

Letter to Kethan
By: Shivani Mukhi

Dear Kethan,

My first memory of you was in the sixth grade. I had apparently met you before this memory, I saw you in the hallway at fort settlement, I screamed your name and waved my hand at you. You waved back with a blank stare. In the moment I was like damn, that was so awkward, but now I'm thinking, maybe this boy was just trolling on me. Your favorite passtime. Slowly, I hung out more and more at the Iyer Residence, usually just to hangout with Maya, but somehow I would end up in your room watching something silly or playing 2k/FIFA and getting my ass whooped. But the turning point I remember was being invited to your 14th birthday, we went to POTC, which apparently came out with another movie this year, go figure. And then we had a sleepover. Now I don't know if this was the sleepover where we watched the covenant, and died because it was so bad. But I know we stayed up til 5 am, it was the cool thing to do. We talked and we bonded, for me thats when our group formed. I was finally invited to the cool kids party. I hung out with you during big events, but as senior approached and college, we became closer and closer. But I remember the first time I wanted to help you with the suction machine, take some pressure of your parents or ms. mary or maya, but I was so nervous, I didnt want to be rude and end up hurting you. But finally I got the courage to do so, but you could sense how uncomfortable I was, and thats when I knew you were cool with it, because as soon as I did it the second time, you acted like I hurt you just to troll on me. It took me a few tries to nail it down, but eventually I got comfortable enough. The first time I did it and it felt normal and you didn't troll on me was a big night. I remember it because it was one of the last memories I had of that night.... Sinks night. I drank some champagne, I used the suction machine, and then everyone decided they hated champagne, so I drank 3/4s of the bottle. Oh god. The jokes that ensued afterwards never ended. You at the head at majority of jokes. Your poor old house, one of the last memories I have of that house was the night of the damn cruise. Man, I wish I went on that cruise, and as much as we joke about how I wasn't there and what not, but it killed me. I literally soaked up every moment I could with you guys while packing and sending you off to clear lake. I wish I was there to experience sneaking you to the casino and seeing you down that shot of tequila. I wish I was there in elementary school and got to know you better then. But I am so happy with the time I did get to spend with you. You taught me so much, you will never know. Especially that I should keep track of my keys and phone while your dad and you are around --- that began when Maya was in Sri Lanka. I came over almost thrice a week for like six weeks, a habit that I tried to keep with me after that. I loved coming over and escaping into

whatever show or movie series we were watching. I have been watching Bates with your dad, luckily its the last season because that series just keeps getting weird. I have no idea who to watch A Man in the High Castle with, I miss you bud. Mini sports update - your Chargers moved to LA, you would not be happy about that. Texans got a quarterback! (Let's see how that plays out) Rockets beat OKC in the first round, I got to go to my first Rockets game this season, it wasn't the same. I wore your Jordans and we killed Russell. Don't know how you would feel about that last sentence. We went on to play the Spurs and it was such a good series til the last game. Harden just didn't show up, TEN points Kethan, what the hell. Spurs went on and got killed by the warriors, so we are back at last years finals. Kebron.. Oh I mean Lebron vs Curry. Hopefully the warriors can pull through this year. Oh, really big thing that happened in this last year -- trump got elected.....so there's that. I got a job doing cancer research, I remember one of the last conversations we had was about not knowing where I was going or what I was doing. I am still pretty lost, but I am doing something I like, as you told me to. I wish I got to talk to you about so many more things, I wish I had you on late nights pushing me to keep studying or doing whatever work, spamming my phone with texts saying I can do it. Or just spamming my texts with stupid youtube videos like Johnny Johnny or Cut it. I can't listen to Cut it because of you. Thanks for that. I think of you everyday. I get to have a pretty cool reminder of you everyday, I got a tattoo! And I feed the dragon fire cream every day. <3 - Muk Maasi