

Acknowledgements

A PhD is a high job demand with low job control. As a prospective PhD student, I was not so naive as to take on the journey expecting an easy ride. While I prepared myself for the intellectual challenges, I did not anticipate the psychological ones. The overwhelming feeling of being cut adrift really pushed me to the edge. I could write an entire thesis on my PhD setbacks and on how, independent research felt like a lonely assignment, sowing the idea of being an incompetent fraud. During my darkest days, I could barely remember the passionate and driven version of myself, bustling with energy and chasing galvanizing dreams. Getting this PhD cost me an awful lot of time and heartache, but, rather than demonizing my detractors, I would like to celebrate my support network:

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XX

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*So damn
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