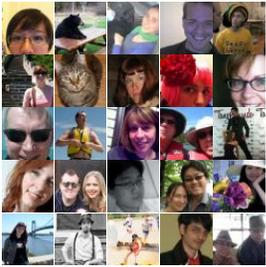




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my 29th birthday (the best one yet)

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by [Emily Sharp](#) on Sunday, May 29, 2011 at 9:35pm

wow, what a birthday!

first, a couple of my wonderful coworkers took me to mexican lunch with [tableside guacamole](#) on friday.

later in the afternoon there was strawberry shortcake from and with my a slightly larger group of my best coworkers – outdoors!

friday night, anthony and i went for vegetarian dinner at [counter](#) and to see the [ao movement collective](#) perform at la mama – this wasn't specifically birthday related but it carried the celebrating on!

for my actual birthday on saturday i invited a few close friends to [governor's island](#). i had never been, but it sounded like a good combination of infrastructure excursion and general fun, warm-weather fun thing to do. six of us walked ALL around, including the entire perimeter of the island. the weather held up beautifully for visiting this strange and wonderful part-park, part-abandoned space, part-family attraction, part-public art space, part-historical landmark (pictures coming soon). how lucky i am to have friends who would do all that traveling to and walking around such a unique place with me!

as four of us made our way to soho for dinner to meet up with two others, i thought how well the day had worked out so far. at bar 89, we stuffed our faces with huge appetizers and entrees.

right before dessert, kimmie shot glances to the others at the table. "when should we do presents?" she asked. based on this and mentally adding up mysterious things other friends and family said to me over the past week or so, i began to realize something big was going on. i was nervous, and opened my present with disbelief: it was a new dslr CAMERA, anything i wanted to pick out, to replace my aging canon digital rebel (c. 2004). ALL of the money was given online by friends and family!

i am STILL getting choked up reliving the moment. i couldn't ask for better, sweeter, more thoughtful (and skillful planner!) friends than the organizers of the group gift: anthony and kimmie.

and to the twenty six(?) who gave to this amazing present: this is the first of so many thank yous i owe you.

i cannot express how much this means to me. as you probably all know, this camera will not just be a fun toy to snap pix of friends, but a way to further my artistic pursuits like [infrastructure blog](#), and hopefully so, so much more in the future. this is incredibly important to me, and from the bottom of my heart, thank you all!! i was truly surprised and am so humbled by your thoughtfulness.

kimmie
 anthony
 ma'ayan
 charlie
 gary
 jess
 becca
 erin
 sarah ao
 mom
 dad
 scrogers
 aunt laura
 uncle dave
 jenny
 lindsey
 laura
 sean
 maria
 lillian
 allison
 patrick
 eve
 greg

ian
scott

even without this amazing gift, this was perhaps the best birthday ever. after receiving it, i can't even explain how i feel!

and i still have more to look forward to: birthday dinner at [JAM](#) in nashville this week and celebrating with my family in san francisco next.

thank you, thank you, thank you!

so much love,
emily

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 Maggie O'Connor, Lillian Ho, Xaq Rothman and 10 others like this.

 **Jess Hamilton** So happy you liked it! Can't wait to see what you pick out!!
May 29 at 9:57pm via Facebook Mobile · [Unlike](#) · [👍 1 person](#)

 **Ma'ayan Shifra Weinberg** Happy birthday! You deserve it.
May 29 at 9:59pm · [Unlike](#) · [👍 1 person](#)

 **Allison Carney** We love you! Happy photo-ing!
May 29 at 10:04pm · [Unlike](#) · [👍 1 person](#)

 **Lindsey Kempton** So glad you had a wonderful birthday!! ♥
May 29 at 10:18pm · [Unlike](#) · [👍 1 person](#)

 **Thuy-Kim V. Nguyen** Happy birthday girl! We got you so good! Love!
May 29 at 10:40pm via Facebook Mobile · [Unlike](#) · [👍 2 people](#)

 **Emily Sharp** that you did! i still have teary eyes every time i think 'bout it!
May 29 at 10:42pm · [Like](#)

 **Sarah A.O. Rosner** you deserve it! can't wait to see all you do with it! xoxox happy birthday to the best of the best!
May 29 at 11:47pm · [Unlike](#) · [👍 1 person](#)

 **Laura Sharp** yay, sounds like you had a great bday :)
May 30 at 1:23am · [Unlike](#) · [👍 1 person](#)

 **Erin Condit-Bergren** YAY! I'm so happy you're happy. Surprise! Can't wait to see you on this coast! x x x
May 30 at 3:37am · [Unlike](#) · [👍 2 people](#)

 **Gary D Ploski** Rock on, Em! Have a great time researching and figuring out the new project. => I'm so thrilled for you.
May 30 at 7:25am · [Unlike](#) · [👍 1 person](#)

 **Janet Sharp** Emily, thanks for writing about your experience for us. I'm sure we all are so happy to have contributed to making your birthday a wonderful one.
May 30 at 4:13pm · [Unlike](#) · [👍 1 person](#)

 **Suzanne Sharp Kieft** Happy birthday Emily! Glad it was a good one!
May 30 at 10:23pm · [Unlike](#) · [👍 1 person](#)

