**THINGS I DON’T LIKE : GETTING OLDER AND SAYING GOODBYE**

Don’t get me wrong. There’s always been a sense of excitement as I turn one year older. For instance, my 10th birthday when I dived into the double digits, my 13th birthday for obvious reasons, my 16th birthday just for the sake of saying I was sweet sixteen, my 18th birthday knowing I could do almost anything I wanted legally, and most recently my 20th birthday, knowing that any mess I made couldn’t be blamed on my raging teenage hormones anymore, although that last one is a bit of a bummer.

All that being said, every new year fills me with an overwhelming sense of nostalgia and at the same time, dislike for time speeding up right before my eyes. It makes me realize that life is shorter than we think it is and there is so much to do and so little time to do it.

I have this unhealthy obsession with hoarding everything from old pictures, videos, clothes to even school notes – you name it, I have it. Simply put, I hold on to the past more than I should, but for good reason, atleast according to me. I believe till today that my childhood was perfect and that nothing was wrong, simply because I am going through a lot right now; stuff which is not all that good and I choose not to remember the bad that took place in the past. I know for a fact that I will be saying the same about now, twenty years later.

With getting older, goodbyes also increase. There are many types of goodbyes – for instance saying bye to friends and lovers going abroad to study, moving out of your own home, and then comes the goodbyes which are more final – deaths of loved ones. Nobody likes goodbyes and I’m definitely not an exception.

What I’ve come to realize though is, getting older is inevitable, death is inevitable and so is saying goodbye. We can choose to be down in the dumps about it or we can make our lives worth living. The choice is ours.

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