

[SamCyberCat](#)

“No pressure ofc, but I've been trying out writing first-person horror lately and it's pretty fun, so how about this: Pick a mundane object in your garden (or just outside if you don't have a garden) and write a short diary-format story about it where the author is unsettled by it for some reason. Doesn't have to be straight up horror, but everyday stuff becoming spooky is fun and we're only two months from Halloween now :D”

May 24th

It's May-Two-Four, which means it's finally planting season. My balcony isn't terribly large, but that just means I need to be creative! A few tiered planters here, a couple of hanging baskets on the railing and – boom! – I've got my own little urban Eden.

I really wanted some Starry Night begonias, but none of the nurseries around here carry them. Ferns? Sure. The same Crayola-colored crap any hardware store carries? Of course. But something unique? Of course not!

So this year I planned ahead and bought some seeds. The seller didn't have much of a profile or rating to go off of, but they were the only ones selling what I wanted, so I rolled the dice. We'll see how it goes!

June 7th

I'm thinking I've been scammed. The stuff I picked up at the various garden shops are doing fine – great even. Best I've done ever. (Always said I could find a way to kill a rock)

But the special order seeds aren't doing much. They should be blooming right now, and at best I've got some green chutes. I double-checked the guide videos, forum discussion, even mom's old gardening journal, and I can't tell what I'm doing wrong.

I'm actually watering everything on a schedule for once! I'm checking the dirt moisture! I'm not over-feeding or under-feeding. The weather's been a bit crappy lately, but everything else is thriving. Why the hell aren't these things coming up?

June 21st

Yep, I was scammed. Overnight the begonias bloomed EXCEPT they aren't Starry Nights. They aren't begonias either. I'm honestly not sure what the hell they are. The blooms are papery, the stalks are thick and brittle, and I think the leaves have tiny spines?

Whatever. I left a one-star review and I'll try to keep them alive. Everything else is doing well. The ramshackle trellis I put together to grow some cucumbers is holding up, and I think I see the tiniest cuke starting to form. I can be satisfied with “doing well plus weird flowers.”

July 5th

I don't know what happened, but the cucumber died. I feel stupid for being this upset, but it's almost like my cat died. I thought I'd be able to produce some produce (har har) and it was doing great until it suddenly wasn't. The whole thing shrivelled up and died out of nowhere.

Doing a bit of research online suggests it might've been infected? Apparently there's a beetle in the area that likes to gnaw on the stalks and can carry an virus. I didn't see any beetles, though. I'm on the twentieth floor! I know they can fly, but...

Everything else is doing fine, though. And the mystery flowers are going nuts. Their stalks are growing out like vines but they're...not vines? They just seem to reach in every direction. I've got spare seeds and dirt now, so I guess I'll see if they'll figure out how to climb the trellis.

July 19th

Call me Eve cuz I'm losing my Eden. One of the hanging pots just shrivelled inward. Everything in it yellowed and crisped like it was burned. It's been hot, sure, but I've kept them watered. Even adjusted the schedule to do it earlier in the day so it stays hydrated – and I hate getting up in the morning.

The tiered planters also aren't doing so hot. I'm rotating them to get better sun exposure, so that might help? I started out so strong, and now things are falling apart.

Except the mystery non-begonias. The one set have reached the dead hanging pot, almost as if to console it. "There-there. At least you tried." The ones that replaced the cucumbers didn't take to the trellis – they pushed it out of the way instead. I guess I can confirm it wasn't anything in the dirt, since they grew faster than the first batch.

August 2nd

Screw it, I'm done. Everything except the faux-gonias is dead. I didn't change anything, I did everything right, and only these stupid flowers I didn't want are thriving. Hell, they've spread so much it's almost like they're trying to take over the other pots.

That's...not possible though, right? A disease can't germinate out of a seed, can it? No, that can't be it. I had a bunch of different types. Even if the mystery plants were infected with something, it can't cross-contaminate like that – right? Not through the open air. If they were all in the same dirt, sure, I could see it, but they're not together.

Whatever. I'll clean up and pack up and do mums when the season turns. Might as well keep the weirdo flowers going for *something* green.

August 16th

One of the mystery flowers is growing out of the bag of leftover dirt. I didn't take the seeds outside. There's no seeds on the current flowers. What the hell?

They've snaked their way across the whole balcony. Something that big ought to be repotted into something larger but...I don't want to touch them. The idea that they killed everything else to take their place keeps popping up in my mind and I know it's stupid and unlikely but...

I'm not going to water them anymore. Let nature take its course.

August 30th

They're growing out of the storage trunk. There was no dirt in there. I cleaned out those pots. The stuff I planted is starting to trail over the balcony. I haven't touched them in weeks.

I burned the leftover seeds in the sink. Set off the smoke alarm a few times, but I don't care.

We're supposed to get an unreasonably unseasonable cold snap soon. Maybe global warming will fix this for me?

September 13th

They're all over the balcony. The floor, the walls, all of it. They climbed over the privacy divider. My neighbour asked if she could make cuttings while pruning it back. I didn't have the courage to tell her no – or why “no.”

I don't go outside anymore. I know it's just the breeze up here, but it looks like the stalks are waving at me. Or beckoning. I've locked the door.

September 27th

I couldn't get the sink to drain. I pulled out a flower stem.

I'm moving.