

It's Always Cocktail Hour in a Crisis

In "It's Always Cocktail Hour in a Crisis," the author reflects on personal and professional moments, from a serendipitous collaboration with Taylor Swift to navigating challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially revealing the joy of being selected by Swift for a Food Network Magazine shoot, the author shares her excitement as a fan and cooking inspiration for Swift, who found confidence in the kitchen through her work.

During the 1989 World Tour concert, the author took her team to celebrate while experiencing Swift's deeper connection with her audience. Swift's poignant remarks on self-perception resonated, as did the exhilarating moments shared during the concert, including celebrating the US Women's National Soccer Team's victory. Post-concert, a playful challenge to the soccer stars led to a chaotic game of beer pong, illustrating the fun and camaraderie surrounding Swift's events.

Transitioning through the pain of losing her longtime friend and assistant Barbara, the author reflects on significant staff changes within her team and the personal impact of these transitions. When a deadly virus emerged, panic spread, prompting the author to stock up on supplies for an impending lockdown. Amid the fear of the pandemic, she shared her thoughts on social media, offering recipes and advice to followers navigating their kitchen challenges.

As the months unfolded under pandemic stress, the author found a creative outlet by utilizing oversized cocktail glasses in a humorous Instagram post. This moment invoked a sense of joy and connection, culminating in a surge of interest for pink cosmos, highlighting how lightness can shine through darkness.

Throughout the chapter, the author candidly navigates emotions from her childhood, illustrating a journey of self-discovery and healing alongside partner Jeffrey. She embraces the lessons learned from difficult experiences, emphasizing resilience and the power of believing in oneself, underscoring the importance of connection and community during trying times. The memoir not only serves as a reflection but also as a testament to hope, growth, and finding light amid challenges.