



Personal Diaries: A resolution of appreciation
(by Dennis Robillard)

Here's a picture of my dog Cleo and my house. On the left side is ranchland, where 30 or more horses live. On the right side are cornfields. The wind was blowing pretty hard when I took this picture and the temperature was about 20 degrees.

Every year I've made resolutions of change - lose this, gain that, do more of those. I haven't completely escaped them this year, but I'm trying to.

Instead, I'm focusing more on knowing what I have around me. I live in rural South Dakota in a small house with my mother, my dog, and my cat. The nearest house is about a mile and a half in any direction. Instead of being a place of contemplation, reflection, reading, and writing, it became a place that no one could disturb me in my epic marathons of Netflix shows.

As the new year approached I kept thinking of the things I would soon give up, to try to be a better me or to have a better life. Then, I came upon a book about a monastery in South Dakota which got me thinking more about the place I live now and how I do and don't appreciate what it offers regularly (as opposed to what it doesn't have - coffee shops, nearby grocery stores, movie theaters, etc).

So this year, I'm going to try to take a picture every couple of days of important things to me, and talk about why they matter.