



Real World Haskell.

It's 1994.

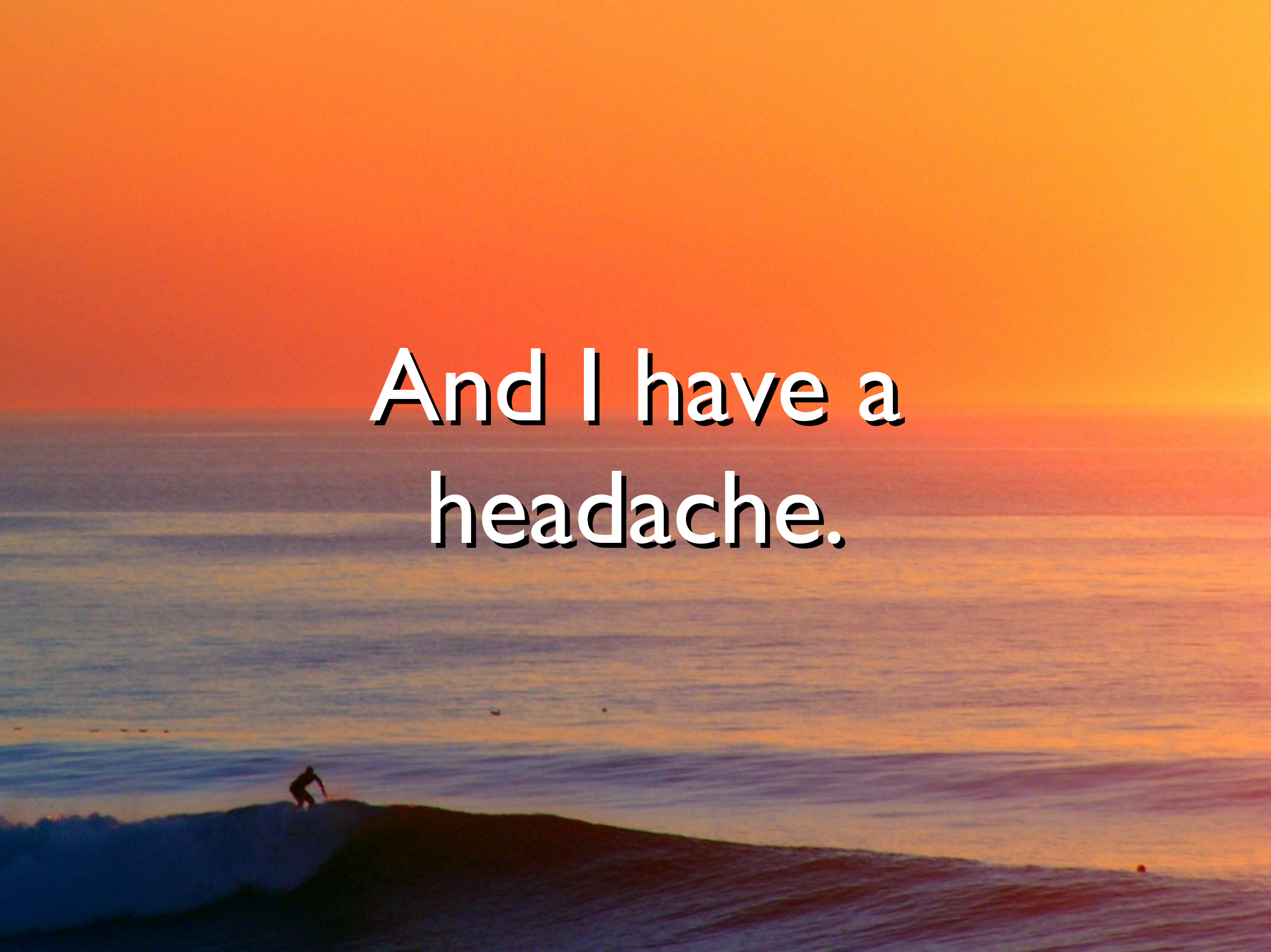


There's just one
song on the radio.

“Love is all around,”
by Wet Wet Wet.



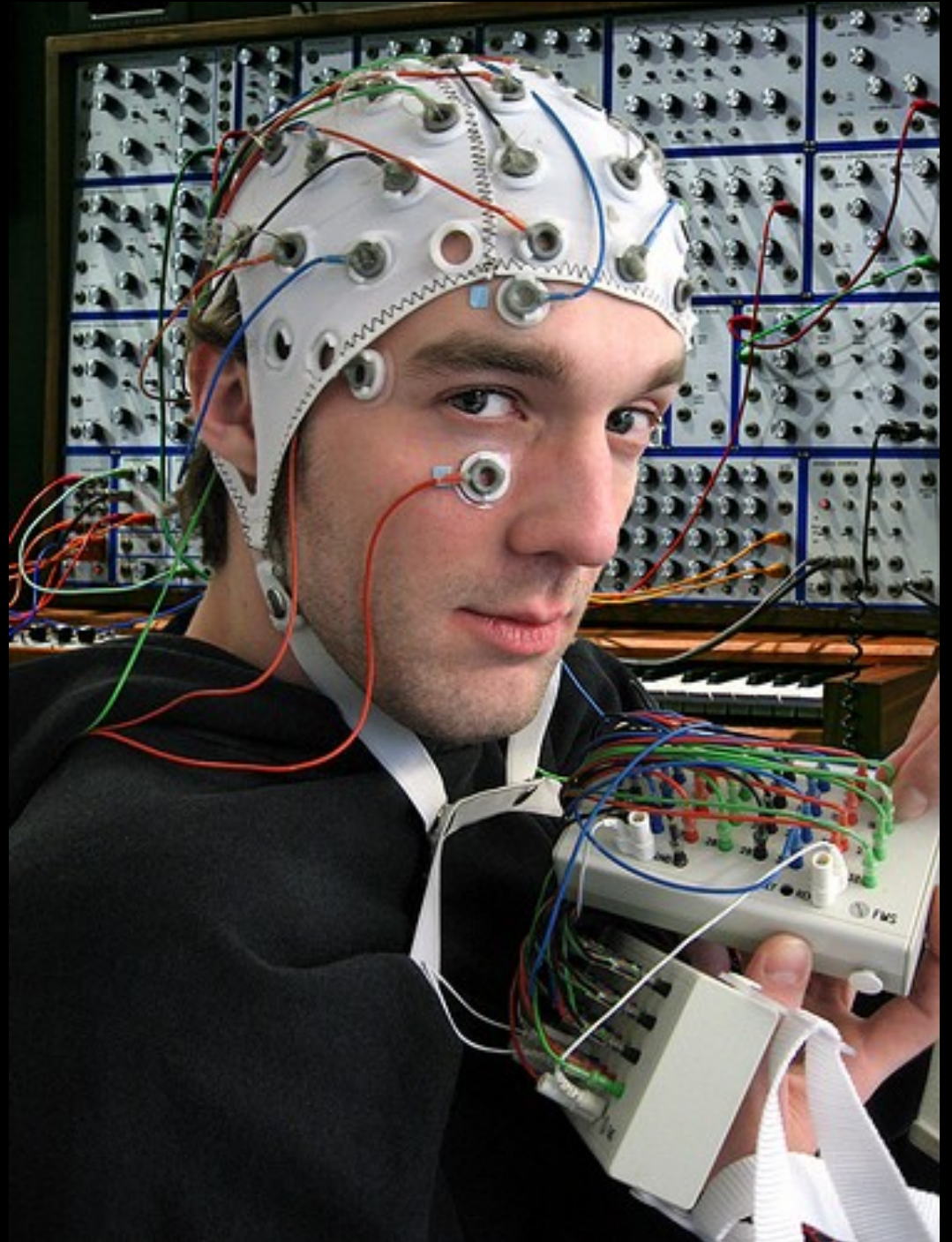
And I have a
headache.

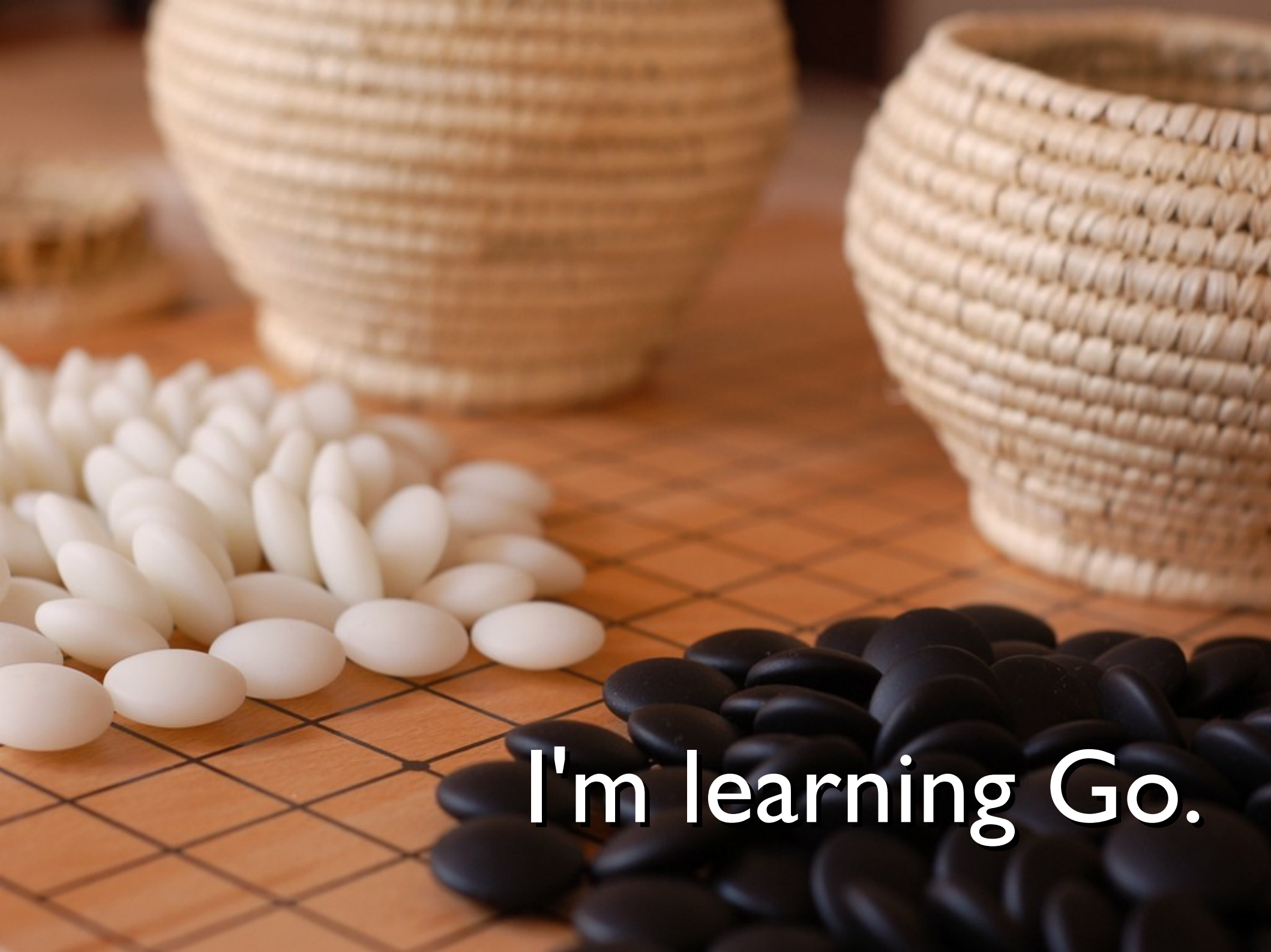


I'm in
Glasgow.



I'm learning to
hack on GHC.





I'm learning Go.

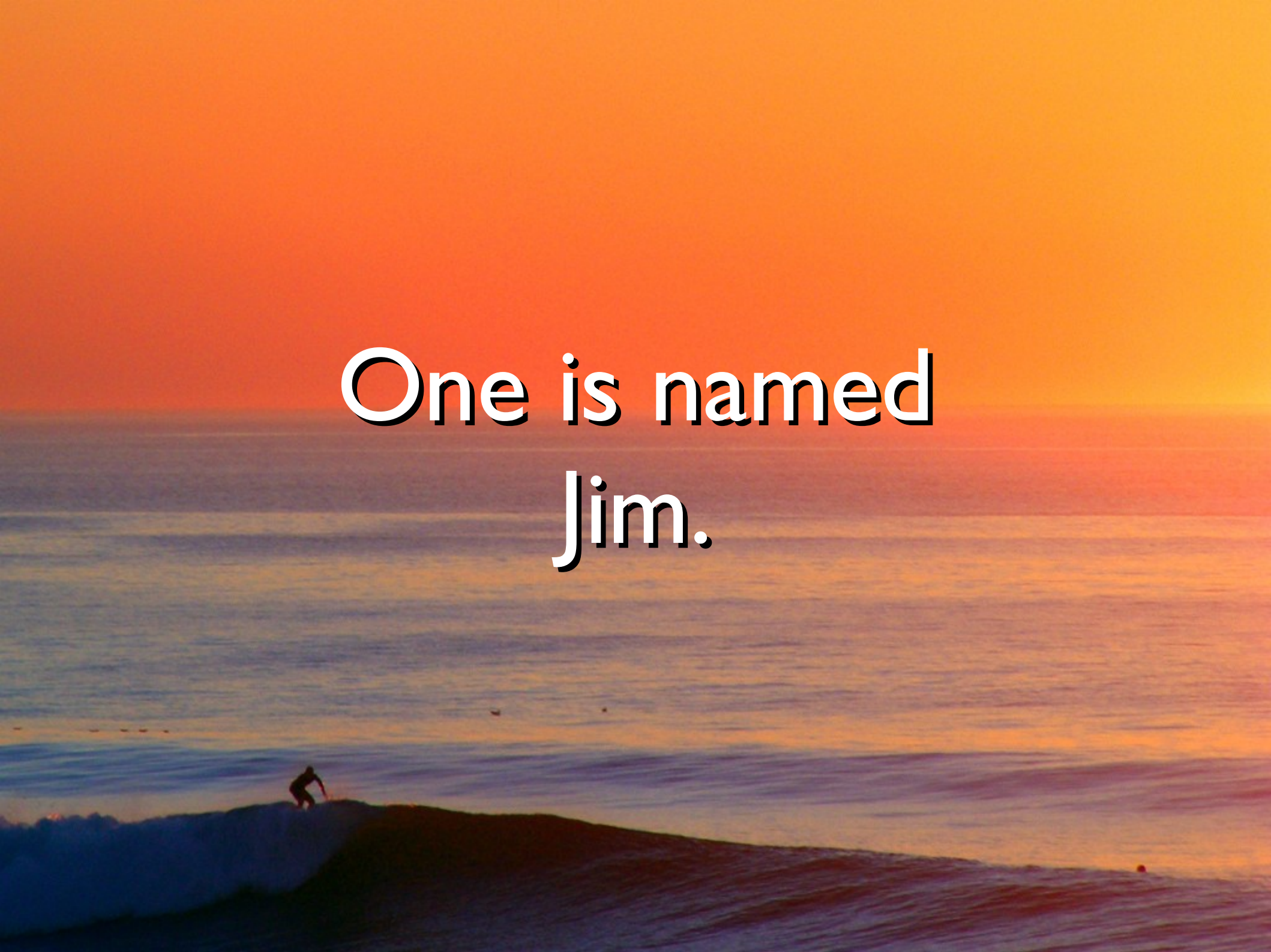


**It's a great
crowd.**

I make lots of friends.

