

My Dearest Sydney,

Three years of Valentine's Days, and I keep finding new reasons to be grateful you're in my life!

This past year has been full of moments I keep coming back to in my mind. Obviously Maine stands out, not just because of the scenery or the adventure, but because of you. Traveling with you reminds me how special it is and how lucky I am to have found someone who is truly my best friend, someone who understands me in ways I didn't know I needed to be understood. I love seeing the world with you.

Some of my favorite memories aren't from the big trips at all though. They are from watching you experience something for the first time: your first baseball (from a game(ish)), that enormous bowl of Chapino, your first lobster roll, your first "Best Play" in COD. The wonder and joy in your eyes makes everything feel warm and right. Seeing you light up reminds me of what matters most.

I want to thank you, baby, for being here for me this year. For your patience with me. For your honesty with me, especially when it hasn't been easy to hear. Our conversation the other night forced me to reflect more on our relationship and I know I haven't always shown up the way you deserve. I'm sorry for the times I've let myself get too comfortable and may have stopped listening, stopped asking, or stopped being as present as I should be. You deserve someone who continues to get to know you, who pays attention, who makes you feel supported, and I want to be that person for you.

I love you, Sydney! I love who you are, inside and out. I don't want to lose sight of what makes our relationship special or what makes you the person I choose every day. You are worth more to me than all the bones in the world and underworld. You deserve to feel valued and heard and loved, not just on Valentine's Day, but in all the ordinary moments too. I'm committed to showing you that.

Thank you for being honest with me. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for believing in us, even when it's hard. Being with you has been one of the greatest gifts of my life, and I don't want to take that for granted. Happy Valentine's Day! Exatly!

Love always,  
Josh ♡