

I spent eighteen years writing this letter. I didn't want to write it, but hate compounds, you should know that, and I now can't let go of the feeling. Do I hate you? I've forever been on the fence on this, ever since I learned the word "hate".

This world is filled with horrible people, but you should know that none of them proactively harmed me so why the fuck should I have cared when I went out? All I could think was, I couldn't be happy because of you, okay? You should fucking know that! When I was outside, doing something, I'd worry because I couldn't fit in. You stunted my fucking social development, telling me to fucking shut up if I didn't agree with you, physically abusing me if I didn't, apologizing and saying you wouldn't do it again, and then fucking doing it all over again! I spent the last seventeen years not trusting the person that should have been closest to me. You should have been the person I trusted, the person I ran home to when there was trouble, the person I felt most comfortable with. You should have been home.

Instead, in public with other people, I would try to fit in, but never quite fit in. Always: what if they don't like me? What if I say something that isn't technical enough, funny enough, or casual enough? What if they talk about me behind my back, say things about me? Oh my god, she's so weirdly quiet and she's always, like, hovering! It's so weird and creepy!

And then I'd come home and still wouldn't fit in. If anything, it was worse. I was forced to be a parent when I didn't want to be one, responsible for Andy's shortcomings when I could barely fucking take care of my mental health much less someone else. It was nice talking to Xinmin, but I guess it's hard for one person to always bear one person's shit and accomplishments and worries all the goddamn time. And then you'd come and not once did you have anything good to say. It was always about some other fucking person doing something! Winning like the fucking Nobel Peace Prize or something!

I never fit in once. Not once. Not outside, not at your home. Not mine. People always ask me when I go out: Where are you from? What am I supposed to answer to that? From your womb? From Brooklyn? From Massachusetts? From a parent who used to kick me into corners because I wasn't quiet enough and once threw a fucking cutting board at my fucking head. I always say, I'm a two-hour drive from Boston but I grew up in Brooklyn. The truth is, I feel safest when I'm in public alone, in a big crowd, because no one knows me and no one can statistically hurt me, physically or emotionally. I have no home, nowhere to call home. That's why I said I wanted to buy my own house. So I can wake up somewhere where I feel home at, not so you could live in it and continue hounding me for the rest of my days.

I spent the longest time trying to come to your defenses, always making up fucking excuses to the point of derangement. Maybe she has bipolar disorder! That's the answer! Maybe you do. Maybe you don't. Who am I to say? Whatever it was, not once did you take the initiative to fix it. Doesn't that say a lot about you?

I pretended to love you in public for the longest time, but now that I've cut off all ties, I want another try at my life. Can I go remake myself? What do I do with my past life?

Sometimes I can't write shit. I spent the last 3 - 4 years compiling songs I screamed to when you were gone - pouring all my grief out, pretending I was just singing. All these songs happened in my life. They fucking were my life.

Tell Me How, Paramore:

I can't call you a stranger
But I can't call you
I know you think that I erased you
You may hate me but I can't hate you
And I won't replace you
Tell me how to feel about you now
Tell me how to feel about you now
Oh, let me know
Do I suffocate or let go
Think I'm tired of getting over it
And just starting something new again
I'm getting sick of the beginnings
And always coming to your defenses
I guess it's good to get it off my chest
Guess I can't believe I haven't yet
You know I got my own convictions
And they're stronger than any addiction
And no one's winning

Everything to Everyone, Renee Rapp:

You're so impressed with me, I've been on ten since I woke up
Now I'm payin' taxes so your expectations have gone up
Now I play the actress, 'cause you got me actin' so grown up
And I can't take it, I hate when you're cryin'
God I hope that it's over when I'm older
I can't be everything to everyone
You call at 3AM, I'm pickin' up
I need the guts to go and give you up
'Cause I'll kill myself trying and I'm not scared of dyin'

i miss you, i'm sorry, Gracie Abrams:

Good to each other, give it the summer
I knew you too
You said, "Forever", and I almost bought it
I miss fightin' in your old apartment
Breaking dishes when you're disappointed
Nothin' happened in the way I wanted
Every corner of this house is haunted

Mean It, Gracie Abrams:

You don't know what I'm feelin'
Maybe that thing you said under your breath, you mean it
Holding onto two thin lines, 'til we just walk between 'em
Getting so loud, I can't pretend that I don't hear 'em
I know you mean it

