**The conflict with goodbyes**

Sunday 6th April 2017

*Josh, my brother, sometimes calls me treacherous. Sometimes I am. I hold responsible the fact that for the majority of the seventeen years of my life I've been stuck in this small town. To a maverick artist or a poet Summer Springs would seem like heaven on earth, but that's not me. I'm the girl who has always been eager to get the hell out of here. A small town isn't my thing. Staying in one place for too long isn't either. Nor is getting too close to anybody. People hurt you, that's just the way it is, that's why I like to keep my distance. Thankfully, graduation is just two short months away, then I can finally get the hell out of here.*

Tuesday 8th April 2017

*My life is a monotonousness. I hardly even notice the day's passing by. Monday, Tuesday.. same old, same old. I eat, I sleep, I study and I avoid university applications. What else is new? Just trying to make it through. Josh and mum made me take up some lame ass prom committee and now I'm stuck attending meetings every week until June. I think it's the guilt that made me agree, the awareness that I'm leaving soon.*

Friday 11th April 2017

*I can't sleep. Every time I close my eyes I see things I'd rather not see. When I was little my mum would hold me tightly and whisper in my ear to take 'ten teensy breaths'. Nowadays I do it myself, however it doesn't do much. My heart still thump thumps hard in my chest, my palms are still overly sweaty and my eyes are still blurry from the unshed tears that don't and never will have permission to fall out. The odd pieces of my memory coming back to life; hands waving goodbye, people shouting and leaving and never coming back. Us humans, we're such a weird species. Afraid of such mundane actions. Right, enough with the mushy stuff, I'll write tomorrow.*

Wednesday 16th April 2017

*I'm terrible at this writing craze, but just stick with me. I'm trying my hardest, I promise. These days I've come to the conclusion that you should always expect the unexpected. I've met somebody, a boy. He's different. He sees straight through me and he isn't letting me push him away. He terrifies me.*

Thursday 17th April 2017

*His name is Andy. I know that you've been wondering. He said that he wants to get to know me more and I reluctantly agreed to meet up for coffee. After all what harm will that do? My walls are high, my heart is safe and he'll get bored soon anyway. Josh being the protective brother that he is, isn't taking 'no' for an answer as to giving me a lift to the coffee shop. It could actually be a little funny, Josh can be very intimidating if he wants to be. Poor old Andy will run for the hills, no doubt.*

Saturday 26th April 2017

*Andy hasn't ran. Neither have I. I like him. He asked me to be his girlfriend today and I agreed. I don't know why, this can't last. Andy is staying here, planning on attending Summer Springs university and I'm planning on leaving this town; ones and for all. I'm going to travel the world, chase my dreams, work in bars and sun tan on the beach. I will leave before anyone else has the chance to leave me first. That has always been the plan, ever since I was a little girl, more and more broken hearted by each person that had left me. Friends, family, nobody stuck around except for my mum and Josh. Ever. Be it death or simply walking out on us, I've learnt early on that nothing in life is permanent. You have to grow thick skin and protect yourself. That's the only way to get through life. You have to be a little bit numb, that's all I've ever known. And it won't change, I can't let it change. I can't let some random boy turn my whole world upside down. I can't give him that power over me. I'm promising myself that the second I feel something deeper towards him, I'm breaking it off. As for now a little fun hasn't hurt anybody and anyway, I like talking to him. I like that he listens to me., cares what I have to say. He seems to be an old soul stuck in a world full of individuals carelessly running through life.*

Tuesday 29th April 2017

*I'm spending exceedingly large amounts of time with him. Every waking moment, it seems. I know that I should stop, I know that it can't be dependable but he's addicting. He makes me feel good, alive. I have never felt this way before. Never in my entire life. It's as if he's teaching me how to live. Each day we do something different, something new. Food fights, bike rides, picnics, parties, pictures. So many pictures, so many memories. Memories I never thought could be made in this old, colourless town. Ever so slowly I'm starting to realize that Summer Springs wasn't the reason that I was 'stuck', I was 'stuck' because nobody had ever showed me how to find my feet.*

Saturday 2nd May 2017

*One teensy breath, two teensy breaths.. ten teensy breaths. heart hammering underneath my chest. Wet cheeks. I'm crying for the first time in years and I don't even know why and I can't stop. I think it's him. Andy, he opened my heart up in some kind of way and I can't seem to close it back up. I desire to feel the numbness again but it's not coming. Will it ever?*

Monday 4th May 2017

*I have essay upon essay upon essay to write today. English Lit, History,. God knows what else but I need to get as much free credit as I can get. So a day in, it is. Tomorrow I've made plans with mum and Josh to go, grab a burger together, maybe go bowling. It's been too long since we all hung out together. I'll try to write soon.*

Wednesday 6th May 2017

*One month left. I don't want to leave anymore.*

Thursday 7th May 2017

*Today I broke down in front of Andy. Now he knows that I'm having second thoughts about leaving. He told me that he doesn't want me to leave. "Stay, we'll make it work. I promise. We'll both finish uni together and then we'll go back-packing around Europe" and then he said the most terrifying thing of all; a little above a whisper, eyes wide, voice shaking "I love you". I didn't say it back.*

Sunday 10th May 2017

*Four long days have passed. I haven't spoken to him since I ran out on his admission. He hasn't tried to get a hold of me. I miss him.*

Monday 11th May 2017

*Oh dear, my dearest friend. what do you do when your whole world is shattering around you? Even more knotty,. what do you do when you are the reason for your own heart break? My whole life I've been running away from the tiniest possibility of ever getting broken, shattered. Little did I know, I was broken all this time.*

Tuesday 12th May 2017

*One teensy breath, two.., three....*

Wednesday 13th May 2017

*I'm in love with him. I'm sure of it. I'm petrified that he's going to leave me, stop loving me but I also know that I have to take a chance. He's the only human being that ever saw me for who I really was, he's the one who made me realize things I never have before. I can't leave him. I can't leave us.*

Friday 15th May 2017

*I believe second chances exist only in dreams. I believe you don't have years, or months or even days to impact a person's life. You have seconds. Seconds to win them over and seconds to lose them. Andy impacted my life the second that he looked at me that first night that we met. Even though I didn't want to admit it then and a part of me doesn't even want to admit it now, I know that that look; full of both promise and love, gave me hope then. Just like I gave him hope now while saying the words that have been hunting my dreams for years.*

Monday 16th May 2017

*Journalism. Summer Springs university. Last place. I got in! Mum, Josh, Andy, everyone is overjoyed. I'm overjoyed too. Sometimes in life you make a decision and you find yourself questioning it. Somehow, someway I'm not questing mine. I know that I've made the right one. The right choice. I know that I've just thrown away my lifelong dream. I know that I might never get the opportunity again, but that's okay. Because all in all this is my dream too, and it's not just about Andy. It's about me too. I think I've realized that Summer Springs might be the place for me after all too.*

Saturday 3rd September 2017

*Classes start on Monday! My anxiety levels are too high to put down into words. I'm about to officially be a college girl! Andy's coming down to our apartment tomorrow morning, hopefully I'll calm down until then.*

Sunday 4th September 2017

*I've just received a phone call. Andy won't be coming down today. He won't be coming down tomorrow. He won't be coming down on Monday either. He won't be coming down ever. There was an accident. A car accident.*

*One teensy breath, two teensy breaths, three teensy breaths....................*