

~~LEO: I brought you something.~~
~~(The produces a small, sad, dirty pumpkin from his hoodie pocket.)~~
~~LEO: Love it. Nurture it. Teach it what you know.~~
~~Make a pie.~~
~~I miss you all the time. I think of you in college. I think about whether they have left-handed desks for you.~~

START

BEC: I told you I have class at two.

LEO: Am I late?

BEC: I can't miss any more class.

LEO: I said I'd come up to you.

BEC: And I said I didn't want you in my apartment.

~~LEO: I brought you something.~~

LEO: I brought you something.

(He produces a small, sad, dirty pumpkin from his hoodie

pocket.)

BEC: What do you want me to do with this, Leo?

LEO: Love it. Nurture it. Teach it what you know.

Make a pie.

~~I miss you all the time. I think of you in college. I think about whether they have left-handed desks for you.~~

BEC: They do.

LEO: That's good.

BEC: Sometimes right-handed people sit at the left-handed desks and I get really pissed.

LEO: Bastards.

BEC: Yeah. I'm like, you're not just hurting me, you're hurting yourself.

~~I miss you all the time. I think of you in college. I think about whether they have left-handed desks for you.~~

LEO: You like it?

BEC: I don't want to talk about college with you, Leo.

LEO: Why not?

BEC: Because you're just gonna be, like, disdainful.

LEO: I'm not!

I wanna hear.

BEC: It's . . . I don't know, everyone's so much younger than me, I mean just two years, but it seems like . . . so it's lonely. But I'm taking this class on global health that I think is really . . . I met with the professor a couple times and I might help her with some research next summer in Mumbai, if the money works out.

LEO: Man, you work fast.

BEC: I walked into her office and I was like, "I've built houses in Ecuador and taught English in Mali and installed solar panels in Kathmandu and I want to know how I can work with you."

And she was like, "Wow, it's so refreshing to meet a female undergraduate who doesn't end every sentence in a question mark."

So . . .

LEO: You always wanted to go to India.

BEC: It'll be so nice to travel somewhere not on my parents' dime, you know?

LEO: I could come.

BEC: . . . to Mumbai?

LEO: Why not?

[REDACTED]

BEC: I want to break up.

LEO: I'm so happy to see you.

LEO: Whoa. Oh. Okay.

[REDACTED]

Okay.

[REDACTED]

BEC: The other night when I said I needed some time to think, that wasn't true, I want to break up. Sorry, I know the timing is shitty. I was gonna do it no matter what when you finished the bike trip, it's not . . . it's not about you going AWOL this summer, even though I'm really fucking pissed about that.

LEO: So you—huh. You were planning this for a while.

BEC: Yeah. Yes.

LEO: That's why you backed out of the bike trip.

BEC: Ummmm . . . no, I backed out of the bike trip because I—I didn't *back out* of the bike trip, I was never definitely coming on the bike trip.

LEO: Uh, okay, I remember it differently but it really doesn't matter now, so.

BEC: You knew I was applying for internships, you knew that.

LEO: Yeah, and I knew you were buying gear and training and, like, telling me you loved me and it was important we got to spend this time together before you left for school. That's all.

BEC: Well when Allison backed out—

130

LEO: Allison tore her ACL, dude, that's / totally—

BEC: Fine, but it wasn't gonna be the trip we'd planned, it wasn't gonna be the four of us.

LEO: But you admit that we had *planned* a trip, you *planned* to come with us, that was the *plan*. But I guess you were already *planning* to break up with me, you just didn't let me in on that.

BEC: I'm sorry I didn't come on the bike trip, okay?

LEO: No, it was good, it was amazing, actually, to have that time with Micah, so. I wouldn't trade that for anything.

BEC: Well good.

[REDACTED]

LEO: I mean, it would have been nice to have you there when he was killed, it would have been nice to not be alone for that.

BEC: Yeah, it would have been nice if you'd showed up at the funeral, I really needed you then. Do you know how hurtful that was, and humiliating, that everyone was like, "Where the fuck is Leo?" And I was like, "I don't know, he hasn't even *called me*."

