

And I Need to Write this Letter

Dear 22-year-old me

Tears are rolling down my cheeks as I am writing this letter. It's so hard to let the unspoken "speak" and realize that it will never be heard or read by you.

You are so much inundated with your captivating thoughts of your blissful wedding, of all the glorious promises and the lifelong dreams you have been yearning for, that you incautiously fail to follow the map of success you have meticulously drawn for yourself (which is, by the way, stuck on your wardrobe door in front of you to remind you of your future goals). But please, please, stop being in a dream world. Beware of these *fake* promises and *unrealistic* dreams that will lure you into the cunning trap of life. Please don't take your young and promising life for granted.

Had you once glanced at me and at my age, which is double of yours, you would have taken me for an insane who is struggling for the impossible. Had you seen the losing battles I am fighting for every single day, you would undoubtedly criticize and reprimand me for not fulfilling my dreams first and for letting others decide my worth, my value, my dignity and my place in this merciful world.

You may think I don't sound like the person who is capable of giving you a good piece of advice, but believe me your homesickness and lovesickness will eventually let you down in the future and result in the person you used to hate being. There is so much I wish I could tell you.

First of all, enjoy your life in China, focus on your studies and fulfill your career dreams. You cannot even imagine how deadly you are going to miss your life there and how desperately you will long to go back to that year. Voraciously study the language as you will have abundant opportunities later for your career development but which you will unfortunately lose because of your *stupid* lovesickness.

Love? Ha ha ha

That love is going to deceive you, to ignore your dreams and your aspirations in life. Open your eyes, please! See that only person who is always going to be with you no matter what. He is there right by your side, He is here even now. But ...

Hold on please. My son is calling me 😊😊

Ahh, I forgot to tell you that you are going to be a mummy. Yes, you will have your *sunshine* and the reason to go on and prove the world that you can still reach your dreams because you should be strong for Alex's sake (that is your son's name by the way ☺) and set him the example of strong will and determination.

Curious to know what else is in store for you? Yes?

Be proud of yourself because you are on halfway to your success. After so much stress and wicked obstacles of life you have eventually made it to AUA and are about to graduate from it with honors. You are planning to open your own language school and do what you are most passionate about: teaching. But your past and the tragic war haunts you day and night.

Believe me or not but yes, in this sophisticated world where everyone propagandizes about human rights and the right to life, you are still destined to see the brutality and cruelty of war. You are destined to feel devastated and humiliated by the cruel consequences of this inhuman war.

Sorry for being so cruel and honest with you. But I beg you not to take your loved ones for granted, especially your brother who is right there fighting for Artsakh and for our *right* to live in a peaceful land.

Please, don't waste your finite time worrying about "what if, what if". Don't worry what others will think of your decisions. Be brave. Listen to your heart, follow the tracks your heartbeat points to and believe in yourself. No matter what, you are going to rise above all the obstacles.

Love and be loved

I wish I could write: "Look forward to your reply".

I know you would never be able to answer me unless you read this letter.

Yours sincerely

You