



Novemeber, 2017



10
Commandments

Tegan & Sara

The Canadian indie-pop twins offer up their golden rules for life.



Excess baggage: got a tidy suitcase? You'll make Sara very happy.

1 DON'T BE A MOOCH

Sara Quin: Always have your own band aids, Kleenex, painkillers and gum because nobody likes a mooch, someone who's always going around asking everybody for stuff. Have your own shit. Tegan does carry way more stuff around with her than I do so I have been known to occasionally ask her for things, but she always has stuff inside like 45 little bags she has to unzip. It would be like Mission Impossible to try and pickpocket her.

2 KEEP LIKE WITH LIKE

Tegan Quin: I'm a total compartmentaliser. Everything is organised that belongs together. Every drawer, every cupboard, every shelf. All things belong together. All books belong together, all cleaning supplies belong together. My vinyl is alphabetised and then it's broken up into all the old stuff, the new stuff and then soundtracks. It brings me great discomfort to imagine some of my books being in one room and some in another.

3 WEAR ANY COLOUR YOU LIKE, AS LONG AS IT'S BLACK

TQ: Eighty-five per cent of the clothing that I own, including shoes and bags, is black. It wears really well, it's slimming, you can look dressed up if you need to but it can also be casual. When it's dirty you can't really tell so you don't need to do the laundry as much. Black is awesome.

4 KEEP A CALENDAR

TQ: I keep track of all the things that I have to do so that if I do forget something I can look back and reference it. It's the same thing with my activities. I religiously use my Google calendar – if you ask me what I did three weeks ago on whatever day at two o'clock, even if it was just running to get groceries, I would have put it in my calendar.

5 PRAISE ISN'T ALWAYS A GOOD THING

SQ: A lot of bands who are celebrated are constantly having their identities confirmed, so I think it's harder for them to try something different. If everybody goes, "This band is fucking amazing," every time they put something out it's always confirming, "you're on the right path, this is perfect." I think those hands can get into trouble because the expectations on them are narrower. Whereas for us, because things weren't as positive, we thought, "Fuck it. We can do whatever we want and if people don't like it, it doesn't matter because they didn't necessarily like the other stuff we were doing either."

9 YOU CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT SOMEONE FROM THEIR SUITCASE

SQ: I can tell immediately by the way someone packs their suitcase if they're meant to be with me in a romantic way. I take one look and if things are out of control they will not be someone I want to spend time with in the long run. I think, "That's what their closet is going to look like... that's probably what their soul looks like." It wouldn't be unreasonable for me on a first date to be like, "Quick role play, pull out your suitcase..."

7 KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FOR SELFIES

TQ: No sitting on people's laps, kissing their face or pretending to kiss them for photos. It's just weird. You wouldn't do it otherwise so don't make an exception for anyone just because it's posed for a photo. That's a hard, fast rule living in social medaland. Even if there's a really hot girl being like, "Can you pretend to kiss me on the cheek?" You think to yourself, "Maybe..." Then you're like, "No! Can't do it! Not allowed!"

8 UTILISE TOURBUS QUARANTINE

SQ: It's essential for me to carry my own bedding for the tourbus. Most buses are Petri dishes of fucking disease. If someone gets sick, pinkeys, you have to isolate that person. We do quarantine on the bus all the time. You get something wrong with you, you are dead to us. You fend for yourself until you're better.

9 INVEST IN GOOD EARPLUGS

SQ: I cannot live without earplugs. In recent years I've invested in getting moulds done of my own ears. I use them backstage, at festivals, on the airplane, in hotel rooms, if I want to take a 20-minute nap. They're pretty heavy duty. The foam pharmacy ear plugs were my gateway drug, but now I'm on the hard stuff.

10 TAKE THE BAD WITH THE GOOD

SQ: Being bullied and unpopular in middle school helped me be a better person because by the time I became cool and popular again in high school, I knew what it was like to be unpopular. It's like the hard work which is required of a band that isn't necessarily going to go to the top of the charts. It makes you a better and stronger band when you finally are successful because you realise that you can survive without all of that stuff. 📀

THOU SHALT COVET THESE FIVE ALBUMS



MUNA About U

SQ: "Muscular bounce, moody atmospherics and a great visual aesthetic."

Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band Live/1975-85

TQ: "He's just a fantastic songwriter, no frills. When you go see him he just gets up there and rocks the fucking shit out of the place."

Blood Orange Cupid Deluxe

SQ: "Top to bottom, it's a supreme artistic work."

Cyndi Lauper She's So Unusual

TQ: "From start to finish, this album is an absolute classic. Cyndi Lauper continues to influence artists today in a way that's undeniable."

Noname Telefone

SQ: "I'm such a full-on addict for this album. It's a confident, warm and intriguing work."