

### Chapter 1 : Semi-Deep Thoughts by Me: An amazing few days. Supernatural debt cancellation!

*merrit malloy's Semi-Deep Thoughts is not the best book of it's kind, but certainly not worst. The book is a simple pleasure. Some of the questions and comments make you think, while others make you laugh. it is definitely worth the money.*

A nice night to go to a park Michael had to work late tonight, so the boys and I took the opportunity to use a gift certificate for a local restaurant that I had won on a radio contest. The food was okay, nothing really spectacular. We were thankful that our gift certificate covered the whole meal however. Next to the restaurant is a park that the boys and I had been to several times. This is the main park in Marion where a lot of festivals are held. It was a beautiful night tonite, so after dinner we walked over to the park to check things out closer. I let them have at it tonite! Thankfully, my phone takes decent pictures, so I was able to capture a few shots you can click on the pictures to enlarge them: This picture cracks me up - Jake is serious in the foreground, and Chris is in the background doing his best "Vanna". Posted by Heather at 7: A couple of our family members have been "encouraging" me to write another blog post. During this whole time, I had a feeling in the pit of my stomach that maybe I should hold off. My intentions were good - I wanted to post something that I would consider to be a monumental praise report to everything God has done with Jake and the whole family since finding out about the AVM. I wanted it to be a story of pictures that would promote emotions of gratitude and relief for how far Jake has come. But yet, amidst these good intentions was an overwhelming feeling of hesitation. I kept putting off my post. And then Tuesday night, I realized why. Jake had a scrimmage for baseball, and it was a very rough night for the two of us. The evening started out well enough; Jake got to wear his uniform for the first time this year and oh did he look handsome! We got to the diamonds in time for him to warm up, and things seemed to be going well. During the 3rd inning, things took a turn downhill. One family had a beagle, and the other family had 2 pit bulls. Long story short, one of the pit bulls got loose, and attacked the beagle. It happened about 10 feet away from all the boys on the team. Thankfully, the beagle is okay, but it was not a good image to have embedded into memory. He was very disappointed. They had to call the game early due to darkness. He did, however, get to bat once. I did my best to take pictures from afar, and after the game, as I was trying to cheer Jake up, I was showing him the pictures. I had also taken pictures of Jake before the scrimmage as well. He looked so very handsome in his baseball uniform, and I wanted to show him how great he looked. When I cycled through the pictures on the camera, I mistakenly went the wrong way. Jake was so disturbed by it, he had to look away. Quickly, I tried to cycle through the pictures to get away from them, but since this has been a long process, many AVM pictures were sprinkled in with our regular, good time pictures. Each time a picture of the AVM came up, he had to look away. Thankfully, at the end of this, we were able to end on a great picture, that left him with good feelings instead of the disgust he was feeling. But it was a solid confirmation to me. As I prayed about this, trying to figure out how exactly I could post a glowing praise report, God really laid on my heart that I can praise Him with words and actions as well as visuals. God brought to my mind a verse that I never had thought of in this context before: But God really touched my heart with it today. So, all that to say that I apologize for my delay in posting an entry - but it was a good delay. Not only did He heal my son and oh how I praise Him for that! Posted by Heather at 1: Jake had his third surgery today, to remove the AVM. Going into this surgery, we were warned of the risks. The ultrasound on Wednesday revealed a vein was still being fed in the AVM, and there was a risk of Jake bleeding during the surgery. To help prepare for this, his blood type was taken, and the blood bank was made aware that there might be a need for a transfusion. The doctor explained to us also, that Jake would more than likely have a half dollar size open wound from taking off the mass of the AVM. He told us he would do his best to get it as closed as possible, but we were looking at another surgery or two of reconstruction. We woke up at 5am this morning - none of us ready for the day. Being a family of mostly night owls, it was not an easy task. We were out the door, and on the road around 5: Getting into the hospital, we went right up to the OR check-in. They led us to a room for Jake to get his gown on, and we waited for his turn to be called into the OR. Jake and Michael went back to the OR around 8: After checking in at the OR Family Lounge on floor

