Aunt Evelyn’s Letters

In this installment of Aunt Evelyn’s Letters, Barton Benes combines text from a 1977 letter his aunt sent about killing cockroaches with the image of an infected CD4 cell to comment on going—and staying—undetectable.

December 1, 1998 By Barton Lidice Benes

HIDE AND SEEK

I DO LOOK KINDLY AT EACH ONE BEFORE
I SQUASH THEM. I DON’T GO INTO
HYSTERICS. ON THAT DRAINBOARD,
WHEN I PUT THE LIGHT ON, AND MOVE
SOMETHING, THEY SCOOT. THEY FIND
ONE THING, AND ALWAYS WITHOUT
FAIL, GET BEHIND IT ON THE OPPOSITE
SIDE FROM WHERE I AM AND STAY PUT.
I ALWAYS WOULD GO FOR THE SPRAY OR
SWATTER, AND NOT SEE THEM, SO FEEL
THEY GOT AWAY, BUT NOT SO. THEY
DON’T MOVE AT ALL, THEY JUST WAIT
UNTIL I GIVE UP. SO, THE OTHER NIGHT
THIS HAPPENED, AND I SAW WHERE IT
HIS, I TOOK MY TIME GETTING THE
SWATTER, I MOVED EVERYTHING OUT
OF THE WAY FOR CLEAR SWATTING, AND
THEN I WAS READY. I MOVED THE JAR
IT WAS BEHIND AND BLOCKED THE
BACK, SO IT HAD TO GO FORWARD TO THE
EMPTY SINK, AND I GOT IT ON THE EDGE,
STUNNED IT, AND THEN SWEPT IT TO
THE FLOOR, WHERE I REALLY SWATTED IT.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.

http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/Aunt-Evelyn-s-Letters-7345-9571