Happy Birthday.

I don't know if you'll like this or not, and I'm not sure if you'll even have time to read through these thoughts and listen to these songs and feel the way that I feel. Or if it'll be broken into different sittings. Or if you'll look at it and feel discouraged because we're farther apart than ever before.

But I wanted to give more of myself to you than I have for awhile, so here is a lot of me.

I've wanted to do something like this for a long time. To make a playlist for someone, for them to ask for the meaning of the order, to discuss at length why I chose to do this. To talk about the order of the songs in depth, the vibes of each. I love thinking about this stuff, but no one's ever asked.

But I thought I'd finally make a short one for you. A playlist for your birthday! (With some of my thoughts that I hope you find a smidge entertaining)

**imgonnagetyouback by Taylor Swift**

It's been a weird time recently huh. Moments where we're distraught, where we're so far that it feels like we don't even know each other, to minutes later being able to chat as best friends. All the while, not exactly knowing what we want, but trying to get what we want all the same. The push and pull of distance and wanting to be together but not feeling like we are and wanting to give up.

So I thought starting with this song felt right. An artist that you respect but don't really love the way everyone else does, talking about the potential desire to rekindle a relationship that she's not sure if she even wants.

Fitting right?

**Erase me by Lizzie McAlpine**

The change up from 2:15-2:32 is incredible. It reminds me of times when we’ve discussed music together, detailing the new sounds we’re hearing. The build, the panning of that electric guitar sound, the “pop”.

**friends by Arash Buana**

**Little Blue by Jacob Collier**

**Jealous by Labrinth**

**Sweet Disaster by Oh Wonder**

Aside: Inspired by their 22 Break and 22 Make albums, I actually decided to make some playlists about breaking up and coming back together.

This one’s from their 22 Make. I love 2:42-3:06, the jazzy transition back into the chorus is really interesting and satisfying.

**You Be The Anchor That Keeps My Feet On The Ground by Mayday Parade**

**Paris, Texas by Lana Del Rey**

For your places playlist! It’s kind of a haunting song

**I just can’t stop loving you by Michael Aldi**

**Wishes by Tiny Habits**

**If a tree falls in love with a river by Lau Noah and Jacob Collier**

**Bulletproof Love by Pierce The Veil**

**Black Bear Lane by Couch**

**Sexy to Someone by Clairo**

**Plastic by Moses Sumney**

A question for your perspective: How do you feel about something once being easy becoming really difficult?

- If I'm being honest and just let my consciousness stream out, it doesn't sound too appealing. The first thing that comes to mind to me is the end of a sport career. To have been doing something for so long, all your life, reaching the highest level, and then beginning to FEEL the dropoff. Your mind knows what it wants, it knows what it has to do, but your body can't keep up. I kind of wonder what it's like in a relationship? If you want something to work but it's just not feeling the same, do you just have to accept that it's different now? And if you don't and you miss the way that things were, is it even possible to recapture what you once had (with another person, or with the memories, or with the experiences)?