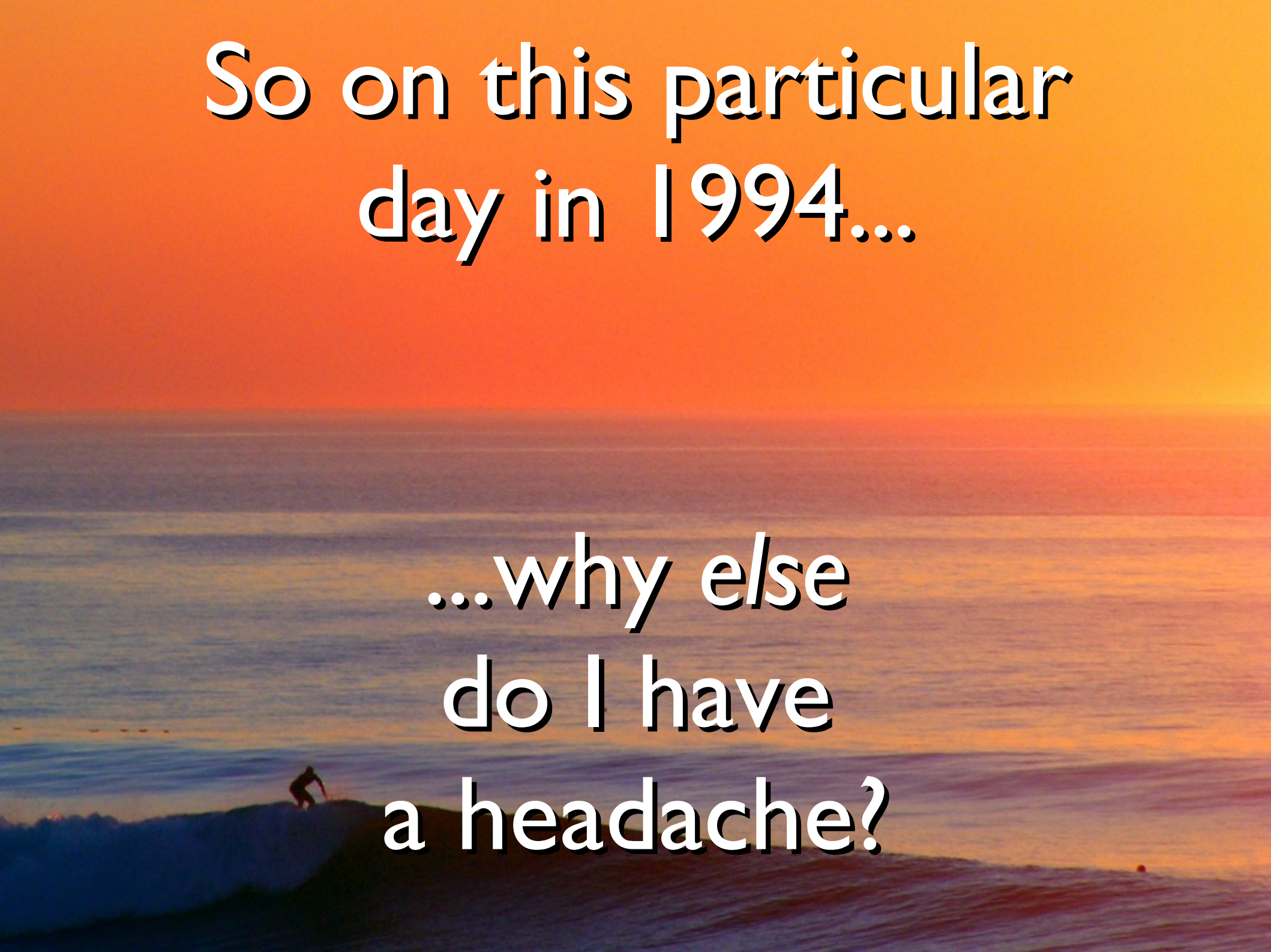


One is named
Jim.



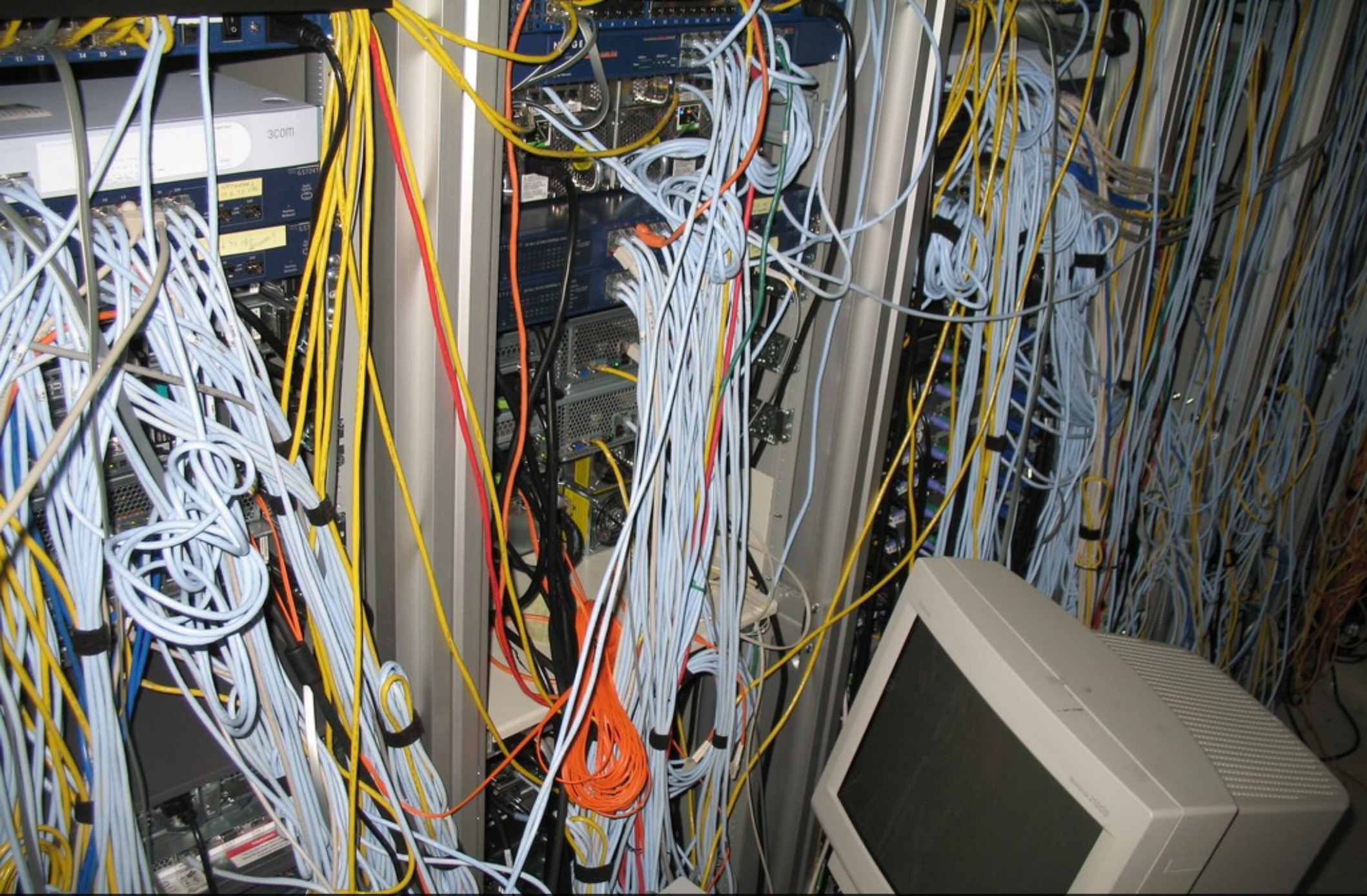
So on this particular
day in 1994...

...why else
do I have
a headache?



Well, we tend to go out.





After a hard night out, Jim goes home.



He dreams.



Happily, this is no nightmare.
In fact...



...he meets a
beautiful
woman.



In his dream,
they hit it off.

She even gives him
her number.



When he
wakes...



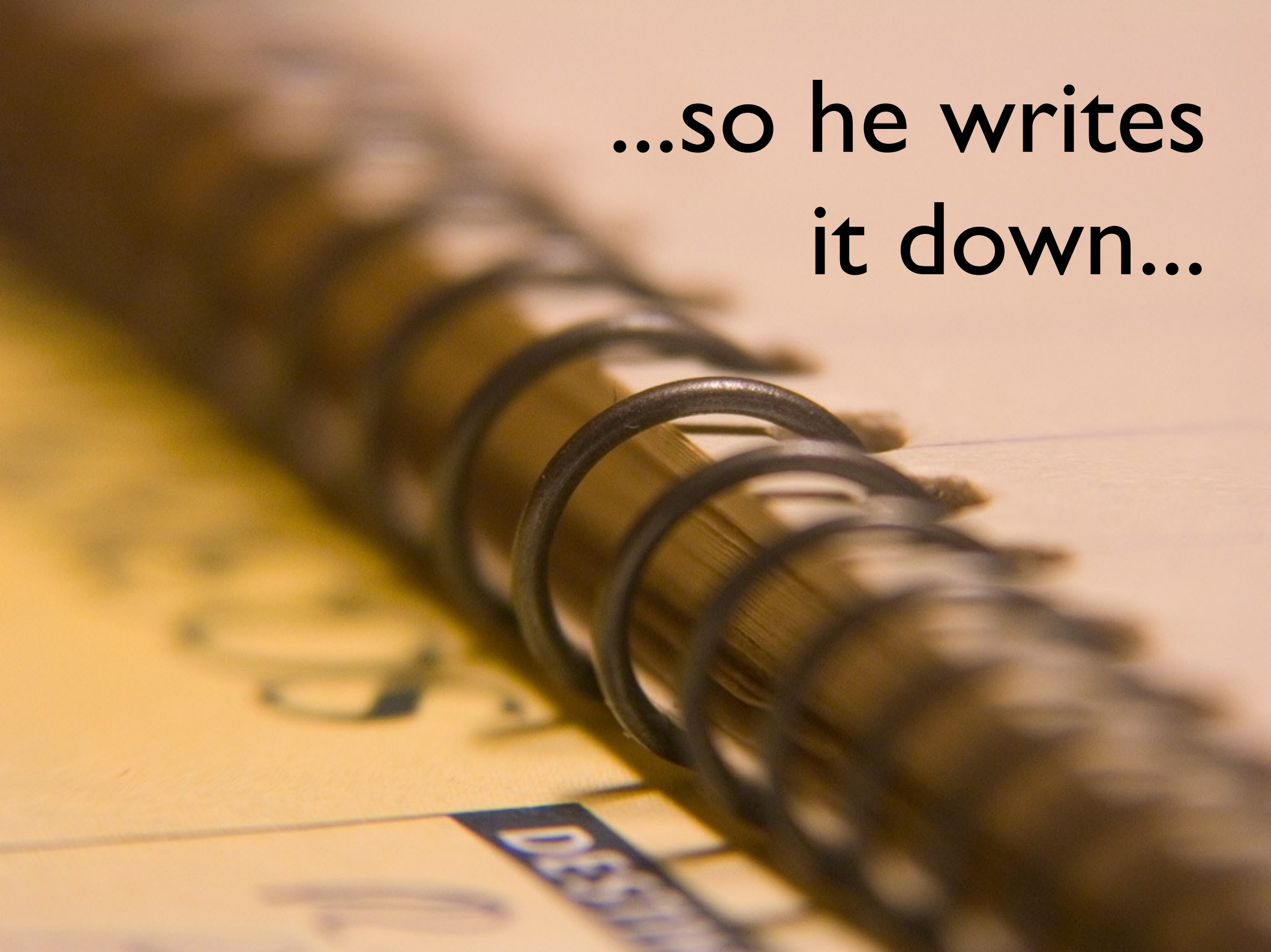
...it's the most.
Amazing.
Thing.

