

# Packing

We're moving, or at least most of us are moving, in a month. We've gotten a fair amount of packing done but I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed, partly because there are still a few things, important things, that are not yet settled.

We have a place to live there. It's a nice place, they have no problem with our rather large dog, and we will have access to a pool. All of those things make me very happy. It's walking distance from a mall, which, in general, would not make a difference one way or another, but in this case it's pretty neat; there's a year round (!) farmer's market and a movie theater, both of which are likely to get our business. Katja is almost old enough to enjoy going to the movies and we have always enjoyed it, so we're looking forward to sharing that with her. I think we will be happy there.

In about two weeks we'll know whether or not I get to move when they do. I'll either have a job lined up by then or not. If not, the dog and the cat and I will stick around in Reno until I find work there. It isn't a huge deal, but it will be rather irritating. We can handle it. Xander is more than capable of taking excellent care of Katja, of course. We'll all be fine. I'll just miss them quite a lot if that happens. It will eventually work out. It's hard for me to not know for the next two weeks whether or not I should pack up everything, though.

I'm handling this the way I handle many stressful situations. I'm making lists. Today I started a list of the items that would need to stay with me if I don't move when they do. It's actually not a very long list. I don't need much. Clothes, toiletries, some kitchen stuff, somewhere to sleep, and my favorite electronic devices. My phone is now a wireless hotspot, so the internet connection for the house can be shut down. If I decide I need to watch a silly movie, I can rent

one and play it on my computer. I have e-books to read. I can simplify everything for a little while and just focus on getting a job and getting a lot of sleep.

In the meantime, I'm packing. We have 69 boxes packed so far. Many of them, unsurprisingly, are books, but at least they are all in relatively small boxes. We won't be moving most of our furniture. Bookcases will come with us, but the dining room table won't work in the new place, we're looking at a different idea for the dresser in our room, and Katja's room will be more colorful. We still have some packing work to do, but some of it, like much of the kitchen, will have to wait until we are about a week out from moving. We use the kitchen a lot and love to cook, so it's hard to pack up very much of it right now.

I'm looking forward to starting over somewhere new. There is a certain amount of worry because we'll be in a new place with new people and we will have to find out where we fit, but I think it will go well. I like the climate there despite the drought. We will be closer to some of our family and friends. I'm feeling stressed because, despite everything else coming through, a new job for me is still in question.

I suppose that means I should get back to boxes and lists. They make this real and give me a way to get a handle on a big change.