higher , we went down to the cafeteria to get some breakfast. Michael, Chris, and I ate a typical hospital cafeteria breakfast not quite a "yum" , and headed back up to the lounge. Hamilton, to come find us. He had a thought about what could be done after the surgery to help speed the healing process of the wound which again, he estimated to be around the size of a half dollar. He let us know that they were starting late, and that they had just got Jake positioned correctly he had to be on his stomach, since Dr. Hamilton was working on the back of his head. It looked like it was going to be a long day. A few hours went by, and we all got a bit stir-crazy. Chris had played about every PSP game we had with us, and Michael and I were a bit tired of sitting as well. By that time, it was about We had found out from the gal in the Family Lounge that there was a better cafeteria located on the floor below us and decided to try it out. It was by far, much better food. We wished that we would have known about that cafeteria about 3 surgeries ago! We had a decent lunch, and headed back to the Family Lounge. Again, we got there just in time for an update. Hamilton came up with his camera. The AVM had actually swollen up during the surgery, and he said it was a bit difficult to work on, but once he got the outer edge of the AVM separated, the rest was easy sailing. He said that the vein that was still being fed was actually quite large, about the size of his pinky finger! He said there was some glue in the vein, so he tied up the vein with sutures, around the same area as the glue, and reinforced it with more sutures, so that is completely closed off. He said that as Jake heals, that vein will just become a dead end as tissue forms around it. On a humorous note, Dr. Hamilton knew that Jake wanted the AVM in a jar to bring home and show his friends. After the surgery, as per standard policy, the mass was to be taken to Pathology for study. Waking up was a bit difficult for Jake. They had him wake up before we were in the room, and that scared him a bit. We were able to go in the room shortly after, and hold his hand. Chris was even able to be in there with us, and I think that helped Jake a bit as well. It took a couple of hours for Jake to recover enough to be released to come home. We go back to the hospital in the morning, to meet with Dr. Hamilton for his post-op check-up. Hamilton will remove the bandage then, and teach us how to care for the stitches and staples over the next few weeks. I joked with Dr. All the prayers of our friends and family have been felt every step of the way, and have been a real life line in this journey. Thank you, all of you, for all your support! Hamilton is very hopeful that the stitches will heal nicely. Hamilton suggested we just take the rest of it off so that all his hair can grow out together, and be more manageable. We were anticipating another open wound, and fully expected Jake to have to wear a hat for a lot longer. Michael asked me this afternoon if I had a good day. I told him I did - because my baby is okay!

### Chapter 2 : Deep Thoughts From a Hollywood Blonde by Jennie Garth

*Welcome to my semi-deep thoughts blog! In an effort to start writing more and to stop clogging my recipe blog up with my long-winded rants I've decided to create a space exclusively for all those random opinions and ideas floating around in my brain!*

There are so many things about this movie that I dislike, but I want to start by acknowledging the other side of the argument so I can spend the rest of the paper railing on it. It has two things going for it. Julie Andrews is amazing! Julie Andrews is amazing. Seriously though, that woman had a gift. We got that part over with. To start my tantrum, what the crap is wrong with the person who wrote climb every mountain. I mean seriously, whoever wrote that song should have their composing license taken away. Get off the stage. Second, how did they screw this song up so badly? They had such a good prompt. I mean think about the meaning. It just goes on, and on, and on, and on, and then pauses briefly to take a dramatic breath. My final sentence of the last paragraph is really my overall feeling about the whole show. I have a good rule of thumb for movie making. If your movie needs a 15 minute intermission it is too long. This is the biggest problem with the movie. The first time I watched it, the intermission screen came up and I just figured it was over. The plot resolution had already occurred, and the story had tied together quite nicely. Then my mom told me I was only half way and I just looked at her in astonishment. They ruin everything. By the time the great touching ending about them escaping into the musical hills came around I was bored spitless, and was kind of rooting for the main guy mr. Why does he deserve an amazing girl like Julie Andrews? He is just the lucky guy who happens to be attached to them. If you like this movie than you must have accidently taken a nap during intermission and had a dream about them killing the captain at the end, making him a martyr so we can feel good about it and leaving the decent people you actually care about to live their happy lives with him just as absent from their lives as he was before.

