

you only get one chance to send a love letter

andey robins

12 November 2018

Maddy,

*(How do I start this?)* Uhh hi, I'm andey. This might sound weird, but I really like your energy. I feel like that's a weird thing to say, right? I dunno, have you ever just met someone and you feel like you're gonna vibe with them? Like you're gonna have a connection? They're just a person that feels like they could be an incredibly important part of your life, and honestly it feels like you're that person in my life. I know we haven't known each other for very long, but sometimes you just get that feeling. Or at least I do. Isn't that a little bit crazy?

At the penalty of sounding crazy, do you want to just become friends? Is it wrong to just ask someone outright to be your friend? It feels a bit strange, but I can remember a time where it used to be that easy. The first best friend I ever had, his first name was Jarrod. Jarrod was an outgoing kid, and when we met he just came out and asked me if I wanted to be his best friend. That first day of kindergarten, it was so easy to ask someone if they wanted to be best friends. So how about it? Friends on? *(God, this is cringey.)*

Games are such an important part of my life, why don't we get together and play some board games. I can teach you some of my favorites; we can play Uno again just like the other night.

*(I don't like being this vulnerable; but I once read that you just need 20 seconds of insane courage to change the course of your life forever. Well, handing this desperate cry for love friendship to you is my 20 seconds. Will you take your 20 seconds to say yes?)*

Nervous and Eager,

andey

18 December 2018

Maddy,

I can't believe I've only known you for a month; I feel more connected to you than I've really ever felt to someone before. There's just something about you that makes me feel like I could talk to you for hours and hours. And crazy enough, I guess we do! I was glad to hear you made it home for break safely, and I'm looking forward to coming down to visit you for New Years!

I'm sorry things are going so poorly with you and Connor, maybe they'll get better over break! *(But I hope they don't.)* Long distance is hard, and maybe being together again will help solve those issues! *(But I hope it won't.)* Honestly though, if you don't talk things out, and if you don't stick up for yourself, there's no way they will. *(And that's for the best.)*

You need to stick up for yourself in this relationship. Remember the problems you were telling me about? The frustrations you had with him? Never communicating, not reciprocating your feelings in a way that fulfills you, not making efforts to meet you halfway. Tell him all about those feelings, and be firm. *(There's no way he's going to change.)*

You're one of the strongest people I know, and when you stand up for yourself, it's an incredible thing to see. Seeing that drive, that grit, that determination-- it's incredible, I don't know any other way to say it. When I see you get passionate about something, it's like the entire world melts away, and all I can see is you and whatever cause you are driving yourself towards.

I know you'll be able to stick up for yourself, and I want you to know that I'll always have your back when you need me to.

Contentedly Yours,

andey

1 January 2019

Maddy,

So I don't know what was going on last night, but you seemed really distant...

Are we okay?

You and Connor were kinda just sitting silently in the corner all night.

It was great to meet all of your friends last night, and I didn't want to interrupt you two.

But I'm worried about you.

*(I'm worried that you and I aren't okay; I'm worried that Connor is changing you.)*

You've been an emotional rock in my life the entire time I've known you.

I want to be here for you this time.

*(Even if I'm wrong about your relationship; I've accepted that now.)*

I want to be here for my best friend.

I want to be here for you.

On a lighter note-- and in an effort to give you something less emotionally draining to think about in this letter-- I loved getting to meet your friends! Grace and I hit it off so well, if only she were going to Wyoming! Race and Joey are a couple of interesting people for sure. We all sat in the dark and talked about philosophy, the universe, the meaning of love, and free will until like 4 in the morning actually.

Honestly, I'm of the opinion that the world is deterministic: anything that's going to happen will happen regardless of what anyone does, *(so I'm looking forward to seeing how you and I eventually manage to end up together. It certainly is looking a bit grim right now.)*

With Love,

andey

29 January 2019

Maddy,

Alright, I'm hurting. I gave you space throughout the last month because that's what you asked for, but for you to greet everyone else around us while ignoring me...

You want to spend less time together, and I can respect that. We both know that this semester is going to be a busier one anyways. All that I'm going to ask is that we manage to make even just one day, every week, where we can spend time together, we can enjoy each other's company, and we can have the chance to share what's on our minds.

I genuinely meant what I said. I would still love to be your friend even though you've never shared the same level of feelings for me. *(But I don't believe you didn't fall in love.)* You're the best friend I've ever had, and I know I want to work to maintain some form of a relationship with you regardless of what your feelings *(more like lack of feelings)* are for me.

Maybe we can just get together to do something low key? We could go grab coffee and just walk around town like we used to. We could play some games like we used to. We could even just get together with everyone and all go grab dinner and watch a movie together like we all used to.

