

## One more move

Tomorrow morning, early, I'll be packing up the little truck with the help of a friend, coaxing the dog in behind the seats, stuffing a very unhappy cat into her carrier, and driving for much of the day to see my family again. I haven't seen Xander or Katja since August 24 other than through Skype, which, while nice, is no substitute for hugs and snuggles.

I am hoping that the cat either settles down or gets the kitty version of laryngitis because that many hours in a car with "Mrooow...meow...MRRROW!" followed by scratching at the carrier while continuing to yowl is not really my idea of a good time. Not that moving is ever a good time, but I don't think I'm allowed to wear earplugs or a noise cancelling headset while driving.

I can say that the past three weeks have been good in some ways. I have started meditating. My stress hives are not nearly as bad as they were. The house is in good shape and I had time to sell off the bits of furniture we decided we didn't need. I spent a lot of time reading, including Kameron Hurley's excellent new book, *The Mirror Empire*, the first book in the *Worldbreaker Saga*. It's a riveting read, her world building is very well done, and I cared about the characters. I am looking forward to the next book in the series! I also read *The Burning Dark* by Adam Christopher, which, since I often think in images, freaked me out a bit. I didn't actually sleep with the light on but I definitely thought about it. Moving shadows with hostile intent are definitely on my list of freaky things. I haven't read this much in so little time in months. I generally read a lot, but job hunting, working, and normal family life get in the way quite often. Reading more is a habit I'd like to get back to. I'm not sure how the new schedule will work out, but I think there will be a little more time available. If nothing else, I can listen to audio books in the car on the way to and from work.

This move will be my last for a little while. We may switch to a bigger apartment in the same complex in a year or two, but we might just stay put. I picked the place we're living with an eye to possibly living there for several years without getting frustrated with it, so a nice kitchen was a necessity. Access to a swimming pool so Katja can learn how to swim makes me happy. It isn't big enough for laps, but if I need to, I can do water exercises. It's close to a lot of useful places and walking distance from at least a couple of restaurants. I get to explore new running routes, too, which will be fun. I think it will be good for all of us to be in a more multicultural setting, too.

It's a move, a long drive, a new beginning, a job I'm looking forward to, and a huge vista of possible new experiences. People periodically ask what we're planning to do after Xander finishes his PhD; for the moment, I'm just happy if I can plan more than a couple of weeks in advance. That should get better once we're settled in to the new place, but for now all I really want to think about is getting to see my family again.