

Hello,

You've made it far by the time you've read this. All the choices you've made have led you to this moment. Reading these lines with a bright future ahead no matter how dark the clouds are now.

But of course, this past year hasn't been without difficulty. Things have changed. You've changed for starters. You're not the same person you were 1 year ago. And the world definitely isn't the same as it was 1 year ago. The world, along with you, is growing, so embrace it.

Professionally you may be at a crossroads with your identity. Choosing a career that is fulfilling but also pays the bills is tough. The world leads you to believe these things are mutually exclusive, but you know better. You might still wrestle over the careers and paths that are available to you or question that one you're on right now. Making a choice is tough, no doubt about that. You can't go back. No do-over to see how things might've been different. But don't be afraid. I know you'll do well, whichever path you choose. A thing to realize is that each path is the right path, anything could've been anything else and it would have just as much meaning.

The next time you stress over the right choice, realize that you have the power-I know you do- to make the best of whatever circumstance, whatever job, whatever conditions life throws at you. You've got that in you. You'll make the best of it, find meaning, and be of benefit to those nearby. People will flock to you because you radiate kindness and empathy. Never forget that. You matter. Always.

The world is already a dark place and making it darker is easy, but you've taken the challenge to brighten a few corners. And the world needs more people like you. You matter. We need you. Your courage. Your empathy. Your compassion. Your creativity. Your being. You may not think you possess these qualities right now, but give it time. Progress rolls like a brick. Humanity isn't a blank canvas, it's a paintbrush and you hold it. And with it, you will paint the world with dashing colors.

Stay steady in your path. Stay strong. Stay kind. Stay empathetic. Stay compassionate. When life becomes dark, remember the light inside you and be the lantern that others can follow.