Burn, David Kushner

All you ever caused was pain
You can say you're sorry, the evidence is on my
Body, but I never complain
I wear it as a lesson, a curse, and a blessing
Oh, oh-oh, oh-oh, you're not a prophet
Have you forgotten that you're godless?
Oh, oh-oh, oh-oh, you're on your knees, and
You're tryna speak, beggin' me please, but
Don't even say what you're gonna say
It's too late, too late, baby
Why did you wait to finally change?
It's too late, too late to save me, oh, oh, oh
You watched me
Burn, burn, burn
I don't even pity your pain
You can use it as a weapon, but I won't ever let it
Pull me back under again
I let you fool me once, but now I'm dead and gone

closure, Taylor Swift:

It's been a long time
And seeing the shape of your name
Still spells out pain
It wasn't right
The way it all went down

Looks like you know that now

Yes, I got your letter

Yes, I'm doing better

I know that it's over

I don't need your closure

Everybody Loves You, Charlotte Lawrence:

I am so tired, I have to tame my mind

Before I get too frustrated, mm

Can't go back in time to change in someone's eyes

Try not to talk about it

I'm too mad, I'm too late, I'm too gentle

It's too hard to explain, I'm not helpful, mm

It's my body, and I'm trying to hate you 'cause I want to

It's my body, and I'm trying to, while everybody loves you

It's my body, and I'm trying to forgive you, I don't want to

It's my body, and it hates you

Why does everybody love you?

Sometimes I close my eyes, amidst the dancing lights

When it feels too wild for breathing, mm

I can't sleep at night unless I start to lie

And believe it like a story, no, no

Try not to think about it

So insane, I'm so used to my nightmares

It's okay till it's not, and I'm back there, no, no

Let You Down, NF:

Fells like we're on the edge right now

I wish I could say I'm proud

I'm sorry that I let you down

All these voices in my head get loud

I wish that I could shut them out

I'm sorry that I let you down

Yeah, I guess I'm a disappointment

Doing everything I can

I don't wanna make you disappointed

It's annoying

I just wanna make you feel like everything I did

Was never tryna make an issue for you

But I guess the more you thought about everything

You were never even wrong in the first place, right?

Yeah, I'ma just ignore you, walking towards you

Paranoia, what did I do wrong this time? That's parents for you

Very loyal? Shoulda had my back but you put a knife in it

My hands are full, what else should I carry for you?

I cared for you, but

You just wanna make this worse

Want me to listen to you

But you don't ever hear my words

You don't wanna know my hurt, yet

Let me guess

You want an apology, probably

How can we keep going at a rate like this?

We can't so I guess I'ma have to leave

Please don't come after me

I just wanna be alone right now, I don't wanna think at all

Go ahead, just drink it off

Both know you're gonna call tomorrow like nothing's wrong

Ain't that what you always do?

I feel like every time I talk to you

You're in an awful mood

What else can I offer you?

There's none left right now, I gave it all to you

Yeah, don't talk down to me

That's not gonna work now

Packed all my clothes and I moved out

I don't even want to go to your house

Every time I sit on that couch, I feel like you lecture me

Eventually, I bet that we could have made this work

And probably woulda figured things out

But I guess I'm a letdown

But it's cool, I checked out

Oh, you wanna be friends now?

Okay, let's put my fake face on and pretend now

Sit around and talk about the good times
That didn't even happen
I mean, why are you laughing?
Must have missed that joke let me see if I can find a reaction
Nope, but at least you're happy

Family Line, Conan Gray

It's hard to put it into words
How the holidays will always hurt
I watch the fathers with their little girls
And wonder what I did to deserve this
How could you hurt a little kid?
I can't forget, I can't forgive you
'Cause now I'm scared that everyone I love will leave me
Oh, and all that I did to try to undo it
All of my pain and all your excuses
I was a kid, but I wasn't clueless
All my past, I tried to erase
But now I see, would I even change it?
Might share a face and share a last name
But we are not the same

Motion Sickness, Phoebe Bridgers:

And while you're bleeding on your back in the glass
I'll be glad that I made it out
And sorry that it went down like it did

I have emotional motion sickness
Somebody roll the windows down
There are no words in the English language
I could scream to drown you out

tolerate it, Taylor Swift:

