

From Sugar Between Neighbors to Community Building

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We don't go next door to borrow a cup of sugar very often. **Does this lead to community isolation?**

Here's a great illustrated story from [YES magazine](#).

The story starts here.....



We don't borrow sugar as much as we used to. This is not just because it's easier than ever to run to the 24-hour corner store. It's because our social fabric has frayed. This isn't to say that pockets of sugar sharers don't exist, but most of us avoid asking. When was the last time you scurried over to a neighbor's for an emergency egg?

Even though it's easier and cheaper than ever to find what we need without borrowing, **BORROW WE MUST**. It's a habit that builds community, fosters connection, counteracts loneliness. And incidentally saves planetary resources.



Here's the [full story](#).



Sarah Lazarovic created this comic for [The Dirt Issue](#), the Spring 2019 issue of [YES! Magazine](#). Sarah is an artist and creative director. As a journalist, she's worked for almost every publication in Canada, covering news and cultural events in comic form. In 2015, her live sketching of a Rob Ford speech won gold at the Online News Association awards. As a Massey Fellow at the University of Toronto in 2014, she studied behavioral economics and environmental sustainability. Her book, *A Bunch of Pretty Things I Did Not Buy* (Penguin 2014), is available at fine libraries everywhere.

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What do you think? Here are some potential reactions:

- The story smacks of too much "forced neighborliness." Even in our modern and busy days, I feel I have decent neighborliness without having to borrow sugar.
- The story makes good points. We try to do too much on our own, rather than ask for small favors. The favors build good community relationships.

Or - something else?