Dear Journal,

I’m back in the USA.

I wrote most of my feelings down in my journal on the plane ride home. Honestly my thoughts throughout the last year have been pretty distributed between online entries and journaling in my book. I wish there was an easier way to combine the two of them so that I could easily see everything in one place.. But until then, I’ll just have to be okay with switching between my physical journals and my online entries.

It feels very weird to be back.

Everything is so clean. Everything is so **huge**. Everyone has so much money. Every*one* is so clean.

I think Santa Monica was probably one of the most different places I could have gone to immediately from South America.

Everyone seems like they are trying to impress others. Everyone is using their phones on the street. When I smile and keep eye contact with people, they aren’t used to that.

I don’t get gawked at here. People don’t stare or really even look at me.

I’m not a unique unicorn here. I’m one of many inside of a city of unique unicorns. Rich unicorns.

I can’t believe how put together this city is. All of the buildings are ginormous.

I went to get lunch with Claudia today at Oracle and the little park in between the buildings in the area made me feel like I was inside of a castle. The infrastructure is so huge and everything looks incredibly uniform. It’s straight out of a magazine or a billboard, it doesn’t feel real.

Everyone’s cars here are so nice. And they are *so clean*.

Buttttt there is some good news today.

Well, okay two things of good news.

First - Jafeth sent me such a nice voice message! He basically said that he is so happy to have met me and he will be waiting for me to return to Cali. He also called me cute and so nice and told me to keep ‘smiling at people and being kind to everyone, because I’m good at it’... that made me so happy!!

Second - I GOT ACCEPTED TO VOLUNTEER AT THE RECSYS CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER!! Robin also said that I can **GET FUNDED BY THE SCHOOL TO GO!!!!!!** This means that as long as my advisors and teachers are okay with it…. I’ll be going to ***COPENHAGEN, DENMARK*** in September!! My international travels aren’t over yet baby.

I’m so excited!!