

February 26

Alex,

Okay. Okay. I'll let you help. You're the best person to ask, actually, but I didn't want to bring up things that I know you don't want to talk about, ~~so I've been avoiding but you said I didn't want you to have to~~

There's this guy. And I like him. A lot. I think I have for a while, but it just hit me all of a sudden at the worst possible moment.

He's not interested in me. He's never going to be. But he's all I can think about, to the point where trying not to let it show is failing spectacularly.

He doesn't know how I feel, and I need to keep it that way. But I can tell he's starting to notice something and I just, I need to know how you've done it for so long. Your thing with Emma. I need to know how you took those feelings and set them aside so that you could still be her friend without them getting in the way. Because this guy is going through some stuff, and I need to be able to be there for him, as a friend. Not interacting is not an option.

So tell me how to do it, Alex. Please. Tell me how to flip a switch and turn this off. Or at least push it down and contain it so it stops spilling out at the worst possible moments.

I thought I was right so long ago – you like him, you tell him, you see what happens. But I know now that you were actually right. If he's never going to like you back, if being together isn't even a glimmer of a possibility —

I'm sorry to bring it up, but I need your advice. I know it's a topic you'd rather avoid, but that's what I need. I can't keep going on like this.

I didn't mean goodbye, Alex. I'm sorry it sounded that way, I was in a hurry, I was trying to wrap up fast, ~~and I guess I just~~

I didn't mean goodbye. I couldn't mean goodbye.

I can't write about anything else right now. This is taking up so much freaking real estate in my brain. When I have this answer, I can keep going, but right now? This is what I need. This is how you can help. Please tell me how I do this, because I can't lose him, but I can't let him see me like this, either.

Zoe