

At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 826-827 | Added on Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:20:40 PM

Understood in this way, the mind hardly is anything at all: it is its aboutness.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 1021-1022 | Added on Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:51:53 PM

‘He thought that saying the first unthought-out thing that came to mind, which is called “discussion” today, was empty chitchat

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 1111-1113 | Added on Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:10:25 PM

His purpose was to overturn human thinking, destroy the history of metaphysics, and start philosophy all over again. A little violence done to language is to be expected, given an overall aim that is so extreme, and so violent.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 1113-1115 | Added on Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:11:31 PM

The biggest overturning that Being and Time inflicts on old-school philosophy is to approach the question of Dasein and its Being in a way that Husserl had been supposed to do but did not make very evident: through everyday life.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 1127-1127 | Added on Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:13:54 PM

Dasein’s Being in general is one of ‘care’.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 1164-1164 | Added on Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:19:46 PM

Usefulness comes before contemplation,

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 1217-1218 | Added on Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:26:36 PM

What had been ready-to-hand flips into being present-at-hand: an inert object to be glared at.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 1239-1239 | Added on Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:29:57 PM

The connections have gone. No wonder we call an experience like this a breakdown.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 1525-1526 | Added on Monday, March 1, 2021 8:41:54 AM

Marcel's 'shell' recalls Husserl's notion of the accumulated and inflexible preconceptions that one should set aside in the epoché, so as to open up access to the 'things themselves'

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 1616-1618 | Added on Monday, March 1, 2021 8:54:25 AM

It wasn't that Heidegger had a bad character, Hannah Arendt wrote to Jaspers in 1949; it was that he had no character.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 1764-1765 | Added on Monday, March 1, 2021 9:24:51 AM

This is what contingency is: the random, outrageous thisness of things.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 2063-2063 | Added on Saturday, March 6, 2021 8:13:34 AM

The possessions that delighted Beauvoir horrified Sartre.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 2129-2130 | Added on Saturday, March 6, 2021 8:22:14 AM

'What is so detestable about war is that it reduces the individual to complete insignificance.'

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 2572-2573 | Added on Monday, March 8, 2021 9:33:21 AM

Like Sartre in Nausea, he points out that mostly we don't see the fundamental problem of life because we don't stop to think about it.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 2656-2657 | Added on Monday, March 8, 2021 9:13:34 PM

My consciousness is specifically mine, yet it has no real being: it is nothing but its tendency to reach out or point to things.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 2662-2664 | Added on Monday, March 8, 2021 9:14:22 PM

'anxiety' — Angst or, in French, angoisse. This is not a fear of anything in particular, but a pervasive unease about oneself and one's existence.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 2693-2695 | Added on Monday, March 8, 2021 9:18:57 PM

thus denying his freedom, he enters what Sartre calls mauvaise foi, or 'bad faith'. There is nothing exceptional about this: most of us are in bad faith most of the time, because that way life is liveable.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 2756-2757 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 7:30:49 AM

adults who withdraw from the world soon get bored.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 2986-2988 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:42:52 AM

This image stuck. Even now, especially in the English-speaking world, the word ‘existentialist’ brings to mind a noir figure staring into the bottom of an espresso cup, too depressed and anguished even to flick through the pages of a dog-eared L’être et le

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3037-3038 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:48:02 AM

Friedrich Hölderlin, whom Heidegger read obsessively.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3042-3043 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:48:40 AM

Heidegger immersed himself in both poets, and generally explored the question of how poetic language can summon forth Being, and open a space for it in the world.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3142-3144 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:13:17 AM

This could lead to the ultimate disaster. If we are left alone ‘in the midst of objectlessness’, then we ourselves will lose our structure — we too will be swallowed up into a ‘standing-reserve’ mode of being.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3159-3160 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:15:06 AM

Letting-be became one of the most important concepts in the later Heidegger, denoting a hands-off way of attending to things.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3160-3163 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:15:28 AM

sounds straightforward. ‘What seems easier’, asks Heidegger, ‘than to let a being be just the being that it is?’ Yet it is not easy at all, because it is not just a matter of turning indifferently away and letting the world get on with its business. We must turn towards things, but in such a way that we don’t ‘challenge’ them. Instead, we allow each being to ‘rest upon itself in its very own being’.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3168-3168 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:16:54 AM

Poets and artists ‘let things be’, but they also let things come out and show themselves.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3168-3172 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:17:09 AM

They help to ease things into ‘unconcealment’ (Unverborgenheit), which is Heidegger’s rendition of the Greek term alētheia, usually translated as ‘truth’. This is a deeper kind of truth than the mere correspondence of a statement to reality, as when we say ‘The cat is on the mat’ and point to a mat with a cat on it. Long before we can do this, both cat and mat must ‘stand forth out of concealedness’. They must un-hide themselves.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3185-3187 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:19:56 AM

Merleau-Ponty similarly quoted his favourite painter Cézanne as saying, ‘The landscape thinks itself in me, and I am its consciousness.’