**Chapter 3 : Semi-Deep Thoughts by Me: July**

*Semi Deep Thoughts by Malloy, Merrit A whimsical collection of trivia sheds new light on such key issues as who audits the I.R.S, why kamikaze pilots wore helmets, and if bald eagles ever had hair.*

Today, however, rather than focusing on the things I have questions about, I want to focus on the things that I believe. I just want to express my own personal beliefs about who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for me. Whether you believe in Christ or not, whether you belong to an organized religion or not, whether you consider yourself spiritual or not, I hope that this post can at least be an interesting study into what one person believes is true and give you a better understanding of who I am as a person. First a quick background into my religious upbringing. My mom began attending church again around the time I was born and my siblings and I attended the LDS church with her growing up. My dad briefly joined the church when I was 8 we were baptized by the same missionary and left the church around the time I turned 18. And so I find myself incredibly dedicated to a religion that I also occasionally disagree with or feel hurt by. On my bad days all I can see are the policies that I want to change the role of women, our treatment of the LGBTQ community, our tendency to romanticize our history as perfect, etc. Mormons get a bad rap sometimes because we do a lot of things that seem very different from other religions. Because these things get talked about so often in and outside of the church we can sometimes lose sight of the most important aspect of the religion, which is our faith in Jesus Christ. It was in a Jr. I replied that I was a Mormon too and since she knew I was Christian she could believe that the other Mormon girl was christian too. My two main thoughts from that conversation were: I attended a pretty religiously charged high school. I had the opportunity to discuss religion with many of my friends and even some of my teachers. Interestingly enough several of my closest friends were jewish, agnostic and atheist. In many ways my non-Christian friends were much more Christian in their treatment and respect for my opinions. I believe that truth can be found in many places and each of us will pick up the things that we need or feel inspired to carry with us. And from each interaction, friendship and relationship we will find ourselves changed. This is how it has been for me. However, the central piece of my testimony is my Savior Jesus Christ. So what are the things I believe about Him? First some things I believe about who He is. I believe that Jesus Christ is the literal son of our Heavenly Parents. He was born to Mary and raised in this life by Mary and Joseph. This made him both divine and mortal. This is the condescension of God. I also believe that all people on the earth are spiritual sons and daughters of Heavenly Parents. This makes Christ our brother. And I think of him that way often. As my brother and friend. I do however believe that they are in complete unity of purpose. Christ talks many times of being one with the Father. However, He also talks about being one with the church and tells us that we can be one with the Father. I believe that Jesus Christ is the only person to make it through this life perfectly- meaning without sin or mistake. This was accomplished through His inherited divinity from God and His total dedication and understanding of the Gospel and purposes of God. That purpose being to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of men and women. Central to that mission is also that they want us to have joy in this life and the next. Commandments bring us joy because they help us love one another, maintain control over our own lives, and to become more like Christ. However, if we keep the sabbath day holy we get the blessing of having a peaceful day of rest and enjoyment. I believe that Christ spent his mortal life teaching, helping, serving, healing and loving those around Him. Because He was perfect and had a will completely in line with the mission of our Heavenly Parents, He was able to love and have perfect charity for those around Him. He also taught us how to have a more perfect love for those around us. Having charity requires us to put away our selfish desires. Being less selfish means being less self centered. Each of us may judge what we are going to do but we must also allow all others the right to decide for themselves how, where and what they will worship. This makes Christ a perfect example, a leader, a teacher, and a prophet. At the end of his mortal ministry, Christ, empowered by his divine heritage and his perfect mortal mission, was able to perform the atonement on our behalf. I define this as a reconciliation between God and man. Through this atonement he enabled us to become one with our God again. Just as he and the Father and Mother are one. This atonement involved and intercessory prayer in Gethsemane, a