*(Please don't leave me.)*

Nervous for the Future,

andey

30 January 2019

Maddy,

*(What the hell? You make plans with me last night and then today I wake up to a message saying that you never want to talk to me again? I know I'm not perfect, and I'm never going to claim that I am, but to do something like that? Don't you think it's kind of shitty to make someone think that they're going to be able to repair this relationship and then just steal that all back at the last second? Where did this even come from? Do you want to know why I've been "talking about you behind your back?" Could it maybe be because you won't even acknowledge my existence when we're together in person? Do you think that's what it could be, Madison? Or am I a shitty person because I thought that maybe you actually had feelings for me? Did you know that Sage and Sophie made bets that we would come back from break and be dating? How could you possibly have been acting the way you have been for the last three months if you didn't have feelings for me? Am I just an idiot because I was so wrapped up in the way you made me feel special that I didn't notice you leading me along this whole time, Madison? And you think I'm the shitty friend? Are you lying to me because it's just "too much" for you to face the question of what would have happened if you actually did break up with Connor when you said you were going to? Is this just like every other time you've had to make a hard decision in your perfect life and you just give up because changing the status quo is so much scarier than staying in the miserable world that you choose to hide away in, Madison?)*

*(You say that you never want to talk to me again. As if I would want to repair things after all of this. You must think I'm just some lost puppy that's always going to come back to you.)*

Fuck you.

andey

4 December 2019

Maddy,

Sometimes I wonder if I would still miss you if I actually told you everything I had been thinking. The more time that separates me from what happened, the more I realize that I don't have any idea what lesson I should have learned from all of this chaos.

I've been lonely for the last year. Nobody has really managed to come into my life and fill the same place that you filled. Life feels as though it's just been slipping past me. I miss you.

I saw you for the first time earlier today. I was walking to work. And then I looked up. And you were right in front of me. It looked like you were staring at me. As soon as I glanced up, you looked away. Maybe that's why I started to panic. Maybe I just wanted you to recognize me as someone who used to be as important in your life as you were in mine. Maybe I just wanted some hint that you wish things ended differently too.

I've been carrying this hole in my person ever since we said our last goodbye. I wish I knew what would fill it.

I wish I knew what to say, because I just want you back in my life. *(Maybe I should text you.)*

The love that I lost on that day has haunted me ever since. Could I have done something different? Could I have said something to keep you in my life? *(Is this going to happen to me again?)*

I try to learn something from every person that walks out of my life, but in this case, I'm struggling to understand what lesson I should be learning. What do you have to teach me? I wish I could talk to you just one last time. *(Maybe if I did, I would be able to figure it out...)*

Lost Without You,

andey

Today

Madison,

I want you to picture a wave. The wave is a clear, distinct object. It has a height, amplitude, velocity, speed, force, and a nearly infinite number of other measurable traits. It races towards the shoreline with a determined certainty; The wave knows that it will reach the shore, but it doesn't know what will come next. But we know. We know that the wave will crest. And then the wave will crash. And then the wave seeps into the sand. And then the wave is gone. All trace of the beauty the wave once possessed has been erased from the world.

But the water is still there

And the sand is wet

And a clever observer will notice that the beach has been altered by the wave

Like the wave, every person we come across in our lives leaves changes on the beach of our soul. Some people might not have the largest impact: they just lap at the shoreline. Other could be the tidal waves of a tsunami, crashing down to forever reconstruct the beach. Sometimes these changes are for the better, and sometimes they leave us wishing for the beach we used to know. But try as we might, there's no way for us to reach back in time and bring back the beach we can only remember. And there's no way to restore the wave that we saw charging towards the shore moments ago.

And that's the beauty of the ocean

The fleeting nature

The temporary joy

Whenever I find one chapter of my life closing-- whenever a character walks out that will likely never return-- I like to search for the lesson that person has left imprinted on my life. I want to

find what qualities of theirs I'll carry with me for the rest of my days. I want to know what story their wave tells on the beach of my life.

And it may have taken me a year to do it

And I may have been fighting the reflection required to find it

And I may have waited with hope that I could bring the old beach back

I was so wrapped up in the joy I brought into my life because of you, I neglected to remember the impact my life would have on yours. I spent so much time working to keep you all to myself-- to make sure that I wouldn't lose you. I was so terrified of being alone because for the first time in my life, it felt like someone cared about me, personally. I was so wrapped up in how great you made my life, I didn't see how I was destroying yours.

I was selfish

I was conceited

I was too focussed on my "what-ifs" and "maybes" to see your "right now"

You were right about me. I am a terrible person and a shitty friend. I do deserve that. But I also know that I'm different than I was yesterday-- I'm better than I was yesterday. Every day, I want to be a better person than I was the day before. I want to act in a way that the world tomorrow is better than it is today. I want to give others the chance to say, "the beach of my life is more beautiful now that andey's wave has crested." And most of all, I want to thank you for indirectly putting me on this path. For being the cause that pushed me onto this trail. For being the voice in my head that's always whispering,

*"What are they going through?"*

*"How can you help them?"*

*"What will your wave do to their life?"*

so thank you, and i hope you have the beautiful life we all deserve.