Title: Commemorative Speech for Makenna

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I met my best friend, Makenna, on the first day of Mrs. Madsen’s English class in 6th grade. I remember this day, but never quite as vividly as she seems to remember it. Apparently, as she tells me, I was sitting next to her and towards the beginning of class I raised my hand and asked if it mattered if I had a wide ruled or a college ruled notebook. You know, I think part of me knew it was a stupid question- at least I hope I did. But I never could have ever in a million years realize how long that one stupid question would haunt me - over seven years now. I will never live it down. Nevertheless, that day was the start of a story that just kind of started to write itself.

There are a lot of reasons why Makenna and I mesh so well; Our communication, our mutual support, and our resilient relationship.

She and I communicate very reciprocally and thoroughly. We are always sharing our needs and desires proactively so that the other can communicate back acknowledgment, support, and respond however is needed. We don’t really have a filter with each other- we’re completely open. She knows more about me than I do sometimes, I swear.

We build off of each other’s ideas, questions, and contemplations very fluidly and organically. Like it’s one train of thought just bouncing back in forth, gradually complexing and developing, until we’re both satisfied.

We both strongly value genuine human conversation so we don’t often text casually in the form of small talk- “hey, what’s up, how are you, blah blah blah”-we both think it’s kind of stupid. Don’t get me wrong however, we still have quite thorough conversations when the time is right and discussion is warranted.

She knows how I speak, type, my individual rhetoric, and my vocabulary. As well as I hers. We sometimes talk about how it’s often as if, when we are texting, it’s like we are having a conversation. I can hear her voice in my head verbalizing the messages and her, mine- back and forth, back and forth. It’s similar to that snowball effect that happens in our verbal conversations with our trains of thought and discussion.

My friendship with Makenna is also an igniter of change and growth within my life.

We help each other to work on parts of our life, a specific situation, or personality trait that we want to change. She is always telling me to just go for it, and reminding me that the worst thing that could happen is usually nothing.

She always has my back. I always am trying to put myself into new situations, like moving across the country to a city I had never been to, and pushing my personal limits. She is always very supportive and knows that when I say I need a pep talk, no questions asked, she’s got it.

She is never afraid to be honest with me, even if the truth will hurt. One of the major contributors to influencing change is knowing when something is wrong, or right, or at least taking the time to ask someone’s perspective on such. She always gives me straight up reflections to my concerns and actions. Our relationships and interactions are pure and genuine.

Another reason Makenna and I are unique and function so well together is because our connection is resilient.

She has seen me at my worst, and she still loves me. Not many have been privy to the inner-workings of my brain and my life. She has been an integral piece of my journey through the most memorable, as well as the most crippling moments. No one is a stranger to the hardships that can occur in your life between the ages of 11 and 18. We have seen and experienced it all together- all of the firsts that occur in your adolescence, all of the beautiful things, all the new. As well as all the hurt, discomfort, loss that one could possibly experience- ultimate crisis at certain points.

Distance means so little when someone is your soulmate. I carry her with me, her laugh, her jokes, and her affection. When we see each other for the first time in a while, it’s as if we were never separated. Jealousy and doubt is never felt. We both know that we’re each other’s person. It’s always been that way. We’ve been separated for months at a time several times during our friendship, often without means of adequate communication, but we still always knew we had each other- that we were there-that one day we would be with each other again.

Though we can’t talk every day, we still make the time. We still put in the effort to be there for each other and listen to each other. Even though she is not here, she knows exactly where she is in relation to my heart.

I am, and always have been, a strong believer in the concept of soulmates. Soulmates, to me, are some of the greatest treasures we have on this planet. People that truly care for you, connect with you, relate with you, and on a deeper level – understand you. The rare and priceless gems that give our lives bits of light, love, and a deeper sense of comfort. Makenna is one of the soulmates that I have been blessed with. I wholeheartedly believe that she deserves the best, and she believes wholeheartedly the same for me. We believe in each other, and our goals, and our efforts. We are each other’s hype women!

We can communicate and share our passions, we can support each other fully and without judgment, and we can withstand months and thousands of miles apart. She’s everything one could want for a best friend and more.