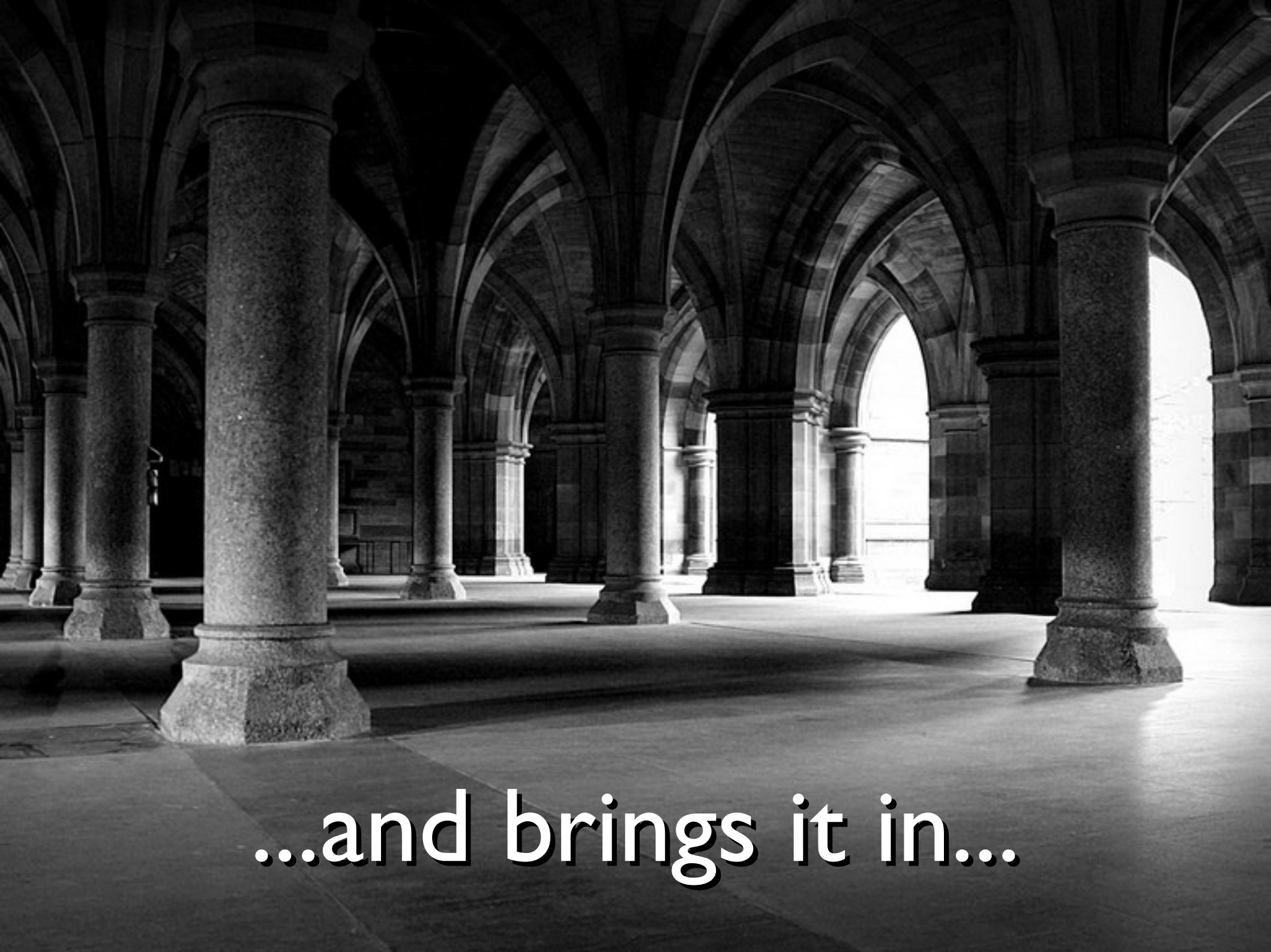


He *remembers*
her number!



...so he writes
it down...



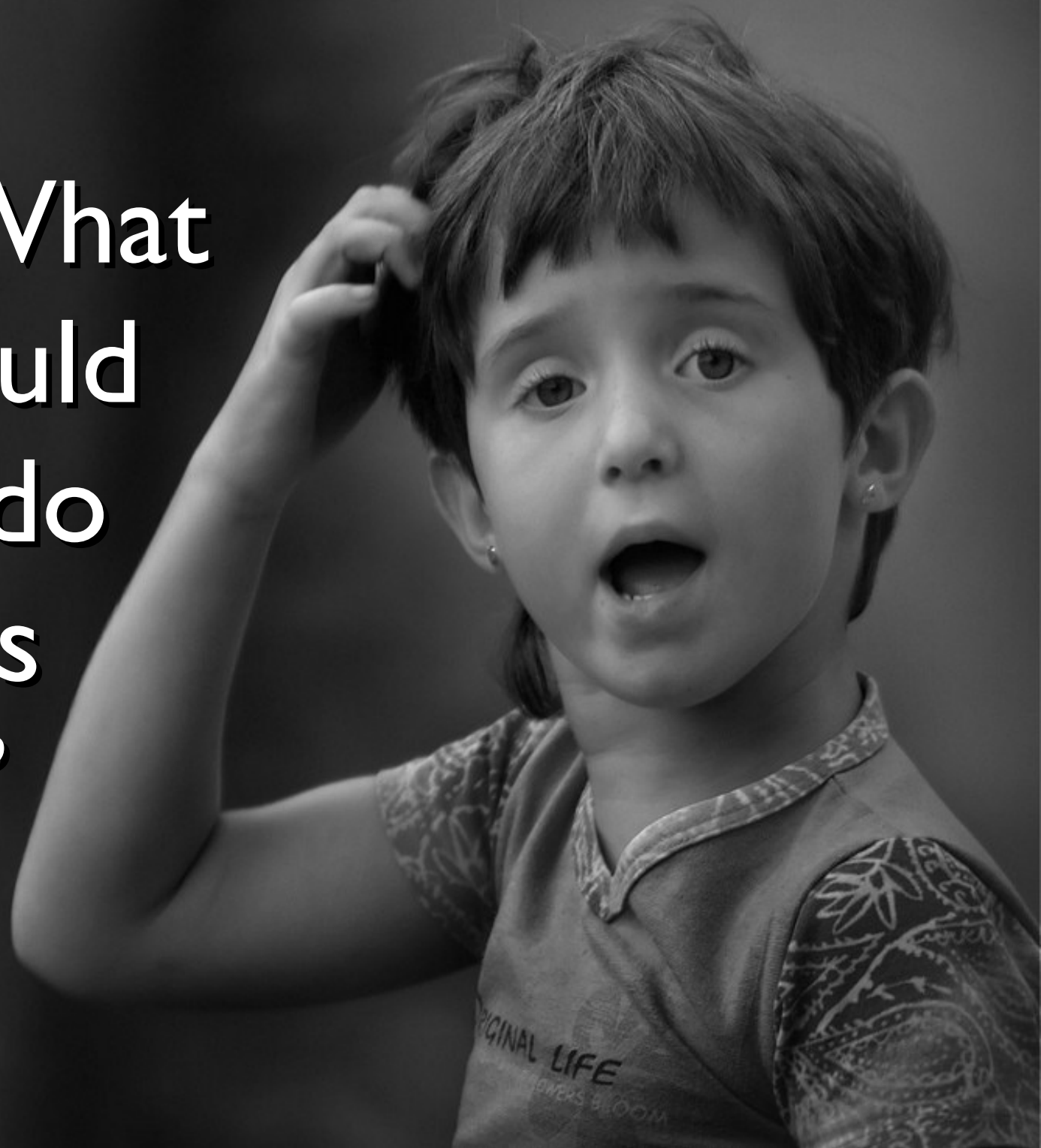


...and brings it in...

...and
asks
me:



“What
should
I do
with this
number?”



“Wait a sec,”
I tell him.



“I *know* this
number.”





“It's the delivery number...”



...for the local pizzeria.”

Why tell
this
story?





Community.



Most people
like to
belong.



**I loved
the Haskell
community...**

A photograph of a rusty, abandoned train car on a track. The train car is yellowish-brown with a dark window and is surrounded by dense green foliage and trees. The tracks are overgrown with grass and weeds. The text "...but I left anyway." is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

...but
I left
anyway.

Over a decade
passed.





When I returned, the
community was still *beautiful*...



...and serenely inward-facing.

A person is surfing on a wave at sunset. The sky is a vibrant orange and yellow, and the ocean is a deep blue. The surfer is a small silhouette on the crest of the wave.

How did *you* learn
Haskell?

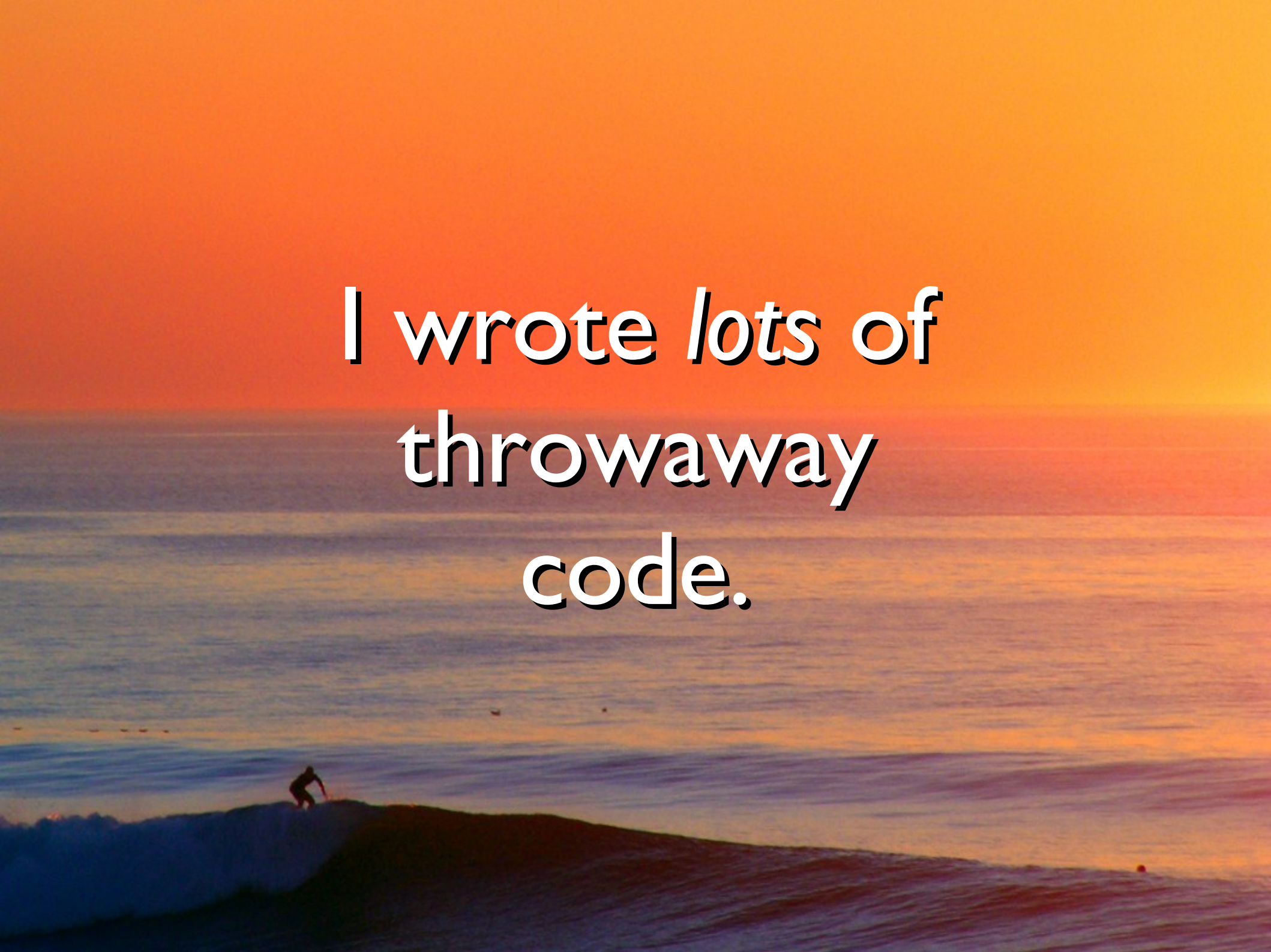
The background of the slide is a photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, with the sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, a dark silhouette of a surfer is visible on a wave. The text is overlaid on this image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Here's what I did:

I read dozens of papers.

I studied thousands of
lines of code.

I wrote *lots* of
throwaway
code.



...and read...