crucifixion, and finally a resurrection. This makes him our redeemer and our savior. In Gethsemane he prayed on behalf of the world and took upon himself our sins, our shortcomings, our mistakes, our sorrows, our pains, and our abuses. Then, while carrying them, he allowed himself to be crucified to pay the price for those sins. By paying this price he used His mercy to satisfy the laws of justice. Christ, now aware of those sins and mistakes and intimately familiar with the fallen condition of the human family, becomes our advocate to the Father. As we repent with our hearts, in his name, we can be reconciled again to our Father. Instead of our sins resulting in a permanent separation from our Heavenly Parents or a spiritual death, we can now repent and be clean again, one with our Savior, and one with our Heavenly Parents. And that is the gate he opened when he raised himself up from the tomb three days later. Mormons are sometimes criticized for not putting enough emphasis on the cross. That death is temporary and that Christ now lives! I love the story of him and Mary at the tomb. He was triumphant over death and opened the way for us to be triumphant as well. I believe that there is life after this life. Not a heaven and hell that we see depicted on tv or in books, but a glorious new life where we will be free of our physical, emotional, and mental burdens that plague our life here on earth. Where we will be able to be with our loved ones and see them perfected as well. Where we will have a full realization of the good and bad we put in the world. With this new perfect knowledge of our lives, we will choose for ourselves if we feel worthy and ready to enter the presence of God. This makes Christ our savior, our redeemer and our King. But knowing who He is is or what He has done is only half of accepting Christ into your heart. I can honestly see how that could be a perception given that Mormons have a lot of "rules" and "practices" that seem to be different from other groups. However, I have been taught, and believe that the only way we are saved is through the grace of Jesus Christ! He gives us each this gift and asks us only to receive it. Receiving it means to repent and be one with Him. However, I do believe this Gift leaves us changed. The bible tells us that faith without works is dead. When we truly love someone it leaves us changed. When we truly love and accept the Savior it helps us change our lives. As I mentioned before- we follow His Commandments because we love Him and we realized that He gave them to us to keep us safe and happy. When we repent and accept Jesus into our lives we no longer want to cheat or harm others. We respect and make room for people who are different than us. We listen to different opinions and respectfully state our own. We are changed and we do better, because we know better, because our Savior has shown us the way. In respect to us "earning" our way into heaven- I recently read an article discussing the parable of the ten virgins. It talked about that one solution to the problem of not having enough oil could have been to have larger lamps. None of our lamps are large enough to carry enough oil to last through the night. The thing that makes us wise is realizing that our lamp is too small to last through the night. He will fill our lamp and get us through the night. He will increase the light we emit and bring us safely to the wedding party. Yes, reading our scriptures and saying our prayers and attending the temple can help us become better. None of those things alone can get us where we need to be. Scriptures, prayers, and temples are all there for the sole purpose of bringing us closer to the Savior and improving our relationships with our fellow man. If you have not charity you have nothing, because Charity is the pure love of Christ. Without His love for us we are nothing. Without my love for Him I would be nothing. So, I believe I am a Christian. I fall so short every day. I say wrong things.

**Chapter 4 : Semi-Deep Thoughts**

*Semi-Deep Thoughts by Merrit Malloy starting at \$ Semi-Deep Thoughts has 1 available editions to buy at Alibris.*

