

A Trip to Trader Joe’s, Soft Star Run, and Our Rain Barrel

Description

Trader Joe’s recently opened up shop right next to us and I’ve been wanting to go check it out. I’ve been to TJ’s several times before, but it’s been awhile since my last visit. As a proclaimed foodie, I’m drawn to the less mainstream grocery stores, and decided to finally pay the new location a visit.



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And what better companion than my daughter, Avery, to peruse the aisles of a new store! But not before someone decided to back into us as we were parking. A guy in front of me turned into a perfectly open parking space on the left and I turned into another on the right, then he proceeded to back up to park in the other space next to me! It ended with his rear bumper connecting with mine. Nothing too serious, but annoying nonetheless. Just one more "o-to-do" by needing to call the guy's insurance to have it repaired.



Like I said, not that bad, but also not that good. But guess it could be a lot worse and I'm thankful the guy was actually nice and apologetic. Avery didn't even know what was going on and she kept rather calm.

We left Going Mom at home so she could have some time to work on getting her rain barrel setup and on our refreshed veggie and herb garden. Yep, I do the grocery shopping while my wife works on the yard. No shame here, plus I still do the mowing. Well, except for when Kelley wins an argument over who gets to use our [EGO Power+ Lawn Mower](#).

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My wife and I argued over who got to use our @egopowerplus #mower. Guess she has #PowerBeyondBelief just like #EGO! #batterypower #cordless #greenliving #Spring

A video posted by RC Liley (@going_dad) on Mar 29, 2015 at 12:32pm PDT

But next time, itâ€™s all mine! Unless thereâ€™s a good sale at Costco Then Iâ€™ll drink beer and grill steaks!

Back to Trader Joeâ€™s; I was not impressed. After spending some time picking up every item and reading the ingredients, I finally remembered doing the same thing last time I went and couldnâ€™t

figure out what makes it so great. Most of what I found were packaged foods with processed vegetable oils, sugar, modified corn starch, sulfur dioxide, etc. when all I really want is some freakin'™ frozen mixed veggies or a decent bag of snackworthy mixed nuts. There were some good finds, though, one of them being this bottle of cold brew coffee concentrate.



Normally, [I make my own](#), but this will be a lifesaver when I'm™ in a pinch. So I don't™ plan on making many trips back there as my usual stores suit me just fine.

After Saturday's™ let down of an exciting store trip, Kelley kept Avery with her as she continued yard work so I could go on a solo Sunday run in my [Soft Star Shoes](#). I've™ been running rather short distances with Avery in the stroller and holding the leash for our Golden, Abby, to tag along, but haven't™ had the chance for a solo run in a while. Needless to say, I was excited for the bit of freedom.



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I ended up running about 66 minutes and covered 7.8 hilly miles. It was wonderful, liberating, and it kinda hurt. Stupid chafing. Just a few years ago, this distance would be an easy, laughable even, run, but now it's my long run!

However, I did see a giant home with a Ferrari and Lamborghini parked in its own upscale shop. Just for a little motivation, I ran up their driveway for a closer look, waved to the owners standing outside, and turned right around to continue my run. Sorry, no pictures since I run with as little as possible, but trust me, the cars were nice!

When I returned, Going Mom had a lot done and our garden is ready to grow several organic herbs and vegetables. Waiting sucks, but hopefully it will all be worth it.



Avery kept busy by running wild and throwing dirt every which direction as Kelley watched her while trying to get her own dirt “thrown” around. Being the Going Mom that she is, my wife did an outstanding job on the revamped and extended garden and the rain barrel G-Ma got her for X-Mas.



Now we just wait for the next rain and see how everything holds up.

Iâ€™m not sure what it was exactly, but that evening, after her nap, Avery was a wild child the rest of the day. She was in the sun a little longer than usual, so the only reasonable thing I can think of is that thereâ€™s some strange correlation between the sun and inner demons. It might sound far-fetched, but Avery has been known to [house a demon in the past](#).

I mean, even the cat, who usually doesnâ€™t mind her, went into hidingâ€¦!



Or maybe itâ€™s just being a toddler.

What do you think of the sun-demon connection? Is it a thing or just a passing phase?

Do you have a rain barrel, a garden, or other aspect in your home that youâ€™re proud of?

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