LEO: But you were already planning to break up with me. (*Off her look*) What? I'm just, I'm trying to master this time line, Bec, it's a little confusing.

BEC: You're laying this all on me, but we had problems. We never had the kind of relationship Micah and Allison had, I think we should just face that.

LEO: We—? I don't even know what that means.

BEC: They were like actual grown-ups in love, like really in love. I'm not saying we didn't love each other—

LEO: No, you're saying I'm not a grown-up.

BEC: I'm saying—even my mom still talks about it, what a mature, and, like, evenly balanced—

LEO: Oh, well, if *Ellen* / thought so—

131

bec: Don't be an asshole, you know what I mean, they just had this serenity that we—

leo: I actually thought it was the other way around, that we were the ones with the real deal because I thought about you basically all the time when you weren't there and talked about you like some kind of pathetic lovesick idiot whereas Micah never thought about Ally at all.

bec: That's because he didn't have to.

[REDACTED]

leo: I think you have some very weird very idealized picture of their relationship, because it might interest you to know that he cheated on her, actually.

bec: Okay.

leo: Like several times. With some extremely questionable specimens.

bec: It's not cheating when it's an open relationship and it's really none of my business and I don't think it's cool at all to talk about him that way.

leo: I just think it's interesting that your idea of a perfect relationship involves your boyfriend getting a BJ from the fifteen-year-old girl whose uncle owns the campground.

bec: My idea of the perfect relationship involves feeling like I don't have to justify myself all the fucking time to someone who claims that they love me but is constantly disappointed in me. I am so tired of disappointing you, Leo.

And fuck you for telling me that about Micah, I did not want to know that.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

bec: You know Micah's parents are back together, right?

leo: . . . *what?*

bec: I know.

leo: Oh, no.

bec: I actually tried to talk to them about it, I was like, you know I love you both, but is this really a good idea? For you guys, and for Ethan? It was so weird, I felt like such an adult.

leo: What did they say?

bec: He cried, and told me how proud he is of me, and how lucky Micah was to have me in his life, and she got super huffy and passive-aggressive and they both assured me that it's what Micah would have wanted. Which seems to me both patently false and completely irrelevant.

leo: They're gonna destroy that poor kid.

bec: And he's such a / sweet kid.

leo: He's a good kid. He / really is.

bec: It's a shit show, I give up.

[REDACTED]

I gotta get back uptown.

leo: Hold on, I want to read you something.

bec: Leo, I'm already late.

leo: It's short.

[REDACTED] *with a book of Rumi poetry.* [REDACTED]

"There Is a Field."
That's the title.

BEA: Leo—

LEO: You have to promise to listen with an open heart.

BEA: I—

LEO: Please.

[REDACTED]

(Reading)

Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing there
is a field.

[REDACTED]

I'll meet you there.

When the soul lies down in that grass

The world is too full to talk about.

[REDACTED]

BEA: I have to go.

LEO: Let me touch you.

BEA: No.

LEO: You're forgetting how our bodies are together.

BEA: No I'm not.

[REDACTED]

When I'm not furious at you I'm really worried about
you. I don't want you to become someone who makes me
sad every time I think about you.

LEO: Okay, Bea, I'll go to college.
BEA: Fuck you.
LEO: One of us has turned our back on everything the four of
us used to believe and it isn't me.

END.

~~After a moment from the left, a woman in a white dress
enters. Bea looks at her and says, "You're the
one who's been waiting."~~

~~Key:~~

~~(The woman from the left is Bea's mother, the one who
has been waiting for her to come home.)~~

~~Bea:~~

~~What?~~

~~Are you all right?~~

~~LEO: Yeah, I'm good.~~

~~VERA: Glad to see you're
all right.~~

~~(Bea)~~

~~She looks at Leo and says,
"You're not alone anymore."~~

~~LEO (Quietly): Shut up.~~

~~VERA: What?~~

~~Bea: I'm not alone anymore. I'm alone. I need to hear you talk
about it, or body, so just fucking stop, okay? Did you hear
that?~~

~~(Bea looks at Leo and says, "It's not me, it's the distance.")~~