

Stay Like This

By

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CHANEL

Sometimes I think about the world too much. My dad came to kind of visit me, but for some reason I'm suddenly annoyed by him. I just don't want to look at him -- we are screwed up.

CORA

Maybe I need to change.

CLARISSA

At the lake I feel alone in the dark, sad for what's going on in my life. On a rock. I hear the wind; I can draw. Beside the lake, alone and quiet.

CASEY

Maybe there is a thing called happiness. Maybe not. The day I find it I will let you know.

DANIELA

The night. I'm filled with fear. I dream of us together.

CASEY

Maybe you will win.

DANIELA

Maybe I will hurt you.

ALEX 1

It's eating me up alive -- something I truly despise. If my feelings were a person they would kill. I try not to shed a tear because I don't want to look like I'm filled with fear.

YASMINE

In my front yard I lean on my tree and think about anything. I hear the kids playing, the birds chirping and the talking of people passing by. Sometimes I think that I could have spent forever in my front yard, but that only lasts until my mom calls me to set the table for dinner.

JAMES

Maybe I don't want to grow up. Maybe I want to stay like this.

CASEY

Skate park.

CORNELIUS

The tail of the skateboards hitting on the floor making a popping sound. Ledges, pools and stairs. The skateboard on my feet. The smell of hot dogs and pizza from the shack on the side of the park.

ALEX 2

When I play Call of Duty, I smell victory. I taste my sweat. I feel my PS3 controller. I hear guns shooting. It keeps me thinking; I always have to find a way to hide.

JASMINE

The rush. I walk through the gates to the sound of loud screams and people chattering as they give the man their tickets and get directed through security. I see the big pool that's so familiar, behind it the big merry-go-round that I remember getting on when I was little. The smell of funnel cake begins to fill my nose. I start to walk down the walkway, get in line for the first ride I see, one of my favorites. I feel the adrenaline rush through my veins.

CHANEL

Do you know of the sport were you try to get a sphere into the holy circle? The one where the sphere seems golden and luminous, calling your name. Where you use all your strength and might to dodge and shoot and win your victory.

CORA

I have a disability that makes it hard for me to play on a regular team so I play on a wheelchair basketball team. In that chair on wheels I feel free, and I can move how I want to. I can zip past all my opponents and get right in that pocket by the hoop, I slightly turn my waist and a tad of my chair and I wait for one of them to call my name and...

JAMES

She shoots!! SHE SCORES!!

ZACHARY

Maybe it was when I went to eighth grade or when I first walked through this school's halls. You can't really say when someone's life changed.

JASMINE

You can almost feel yourself getting taller, the clock is going by as if there is no time left. The sensation is amazing but it's hard sometimes. Maybe I don't want to grow up. Maybe I want to stay like this.

CORNELIUS

Don't grow up too fast. Act your age, don't try to be older or younger.

CLARISSA

Be you and no one else. Don't change --

CHANEL

The way I dress, people say it is unique.

CLARISSA

Your friends will find you.

CHANEL

It's my style.

DANIELA

I don't feel beautiful or confident.

JASMINE

I don't wanna change the pain, happiness or depression I felt.
If I never felt the pain I wouldn't know how to heal. I wouldn't
be able to be feel what it's like to be by myself.

YASMINE

Maybe I'll be rich. Maybe I'll die tomorrow. Maybe I'll marry
the guy of my dreams.

CORNELIUS

To be mature, think before you do stuff. Get school out of the
way --

ALEX 2

Mom, Tia, Grandpa, they are all back in school because they didn't
finish. It will be so worth it.

CORNELIUS

And always follow your first mind.

CORA

Try really hard not to fall. Just take your time

CHANEL

and look graceful.

YASMINE

Don't hang out with the wrong people because they will get you in
trouble. They aren't your real friends.

JAMES

Maybe there will be less violence. Maybe the world will change.

ZACHARY

Maybe I don't want to grow up.

DANIELA

That day I felt I was wanted and loved, as if nothing could go wrong. When I left and we were apart, that feeling was gone. I was thrown in the alley like a dog. When I shed that first tear I felt alone.

CASEY

Life is rough.

CHANEL

Point blank period. I know it's hard to face the world all by yourself with nobody there to tell you how to feel.

CASEY

It's like going to war with no armor.

YASMINE

I'm still waiting. I'm still thinking.

ALEX 1

Maybe I want to stay like this.

CLARISSA

One of my perfect moments would be to sit on a lake, sometime around sunset, watch the lake wash up on the sand and pray that my feelings wash up right with it.

DANIELA

Maybe I am beautiful.

YASMINE

Maybe I will be happy.

JASMINE

Maybe we are perfect.

CHANEL

Maybe we belong.

CORA

Maybe I want to stay like this.