Dear Christopher,

It’s been a year since I last saw you. But it doesn’t really feel that long – I see your updates once in a while. Man, I am impressed with your efforts and gains. When you said you wanted to work on yourself (physically and mentally), I knew you would do well. Seeing your progress (girls are swooning over you now, right?) makes me proud.

When whatever happened last year happened, I told myself that unless Chris reaches out again, I won’t talk to him. Stuff like this has happened twice already. I didn’t want to go through it again. At the time based on what you told me, I wasn’t sure if having me in your life is even necessary or good for us. Between us I sometimes feel like I’m over-compensating for reasons I don’t understand. Okay I will stop all the sentimental stuff, it’s cringey.

But as I was jogging today, the chilly weather reminded me of when I moved to Hawaii, all those late night calls and just chatting about anything, especially complaining about what sucks in life. The chilly Hawaiian breeze along the shore at night, walking home on a dirt trail after the shitty restaurant shift, and all the stars and roosters, all came back to me.

You were one of the very few people I had in life at that time to sustain myself. Being cut off from the world and unsure of where I would go in life was scary as fuck. You were going through things too, but even then you stuck with me and gave me all the memories that I remembered as I was walking along streets I was familiar with in a season that makes me homesick (3 full years since I visited Mom). I thought about how your first year of university went, whether you picked up new hobbies (other than weight training), or made lifelong friends. From the snippets it seems like things are going well for you, so I’m really happy.

Closure is a word teenagers would use to describe this kind of long message, but I don’t want to send a massive text bubble. Just know that the ball is in your court now – I’d love to stay your friend and see you regularly, but you can decide that. Thank you for being my friend for the last four-plus years. No matter what happened, know that I will always cherish our memories and friendship and all the growth we’ve achieved together.

Love yours, Michael (October 2022)

P.S: I’m doing well in my life. I graduated with honors, found a great job that I love, and am living nicely. Only thing was missing was an emotional companion, but that will happen one day too. Curious about your gf ☺