

Sonova Quark

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2 C Again

On September 12, I had cataract surgery on my left eye. My right eye is scheduled for the scalpel on the 26th. The first three days after surgery were... well, let's just say the vision from that eye could be considered technically blind. As I write this on the 20th, I can now report that I can *just about* make out street signs at 20 feet. I can also *just about* read down to the sixth line of a downloaded and printed out optometrist's eye chart. So, I'm beginning to feel more confident about the procedure.

I understand it can take more than a month for the eyes to heal fully. Only then can an optometrist perform a proper exam for a new prescription. In the meantime, I'm hoping that while my right eye heals, my left eye will continue to sharpen enough that I'll feel completely confident driving again. I hate the idea of being housebound. Fortunately, we live within walking distance of three grocery stores—so at least I won't starve.

As others have reported, the procedure often brings a subtle but noticeable brightness along with a striking bluish-white tint to everything. Sometimes that tint can be perceived as *strikingly* blue. This happens because cataracts gradually cast your vision in a dull yellow-brown haze as the natural lenses cloud. Ah, but there's more! If you've been near-sighted and still have one untreated eye, to perform an interesting experiment with, you'll notice another odd effect: objects seen with the operated eye may appear slightly larger than when viewed with the other. This is not an illusion! It's due to light refraction, complements of your new lens. Those acrylic lenses are basically the equivalent of wearing a very low-powered pair of binoculars as they bend the incoming light.

Sorry—no adjustable ZOOM feature yet. Maybe in another 20 years.



It's Who You Eat With That Counts

Earlier in the month of September, Darlene and I had the opportunity to visit her extended family for a planned rendezvous held at the Sheep and Wool Festival in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Afterwards, we headed back to a rented BnB for treats and a home prepared meal. Darlene's back is at the front of the table while her sister, Judy-Lynn, is seated at the far opposite end. The rest are siblings and spouses, plus two grand siblings from Judy-Lynn's line.

The prepared cuisine was excellent, particularly because one of the Judy-Lynn's son is considered a chef in his own right. We also had access to an outside grill to roast lamb chops. Our dining atmosphere was stirred with a rich sauce of childhood memories that marinated us all with laughter as childhood incidents were recounted, corrected, and occasionally outright challenged.

I felt blessed to have been included in the tribe.



There were no leftovers.



Occasionally, I can rely on Charm to warm my pants before I don them in the morning for another day's hard work.

