**About**

Hi, I’m Cecilly. I am an animal lover with an overwhelming need for constant change. New experiences are literally what keep me going. I went to school for journalism and have since dabbled in the most random of hobbies. I love to embroider and sew. I make a mean pumpkin bread (my grandmother’s recipe) and the most amazing seven-ingredient lemon squares. I hope to learn code and to one day hand carve my own set of wooden utensils. I guess the rest is kind of a wash.

Scott’s my other half. He is the stable, quiet, polite type that reins me in. He has tinkered with computers since grade school and hand-built me my very first laptop from scrap parts. He likes to mountain bike and plays a solid game of badminton. He loves coffee and would like a “Breaking Bad” coffee maker at some point. Without a base knowledge of him, you don’t know much about me.

**Journey**

I don’t know what was pulling me towards New York, but I had this insatiable urge to move to Brooklyn in January 2014. My friends and family thought I was crazy to up and leave and I had to convince Scott with three grueling week’s worth of persuasion, but with heavy risk and quite a bit of luck we made the drive down from Massachusetts in mid January, to apartment hunt, and were moved in by February 3rd.

We came down looking for freedom and a fresh start, without a place to live, jobs or much savings. In hindsight, it was absolutely ridiculous but at the time, I could only see the bright side and ignored any deterrence. Somehow, after a year and a half of living here, it all worked out. We still look back in awe, wondering just how we managed to figure it all out.

Scott got a job in Information Technology that he loves, and I started my own dog walking business in Brooklyn. We have explored the city and met some amazing people. We have grown so much professionally and more importantly, personally. This was my first time away from the nest and I am so grateful for what a remarkable trip it has since been.

**Left Behind**

In moving to New York, the most challenging transition, by far, has been leaving behind family, friends, pets and our homes. Although it is easy to look back on our experience here and point out several cherished memories we have shared, leaving many of the people we love has proven difficult.

I rarely get to see my parents, two sisters and my beloved family dog, Bailey. My parents recently sold my childhood home and are planning to move to Florida. In leaving Massachusetts to live here, I’ve only now realized just how meaningful my childhood and hometown, were to me. I miss Cider Hill Farm donuts and snuggling with my pup.

Scott’s mom and sister live in Massachusetts, which is a good five to six hour drive. His dad lives in northern Maine, making it especially difficult to visit. His dog, Mason, also lives in Massachusetts. We miss hiking around the reservoir in his area, with Mason, and going to the beach down the way for stand up paddle boarding.

Scott and I have several friends that we don’t see as often now. Work schedules are crazy, our friends are having children or settling down and the time to spend together has dwindled. Although we have created some amazing bonds with people we have met down here, we still miss fire pits and hibachi with old pals.

**Forward**

New York City has been quite the experience and a positive one overall. Scott and I often wonder what the next step is. We long to go back to Massachusetts to settle down and start a family. We would also like to discover what staying in New York might bring. I also secretly long to backpack around foreign countries for the next few years, but we will see.

It’s clear that we have no idea what the future holds. For now, we are taking it one step at a time. We hope to learn code so that any of these options are available to us. It is exciting to think that learning tech skills can allow us to specialize in any niche occupation that excites us.

Someday we may have a set plan, but as for now, the strategy is to grow, learn and be present. I’m sure it will all work out. ☺