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3290-3291 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:40:45 AM

This cut no ice with Heidegger, for whom communication was a long way down the list of what language could do. When

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3354-3355 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:49:44 AM

If you take away individual beings in order to be left with pure Being, Levinas felt, you end up only with something terrifying and inhuman.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3378-3379 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:52:55 AM

Levinas did more: he turned philosophy around entirely so that these relationships were the foundation

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3378-3379 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:53:03 AM

Levinas did more: he turned philosophy around entirely so that these relationships were the foundation of our existence, not an extension of it.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3398-3399 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 12:10:17 PM

that none of us has rights, but each one of us has a near-infinite degree of duty and obligation to the other.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3434-3434 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 12:14:47 PM

Camus wanted nothing to do with Heidegger.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3442-3444 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 12:15:37 PM

When the American scholar Hubert Dreyfus saw Being and Nothingness on Heidegger's desk and remarked on it, Heidegger snapped, 'How can I even begin to read this Dreck!' — this rubbish.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3513-3513 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 12:23:33 PM

Sartre would not meet him until 1953 — and it would not go well.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3519-3520 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 12:24:17 PM

According to both, the dialogue quickly went haywire.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3641-3641 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:27:14 PM

As the play's much-quoted and frequently misunderstood final line has it: 'Hell

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3641-3644 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:27:32 PM

As the play's much-quoted and frequently misunderstood final line has it: 'Hell is other people.' Sartre later explained that he did not mean to say that other people were hellish in general. He meant that after death we become frozen in their view, unable any longer to fend off their interpretation. In life, we can still do something to manage the impression we make; in death, this freedom goes and we are left entombed in other's people's memories and perceptions.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3680-3681 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:31:46 PM

She showed how choices, influences and habits can accumulate over a lifetime to create a structure that becomes hard to break out of.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3681-3682 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:32:01 PM

Sartre also thought that our actions often formed a shape over the long term, creating what he called the 'fundamental project' of a person's existence.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3706-3707 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:34:40 PM

If done correctly, all existentialism is applied existentialism.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3863-3864 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:32:17 PM

existentialism is always a philosophy of freedom in situation.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3957-3959 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:55:31 PM

crossed or our head is cocked to one side. My own body is not an object like others; it is me. If I sit down with my knitting, says Merleau-Ponty, I might have to hunt for my knitting needles but I don't hunt for my hands and fingers.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3967-3969 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:57:21 PM

Proprioception can also operate through extensions of myself. If I drive a car, I develop a feel for how much space it takes up and what size gap it will fit through, without needing to get out and measure it each time.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 3998-4000 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:01:30 PM

consciousness, he suggests, is like a 'fold' in the world, as though someone had crumpled a piece of cloth to make a little nest or hollow. It stays for a while, before eventually being unfolded and smoothed away.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 4006-4007 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:05:47 PM

This was the idea of consciousness as a 'chiasm'. The word 'chiasm' or 'chiasmus' comes from the Greek letter chi, written χ , and it denotes exactly that crossed intertwining shape.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 4007-4008 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:05:57 PM

In biology, it refers to the crossing of two nerves or ligaments.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 4030-4032 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:09:16 PM

Merleau-Ponty thought Cézanne did in his paintings of everyday objects and scenes: taking the world, making it new, and giving it back almost unchanged except in that it had been observed.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 4048-4049 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:13:08 PM

He seemed more alive than other philosophers, she says — more in life — but this was because philosophy and life were the same to him.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 4111-4113 | Added on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:25:13 PM

What Merleau-Ponty is describing here is another kind of ‘chiasm’ — an X-like interweaving, this time not between consciousness and world, but between knowledge and questioning.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 4415-4416 | Added on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 8:24:34 AM

‘The more I accuse myself, the more I have a right to judge you.’ There is a lot of Camus in this remark.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 4808-4808 | Added on Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:45:41 AM

What you read influences your life:

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 4816-4816 | Added on Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:46:37 AM

the human need for meaning was almost as vital as that for food or sleep.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 5259-5259 | Added on Thursday, March 11, 2021 9:04:07 AM

For Sartre, not writing was like not living.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 5269-5270 | Added on Thursday, March 11, 2021 9:05:19 AM

He had pushed work out of himself every day, as though he were full and needed unloading.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 5457-5458 | Added on Thursday, March 11, 2021 9:31:13 AM

Heidegger once wrote that ‘To think is to confine yourself to a single thought’, but I now feel that this is the very opposite of what thinking ought to be.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 5490-5491 | Added on Thursday, March 11, 2021 9:35:41 AM

He was always thinking ‘against himself’, as he once said, and he followed Husserl’s phenomenological command by exploring whatever topic seemed most difficult at each moment.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 5519-5520 | Added on Thursday, March 11, 2021 9:39:01 AM

Later Heideggerians, notably Hubert Dreyfus, have written about the Internet as the technological innovation that most clearly reveals what technology is.

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At the Existentialist Café (Sarah Bakewell)

- Your Highlight on Location 5548-5549 | Added on Thursday, March 11, 2021 9:42:50 AM

If I had to choose an intellectual hero in this story, it would be Merleau-Ponty, the happy philosopher of things as they are.

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