

What would it feel like to be something? I mean yeah I'm sure life is great and all, but other things can be happy too, right? Think. Take your best friend in the whole wide world, you could have met last year, today, six days or years ago, It won't matter. Now think, do they have a phone, watch, car or anything with relative use. How it would feel to be that object, the feeling of getting used to open a new app, getting looked at or signing with your friend while taking her to work. Being used every day without neglect and then one day. One day being tossed aside for a new phone, a new watch, a new car, just because of one problem, one mistake, one crack? Think how it would feel to be put in a box of useless stuff by that friend, the one that you thought relied on and trusted you. How would that feel? Think goddammit, Think. Here I'll give you a minute.

You don't know, do you? I'm not surprised how you feel. You're not a phone or a watch or a stupid pear of keys are you? And you're as guilty as I. Yes, you. You threw that phone in a box, and sold your watch. And the car, it was taken to a junkyard.

"Shit, I was supposed to leave 10 minutes ago" Aileen said, sprinting out of her house, shoes half on, that golden orange hair flying in the breeze and her bag over just one shoulder.

As she slowed down approaching the corner, now that the bus couldn't just drive past her, she put on her headphones.

Honestly she was pretty average. Her looks, her grades, her taste in music but never felt she was average herself. How could she be? Who wakes up and thinks *I'm pretty* or *this is the right outfit*. Fine maybe you think that but she could never. Afterall if you asked her what object she feels like the most, the answer would surprise you. Nothing pretty, nothing special. Just a stupid umbrella. It's only used sometimes or else it sits hung up by the front door, gathering dust watching everyone go back and forth happily.

"Moms gonna kill me" Aileen groaned "I can't believe i missed the bus" Aileen continued to groan slowly walking back to her house in defeat. Aileen pulls out her phone and begins to call her mom. As the phone rings more and more she loses hope that her mother will answer.

"What's up?" Her mother answered, not in a friendly way I'd say that to my sister. No, in a I'm annoyed. Why are you interrupting my class? You better be a dying, tone of voice.

"I missed the bus" Aileen managed to mumble out. By this time she was opening the front door of the house, walking right by that semi-useless umbrella.

"Call your dad and she if he can take you, or else you're walking."

"Ugh fine" after that the phone call was quickly ended, Neither Aileen nor her mom were in a mood to be dealing with this. Aileen thought about calling her dad then quickly decided against it, her parents were divorced and she didn't think her dad was the type of person to just give her a ride from the other parents house. So walking it is.

Because Aileen was running out of the house before, she didn't have the time to quite pack a sufficient lunch. But that didn't change much. "Okay popcorn check. Baby oranges check, and let's try this sparkling water." She exclaimed, why? Why need a reason to be happy? So who knows.

Aileen opens the bottle "blackberry? hm sounds good," she says in a why is it this flavor who wants this, well might as well try it kind of tone.

Regardless of how she might feel about the name of a fruit her mom always said "Don't knock it till you try it" so she moves the bottle to her chapped lips and takes a sip.

"That's pretty good" luck was on her side today. Aileen's little journey came to an end when she realized she had to walk to school. She knew she could make up some lie about how she couldn't go but she had to face her fate. Aileen put her shoes on, this time actually tying them. She took one look at her playlist and pressed randomize one more time just to be safe. She hops out of her front door and begins another journey. She opens her phone's navigator and types in Clif high school. "Good, it's only 15 minutes away."

As she was walking she let herself zone out to her music but was occasionally interrupted by her phone telling her to "turn right at the next stop sign." Her trip was short lived by her arrival at school, Aileen took a deep breath in as she opened the front door. Her steps grew lighter as she was overcoming this feeling of wanting to stay home. "Hi, Mrs.B. I missed the bus" Aileen sighed, not her finest moment.

"Again? I swear this is the third time this month," Mrs.B the school secretary questioned.

"Hey I mean atleast im here."

"I guess, anything planned for valentines day?"

"Of course not"

"Well we're at the start of second period" Mrs.B says handing Aileen the late pass.

"Thanks" Aileen says practically skipping to her class. Afterall it was Valentine's Day, she tried extra hard. For who she is, of course, is what she would like to say. No she got pretty for the one person who makes her feel okay being an umbrella, Alex.

"Alex wake up" Aileen says, giving him a nudge. Alex isnt his real name, just a nickname. His real name is Alexander but everyone calls him aAex.

"I'm up, why are you so excited? What's going on today?" Alex questions. Aileens cheeks turn a light shade of pink.

"Today's valentines day!"

"It is? I wonder if you are giving someone a gift?" Aileen looks away, her cheeks become a darker shade of pink.

"NO" she screams, surprised by the sudden question.

"Too bad"

"What do you mean it's too bad?"

"I mean I would've liked to see you get rejected." Aileen did not take that lightly.

"Alex just shut up"

"Did I do something wrong?"

"Fine, let's just change the topic, are you giving someone a gift?"

