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## Accounts of an Almost Alumna

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# ACCOUNTS OF AN ALMOST ALUMNA

kathleen carroll

## I. Freshman

You've finally  
arrived,

Only to realize

that you've been so focused on getting here that you don't know what's next.

Crying while hanging family photos,

Silently begging everyone you meet to like you,

Wondering why everyone from home stopped returning texts,

Irritated that every college movie and TV show lied.

## II. Sophomore

You've finally

become comfortable,

Only to discover

that comfort can feel claustrophobic.

Watching the same television shows week after week,

Yearning to do something different while unwilling to alter your schedule,

Loving the friends you have but wishing to meet more,

Wanting to change but clinging to what is familiar.

## III. Junior

You've finally

gone somewhere new,

Only to be reminded

that "new" and "exciting" aren't synonyms.

Reading two or three books a week just to keep up,

Discovering you are one of four people who does the assignments,

Spending five hours on a translation your classmates can do on the spot,

Getting buried by two thousand notecards rather than exploring.

IV. Senior

You've finally

acquired a balance,

Only to appreciate

that being unbalanced is part of who you are.

Accepting anxiety every test day and essay deadline,

Loving to watch television with friends which you once thought wasn't enough,

Cherishing the small victories instead of continuing to work on new tasks,

Finding an unstable balance that works now, but not forever.