I wake and watch you breathing with your eyes closed
I notice everything you do or don't do
You're so much older and wiser, and I
Wait by the door like I'm just a little kid
Use my best colors for your portrait
Lay the table with the fancy shit
And watch you tolerate it
If it's all in my head, tell me now
Tell me I've got it wrong somehow
I know my love should be celebrated
But you tolerate it
I greet you with a battle hero's welcome
I take you indiscretions all in good fun
While you were out building other worlds, where was I?
I made you my temple, my mural, my sky
Now I'm begging for footnotes in the story of your life
Drawing hearts in the byline
Always taking up too much space or time
You assume I'm fine, but what would you do if I

Break free and leave us in ruins
Took this dagger in me and removed it
Gain the weight of you then lose it
Believe me, I could do it

my tears ricochet, Taylor Swift

And if I'm dead to you, why are you at the wake?
Cursing my name, wishing I'd stayed
Look at how my tears ricochet
And I can go anywhere I want
Anywhere I want, just not home
And you can aim for my heart, go for blood
But you would still miss me in your bones

coney island, Taylor Swift feat. The National:

And I'm sitting on a bench in Coney Island
Wondering, "Where did my baby go?"
The fast times, the bright lights, the merry-go
Sorry for not making you my centerfold
Over and over
Lost again with no surprises
Disappointments close your eyes
And it gets colder and colder
When the sun goes down

happiness, Taylor Swift:

And in the disbelief

I can't face reinvention
I haven't met the new me yet
There'll be happiness after you
But there was happiness because of you
Both of these things can be true
There is happiness
Past the blood and the bruise
Past the curses and cries
Beyond the terror in the nightfall
Haunted by the look in my eyes
That would've loved you for a long time
Leave it all behind
Tell me, when did your winning smile
Begin to look like a smirk?
When did all our lessons start to look like weapons pointed at my deepest hurt?

Wake Up, EDEN:

'Cause we've been driving so long
I can't remember how we got here
Or how we survived so long
I'm trying to run from our pride
'Til you set fire to my atmosphere
And I remember how I spent the 23rd
Feeling six feet under
When I'm 30,000 feet in the air

Chasing that sundown
So far East, I'm Westbound
Feeling like the edge of this world is near
But you'll feel better when you wake up
Swear to God I'll make up
Everything and more when I get back someday
Shooting stars all break up
And even though it seems like half the world away
Things will be better in America
Heard the streets are gold there
Maybe I can fly out of this place someday
Chasing dreams like I'm on Novocaine
Screaming through your airways
Looking back, I almost thought I heard you say
Stay, you're not gonna leave me
This place is right where you need to be
And why your words gotta mean so much to them
And they mean nothing to me?
So stay, you're not what you're hearing
'Cause I've been watching you changing
And who said you're one in a million
Anyway?
'Cause you see only what you want to
Your tunnel vision haunts you

And you can't see what's wrong
And you keep sleeping through the p.m.
Eyes wide open when you're dreaming
You're sleepwalking, just keep talking
And maybe you can talk you way out of this deep end
No B plan in your system

If You Want Love, NF:

Yeah, as a kid I used to think life
Is moving so slow, I watch it go by
Look out the window of my bus ride
I thought the world was so small, through my closed eyes
I've always tried to control things
In the end that's what controls me
Maybe that's why I'm controllin'
I wish somebody woulda told me
If you want love, you gon' have to go through the pain
If you want love, you gon' have to learn how to change
If you want trust, you gon' have to give some away
The older I get, I feel like I'm always tryna save time
Talkin' to the voices in my head, they make me think twice
Tellin' me it doesn't mean it's wrong because it feels right
I'm scared that one day I wake up and wonder where the time go
Talk about the past like it's the present while I rock slow
I'll sit in the living room and laugh with kids of my own

And tell 'em

If you want love, you gon' have to go through the pain

I wish you woulda told me

My heart is always constricted, except when I'm asleep. And I don't want to do this anymore, I don't want to pander to your beliefs and your traditions and your mental shit, so I'm leaving. I'm done. Besides, I need to come out and say I'm never going to marry a guy, because I'm not interested in them, so you would kick me out anyways.

I don't know what else to say, but I need to start living my life and not someone else's.