"Um no" Alex has always been bad at lying, atleast to Aileen something about her can see the truth.

"Alex dont lie to me" Aileen said in a drop the toy kind of tone, the one you would use with your dog.

"That's the truth," he yelled.

"If you say so..." Aileen knew he wouldn't tell her the truth. The class continued on like normal everyday life, the teacher shortly after started to teach language arts, Aileens least favorite class by far.

"Today in class we will be talking about the book..." Aileen didn't catch much more of that. After all she is a straight B type of student, I mean most subjects come easy to her so as long as she does the work she stays average.

"Psst, Aileen class is ending" Noah gave her a nudge on the shoulder.

"Really?"

"Yep"

"Alex" Melin screamed and gestured for him to come over.

"What Melin?" Alex is friends with them, Aileen used to be in their friend group as well but like an umbrella with a hole was thrown away. An umbrella with a hole has no right to hang out with the rain.

"Alex you know the plan" She said in a tone that tried to be quiet but was not. It wouldn't have mattered anyway, Aileen already knew.

"Fine" Alex agreed, he's always been a pushover. But he's also the one person stopping the friend group from going to hell. He's like the light, but not just normal light. No, the type that comes after the rain. Or the moon light with that light glow.

Aileen decided to head to lunch on her own, she didn't know just yet who to sit with but she decided on her friend Holly.

"Hey Holly!" Aileen said through her smiling pearly whites.

"Aileen what's got you so happy? Wait, are you gonna?"

"Today's the day" Aileen says, pulling out her measly lunch.

"Why do you always eat so lightly?"

"Just lunch, or else I feel sick"

"Okay" Holly knew that wasn't the only reason, but she didn't want to pry.

During lunch they continue their normal conversation of shows, teachers, school and what's happening after school. Lunch came to a close and Aileen's next class, math, was her only chance.

As they opened the doors from the cafeteria they let everyone out to go to their next class, and Aileen sprinted to math so she could get there first. She had to push through a stampede of people. As she's standing outside of Mrs. Moon's math class hyperventilating so much she could barely breathe. What Aileen was feeling was a mix of anxiety and fatigue. While she's trying to calm herself Alex comes running into her from behind, sending both of them both flying into the door. "Whoever just ran into me is going to feel more pain than me in a minute" Aileen growls, she's never had a good temper when it comes to disrespect or ignorance, as she turns around she sees "ALEX?!"

"Oh hey Aileen " he responds with a sly voice, not trying to bring any attention to what's in his hands. Although his plans were futile, Aileen almost immediately noticed.

"Do I dare ask?"

"No you probably shouldn't" Alex says while standing up and dusting himself up.

"Sounds good" Aileen says, still on the ground. But that isn't the case for long, Alex offers her his hand and pulls her up the second she accepts it. "Alex, why are you so early to math?" *Whos he gonna give that too*, she ponders, staring at the small bag in his hands.

"I could ask you the same"

"Forgive and forget" Aileen blurts out, her cheeks turning a light red.

"Here I got this for you" Alex hands her a small gift bag, it had pink tissue paper and an umbrella with a heart on it.

"Here I got you something too, although this isn't how I wanted to give it to you." she says, extending her small box with wrapping paper around it. But Alex quickly pushes it away.

"If this isn't how you wanted me to have it i don't want it," he said "I can wait".

"Its fine, how I wanted to give it to you is just a fantasy anyway"

"If you say so" Alex says, accepting Aileen's gift and unwrapping it immediately. It was a bracelet that had seaglass on it and a note. Alex wouldn't know this but that is the seaglass she picked up from their first trip together a year ago. When they were at the beach she made sure to pick it up, just in case. "Is this from the beach?"

Aileen immediately gives him the deer in headlight stare. "Yeah" she says, fiddling with the handle from the gift she was given, too scared to open it.

"Don't just mess with it, open it." Alex said somewhat demandingly, he might be a pushover but can also be very stern. That's what Aileen liked about him.

"Okay" She responded with a soft tone as she took out the tissue paper and there it was the necklace that she wanted for so long. The one that said I love you to the moon and back.

"Alex don't give me something that says something you don't mean" She sighed.

"How do you know I don't mean it?"

"You couldn't love me like that"

"What if I want to?"

"Alex White do you like me?"

"You caught me" He said, raising his hands into the air as if he was being arrested.

"Alex, tell me this isn't a joke."

"Aileen Autrice I love you" Noah says in a calming tone as if it was his heart speaking for him. "Do you love me too?"

"Read the note" without another word spoken, Noah opens the love letter.

*Dear Noah,  
I fucking love you,  
Honestly I love everything about you.  
-Aileen*

By that time everyone was out of the hallways and in their respective classes. It's almost as if something told them to steer clear of them and let them have their moment. Aileen couldn't say another word she was too scared about if he was just joking or changed his mind, instead of that he gave her a hug and whispered "You're like the moon to sun".

Odd, Aileen has felt as an umbrella and nothing more.