

Alex: Zoe's letter, March 9th.

I do not, in fact, know what a tarrrr-dis is. I guess I'll have to look into it? Hey, it's something I could do while I'm an invalid!

Sorry about the confusion, I was in a hurry. I decided to keep the extra, though, because I figured you might not know what I meant in the last one. I didn't even know what I meant at the time. You can decide which CD you want to listen to first, though. I guess if you're listening to this... well... this is confusing. Basically, if you're listening to this one first, I'll just say that that's okay — I recorded the other one a few days ago, and it is long. I mean, I knew it was going to be long, because I wanted to make up for being so crappy to you, but... it ended up almost three times as long as I thought it was going to be. **[he's embarrassed and it shows]** So yeah, maybe plan to split it up somehow? Or... I don't know, clear out six hours of your day somewhere? Yeah. Six hours. It's kind of embarrassing.

[Pause, then indignantly]

Hang on, what's wrong with making requests for my birthday? Doesn't your family come up with birthday and Christmas wish lists? I mean, I know you're the master gifter and all, but you can't not have heard about asking for specific gifts!

[Pause]

'Zoe's Rules' eh? May I ask what else is a part of Zoe's Rules? I'm hoping for some sort of ridiculousness, here, just so you know. I mean, what's the point of having your own set of rules if a few of them aren't extremely silly?

I— um. I'm flattered that you... uh. That's a lot of trust you're giving me there, Zoe. If I were you, I'd be saying you're making me blush, but since I'm not you, we'll have to go with— You constantly surprise me, Zoe Ballard, and I mean that in the best way possible.

[Pause]

Oh Zoe. I'm so sorry you felt abandoned. I— well, I hope that the other CD helped with that. I just about talked myself hoarse that night. When I got up in the morning, and Rachel came to help me get dressed she thought for sure that I was catching a cold, my voice was so scratchy and worn out. I told her I was fine, but it's going to mean some extra rounds of vitamins for a few weeks anyway. Rachel believes vitamins are miracles that can do anything, as long as you take the right ones. Ever sucked on a zinc tablet? Don't do it. Sure, it kills whatever is making your throat hurt, but it's also really disgusting.

Anyway, I'm sorry that it felt like I didn't have time for you. You got it exactly right, I was having trouble finding the time all at once to record for you. I think I've got it fixed now, though, and if you're ever feeling abandoned again, you'll tell me, right? I explained it on the other CD, so I won't repeat it here, but... yeah. I hope you don't feel that way anymore.

[Pause]

I— I feel like I should say something about Michelle, but I don't know what. I guess just... hang in there, *chica*. I'll talk to you soon.