

\$1.49

Date Oct. 8 Cloudy

Cleaned the basement again, Ruby kept saying it was a mess. Same old stuff no matter how you move it around.

That metal box is still there. Lock's fine.

The password though, forgot it again. Brain's really going.

Going to write it down this time, but not the numbers.

Just hints. If someone finds this they won't know what it means.

Use the things on the shelf to remind myself.

First one, then the next. One at a time. Don't rush.

Rice was \$12.50, eggs \$5.99 now. Everything goes up.

Presto needs a reload.

Rib soup tonight, her favourite.

Date Sat.

Need more of those small jars from the dollar store on Midland. Bus 57, 3rd stop.

Goji berries are \$8.99 now, only \$6 last year.

Rearranged all four jars, wrote numbers on the lids so I can tell them apart. Dang gui's almost out, chrysanthemum still plenty.

First, the blood-nourishing one. Number on the lid.

Dark colour, thin flat slices.

Sometimes the jars end up in the cabinet and the shelf's empty.

Neighbour finally brought the mahjong set back. Said two days, took three months.

Won the last round and stuck a little note on the tile.

"Win!" I said that's childish. He said it's good luck.

Didn't bother peeling it off.

First, the tile with "贏" on it. The number.

Wan, tong, tiao, doesn't matter. Just the number.

Sometimes he borrows the set again and it's not here.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Oct. 13

Radio this morning.

Young people all use phones now, but I like the sound of it, a voice in the room.

Same station as always.

Then, the frequency. Number before the decimal, last digit only.

Hasn't moved in twenty years. Ruby keeps saying she'll get me a Bluetooth speaker.

No thanks, not interested.

Went out in the afternoon, scallions and tofu.

Ruby的新号码 647-555-0193

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday

This year's calendar is from the community centre, red and gold, lunar and solar both.

Old ones stay on the shelf when the new one goes up.

Important days I circle in red. Sometimes lunar, sometimes solar, whichever I feel like. I know what I mean.

Next, the calendar. Whatever's circled in red, that number.

Could be a different month, different spot. Red circle's always right.

Bank tomorrow, don't forget the envelope.

Strata went up \$15, pay next week.

太极拳 room 204, 10am

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Last Mid-Autumn the whole family was together for once. Photo under the big tree.

One of the little ones ended up half behind someone, just a head and shoulder showing. Still counts though.

Last, count the people. Every one.

Half hidden counts too.

Sometimes Ruby takes the frame upstairs and it's not on the shelf.

Nov 12.

Red envelopes again soon.

I know who gets how much. Newlyweds get the most.

Elders, write "身体健康" Grandkids, "学业进步" It's the thought.

Tucked between the old books so they don't get lost.

Last, the grandchild's envelope. First digit of the amount.

Once they're handed out, that's it. Book's just a book after that.

Date Nov 14.

Nice day.

Walked around, community centre's got a poster up about  
Phone Photography next week. Room 108, 2pm.

Maybe I'll go.

Rib soup still in the fridge, good for dinner.

Ruby keeps telling me to get out more, stop sitting in the  
basement. What's wrong with it though?

Radio's here, calendar's here, old photos. It's quiet and I  
like it.

Need to pick up: green onion, garbage bags, batteries for  
the remote. ~~soy sauce~~ already got it.

Electric was \$47, up three dollars. Probably the  
heater.

Time to dig out the long underwear. Goes so fast.

Dentist Nov 3, 2:30pm. Bring the insurance card this  
time.