

Herbed Cream Cheese + Roasted Eggplant Roll Ups.

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So I'm having an affair. I am 100% falling in love with the State of California. Seriously, Cali, where have you been all my life!? Ok, well, I actually know the answer to that previous question but whatever. I guess the more appropriate question would be,

where have I been this whole time?! I mean, I figured I'd like California in general and kind of like Los Angeles but I never thought I'd like it this much. I mean, this morning I was at the farmer's market in my neighborhood and tonight I'm going to Drag Queen bingo. I mean, what's not to love in a city that offers a mommy that kind of diverse Sunday Funday?!



Choppin'

But in all seriousness, being away from my husband has been extremely hard and draining, but this city (along with my daughter and my mom) has kept me company and I'm so grateful. This week at work has been full of orientation meetings, CPR

training, more meetings, ice cream and then even more meetings. My 'mommy guilt' has only increased with every work day that passes by. Even with my mom here, I still feel incredibly guilty every time I leave the house. I know this feeling is completely useless but it's still very real for me.

Tonight's night out with my dear friend, Jessie, is a huge personal triumph. I've tried several times to attend a workout class with her during the week, after work, but once I'm home the idea of leaving the kiddo again just tears at my heart-strings. I'm hoping that once she's at school and she has a more engaged daily schedule, I won't feel so guilty if I leave for an hour or so in the evening in order to take care of myself. I am such a frikkin' hypocrite right now because I am the first one to advocate for self-care and here I am completely ignoring my own advocacy pitch. I'll get there.

I'll get there eventually, right? So far, my nights have looked a lot like me putting the kid to bed by 8pm and then climbing into bed with a mug of Trader Joe's vanilla soy ice cream (covered with sprinkles, obvs.) and watching reruns of *Parks and Rec*, which, by the way, is my new favorite show (sorry *Nashville*). I'm not sure where I was around 5 years ago when everyone was on board with this show but whatever.

I'm here now and I'm completely obsessed with Ron Swanson, Leslie Knope and the whole lot. So yes, I guess this means I'm now 3-timing my husband with the State of California, the City of Los Angeles and a hilarious NBC mockumentary. That doesn't make me 'loose', right?



This Week's Highlights: Ice Cream at Carmela's, Homemade Chocolate Chip Cookies for New Co-Workers; Siona's First Love; Chickpeas in Spices

So the recipe below is for my go-to Shabbat lunch and/or picnic favorite meal. It's been revealed recently that some of my favorite people don't like eggplant because of the texture, but I've decided to keep them in my life, despite the CRAZINESS of not liking eggplant. I L-O-V-E love eggplant.

It's my favorite vegetable of all time. This recipe is easy, delicious and doesn't need to be assembled until the day of Shabbat so it's great for the last minute Shabbat meal scramble (y'all know what I'm talking about). Enjoy and have a wonderful week.



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