September 2026

It is T-minus 25 days to one of the biggest days of my life. And truly, once the timer clicked over the 30-day mark, that's when it started to kick off.

And in turn, a million things are now paying off.

See, we live in a world that's convinced me and you and everyone we know that we cannot plan ahead for anything now.

We're all victims of last-minute cancellations and spontaneous hangouts and passing the phone around for a food order instead of cooking something together. We really, really want to live in a world that is both novel and frictionless.

Unfortunately, I am getting married. Not planning ahead was *not* an option.

But during the tasting with our caterer this month, she told us that she'd never seen a couple who was so calm about their impending wedding.

And damn, if that wasn't a point of pride. We booked the venue over two years before the date, because everybody was still making up lost time from COVID. We spoke to photographers and caterers and wedding coordinators and DJs several months ago. We've even parted ways with a couple of folks who didn't seem like they were actually up to the task of our big day.

So when it was two months to go, the venue was fully paid off. We knew when the other vendors would be due. I had a very long list of items, and a quote from the ending of *The Martian* on repeat in my head:

> *"At some point, everything's gonna go south on you and you're going to say, this is it. This is how I end. Now, you can either accept that, or you can get to work. That's all it is. You just begin. You do the math. You solve one problem and you solve the next one and then the next. And if you solve enough problems, you get to come home." - Mark Watney, The Martian*



Now, it's less than a month to go. My bridal party, the Honor Guard, is assembling. My suit is ordered, and the alterations will be complete this week. The program for the wedding is laid out. My vows are written down.

There's been some snags, even this late in the game. And at every turn, when I see something trying to go wrong, a patient saint rears up and says "one way or another, I'm getting married. That's the point."

I think I've become the Anti-Bridezilla. Thank *fuck.*

The True Payoff

This isn't a newsletter about how crazy everything is.

This is a newsletter about the *calm.*

My anxiety is at an all-time low. I'm more uncomfortable than anxious in certain situations now. Part of it is a lot of little wins, but even more than that, is a greater sense of control.

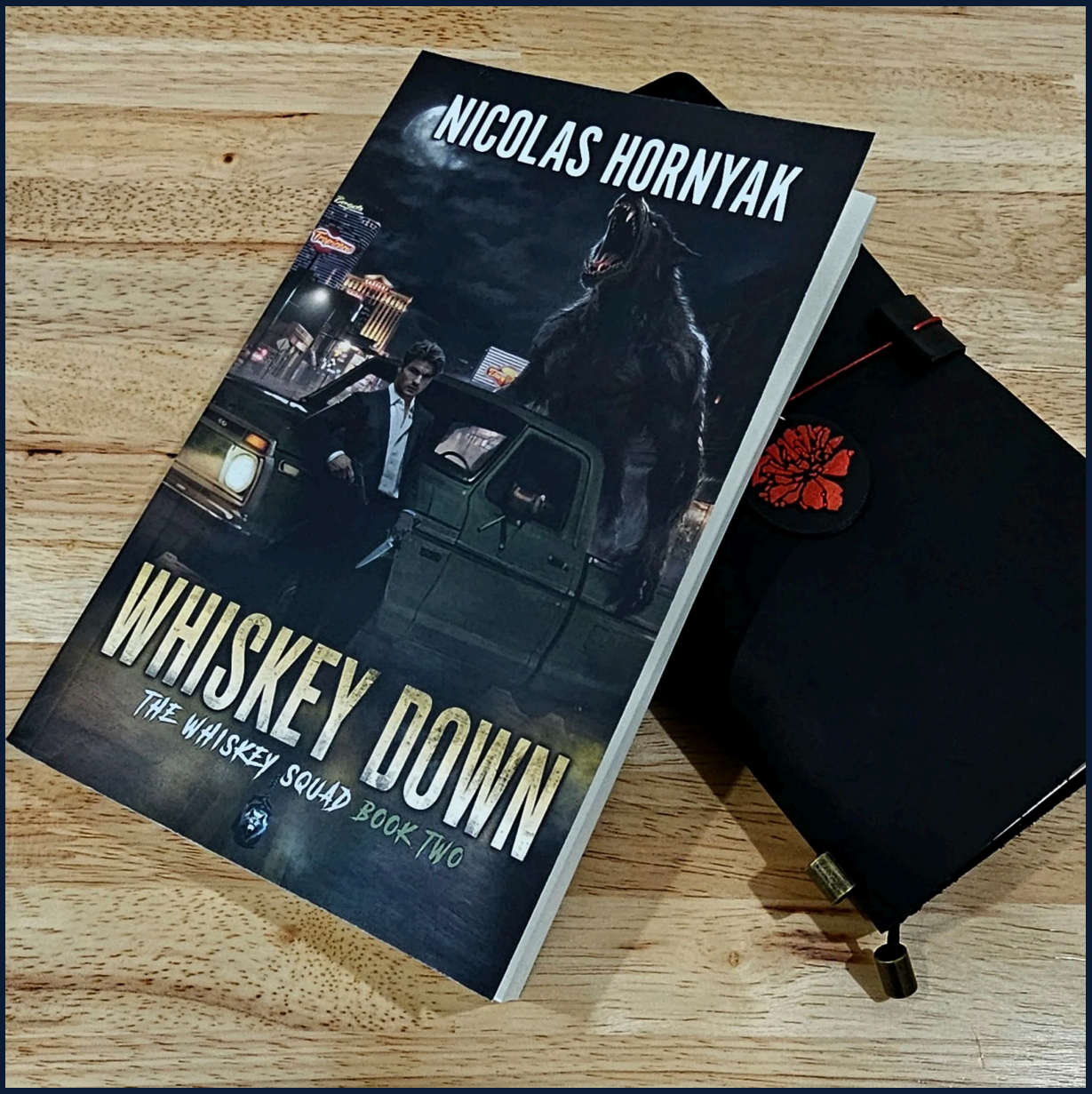
It's the choice I started making when I began swimming again, because you can't take a phone in the pool.

It's the choice I make when I put my phone away on the commute and commit to an album on my new music player.

Last night, it was the choice I made to *rest* instead of trying to ingest all of YouTube at once.

It took a lot to get to this point, but at the end of the day, there's not a lot I really need to hold on to.

Maybe that's the point too.



Reusing this picture because I'm lazy and also I really want to see another review of it on Amazon, sorry not sorry.

Updates

Whiskey Down is OUT NOW! If you've already read it, please consider leaving a review as a show of support. They're more important for indie authors than ever before!

Getting married is the priority right now, but I caught myself assembling a list of ideas for YouTube videos again. Not to be *yet another* person who wants to grow up and be a creator, but I think I'm dialing in on a niche I want to speak in.

Either way, writing will resume in earnest in November.

But I built a true freaking WriterDeck out of a Raspberry Pi 400. I'll show it to y'all later this year, I'm very happy with how it came together.

Recommendations

Not a lot this month. You know why.

I've had "Tomorrow Is Another Day" by Shelby Flint on repeat in the studio though. It's a very calming song from *The Rescuers*, a Disney film I struggle to find fans of, but one of around six animated features from Walt Disney Animation Studios (the *core* collection of Disney movies) that I regard as perfect.

Actually, there's some good recommendations I can share right there.

If you haven't seen *Pinocchio, One Hundred and One Dalmatians, The Rescuers, The Lion King* (you've seen this one though, I'm almost certain of it), *Moana*, or *Encanto*, I regard these films as the very best of the catalog. They're all 10/10 for me.

(No, Pixar is not part of this catalog. Different studio.)

Keep dreaming,
~ Nico

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