 wen he wont let me take my tern on the frother. Gets si-ko, yo no.**

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 12:33 PM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: Blind comments

'Others'...?

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 12:40 PM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: Blind comments

**All the 'others' I gave our stuff to. Some are egur, sum not. I tell them it duznt matter wut they say about us, they wil stil get same gr8t coffee. But of cors not troo, it wil b decaf.**

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 1:29 PM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: Blind comments

I am now covered in hives. I can't believe all those people are reading my work. How could you do that without my permission? I never let anyone read my stuff, until it's polished and perfect. And published! (Which means no one reads my work!)

Jason...<deep breath>...my gosh this is hard...over the past couple hours, for the entire time that I

haven't been on conference calls or finishing my quarter-end project or at lunch, I've been doing a lot of thinking. You're a great writer, you've injected so much life and humor into this story...completely transformed it, really. But there are too many things where we're just not perfect for each other. For instance, all the different fonts. And now this, the, the indiscriminate sharing, handing my writing to anyone and everyone, who now will know I want to be a writer. These are people I see every day, and who knows whether they'll like my writing? What if they don't?!? I know, you probably didn't consider that.

This is just too stressful for me, I know you understand. It's been fun, but I'm sorry, I don't think this partnership is going to work....

I should probably go to a different shop from now on. Maybe I could get my lattes to go, and write at the library, or the DMV. Let me "no" what you prefer. (A little phonics-spelling, as a final tribute.)

Good fortunes to you, my friend.

Allan

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 1:30 PM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: Blind comments

Remember wen I told Denise abowt our book last month? U terned red and swetty then pale and klammee and unkonshus. Wen the smelling salts woke yo up, yo sed u wer nappng, but think yo had small strok. So I had no choyss but to giv it to 'others' wen yo werent looking, to save yo life.

Denise luvd it by the way.

Cum in I wil giv U a coffee poltis 4 yo hives.

P.P. – thos wer not smelling salts

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 1:35 PM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: No way!

Really?!? Denise loved it? Wow...!! That's excellent. She used those words – "I loved it" – like that? Or are you paraphrasing feedback that was more complex, and mixed, and possibly deeply disappointed?

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 1:36 PM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: Way

My sirvalens kamra was pointed at the TV so I could replay the parts of Juj Judy I missed while I was riting, but if I remember my konversashun with Denise it went a little somthng like, "Your book is fantastic!" **Thanx.** "When will it be done?" **Tomorrow or the next day.** "Am I Andrea?" **Yes.** "I better not be!" **Sorry, but...** "I blushed during that sex scene in the playhouse – which one of you wrote that?" **Allan.** "I'm so sorry, which one of you has cancer?" **???** "My girlfriend went through chemo and radiation. It was horrible. I could tell you've been there, the way you described it. Hope it's not terminal, because you need to write more books." **ok**

P.S.P. – Never seen Colin so happy. Laffng a lot. Also never notisd how lafter givs me shivrs and goosbumps. And sayng yor name, in nursry rimes. Gess Ive outgrone them, bcuz I want him to stop.

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 1:42 PM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: No way!

I can't imagine a better compliment than assuming one of us must have cancer!

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 1:43 PM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: Way

I didn't like that at all. Starting to think mabee I do.

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 1:46 PM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: No way!

Even better, writing so powerful it *gives* you cancer!

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 2:25 PM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: ok

ok

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 2:26 PM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: No way!

Hey now, we've been through this before, before your "sabbatical". Brian Lawson ≠ Jason.

---

To: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 2:30 PM  
From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Forward: Value added

!!!! See below.

---

From: Colin Campbell  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 2:29 PM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Subject: Value added

Allan the Author,

You really cheered me up, mister. I've been singing songs, on top of the world today. To know how much my lattés mean to you, how integral they are to your writing process...I'm blushing like the red hot barrel of a snub-nosed .44 like a fire engine, while I implement our new value-based menu:

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Allan's latté         | \$6.99 |
| Everyone else's latté | \$3.49 |

Hurry in, Allan the Best Author in the World, I can't wait to see your face. When you drink your latté. Drink it! Creative juices! Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!!!

