

November 23, 2024

Dear Audra,

On September 10, 2020, I sent a GroupMe message in the Park/Mudd group chat asking for a walking buddy. I had no idea that that message would introduce me to one of the most important people I met during college. Thanks for taking a leap of faith and reaching out to me. That very first walk during the beginning of our first year at WashU gave me my first college friend: you. I vividly remember our first walk around campus and us instantly connecting. Even though we were so different and had vastly different interests, it was an easy-flowing conversation from the start. After our walk, I called my mom and told her I made my first college friend, and I was so excited. I am very grateful that over 4 years later, I still call you a good friend and someone I know is going to be in my life for the rest of my life.

Our many walks and dinners helped make the first year tolerable, and I am glad we decided to live together during sophomore year. I'm not sure if you remember this, but at the beginning of our sophomore year, we went to an event in the village together. There was a big "2024" sign and we got a picture of the two of us in front of the sign. That has been your profile picture ever since. Even though we have other great pictures together, including ones from graduation, I love that sophomore 2024 picture because it signified the beginning of when we became closer than just friends: we became suitemates.

I have so many memories from our Mudd 240 suite. You were with me when I got my Girls Who Invest acceptance (even though I hate finance, you were the first to tell me congrats). I was the one who gently forced you to apply to Microsoft (and remembering the LinkedIn shoutout always makes me laugh). When our stupid neighbors smoked weed which resulted in me calling campus security (multiple times). When our door got EGGED. Your weird obsession with the Biscoff spread (which will never compare to peanut butter or chocolate). You killing all the bugs in our suite with your handheld vacuum (because we quickly realized that you throwing a shoe at a bug wasn't going to cut it). We talked about our families, animals, goals, and dreams in sweats wrapped in blankets. I still have and wear the fuzzy WashU bear socks your mom sent in a care package. That year was so tough for me, with boy drama and my sickness, but you stuck through it with me. I am sorry my mom crashed on our couch multiple times when I was sick, but thank you for your understanding and patience. I know I'm not easy to live with, so thank you for dealing with my craziness and rules. You will always be my favorite suitemate. I loved when we would work super late into the night and one of us would hear the other open our door for a snack or drink break and the other would quickly follow suit. Then we would take a much-needed and well-deserved break, you with your coffee on the chair and me with my hot chocolate on the couch. The amount of sugar we consumed, the amount of coffee you consumed, and the amount of chocolate I consumed during college is kind of terrifying and definitely concerning, but oh well (we were in survival mode, and I guess it worked). Our rants to each other were (and still are) unparalleled, and they made me feel so much less alone during

November 23, 2024

those long tough nights. I wish we could have lived together another year, but our different abroad journeys changed our plans. However, I am so glad you decided to go abroad – wasn't it just the best? I'm grateful that our walks turned into (Chipotle) dinners for the last few semesters of college, and that we stayed in touch supporting each other through it all.

Audra, I am SO proud of you. You are one of the smartest people I know. I admire your drive, work ethic, and desire to be the best. It has been such an honor walking through the journey of college alongside you, and it has been really inspiring to see you grow personally, professionally, and academically. I am so proud of you for changing majors and career paths. I don't think I ever told you this, but you helped inspire me and give me the confidence to change majors and pivot out of finance. I was terrified to do so, but you were the example I needed to know that it was okay to stray away from the "initial plan" if it no longer fit. Since then, I have pivoted multiple times, and with each pivot, I get closer to figuring out my long-term realistic dream. Whether you stay at Microsoft for your entire career, decide to pursue an MD/PhD, or do literally any of the million other options in between, I am going to support you and be here for you to talk through options, rant, or just listen. You fought me so much on that initial sophomore Microsoft application, but I knew you would get it, and I was right. 2 internships later, meeting your boyfriend, falling in love with Seattle, and landing an amazing job...you're welcome darling (I'm kidding – it was all you. I just gave you the nudge). I believed in you then, I believe in you now, and I'll continue to always believe in you.

I am grateful to have a loyal, thoughtful, and true friend like you in my corner. I know you are killing it at Microsoft, and I hope you're loving it in Seattle. I hope you're showing all those stuck-up obnoxious corporate tech computer science boys your brilliance. They have no idea the incredible person they are so fortunate to work with, because they're working with THE Audra Elizabeth Stump. What an honor and a privilege (and I mean that wholeheartedly, not sarcastically). I'm sure it has been tough to be so far away from family and friends, but believe me, I understand probably better than most. We got it though. We're tough, and if we got through WashU bullshit we can get through pretty much anything. You deserve all the happiness and success that is going to happen in your life, and I can't wait to be one of your biggest (and loudest) cheerleaders through it all.

I have to say, when I got Chandler's note inviting me to write you a letter, I burst into tears. I know, I know, I am overly emotional. I was so grateful that he even considered to include me. What an incredibly thoughtful person he must be to put something like this together for you. I have obviously heard a lot about him since you two met, but I was really glad I got to meet him at graduation weekend. You just seemed so happy and at ease with him, and that made me incredibly happy for you. I knew he was nice, but I am so glad that you have him and he treats you the way that you deserve.

November 23, 2024

Our time at WashU was not easy. We got hit with so many challenges, especially with the pandemic stealing an immense amount of the college memories and experiences we should have had. Academics were insurmountable at times, people were overly dramatic and fake, and we dealt with our fair share of health issues and boy drama. But you were always someone I felt comfortable around and could trust – I knew you had my back and would never judge me. I knew if I needed someone, you would be there. And I hope you felt the same during college – but I also hope you still feel that way now. Regardless of us being literally on opposite sides of the country, I am always here for you and I'm always one call away. I'm beyond grateful that even though we aren't in constant communication, every time we talk it feels like no time has passed. That's how I know it is true friendship and it is going to last – our bond has never been and will never be forced.

I hated saying bye to you at graduation. To see us finally in our cap and gowns after all that time... surreal. We did it. I knew it wasn't goodbye – it was see you later. And I truly believe that. Whenever you're in the Midwest or North Carolina, you have to let me know and we will try our best to reunite. And of course, I'll let you know if I'm ever out in Seattle. I know we haven't been in touch nearly as much as we hoped to, and I sincerely apologize for that. It breaks my heart how bad I have been with communication the past few months. Juggling work and GRE in a new city has been exhausting, to say the least, but that is no excuse. You have tried, and I have been horrible, and I am really truly sorry. I promise to do better because I always want to have you in my life, and I hope you know how much I value you and our friendship. I miss you so much. I'm sending you a huge hug and lots of love. I can't wait to have an hours-long catch-up soon.

Love you!

Rosie Feinbloom