Back in the early- to mids, it was simple. Boy chases girl until he catches her. Just two people trying to find a connection. But the new millennium version of this genre puts increasingly complicated roadblocks in the paths of the protagonists: These setups create heavy-on-the-laughs, light-on-the-love situations that allow us to set our brains to dumb and forget how strange, wonderful and inherently amusing romance can be. Instead, it reminds us that love is a difficult enough journey without fantastic obstructions. Despite derailing from his chosen career as an architect, Tom Joseph Gordon-Levitt is an optimist, with the kind of moon-eyed belief in destiny that allows him to write treacly greeting cards and really believe the sentiments inside. Summer Zooe Deschanel is the mysterious, quirky new secretary at his company. Or at least he thinks he does. What he really loves is the concept of them as a couple his most popular card simply read "I love us" , based on her beauty and love of the Smiths she introduces herself by singing along to his headphones. While Tom discovers that his sister Rachel Chloe Moretz is right in that an appreciation of the same kooky crap does not a soulmate make, he may not be so wrong about destiny picking out the right one eventually. It may just take a little more time. He cut his teeth making music videos for Snow Patrol, Counting Crows and Regina Spektor , and he happily retains the visual verve and fluidity of his beginnings. The film is nice to look at although it suffers from a bit too many tricks and trumped-up tropes. Weber, has cute ideas and some great scenes, but its highs-and-lows focus leaves only a little room for the middling muddle-through period that makes up much of relationships. As such, Tom and Summer are mostly two-dimensional through omission. Gordon-Levitt and Deschanel are excellent, with an easy chemistry and star-making charm, but Days is not their best work. I thought it was impossible for Deschanel to be unlikable in a film, but Summer is a cold, withholding pseudo-naif, her ineffable charm only barely counteracting her underlying disagreeableness. He deserves more depth, and Gordon-Levitt has consistently proven that he can deliver. Although Days is a pleasant departure from the mainstream rom-com blah, it cripples itself with cuteness. The excess of styles, art-crowd insider references and hipper-than-thou soundtrack make it palatable to a small audience, one who already owns the LPs, disseminated Annie Hall and The Graduate and only sings karaoke when drunk or feeling particularly campy. Unlike more mature films in this style-- Eternal Sunshine comes to mind-- Days deals with particulars, and reveals little about the universals of love.

### Chapter 5 : The Marketing Secrets Show by Russell Brunson on Apple Podcasts

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Monday, October 10, An amazing few days. But when something amazing happens, I am going to be sure to make a post! First of all, I want to say And they both were discussing the difference between praying for miracles and then doing the dailies. But He is also a God that gives you wisdom and direction and "leads you by the way you should go" Isaiah I looked up the scriptures that I needed and prayed and meditated on them for a long time. But, that is the first breakthrough we need! I "wish" I had more friends. No one loves me anyway. I used to have moments like this. But now - I just invite other people to do stuff. If they are busy, I invite someone else. And we want to hang out with friends. So stop with the pity party and call someone! I am saying this to bring light back home to me! But the truth is We are not doing anything about it - not really. We start and I end up resisting something and so we quit. We start and I hurt my back. We start and Dustin gets tired of going. We start and then we go eat pizza and coke every day for a week straight. BUT I can find 30 minutes to work out if I want to. AND I can especially eat better!!! I "wish" I were out of debt. If your current income will not do it, then pray for God to show you a way to do it!! In all these instances, my true belief is this 3-step plan! Look up scriptures that have to do with your situation love scriptures, health scriptures, financial scriptures Meditate on them until your HEART knows them! Then your attitude will start to change. This is the first part of the dailies - the scriptures! God will nudge you to follow Him on certain things. But do it and see what happens! Or maybe he nudges you to do a marathon when you can barely walk up a flight of stairs right now. Commit to it, and maybe it will help you! OR if He nudges you to give someone a gift card when you can barely pay your own bills But we did it in faith!! So, listen to those nudgings. See where it goes" 3. Work on your attitude. Be nice to others. Take the stairs instead of the elevator. She had to walk out the journey of the dailies. When you do it that way, you GROW! You learn so much and your faith is built like a foundation for future victories!! You could get BOTH! We have walked through this stuff for a few years now with our finances. Last week, I did our September balance sheet. But Kismet and Relish had great months on top of what we had as our regular income. I was so excited when I saw this!!! We are doing it!!! Our largest debt is the last on our list to payoff because we are doing the Dave Ramsey snowball thing. It is a credit card we used to help finance Relish in the beginning. After about 12 phone calls and 3 letters to them, I wrote one last letter notifying them I would no longer be paying the bill until someone could explain to me what had happened. So I stopped paying and started praying and just trusting God. We wrote a letter last week and faxed it to the law firm disputing the charges. I called on Thursday just to make sure they received the fax. The guy that answered a lawyer asked if he could help us. It was SO easy, it was nearly unbelievable!!! AND he was really nice about it - helping us with what we could pay and working out a plan that would work!!! So our biggest debt will be paid off much sooner!!! AND it will go on our credit as good standing!!! Our second largest debt and second to last on our list to pay off was my student loan. It was about my student loan. It has already been applied to my account - nothing I needed to do. I looked online and sure thing!!! We wanted to go on the cruise that leaves from Miami - the Eastern Caribbean cruise. We liked the Norwegian Epic and started daydreaming. But I knew that with our debt situation - it would be next Fall until we could do another big vacation. And guess what it is? The Norwegian Epic, leaving out of Miami!!! AND she is going to pay for it all! She said it was a gift - that Poppa wanted to take a trip with everyone and never got to do it. So - we will be going on our next dream vacation in just FOUR months! God clearly showed me the connection! We have been doing our part and now HE is showing us the supernatural!!! I encourage you to do those steps!!! Invite that person to dinner. Then you may get invited to a spa day with someone else. Maybe someone at work will start climbing with you and before you know it - you are getting in shape!! Buy that gift card for that family that needs it. I know I cried a lot this weekend. And let me just say - tears of joy taste much sweeter than tears of desperation and pity that I once cried years ago! Step out in faith and hope and love!!! Then be prepared to be blessed when you least expect it!!! I am standing with you in faith, my friends!!!

