

*I Miss You, I Love You and I'm Sorry*

By: Chelsea Proffitt

Fifteen years old. There I was lying sick in bed watching a video of my crush of three years making out with another girl—the ultimate betrayal. I thought we had something. He said I was forever. But there he was with another girl, while I sat in bed and wondered what I could have done differently. Four years later I look back on this relationship and I am thankful to this boy and the relationship we had. Gracie Abrams captures opposing feelings of the same situation through her songs “I Love You, I’m Sorry” and “I Miss You, I’m Sorry.” These songs are written about the same relationship—one set right after the relationship and one two years later. My feelings behind relationships have changed as I have matured, Gracie Abrams explains the evolution of my inner thoughts in ways I never could.

“I Miss You, I’m Sorry” came first. At this point she is still stuck in the cycle of forever, never mind, I miss you, goodbye. All the emotions. She is in a toxic back and forth not knowing what the other person wants, and maybe not even knowing herself. I too was in this situation and sadly it lasted the better part of my teenage years. It all started in seventh grade at a football game, this boy quickly became my best friend, and by the time we went to high school, we had both openly expressed feelings for each other. Unfortunately, we never found ourselves past the talking stage; he was too wild and I was too scared to commit. He would tell me I was his “forever,” that I was the one for him, but the next thing I knew we had not spoken in weeks. Just like Gracie says “I only saw you once in December, I’m still confused.” I truly thought this boy was meant for me, in my head we were just too young to get there yet. Similarly to Gracie, “[he] said forever and I almost bought it.” As soon as I would move onto another relationship he would come back and say he missed me. This back and forth went on until I was 17.

“I Love You, I’m Sorry” is set later; she looks back on the relationship and can recognize the good and bad on both sides. She begins to realize faults of her own. I too look back at this

relationship and no longer blame the boy. I know it was not meant to be, it taught me a lot and we had some great memories, but ultimately we were not each other's forever. Gracie says she pushes her luck and slams doors closed. This is a fault I had in this relationship and others. It's no secret to the people close to me that I have commitment issues. I was so scared to commit to this boy, that I told him we could date without the name. I wanted him for myself, but I did not want anyone to know and I did not want any pressure. I recognize now that I drove him to do most of the things he did. No, he should not have done some things, but how could I expect him to be the perfect boyfriend when I would not even let him be my boyfriend? Gracie explains that "he was the best and the worst, she was a dick, and shit never ends." These lines in "I Love You, I'm Sorry" speak directly to me. He was so good yet so bad to me, I was unfair to him, and we were stuck in this cycle for five years.

I can relate both of these songs to not only this relationship but other aspects of my life. When young and hurting I blamed the boy completely for the result of this relationship. Now that I have matured and had time to reflect, I can look back with fondness. Although we were not the best for each other, he was a great friend to me and I learned so much about relationships and myself. If I had not had this time of hurt and reflection I would not be in the situation I am today. Two years ago I had started to hang out with another guy. I knew I could not lead him on like I had everyone else. It was not fair to him and I knew I would never get anywhere. I went against everything my mind told me and I wearily stepped into a relationship. Now we are still together and it never would have happened if I had chosen to not take that step. Just like Gracie learned from her past relationship, I learned from mine. I am grateful to the boy I followed around for five years as we had amazing memories and although we were not meant to be forever, we were meant to be for a time. As Gracie says, "That's just the way life goes."