

Megumi,

I can't believe it's been 25 years. Can you?

It's been 20 years since I joined the navy and 7 years since I married Marlene.

I'm listening to The bygone days by Porco Rosso as I write to you now.

Marlene comes from Mississippi.

I used to joke to her about Huckleberry Finn, on our dates

We went to New Orleans last summer to visit the in laws.

The time there was dreadful, her family's crazy.

I guess the shark's of marriages are always the " in laws."

They made me feel like shit, and reminded me how I'll never deserve their daughter.

I already knew this before I knelt down on one knee. But ouch.

Marlene said don't listen to their crap, it's hard.

Thank god, we had some alone time together, we listened to jazz and ate doughnuts.

I love her when she laughs, but mostly I love her because she knows how to read between the

lines.

Uncle Bobby has been really good to us-

Sometimes a shoulder to cry on, other times utter joy and inspiration..

And he's been a good friend to dad- since you went away.

Bobby's the godfather of our baby.

We named her "Lorraine" like the song you written on your harp-

Dad says he can't wait to be with you.

He's sold some of your paintings for booze but he never fell in love again.

Although, I think Lorraine might be his last love.

He wants to live a little longer for her.

Watching football with beer

and watching Lorraine grow up are his two favourite activities these days.

Suzy and Rosemary are doing well also.

Suzy has a wife. She seems to be enjoying her life in the forest.

She's building a treehouse for Lorraine's 5th birthday. But that's a secret.

Rosemary's gone to Bulgaria to film a documentary with her boyfriend.

We'll be getting together soon-

Mama, I truly believe in time travelling now.

I can still smell your hair-

I can still hear you calling me sweetheart and tucking me under the blanket.

Those were good times.

I still feel your spirit around.

Don't know where I'll be deployed next. It's gonna be devastating.

I love you. I love you.

Jeremy,

This is your mother at 22,

I am in between a master's degree, and working part time at a cocktail bar.

Margarita and I are painting dishes and watching sunsets-

But we've both seen better times.

uncle Luca is dying from liver failure and other complications,

He has only two months left to live.

He moved back to Japan from Mexico.

He had been working for 15 years alone in Mexico to support his kids and wife.

Things keep starting and ending,

But the love we have for each other will never end.

Megumi

Megumi,

Remember the sea doesn't get wet in the rain.

Marlene took me to a musical and we drank champagne all night.

Things are actually good these days but I can't cope with that.

Every time life becomes a little calmer, my mind stirs up a tsunami.

I'm afraid of the inevitable ending,

I imagine Marlene running off to Buenos Aires with a younger man.

Mama, I don't know who I am when I'm not missing you,

I'm always missing Marlene too.

Even when she's right here by my side, I already miss her.

I'm tired of being deployed.

I feel like I've been sleepwalking through all this

Marlene just texted me to ask what I want for dinner!

I'm gonna buy some roses on the way home and give her a big hug.

She's always so good at that, pulling me back into the moment.

Now.

Jeremy.

Jeremy,

My friend Francesca used to live near the woods.

on weekends, she would invite me over and we would go on long walks together.

I think it was a sunday morning in mid december.

We had pancakes for breakfast and headed out with her dog.

The lake was frozen, so we carefully walked.

As usual, she would walk ahead and do all the talking

I would follow her right behind, listening and saying "yes, of course sweetheart"

After about twenty minutes, I made the wrong step and the layer of ice broke.

I fell in freezing water, only my torso was floating above like a mermaid.

Francesca grabbed my hand and pulled me out of the water.

I can't remember how we got back.

She filled the tub with hot water and lent me her bikini.

We jumped together in the bath

,

I remember the way she smiled at me from the other side of the tub.

She wanted so much to pull me out of my shadows and loneliness.

My heart almost melted, but my body was so stiff and hard from the years

spent in the back of the car, being driven to places I didn't want to go.

Having to live with my old man, who I never loved.

But in those moments spent with her, I experienced total freedom.

As if she would love me no matter who I've been or were to become.

If you meet anyone that makes you feel this way, love them well.

Megumi

Megumi,

This morning I spent about half an hour making snow angels.

But there was no snow and no Marlene.

My favourite feeling in this world is to wake up and hear my wife and baby

Giggling together downstairs.

I had a dream that looked like a badly made production of Avenue Q.

All the muppets were mocking me and singing about my problems.

Dad came to drop off your diary. It's your birthday soon.

I miss you. I wish you could meet Lorraine.

Jeremy

Jeremy,

Last night I dreamt of slaying dragons in the swimming pool.

I rescued everyone from the pool and went out to drink a cream soda in the sun.

I've secretly wanted to save some parts of the world.

Especially the lonely hearts.

Always be of good nature, I love you.

Megumi.

Happy Holloween!

How are you? I miss you running up after me to say hello.
Every now and then I hear similar footsteps and just for a moment I'm fooled.
I love you, I miss you, be happy.
Love,
Leo

I JUST LISTENED TO THE SONG.

IT'S VERY BEAUTIFUL.

PLEASE HANG IN THERE.

WHEN YOU SENT THE LAST LETTER I COULD JUST PICTURE

**HOW DEPRESSED AND HOPELESS YOU WOULD GET IN HIGH SCHOOL AND IT'S REALLY
SAD.**

I'M PRETTY LOST RIGHT NOW BUT THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE, RIGHT?

I MEAN, IT SEEMS TO WORK OUT FOR OTHER PEOPLE

SO WHY NOT US..

I STILL MISS YOU.

WILL

안녕하십니까, 오라버니.

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