### Chapter 6 : Semi-Deep Thoughts by Neighbor Julia

*Having been in the Environmental Industry for most of my career, I've been through a LOT of safety training, as you can imagine: MSHA, OSHA, in-house safety and environmental training, RCRA and.*

Well, by now you guys have probably seen some of my Facebook posts from the past couple weeks alluding to news going on in our lives or as even my last blog hinted. So, before I give the news, I need to give a little history Our incomes were pretty good for our age , but we were young, not married yet and that helped. Then, February of Dustin lost his job at Dell. I decided to start my own freelance company. I wanted so desperately to be creative and work on fun projects and working in printing did not allow me that opportunity. Thus, out of what was deemed necessity Kismet Creative was born. Dustin was a manager at the local movie theater. I know store clerks who get paid more. But we made it. I also taught college for a few years part-time to help supplement pay 3. Then a month later, after hours of work and turning down other business - we discovered the company was a scam. They literally were a scam internet company that launched, sold a lot of customers products they never shipped and shut up shop and fled! We were left with a huge hole in our income. We borrowed money and the spiral began that got us into debt. Dustin began to look for work. Again, it was small pay, but hey - it was in the field he wanted! But shortly thereafter, that company had issues and he got a call We thought he was getting a call to be hired on at a better level he was just contract but instead it was to cut his hours in half!! Kismet started going through a rough patch. Last Summer things began to turn around Because of those two things, both of my companies had best years to date!!! Dustin has been working his tale off. I had clients go nutso on me. I was sued I won, but still I had lots of clients push off projects because their businesses were hurting. The economy had not hurt me until this year. But some of my clients went out of business, etc. And having to stay after people to pay you. Yeah, not really in my DNA. Then, my regular monthly client With such a huge concept, we have been a growth stage since Day 1. But, I will say as an example of where we are going We have been visited by countries in just he past 4 weeks. We send sample orders and real orders to places all across the country each week. So all in all, we are paying our bills and digging our way out of debt. In June, Dustin was approached by a manager in another department at his company. After a few weeks and 7 interviews wow! Dustin got a HUGE promotion. He went from a Level 1 phone tech to a Level 3 Systems Analyst. Simultaneously, I received an email from CareerBuilder with a job match. Same as with our realtor. But this one position caught my eye. But hey, what can it hurt to apply? Dustin asked if I had looked into jobs and applied for anything else. I just applied to that ONE because it sounded perfect. And yesterday, I had an interview Out of hundreds of applicants, it was narrowed to four. And 24 hours after my interview Ready for all the kickers? This was the first thing that attracted me to it It does not compete with any of my Kismet clients in any way so I can keep doing work for my current Kismet clients without conflict! Second thing I was looking for! This is an amazing perk! I mean - What are the chances?!!! They were previously doing all their advertising out-of-house, but they are redoing their whole image and so they started fresh. My new boss has only been there since April. I am the first and only - for now designer. As it grows, it will be my department and everyone new will be under me. So it was important to him for the person they hired to be a leader. I know - WHAT?! I get to set my own hours. And as I get more acquainted, I can do it more often. I will be on my own most of the time - no micro-managing. LOTS of projects to do and just me to churn out the designs. What does this mean for Kismet? I will still be handling current clients because I can manage regular clients stuff. I will not be taking on any new clients because that entails branding and too much work. What does this mean for Relish? Well, I am going to do my best to manage it for now. But as we are ramping into a new season I understand the reality that we will be needing to hire part-time help. As soon as I get my duckies in a row, I will be hiring someone trustworthy to help me with our baby! I will still be working on the catalog and the exciting things that are in the works for !!! AND with this money, we can also invest into the company like we want to. We still feel that Relish is our future, our retirement project if you will. We have investors, a board of directors, a growing list of dealers across the country and several brides from across the world who reinforce the belief in this dream!!! So - taking this

