

My dearest, Emeline,

Happy Birthday!!! I can't believe you're turning 20! And so much earlier than me too! I hope you'll still talk to me every now and then even though you're a workin' woman in her 20s and I'm just a lousy teen. I hope that your day is going *swimmingly* ba-dum-chhhhh. You'll have to let me know how scuba goes! I cannot wait to be your scuba buddy someday. Today is the day you can begin measuring your time on this Earth in decades. Or, as you may prefer, half-lives of the Krypton-85 isotope. Isn't that crazy?! I hear the latter is really catching on these days. I like to characterize all that time as some really famous *impressionism* painter, slowly making seemingly random blobs and strokes on the canvas, making beauty at their own pace. Your brief and beautiful attempt at learning, laughter, and love has without a doubt made you the most colorful, vibrant, and fascinating person to stumble into my life. You're just so goddamn impressive. (Fun fact: impress-ionism is actually named that because it's IMPRESS-ive. Etymology baby, learn about it). I mean, on paper you're KILLING IT in school, doing research with leading professors, impressing your managers at your sweet GE internship, and you're a cello god. But even more crazy is how much you care, your ability to always find time for things that bring you joy, and your seemingly endless curiosity for all things you see as interesting and beautiful. I hope that you can take a second to look at where you are, see how far you've come, and know that so many people, including me, look up to you.

One of these upcoming days, though, I hope to see you at eye level. Our heads up in the clouds, laughing way too loudly for the time of night. Knowing all too well that at this rate, we'll be absolutely exhausted in the morning. But not really caring because enjoying each other's company is worth losing a little sleep. It's crazy how this all worked out. The odds of simply existing are slim enough. So the odds of you and I existing, side by side, must be next to nothing! Oh and don't forget about that fateful m&m color question! All this is to say maybe the universe really is working in our favor. Because in this little sliver of time that we might have, I was able to start to get to know you and the woman you're becoming. You make it so incredibly easy to love you, Emeline, and I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to learn from and with you for all this time.

Now I know what you're thinking, "Drew, where the heck is my gift." Well, I'm glad you asked! So, looking back over this past year, there was one thing that I thought we both used quite a bit, and that's emojis! But there are a few issues! First, at the rate that we're sending emojis, we're going to run out pretty soon. Second, sometimes the current emojis just don't cut it (e.g. the seemingly intentional lack of water tower emojis, the lack of sufficiently cute emojis, etc). Introducing: **Em-oji**. Emojis for Emeline! You can just click on this document to install it! It's technically in a beta test right now so random people can't get it on the app store. I can count on one hand the activities in the past year that have made me smile so consistently as curating these pictures for you. You're pretty cute ya know? I look forward to adding countless more Em-ojis as we continue to make countless more memories together. I hope that you enjoy!! Have a fantastic day, Emeline!

If there was a stronger phrase than "I love you" I'd use it a million times.
I love you, Emeline, I love you so so much.

Yours,
Drew