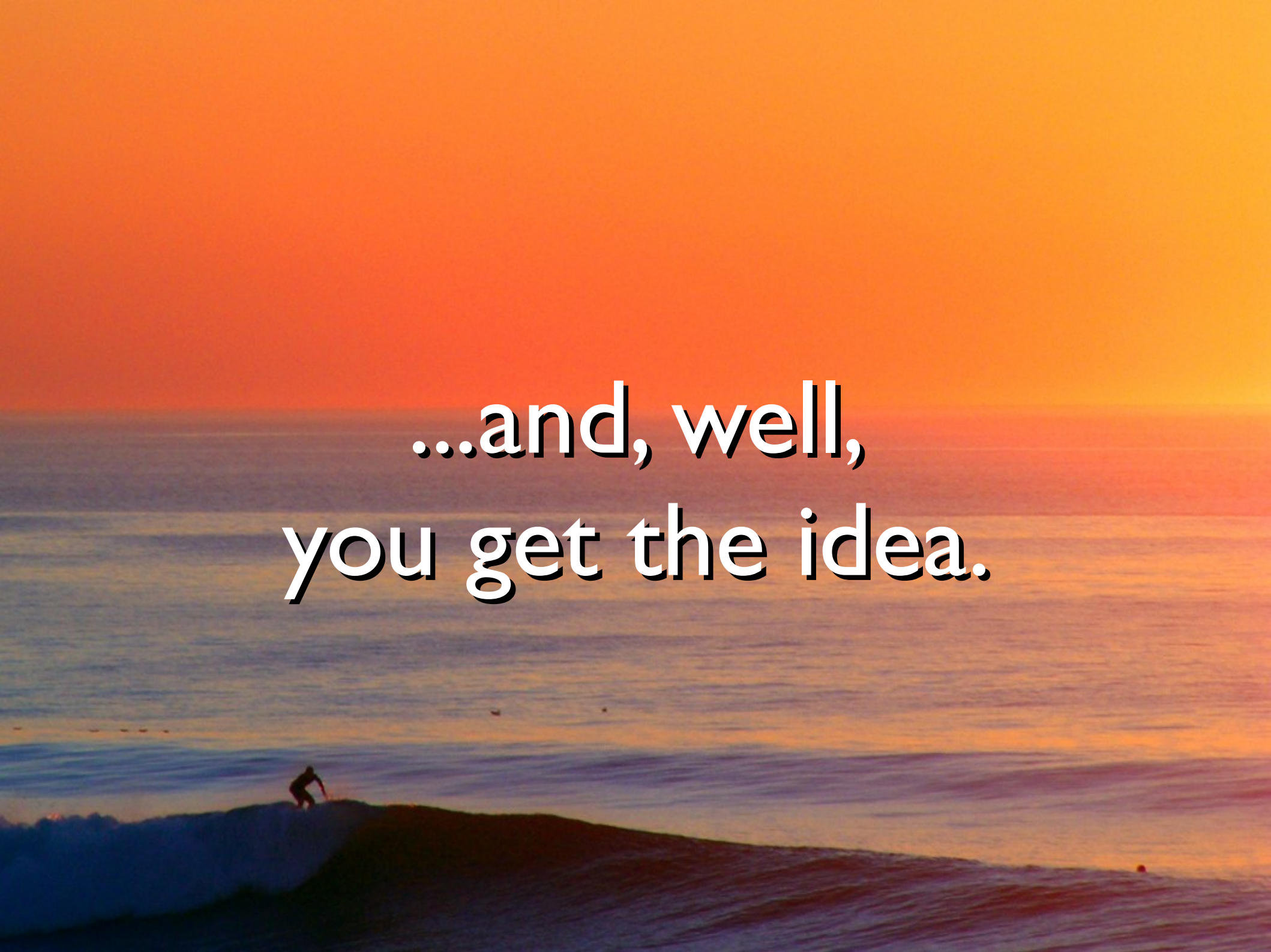
...and Googled...
...and read...

666

GAL. DE VSS

eiusdem sunt generis, maxime
guerint musculis: quid enim
que sinum magnum adhibet
tū rariora fuissent? Cuius
gumentum, quod omnia
tibus ossa sunt laxa et
densiora et comp

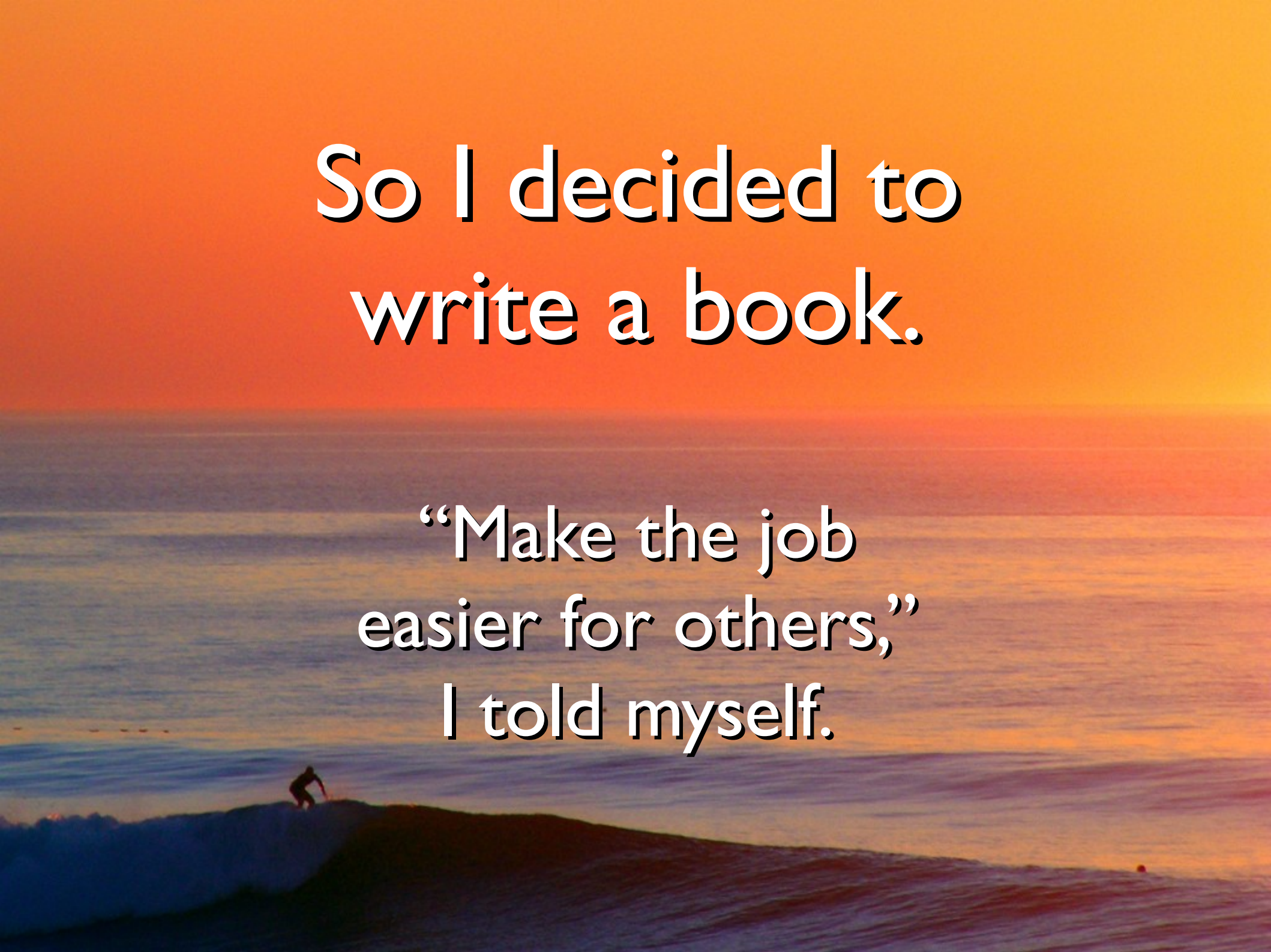
...and, well,
you get the idea.



I delighted in the process.



But it wasn't very efficient.

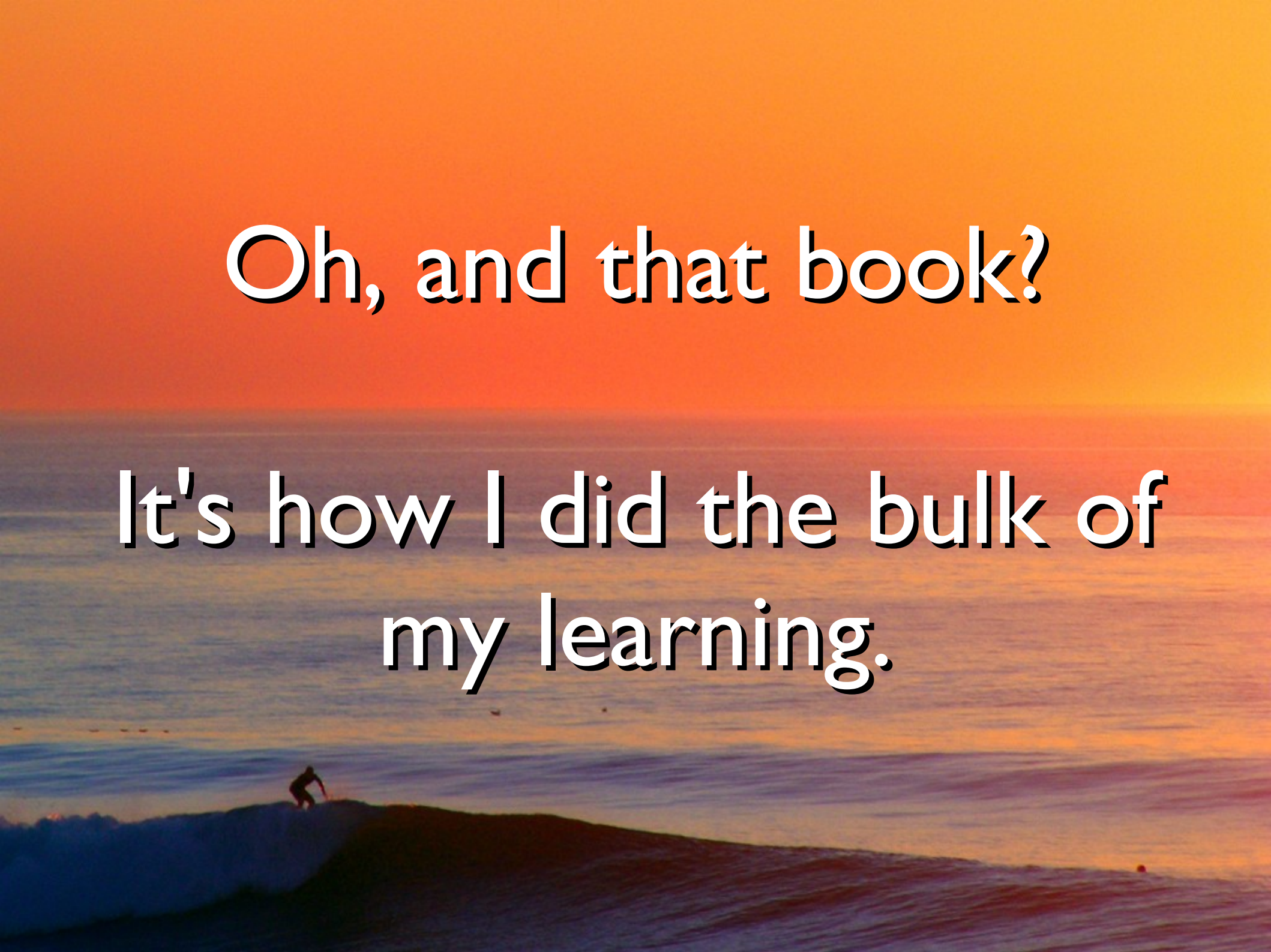
A sunset over the ocean with a surfer in the foreground. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, and the water is a deep blue. A small figure of a surfer is visible on a wave in the lower left.

So I decided to
write a book.

“Make the job
easier for others,”
I told myself.

Oh, and that book?

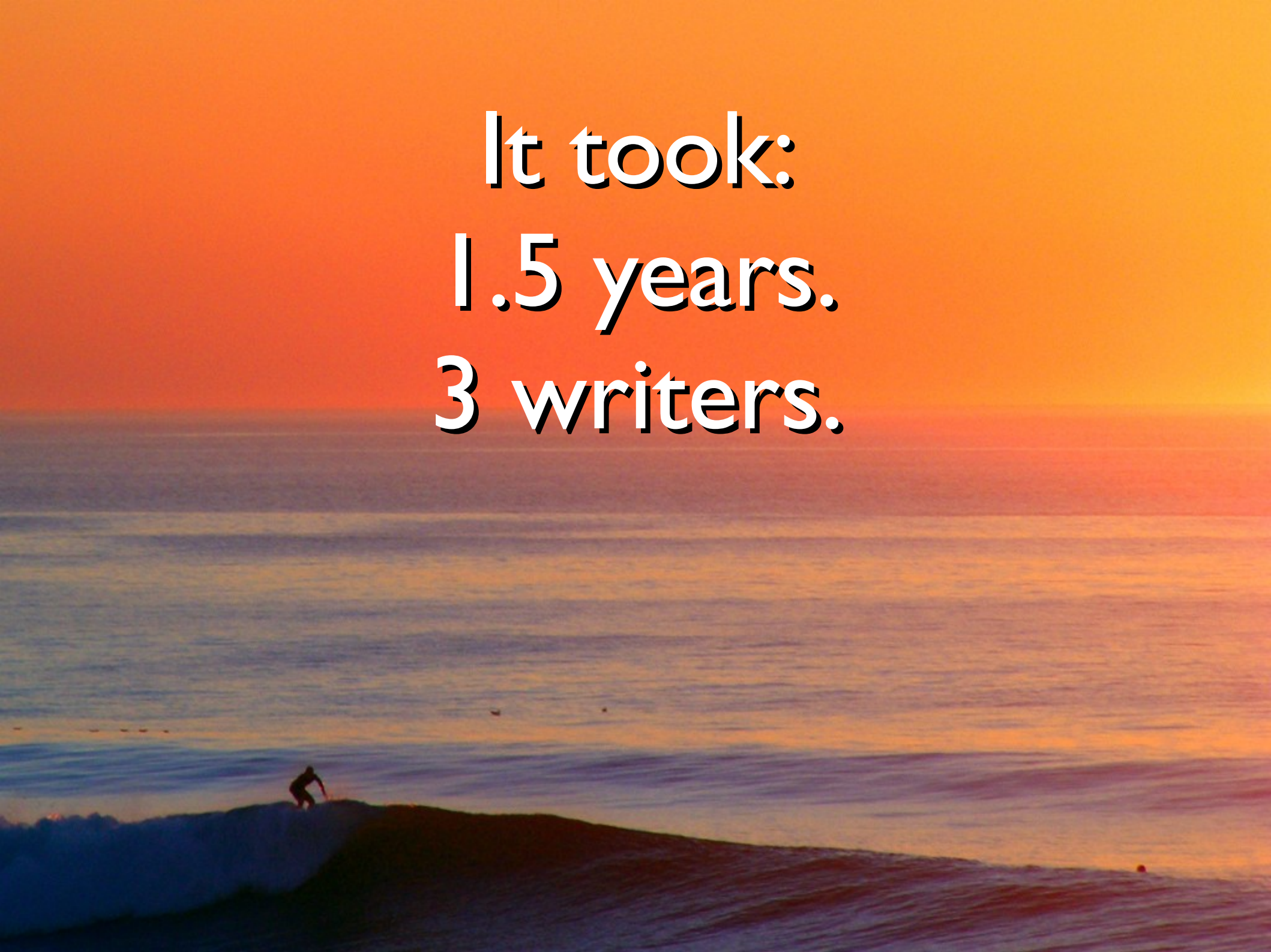
It's how I did the bulk of
my learning.



