

EXIT 13

WEST

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Mitchell

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Taking Charge



When we told friends and family about our plans to live on the road and see the country, we got a lot of supportive input, but we also got our share of raised eyebrows and looks of “are you sure?” It sounded a little crazy, definitely unconventional, and even a little exciting. And it is, but not always in the way you might think.

A family we follow on YouTube calls trying times, “the dips.” Moments when we wonder why we chose this, when things go wrong, when things break, when plans we’ve looked forward to sometimes for an entire year have to change at the last minute. This summer, we’ve had a few dips to acknowledge, accept, and then make plans to send them on their way.

The good thing about dips is that they don’t last forever. And even in the middle of one, we still have somewhere new and amazing right outside the door. Even if we only have a few free hours in the day, we get to try new foods, shop at a new local market, see someplace we’ve never seen before, or experience something we never imagined. This month Mom got some good exercise and saw some falls in the Columbia Gorge. In Hood River, we had an amazing breakfast, got some locally roasted coffee, and shopped for gifts and goodies in their weekly farmer’s market. We are currently on the southern Oregon Coast enjoying the sound of the ocean, 60-degree

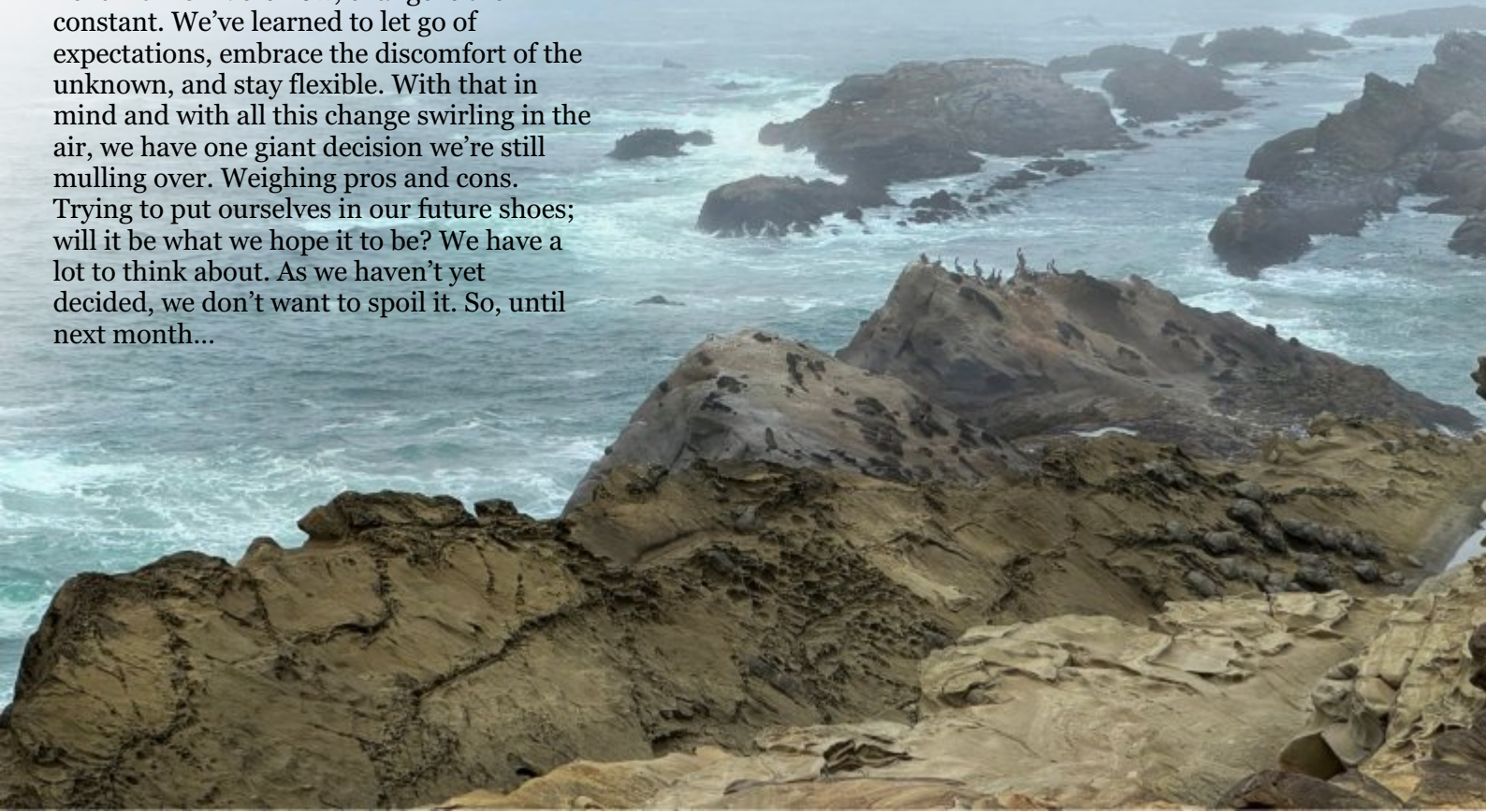
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temps, and even some barking seals! This weekend we head to the Redwoods in northern California. So, no pity parties going on at the Mitchell's.

This summer, we have had a lot of big life moments to contemplate. The first great-grandbaby, Stella, arrived safely. A family wedding in Bermuda (and a cruise for the first time in 50 years). Emma finalizing her plans to move to Spain. The small company Jenn works for was bought out by a giant worldwide company, making all kinds of organizational changes. And holy cow, for Jenn, AI is upending everything.

As full-time RVers now, change is the constant. We've learned to let go of expectations, embrace the discomfort of the unknown, and stay flexible. With that in mind and with all this change swirling in the air, we have one giant decision we're still mulling over. Weighing pros and cons. Trying to put ourselves in our future shoes; will it be what we hope it to be? We have a lot to think about. As we haven't yet decided, we don't want to spoil it. So, until next month...



Taking Charge



- JENN & SUSAN MITCHELL

