

Remember when October midterm 2020 arrived this week last year, and we departed the school gates into a freshly announced Dublin-only lockdown?? Remember when we were on the brink of what would be the longest and most craic-less winter in the history of mankind??

One year on, the “C” word is still not as small a dot in our rearview mirror as we had hoped. BUT let’s not forget the positive developments since last midterm: the Gardaí are no longer squinting in the car window at our groceries and wondering whether they’ve ventured beyond a 5km radius; we’ve stopped wondering whether Real Life even exists anymore while watching an American president advise a diet of Domestos; and we no longer eye people suspiciously when their hair doesn’t look as demented as our own.

And *that* happy thought brings us to Charles Bukowski, a poet whose unapologetically blunt style warns us in ‘The Laughing Heart’ to make what we can of our lives. Life “will offer [us] chances”, and we must “be on the watch”.

Happy Midterm Break!

The Laughing Heart

your life is your life
don't let it be clubbed into dank submission.
be on the watch.
there are ways out.
there is light somewhere.
it may not be much light but
it beats the darkness.
be on the watch.
the gods will offer you chances.
know them.
take them.
you can't beat death but
you can beat death in life, sometimes.
and the more often you learn to do it,
the more light there will be.
your life is your life.
know it while you have it.
you are marvelous
the gods wait to delight
in you.

Charles Bukowski