

Hey,

I remember the first time I met you. It was in this cramped up classroom in Ankara during some orientation. You seemed like a very simple, easy friend I could make. Our moms met, and we were both happy to have found someone in the middle of the chaos we were dumped into.

I was pretty surprised by the number of girls there were in the first class, and we somehow ended up partially in the same friend group and kept interacting. I realized then that I was wrong about how social I thought you were. You were the silent-but-smiley type of person.

NPS flew by, mostly 'cause I don't want to remember much from those years. I was so excited to be friends with you and Indu when I first joined, and I still remember the shock on your face when you first saw me in the assembly. In school, I thought you were this cool, efficient, OCD-type of girl and compared to my tardy personality, yours felt

like a calming presence. You've always grounded my big, cheerful, loud side.

JEE happened, and I had never imagined us going to the same college. But, it happened, and it felt insane. I definitely expected you to end up in a much better college. It was so nice to have you and Niyali by my side on the first day. Our paths crossed yet again when you moved to CSE.

Oh please gods! I remember the 'hangout' we went on bunking Design Thinking before you moved. Piyaush & Mr. (I can't even remember his name), I can't possibly think of a more awkward experience I've had in my life! We didn't even want to take our masks off. You can be pretty social yk? You just needed a little push sometimes. Your crush on Nitin Krishna was so cute, and I never forget about Vidhyotha hehe. I still think you guys look great together (you're out of his league now, but in school you guys were so cute). The friend group that we were in was so fun in the moment. All the random

jokes, the made up family situation, the movie scene recreation and just how random and goofy we all were - I remember it all. Something that strikes me through all these memories is how snicey you were lol. It is so cute to see you like that.

One thing I think I've overlooked for the most part is how sensitive you are, because you don't show it. I hope that you get to embrace that side of you soon :) college was a rollercoaster ride for me, you, everyone. I've learned a lot, changed a lot, been hurt and fooled a lot and also hurt people a lot. I'm glad I got to experience that part of my life with you. I'm not all that ready to just say goodbye yet.

We faced a lot of hurdles during Mini's final year project and those memories are still fresh in my mind, and somehow, after our recent hangouts, I've been able to let go of all the bitter moments we've had, because I truly believe you're growing past it, and I'm gonna get to see a beautiful version of you soon. I know we don't talk much, but I've genuinely felt connected

Date: _____

to you. You're my oldest friend. I know this sounds cliché but I am hoping to grow old and talk about the good old days with you.

Let's come to the present. You're leaving, and I am sad we aren't crossing paths again, I'm so used to seeing you around and I haven't been able to process the fact that we will get to be around each other much less often now. It somehow feels like you're running away from your old life, and I am hoping it works out for you.

You have loads to take on @ NYC. I am so fucking excited to see the kind of person you're going to become after that experience. I truly hope you have the best fucking experience of your life, and achieve better than you've dreamed. Fucking crush it, dude, you got this.

I am and will be cheering you on aggressively. I will scream loud to celebrate your wins and love you loudly.

Don't you dare get sad. Don't you dare hurt yourself, or think you aren't good enough.

don't you dare compare, and don't overthink, just do.

You're going to a new place (or you're already there.), and I know it will be scary. But, you got this. I hope you make the best friends of your life there. (excluding me etc)

I want to know everything. We might not talk everyday, but I hope we can get on vc once in a while and talk about each other's lives. I hope we can send each other random pics if it reminded us of the other. I hope we cross paths again, and get to work in the same city soon.

I'm usually really hesitant to call people this - but you are my best friend, and you deserve the best.

I hope I get to give you this letter in person, but given how sick I am, I am not sure. I wish we got to meet one last time, but who cares when we enter. Enough of being a sap ugh. I love you.

Meena.