

“Where do you wanna meet today? Monroe Park? Anything works for me.”

was the first message I received from Rutuja at about 8:30 in the morning. We decided to meet at Monroe Park. It didn't take us too long to figure that out. Monroe park is not too far from where we lived so it was a safe choice. It was nice this past week and it would be a good idea to spend some time outside. There weren't too many people in the park, but just enough to be lively. Rutuja arrived first, about 10 minutes before 3. It was a very sunny Friday afternoon. I want to say it was in the 80s. We found an empty table with a set of two chairs over by the water fountain, near a super shady tree, so we could get out of the sun. The chairs were warm to the touch from being out in the heat all day.

What to do now? We didn't really come up with an activity for us to do together. Hanging out in the park is cool, but we weren't too sure if we should have something to do. So we just talked. We talked about how different VCU is now since everyone is back on campus. I lived on campus last school year and it is so weird seeing the campus so empty, but now it's so populated with students. The club fair happened last weekend and we talked about how super crowded it was and how so many people were there. We then talked about how

having our whole junior year of college online over zoom feels like we missed a year of college. It was like that whole year didn't even happen. We also talked about our plans after graduation and we start a conversation about going to grad school. We both were thinking about applying to grad school, however, I was still on the fence about it. Rutuja and I continued to spend our time hanging out together talking about things. The vibes were immaculate.

Rutuja and I also decided to work on some classwork together. We both are in Laura's typeface design class and we were working on a small project. It was almost 4 pm, and we spent some time sharing our progress with each other while continuing our conversations. Monroe park slowly became a bit more populated with people. There were

people walking their dogs and riding their bikes. And I got a whiff of "Richmond wind." All around a nice day.

At around 4:30, 4:45ish, we figured it was a good time to end our hangout session. Rutuja lives in the same direction as my place, so we walked towards Franklin street together. On the way, we saw this gigantic dog, whose head was up to my chest, with its owner. We then reach Franklin street and part ways, wishing each other a great weekend.