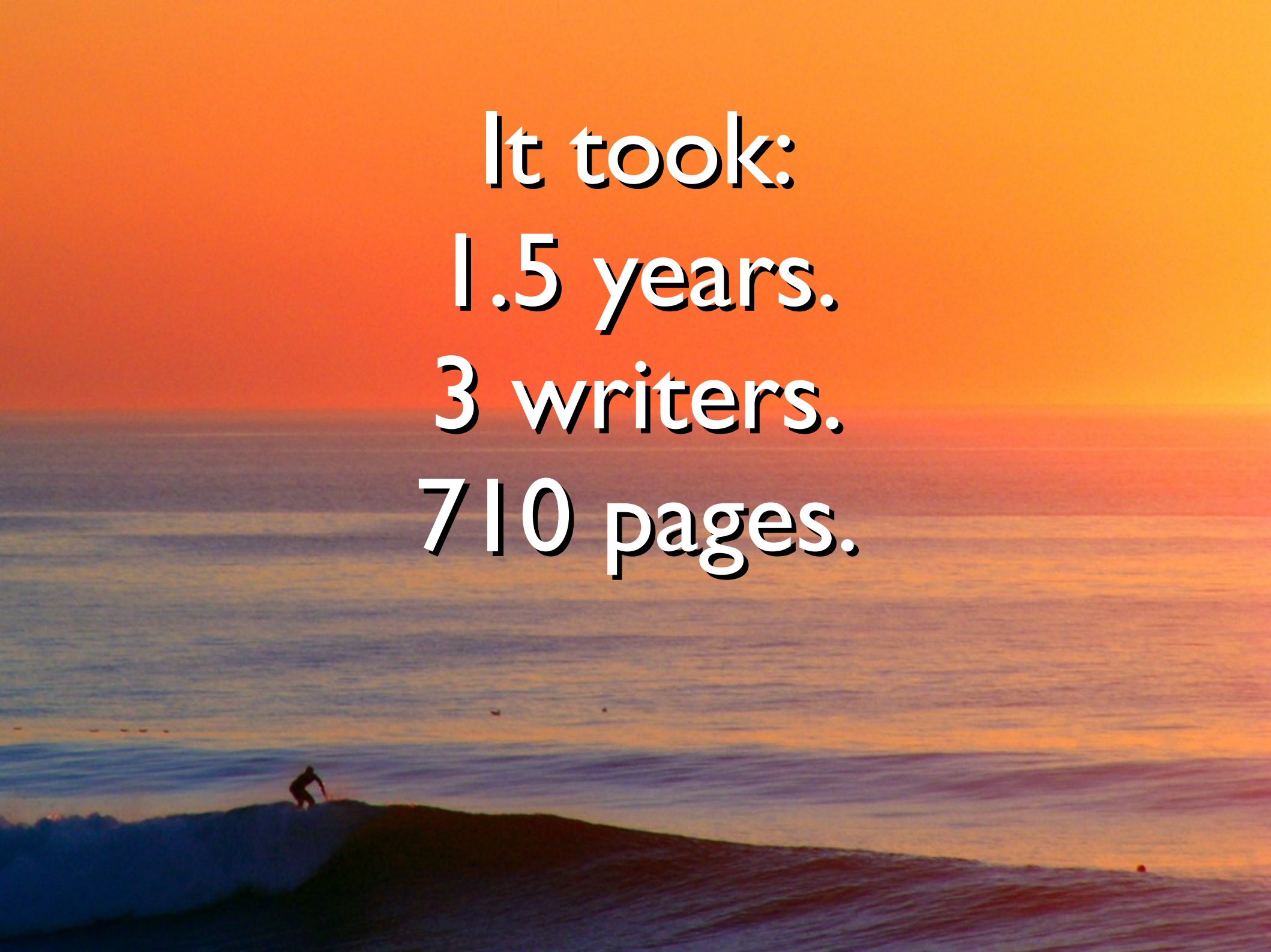
It took:
1.5 years.



It took:
1.5 years.
3 writers.



It took:
1.5 years.
3 writers.
710 pages.



It took:
1.5 years.
3 writers.
710 pages.
800+ reviewers.



A sunset over the ocean with a person surfing in the foreground. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, and the water is dark blue with white waves. The text is centered and reads:

It took:
1.5 years.
3 writers.
710 pages.
800+ reviewers.
7,500+ comments.

Now it's your turn.

Stop procrastinating –
starting tomorrow.

Srsly.

A scenic background image of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, transitioning into a blue and purple hue over the water. In the foreground, a surfer is silhouetted against a breaking wave. The text "What is the Haskell community good at?" is overlaid in the center in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

What is the Haskell
community good at?

A man with glasses and a beard, wearing a shirt and tie, is pouring a red liquid from a test tube into a beaker. He has a surprised or excited expression on his face, with wide eyes and an open mouth. The background is a warm, orange-yellow glow. The text "Research? We've got it!" is overlaid at the bottom in white with a black outline.

Research? We've got it!

Outreach?



That's less
clear to me.



**You don't need to
write a 700-page tome.**



A sunset over the ocean with a surfer in the foreground. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, transitioning into a blue and purple hue over the water. A small silhouette of a surfer is visible on a wave in the lower left corner.

You don't need to describe new research.

(In fact, I think it's best you don't.)

A person is surfing on a wave at sunset. The sky is a vibrant orange and yellow, and the ocean is a deep blue. The surfer is a small silhouette on the crest of the wave.

You need:

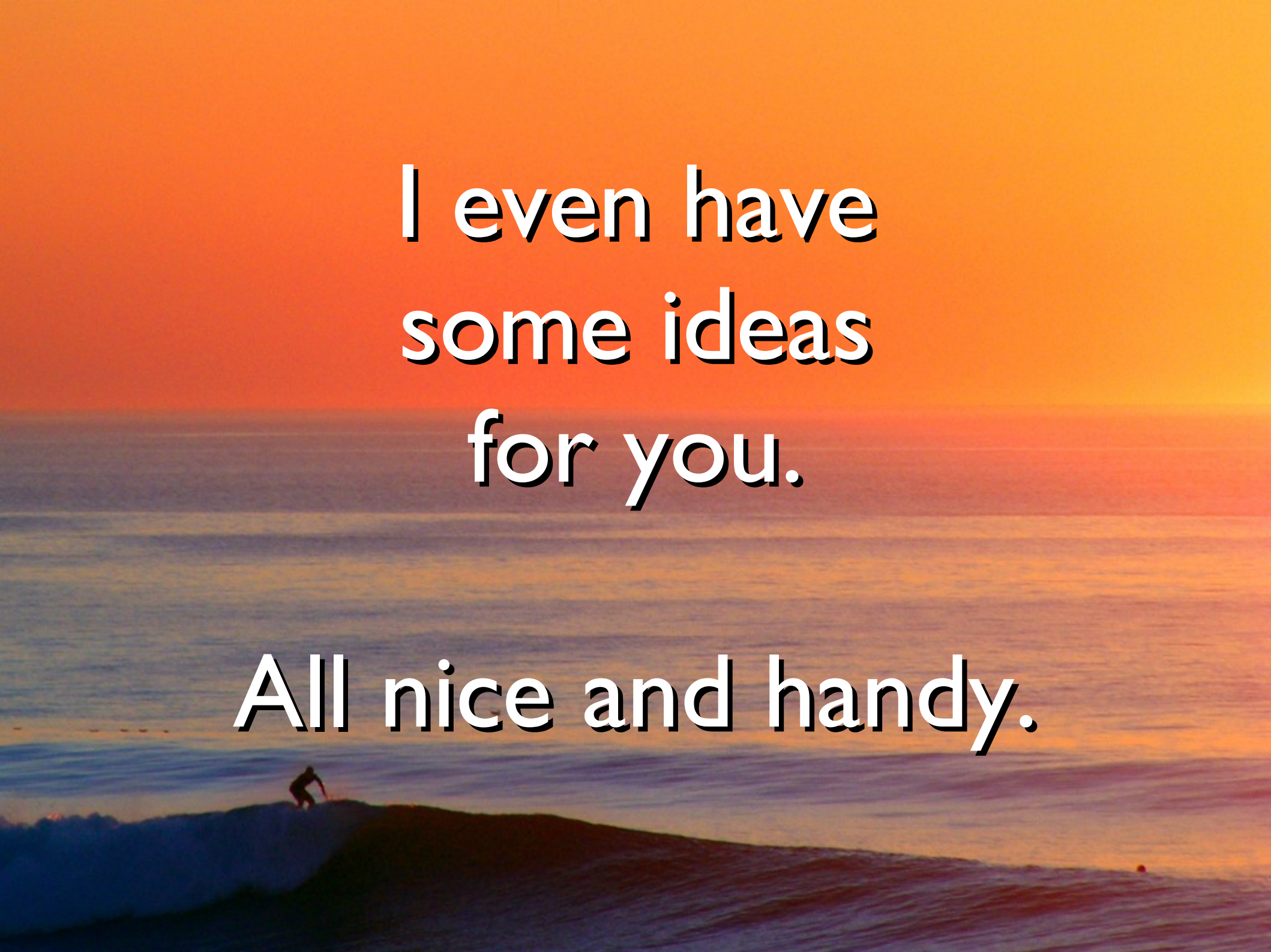
Tenacity.

An idea.

Tenacity.

Explanatory skill.

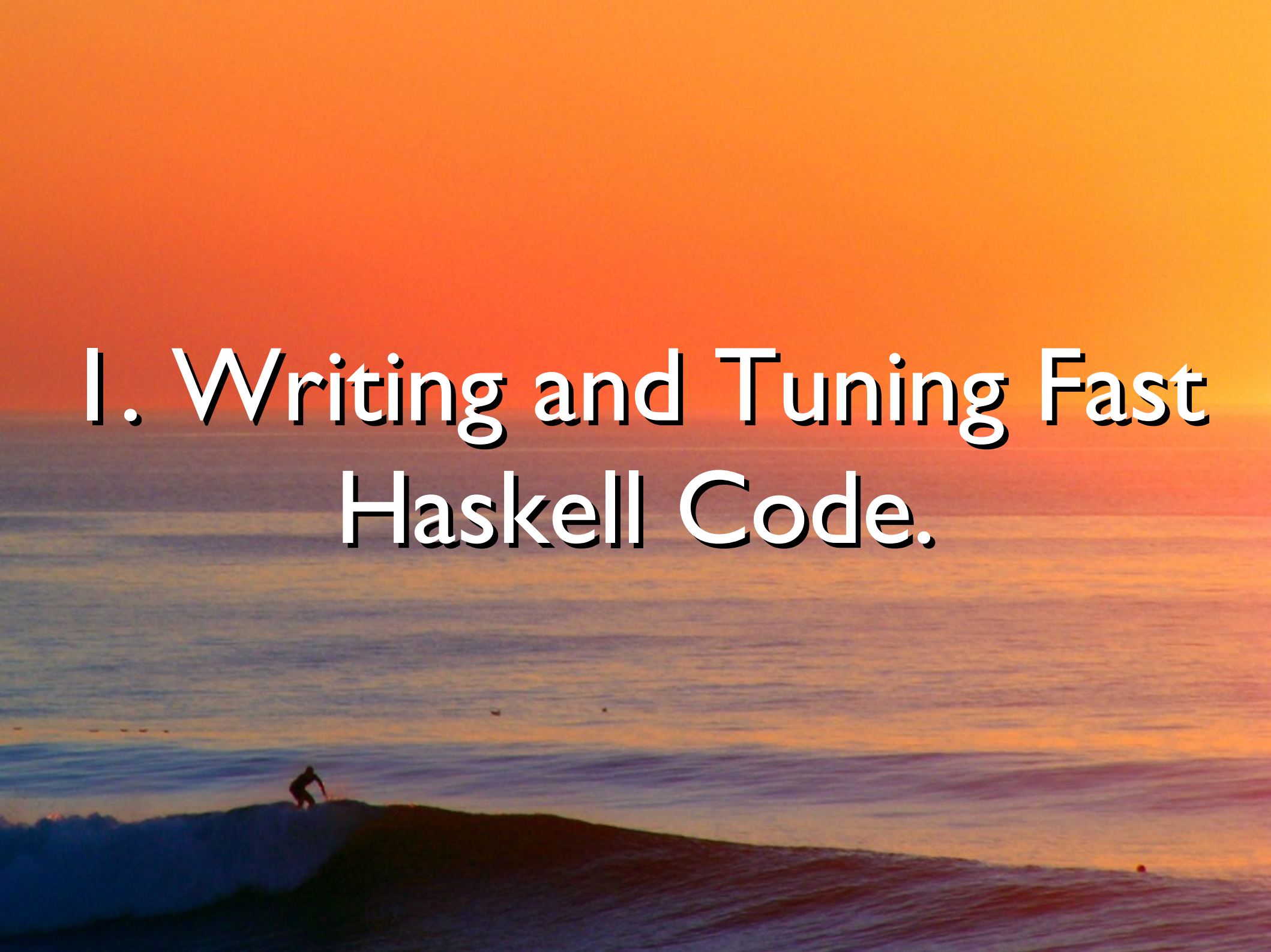
Tenacity.