P.S. – I'm still offering comments on your manuscript. More for my benefit than yours, of course.

Yours,  
Big Bulge



---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 3:02 PM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: Value added

We r thinkng the same, gr8t konsept 4 Java Man, Brian charjs kustmers diffrent prices, depending. Kustmr on a sel fone - 'That will be eight dollars! Wite chalklut moka? Six-fifty! Never went to Hernandez's shop, buck-ten! Told me about a cousin who died of bone cancer—twelve and a quarter!'

S.S.P. Colin finely kalmd down. Must hav got bad news, grandpa dide mabee, herd him crying in the krapr. Such a releaf.

---

To: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 3:39 PM  
From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Forward: You're a writer too?

FYI, see below. I'm afraid it wasn't his grandpa—it was me.

---

From: Colin Campbell  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 3:14 PM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Subject: Divine Inspiration

I've had a lot of time to think about what you said, and I realize it's time to stop fooling myself, and make a change. When my grandchildren ask who inspired me, I'm going to say Allan Harris. "He said that you would be a great monk, Gramps?" No, I'll tell them, Allan told me what a horseshit writer I am. So thank you, Allan the Author, for saving me from throwing my life away. And giving me a reason to be bald.

Go with God,

Brother Colin

---

From: Harris, Allan  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 3:36 PM  
To: Colin Campbell  
Re: You're a writer too?

Colin, don't you dare give up the dream! I've never met your mother—is she the kind of mom who would say, "Son, son, you mustn't ever never ever let go of your passion, you have so

much to tell the world, my special, beautiful boy” - ? If so, hear those words!

Hope your cheek isn't stinging too badly, but I think you needed that. By the by, I'll be in soon, and already in a great writing frame of mind—no need for any special boost, so I'll just have the old latté you give everyone else.

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 3:40 PM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: You're a writer too?

No-no tell him he sucks, we hav enuf komptishun allreddee. Just let him edit owrs.

---

From: Colin Campbell  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 3:42 PM  
To: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Cc: Jason Gray  
Re: You're a writer too?

Allan,

You nailed my mom, so to speak. She's right, it's time for me to pick up the pen again. The Heavenly Kingdom can wait—this world needs to drink what I'm brewing.

Starting with your novel. You two have crafted a humorous, often gut-wrenching tale of a man facing the mind-numbing, soul-crushing challenge of Death, not to mention coffeeshop competition, which is harder.

The only only *only* suggestion I have is to add an element of mystery; something lurking at the margins, glimpsed but never truly seen—possibly malevolent, but more importantly, a sign, a sign that magic still exists in this fully revealed, post-modern world. I have absolutely *no* idea what that would be; hopefully something will occur to you (a grainy image at the margins of your own consciousness, glimpsed striding through the trees, if you will).

Don't you worry, Fellow Author Allan, I'm going to make you the best latté you've ever had. And I'm asking all our other customers to pretend you don't exist, while conversing in soft murmurs and hums so as to create a gentle white-noise backdrop. In sum, the elimination of all feedback. A writer's nirvana—impossible to put a price on it, but I'll try.

Colin “B.B.” Campbell

---

From: Jason Gray  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 3:43 PM  
To: Colin Campbell  
Cc: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Re: You stink

B.B. sorry but both of us cannot be ritrs. Sumwun needs to serv the kustmrs.

There is wun now. I am with my mewz, wil help wen she leevs.

P.P. – APH, if ur lissening, Denise gave Java Man to her book klub. They meet 2morrow. We wil host here at the shop, serv them wine and leftover mufinz. Thot yu cood du a reedng. Can I borrow a turtlnck?

---

From: Harris, Allan (USA Bank)  
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 3:59 PM  
To: Jason Gray  
Re: You stink

Gosh, really wish I could have the opportunity to stand emotionally naked and vulnerable in front of these people, but even if I could attempt a reading through the hives that have now appeared on my tongue and eyeballs, I will be out of the country. On sabbatical.

P.S. – You can have my entire turtleneck collection. (sorry about the monograms, maybe you can sew-over a coffee cup decal). I won't be needing them where I'm going.

P.P.S. – Maybe I'll keep a couple, just in case the nights get chilly.