I don’t know what I’m doing with my life and I feel like I might be miserable forever. Miserable or melancholy. Afraid to try things, and unhappy on the occasions when I do. I don’t want to move from mediocre stage of life to mediocre stage of life. I want to *live.* But I don’t know if I know how. I don’t know if I can do it in a house with my sister. I don’t know if I can do it in a house on my own. I don’t know if I can do it while embracing my queerness, but I don’t think I can do it at all if I don’t. I just want to have a future. Things that I’m working on. Things that I’m excited about. A sense of real community, instead of connections with a bunch of people I can drop in or out of. I want to make art and have it come from within. I want to pick up knitting, finish my fucking crochet, pick up an instrument again, and go outside more. I want to have the opportunity to play around with fashion and makeup without expectations that I’ll get it immediately. I want to experiment with things around people I can safely be myself with. I want to know that more of my friends are ready for me to be real with them, and I want to actually be ready to be real with them. I want to get over my family’s bullshit and be content living as me. But I want to be with them and to stay close, they matter to me and I feel like I’m always letting them down by being preoccupied with something else. I want to go outside more. I want to have things to do and the motivation to do them, and I want to feel safe when I’m out in the world and not paranoid and disgusting. I want to be able to make new friends on my own. I want to be able to talk to people. I want to know that neurodivergence isn’t making me gauge introduction stuff wrong, so that I can be more confident talking to people. I want to be treated like I belong by women and queer people, I want to feel like they understand me and don’t need to keep barriers up. I want to erase all the things I’ve grown up which poison (especially) men’s relationships with women – I want to be able to trust that if I’m attracted to somebody, I’m not going to dwell on it unhealthily or objectify them or reduce them to any kind of character in my head. Basically I want to know that I treat all people like people, and that I don’t need to worry that I don’t. In case I ever show this to anybody, I want to clarify that this doesn’t mean that I’m not nonbinary/trans. I’ve been raised to think of myself as a boy/man and that’s fucking complicated. I don’t really think of myself like that now and for the most part that’s been true for the last 4 years, but sometimes I feel like I’m less sure. It’s like I have 18 years of social conditioning which feels like it both is and isn’t a part of me, and because of that I both do and don’t want to lose it. Ultimately gender to means proudly and defiantly being the kind of person I want to be out in the world, with a community that supports and understands me. I don’t think there are any versions of masculinity that are that for me, even the most palatable form I’m aware of requires me to tick a few boxes to be seen in that way, and – (1) I don’t naturally tick those boxes, nor do I have I have a desire to (2) I actually do desire to embody some of things I understand about the social construct of femininity, it feels like that’s something that might work for me a bit. I want to be less afraid of my past. That sounds stupid, but I really feel like I’m getting closer to being the kind of person that I want to be, and it’s painful retreading relationships with people when I can only see the worst things I used to be in my connections with them. For instance, I want to be able to be friends with Pearl without worrying that her other friendships are more important to her than ours is, without thinking that I’m too gross, disgusting, weird, socially inept etc. to spend time with her. I don’t want to be jealous of her, but I want to live the things which I look up to in her, to the extent that I can. I want to properly be friends with Julia, but I’m kind of unsure how to broach that since the whole friend group situation is now weird for me (no contact with Charlie or Kim : ((( ). Probably I can just text her, but it feels too vulnerable. I don’t know if she actually enjoys my company or we just had an ok train trip one time and I’ve made too much of it because I don’t have that many people I enjoy talking to that much. I want to have a lot more phone calls with Zo, and I want to get to a normal friendship point with Sof. I think I’d even like to reach out to Susan, but I really don’t know where we left that off… If I can, I’d like to reconnect with more of the SEF people I knew. They’re all good kids and I love them deeply, so I wish they could see me more for who I am over who I felt I should be. I want to make my friendship with Cody fucking real, but I don’t know how. If anybody I know is owed that it’s him. The same goes for JRobertson, but there’s at least less of a hurdle there. I’m optimistic about things with CDT and the gang too. I want to do well on my exams. I find all of the stuff I need to do so so so overwhelming and I know there’s a ton I’m not going to get done in time, but I still really really really want them to go well. I just don’t know how I’m going to pull it off, since I feel it’s pretty likely I’ll walk into the exam room and panic. I know that that mindset is not helpful at all, but it’s something I can’t dispense with now as much as I might otherwise be able to. The environment at unimelb has really gotten under my skin and I feel a lot of pressure to do well to prove all of the competitive people wrong. But it’s hard to believe in yourself when you’ve done any better than scraping by on an exam (scraping a HD, that is). I want to have a good time at the Yves Tumor concert. I want to be able to take more of a role in the anti-Gaza-genocide movement, and I want to be confident that I can do that myself. Political activism and protest are scary to me without friends, but I understand that doing these things is a good way to MAKE friends. I can probably trust Kshitija to have some good opinions/thoughts as well so I should really talk to her. Speaking of Kshitija, I want to be closer to her. It feels like for both of us our connection is a source of a bit of security, and it’d be nice building some more trust, with no strings attached (no nonverbal expectations of limitations to our friendship or prescriptions or whatever, I don’t know how to put that in words. Also no romantic expectations from either party, I need more close friendships full stop but I also need more close nonromantic friendships with women. If anything changes there we’ll work it out but a close nonromantic connection is really what I’m looking for). I think I really really need that with someone. There are a lot more thoughts, fears, anxieties, wants and needs that I have too, which I can put down another time. I always feel so selfish for having so many of these with me and me alone. I just feel that I can’t even begin to properly worry about other people if I’m not properly involved in their lives, and THAT is something I have trouble with. By the by, I also need to add that I want to – get a job – start bouldering – go to Jack’s book club thing – catch up with Alannah (and Michael?) – catch up with Corbin - go on a trip with friends – have Bess over.