A sunset over the ocean with a surfer in the foreground. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, and the water is a deep blue. A small figure of a surfer is visible on a wave in the lower left.

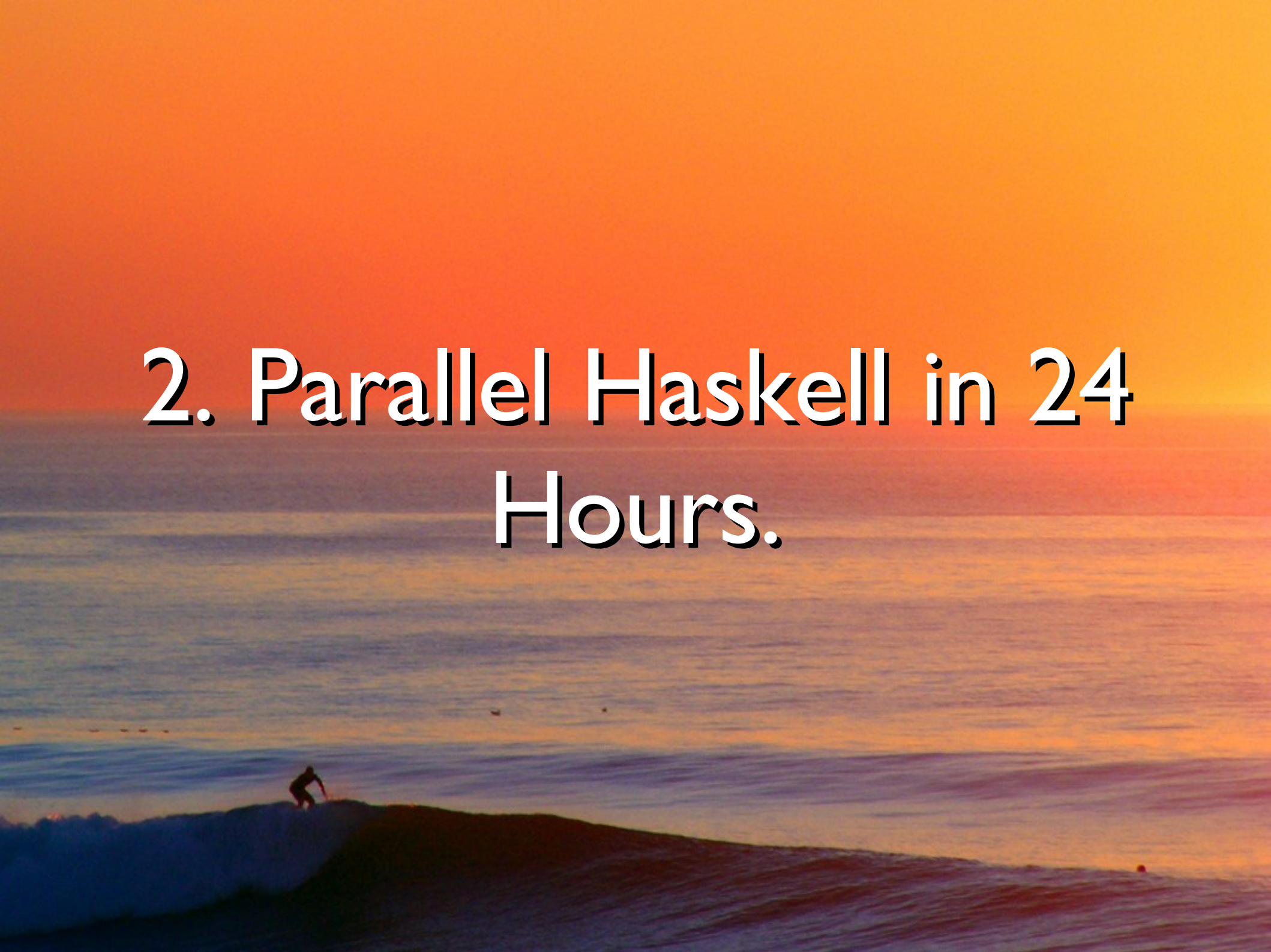
I even have
some ideas
for you.

All nice and handy.

I. Writing and Tuning Fast Haskell Code.



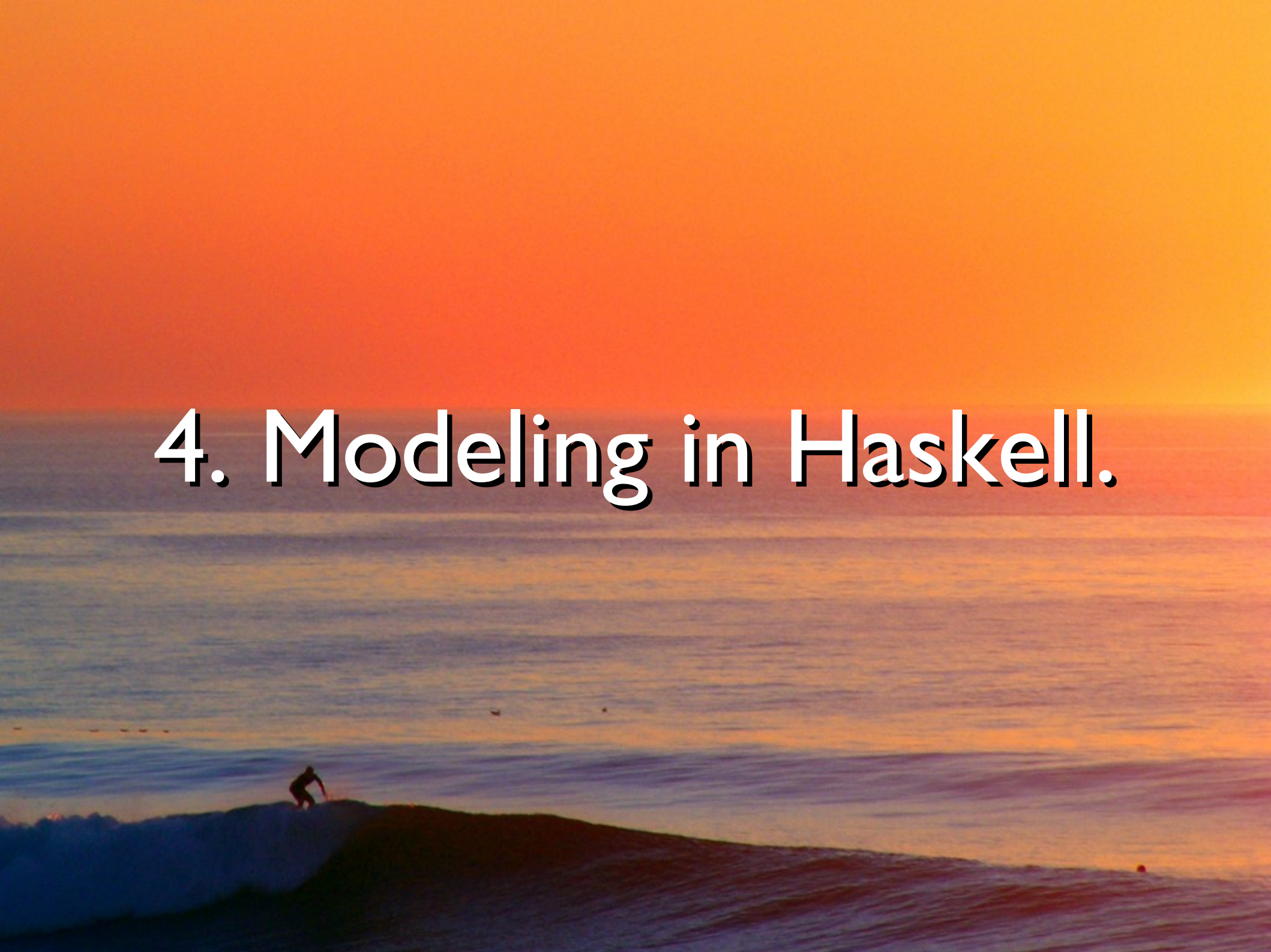
2. Parallel Haskell in 24 Hours.



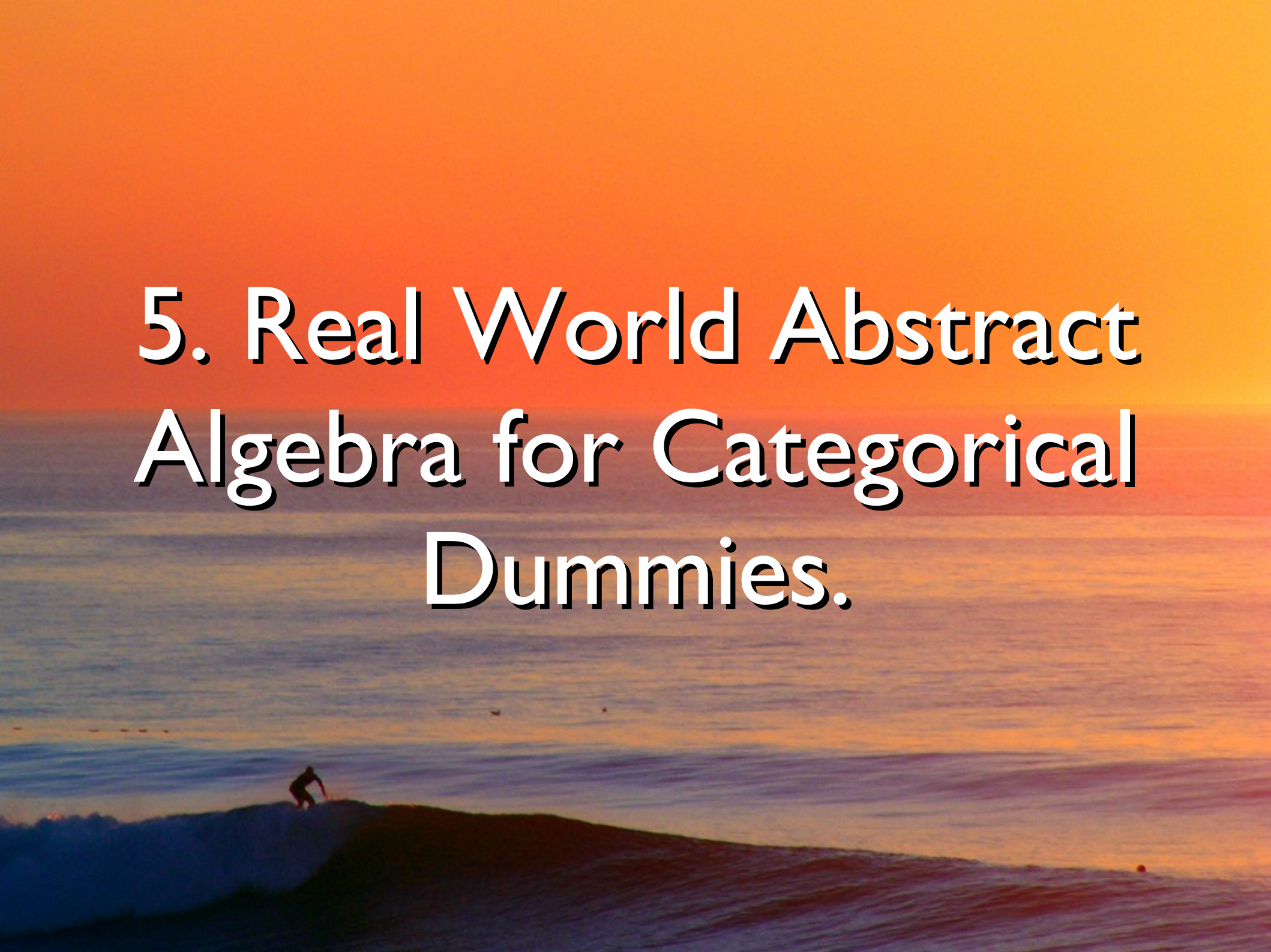
3. High-Assurance Haskell.