position will only help it!!! I love my baby. It was never meant to be forever. I had no idea what it would become. I adore the majority of my clients and I thank them all from the bottom of my heart. Do you know what made all of that possible?! Since I was paying myself - I allowed myself the time it took to learn new things. I learned new design tricks! I really refined my gifting. And I could never have done that without owning my own business! Should other entrepreneurs give up and get a corporate gig? I have been blessed to encourage so many of my friends to start their own business!!! So, I want to say clearly Every business is different. My business Kismet depends on other small businesses. And while I can claim good things for my company, I could not always get my clients to keep the faith. Thus, the rocking economy has hurt them and in turn - me. Also, in my line of work - I had to constantly try collecting on jobs. I have friends that do big bulks of work and that is great for them - easy payment process and steady work. Not so for me. What really lead to this?

**Chapter 7 : Semi-Deep Thoughts by Malloy, Merrit**

*Mannheimer For a panoramic and immensely readable view of the cultural uses of read-ing, one of the best contemporary surveys is A History of Reading by Alberto Manguel ().*

Which was sad and confusing since I primarily rely on LDS sources for all my information. So, I thought it would be a good time to write a post about some good church approved resources for finding out about church history. First things first, I have a testimony of Jesus Christ. I have a testimony that we have loving Heavenly Parents who love us and want us to return to them. I have a testimony that by having charity which is loving Christ by loving others the way he would we can do extraordinary things. Many of my friends outside of the church know little of what our actual gospel message is and more about church history, controversial topics like polygamy, and comments made by church leaders regarding minority groups. Our faith is individual and we come at it from many ways. Many people learn about church history during their youth and get refresher courses every four years at church and that is enough to build their faith. Which is great and honestly, I think that is a spiritual gift. I also know that there are a lot of people, like me, who approach things in a more questioning format and want to learn more. While that black and white way of thinking can be motivating for some it can also be demotivating for many others who think they will never stack up. The point of the gospel is not that you have to be perfect in order to participate. The point is that through Christ we can all be made perfect. When we realize that the pioneers were ordinary people doing extraordinary things it becomes much more relevant and motivating than hero-worship. As I learn more about the mistakes that were made and how they were overcome I learn that God uses imperfect people to run his church. And if they, imperfect as they were, could be of use, then maybe there is hope for me as well. We know from the scriptures that we should seek things out in faith but also through gaining knowledge and discussing that knowledge with others. Doctrine and Covenants Some might think that church history detracts from learning about the basic tenets and doctrines of the gospel of Jesus Christ. However, the truth remains that learning about our church history and previous revelations can help us understand the doctrines we are presented with today. Some want to leave the past in the past but the fact is that temple practices, priesthood ordination practices, attitudes toward women, our view of the afterlife etc. When the church announced the gospel topics essays Elder J. Devn Cornish of the Seventy and also the executive director of the Church History Department at the time said: Gone are the days when it is only important. In our day, the history of the Church is urgent Our history can either be used as a weapon against the faith of our members or as a bulwark to build and protect their faith". I hope that by helping my kids know about this history early on it will lessen their chance of having it used as a weapon against them later. So even if your testimony is rock solid about church history, I encourage you to learn more so that you can be of help to those around you who do have questions including our children. Sometimes, unfortunately, our questions can be met by others with anger or even condemnation. What will others think of me if I associate with this person who is questioning? In the LDS gospel topics essay about answering gospel questions it says that we should 1 Show Compassion for the person asking questions 2 Listen Carefully and 3 Fortify Faith. Also, as the person asking the questions we need to make sure we can remain calm, not be too aggressive and that we bring them up when we have time to explain where our thoughts are coming from. Sometimes the context for your questions can help others better know what they can do to help. For me, things came to a head after the birth of my fifth child. I decided to really find out what Heavenly Father thought of me as a daughter through prayer and meditation. After praying about it for several weeks I decided to also dedicate my scripture study time to see how other women had navigated the many changes and demands that are required of women on their mortal journey. From there I decided to start seeking out books about women in the scriptures and particularly women in the early LDS church. However, as I began to dive in to their stories, I realized that while I did have some things in common with them, our lives really looked so different! While I understand that changing quotes to sound more monogamous helps us to better relate to the lessons on marriage, it sometimes also accidentally distances us from these amazing women. So, with all that in mind let me get into where we can turn to learn more about church history, women