4. Modeling in Haskell.



5. Real World Abstract Algebra for Categorical Dummies.



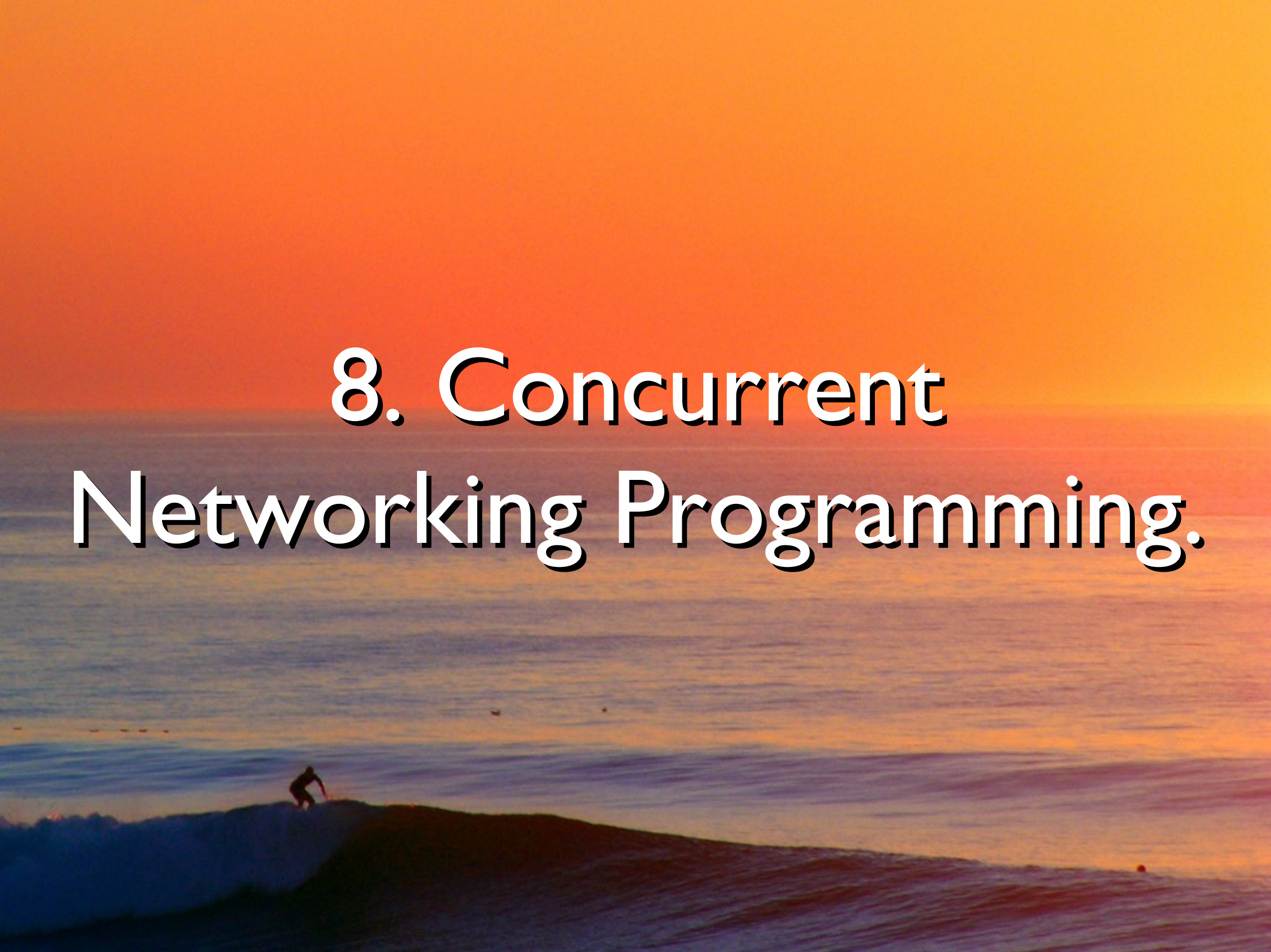
6. Complex Functional Applications.



7. Grow Your Own Monads in the Basement, Legally.



8. Concurrent Networking Programming.



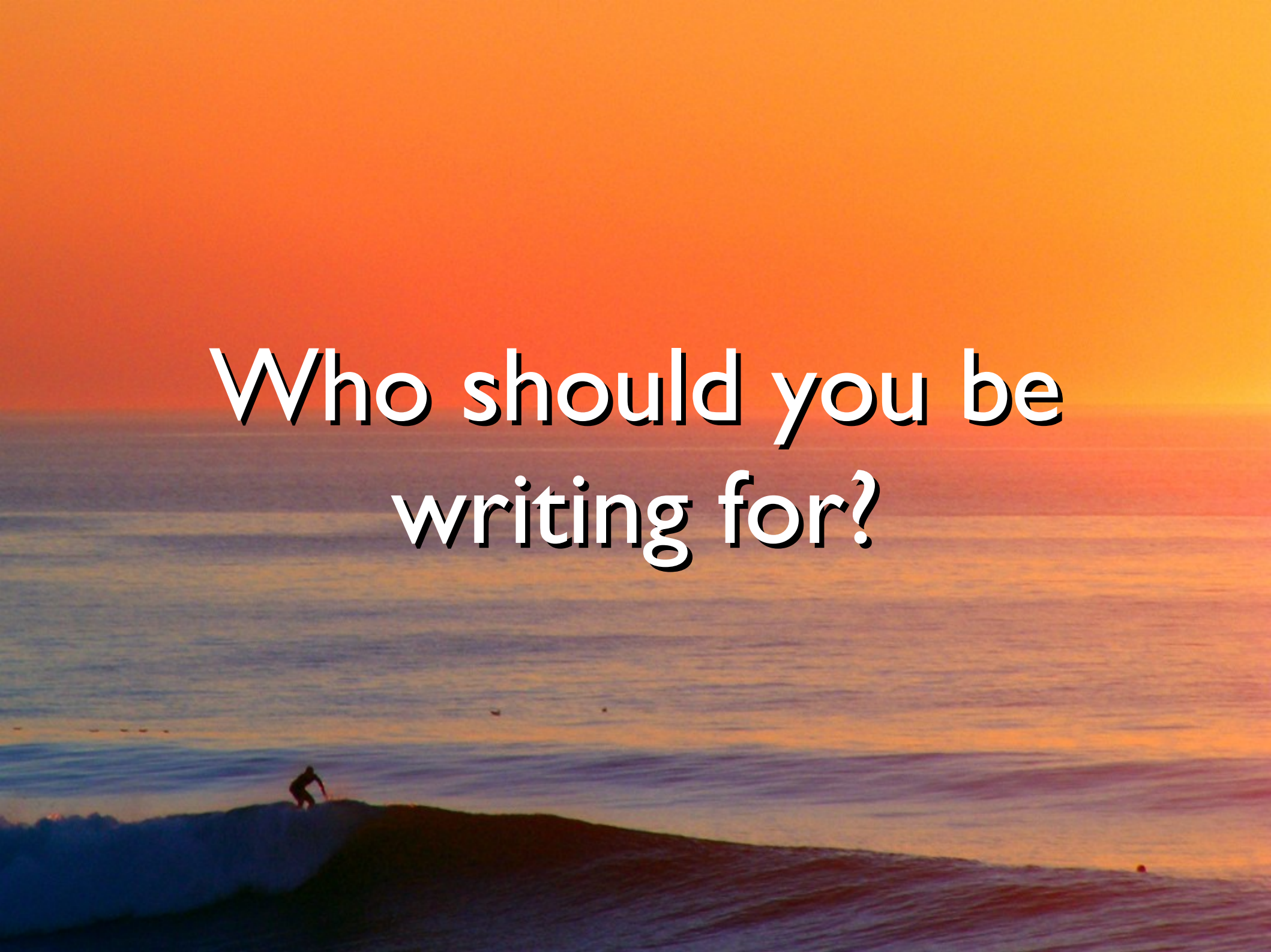
9. Functional Pearls and Design Patterns.



10. Secrets of the QuickCheck Wizards.



Who should you be
writing for?



**NOT THE PEOPLE
IN THIS ROOM.**



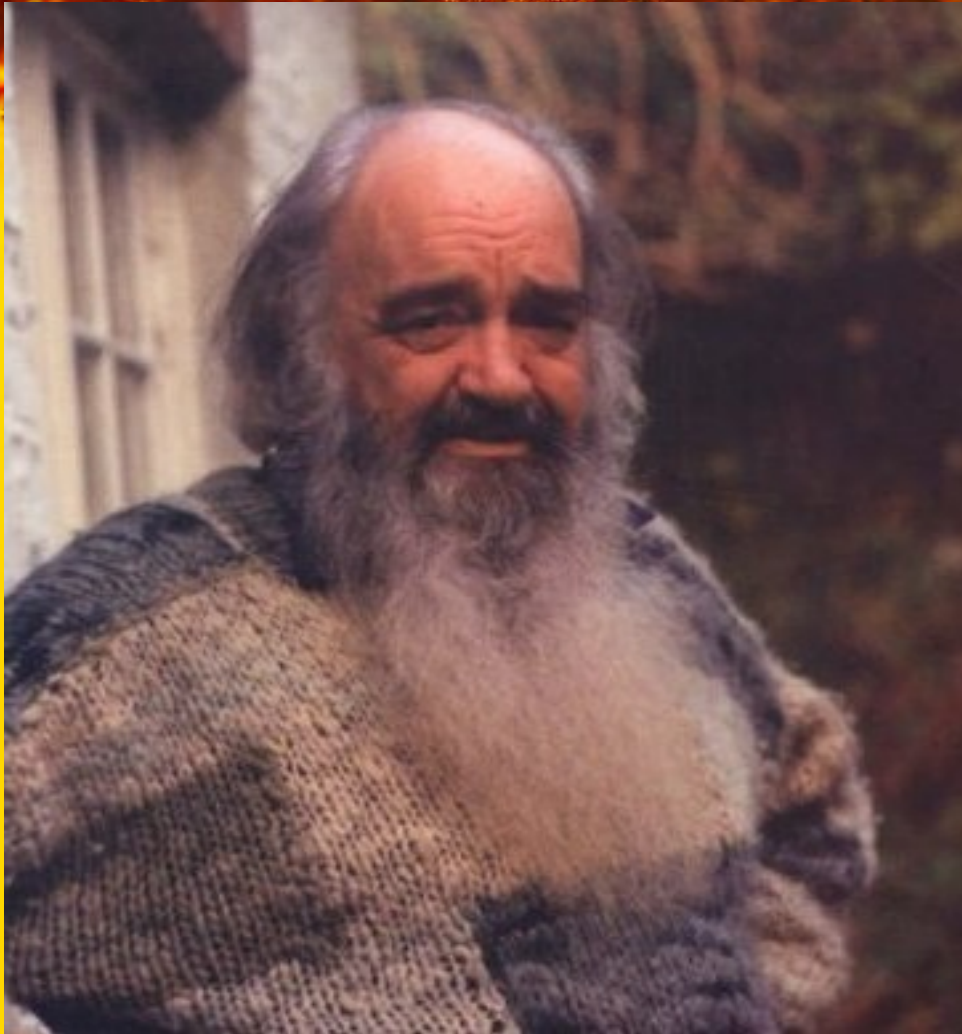
A person wearing a white uniform is shown from the side, holding a small, dark, round object in their hands. In the background, a long row of white bowls is arranged on a table, each containing a different colored powder. The colors transition from light yellow in the foreground to dark brown and finally to white at the back. The scene appears to be a demonstration or a ritual.

Look to
other programming
communities.

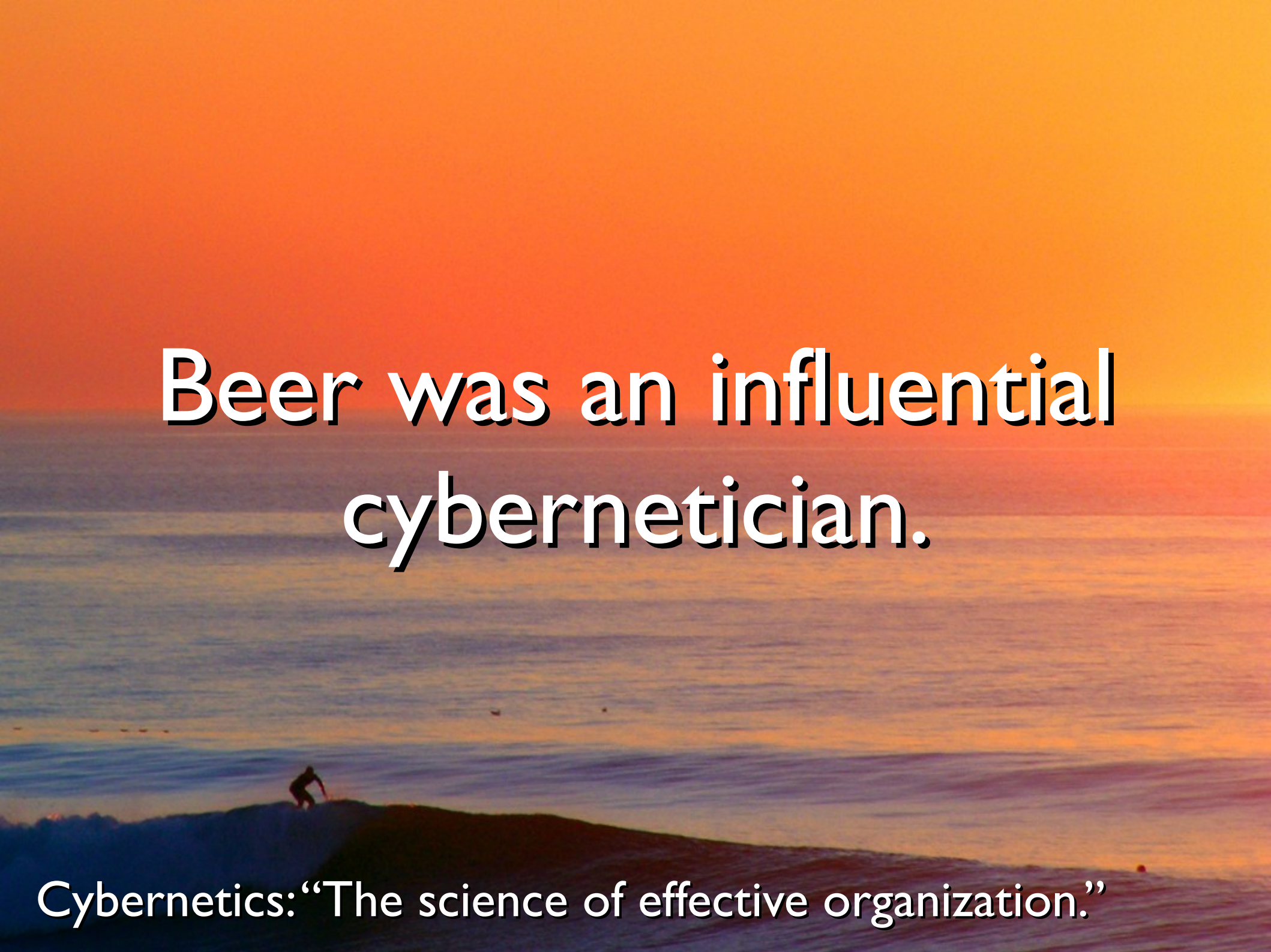
If we don't talk
to them, they
won't simply
come to us.



Who is this man?



**Anthony
Stafford
Beer.**

A sunset over the ocean with a person surfing. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, and the water is a deep blue. A person is visible in the lower left, riding a wave.

**Beer was an influential
cybernetician.**

Cybernetics: “The science of effective organization.”



Cybersyn.

Santiago,
Chile,
1970-1972.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, transitioning into a darker blue at the horizon. In the foreground, a surfer is visible on a wave, silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Cybersyn:

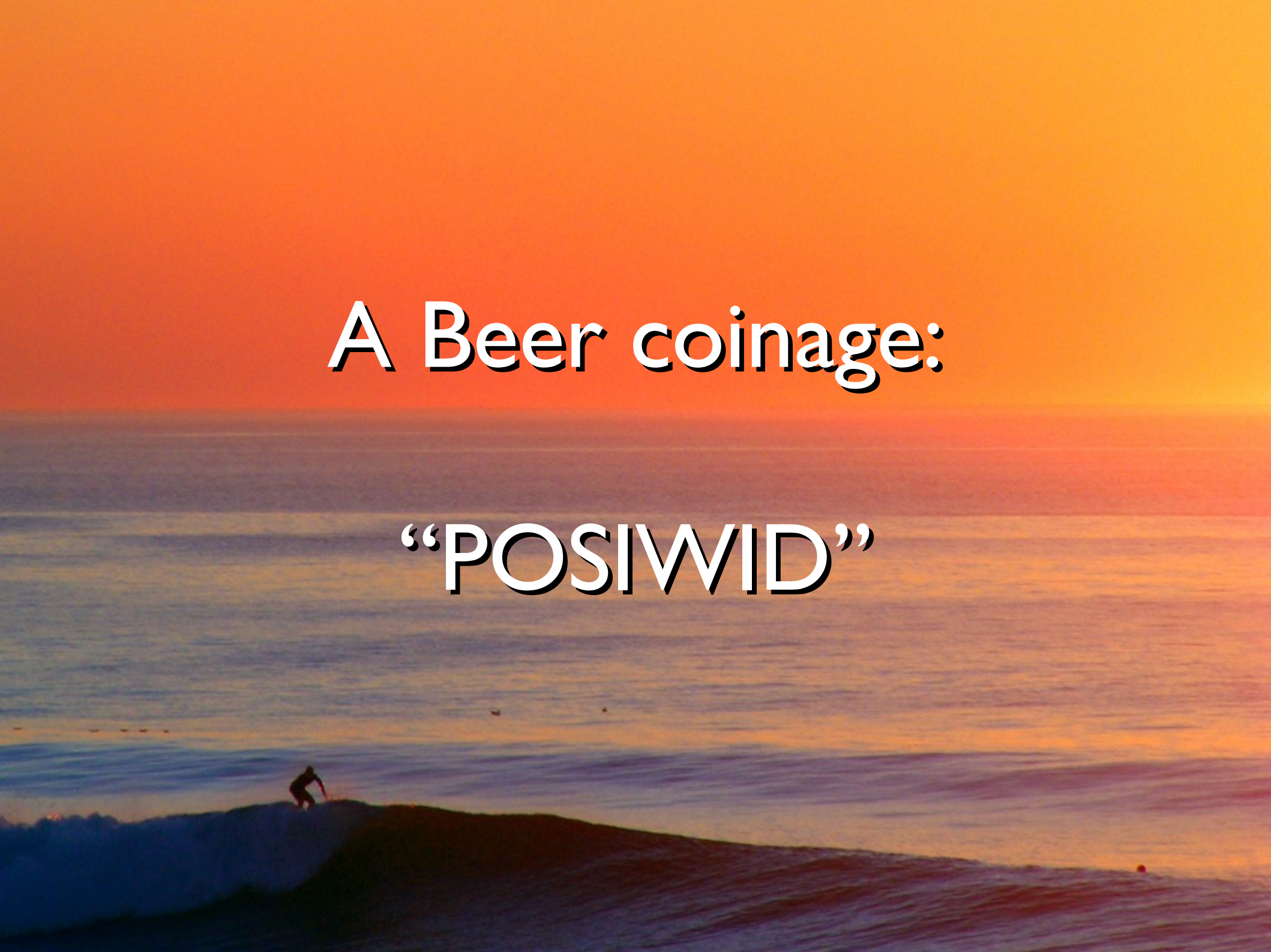
Centralised control of the
Chilean economy.

A star network of telex machines running from factories to a control centre in Santiago.



A Beer coinage:

“POSIWID”



The background of the slide is a photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, with the sun low on the horizon. The ocean is dark blue, and a surfer is visible on a wave in the lower left corner.

POSIWID:

**The purpose of a system
is what it does.**

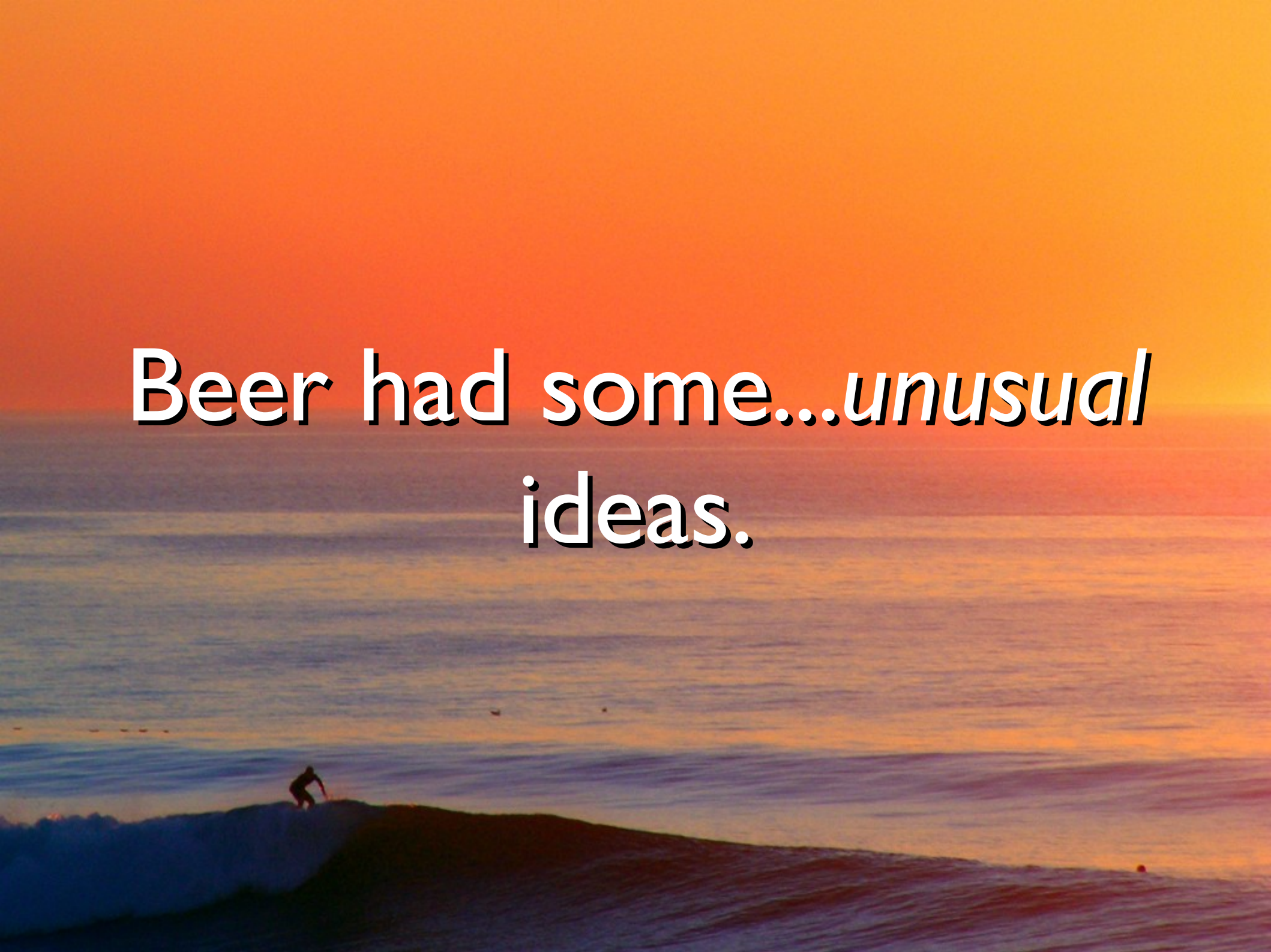
Don't try to
understand a system
from what
its designers
say it's for.



Start from
observing
what it
actually
does.



Beer had some...*unusual*
ideas.



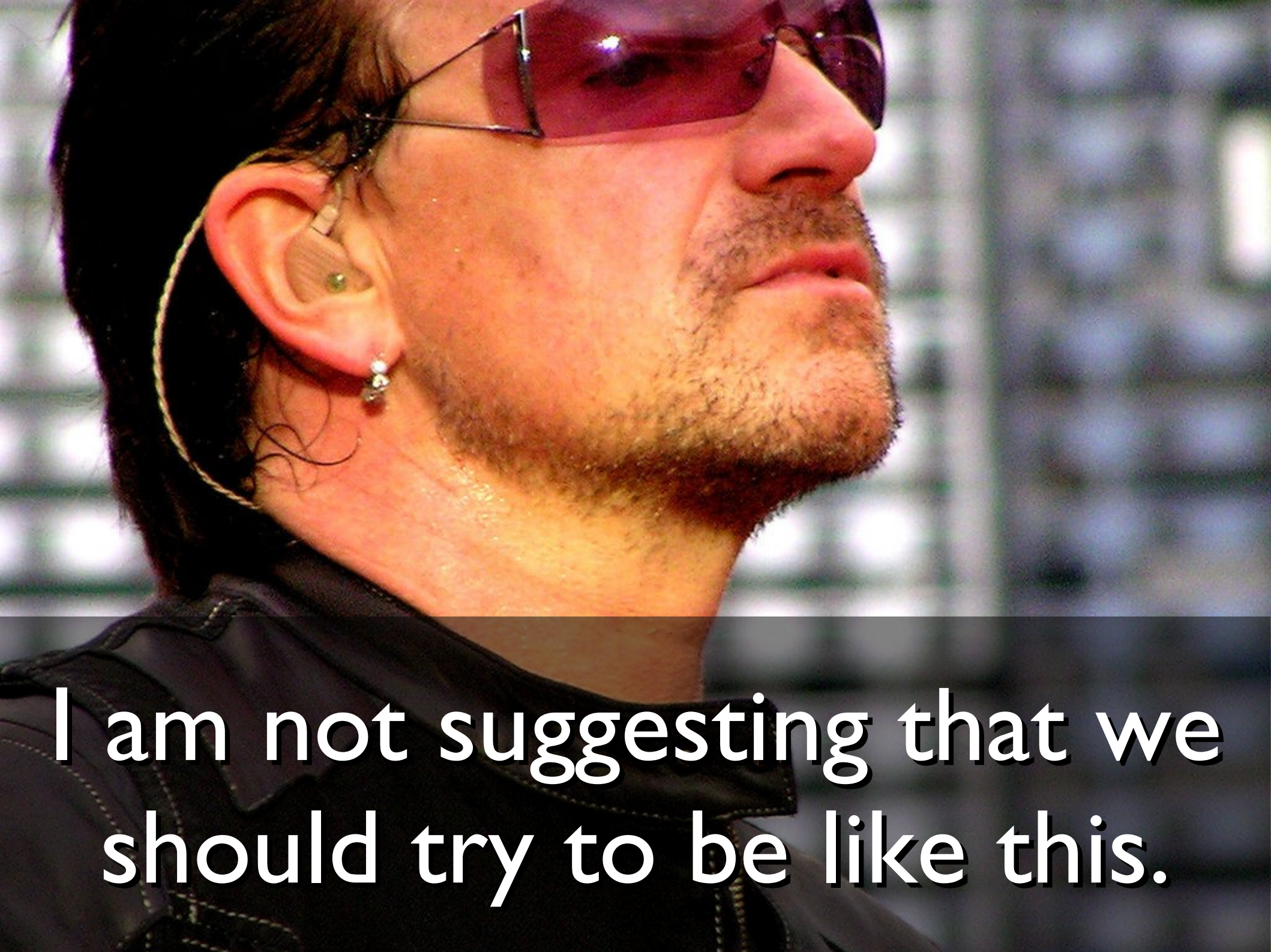
But he managed to get
them implemented.





So, from the
POSIWID
perspective:

*What does functional
programming do?*



I am not suggesting that we
should try to be like this.

But our
rhetoric
suggests that
most of us do
not want to be
like this,
either.



Go write a book.
Give a talk.
Write a blog post.



Oh, and thanks.