of the church, and more! The Church History department has collaborated with so many different researchers to make sure that we can now have access to records, journals, pictures and stories that most church members have never had access to before either because they were part of private collections, authenticity or context were still under debate, or because previous generations have worried that some of the "harder" parts of church history were not faith promoting. The cool thing about a lot of the historical papers and books that are being put out today is that they are written for people in and outside of the faith and give a more accurate and complete version of our history. While much of this information has been available for awhile- timeline corrections, what was said, who said it, and so many things that previously were glossed over, are now being presented to the membership in detail and in easier to find places. The gospel topics essays are a great place to start. While they are still not perfect and will continue to change as new research comes to light they give a very good overview of some of the more sensitive topics in our history and doctrines. They are also approved by the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve. You can access the complete list here: Not only do these essays give a good overview they also provide an amazing list of references that can also guide your study. When you click on a topic you will often see the first paragraph of text, related church resources and scriptures, and then other suggested topics. Click on the show more link to be able to access the whole text of the essay but also to access the full list of resources used. There are dozens of books listed on most essays. In addition to book references, there are also other websites, scriptures, BYU Studies article links, and more. Below is a list of some of the online resources that are used in the essays and some sites that I have found helpful in choosing which books to read. A really cool feature is under study resources- For each Sunday School lesson they have linked all their past articles that pertain to that particular topic. Particularly the Mormon Studies review which can be found under their publications tab. Maxwell Institute and the shift of scholarship being written for a wider audience. The Mormon Studies Review, rather than publishing new material, is a review of new articles, journals and books being put on a variety of topics within Mormonism. It also has publications and another whole list of online resources that you can check out there. I also research who the authors are and what other books they may have written. I usually look at what seems to be the overall tone of the reviews. Is it people who are genuinely searching for answers to their questions or is it people who are looking for new ammunition to shoot back at the church. They can be so helpful in deciding if a book will be a good fit for you. Well, I know this has been a long blog post but I hope it might be of some help to others. My main hope always, whether you agree with my positions or not, is that my post can at least promote charity and understanding between all people inside and outside of the LDS church. So, please let me know if you have any questions I can help with or leave a comment with your favorite resources to use in your religious study! I love hearing from you all!

### Chapter 8 : Semi-deep thoughts with Adam Wrtg

*Well, by now you guys have probably seen some of my Facebook posts from the past couple weeks alluding to news going on in our lives (or as even my last blog hinted).*

### Chapter 9 : Merrit Malloy Books List; Complete Merrit Malloy Bibliography (10 Items)

*Firearm Discussion and Resources from AR, AK, Handguns and more! Buy, Sell, and Trade your Firearms and Gear.*