



All my friends are getting married

VERONICA GOMES

Growing up, you are given a hypothetical checklist which poses as a life-size form of a completion bar; a standard of judging how “accomplished” in life you are if you may. The five steps – graduate, get a job, get married, have kids, and die – seem textbook material up until you grow up and actually have to do it.

Graduating becomes hard as you realise you're leaving behind the last free part of your life, you end up in a job you despise and your crippling trust issues strikethrough “marriage” on the checklist. Struggling in the pool of uncertainty that is life, one of your friends decide to take the plunge.

First and foremost, you find yourself feeling ecstatic with joy and let them know how genuinely happy you are to see them happy. You start planning out your bridesmaid duties and get yourself all pumped up for all the festivities ahead. This is the easy part. Enjoy this part for a wave of mixed emotions will soon be hitting you after. It usually varies according to your own personal beliefs and stance in life, but almost everyone deals with a certain level of downtime while going through this phase.

The most usual reason becomes the fear of them moving on and away from your life. Friends becoming distant after getting married shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone, regardless adjusting to it is still pretty hard to do. However, you should remember if the friendship is strong enough it will stay. You can always make up subtle changes in routine to make it easier to stay connected for instance a catch-up meet once in a while. Moreover, you can always come clean and talk about your fears with your friend because chances are they

are equally scared of this new life.

If you are single or rather sceptical towards marriage in general, it may feel like quite an ordeal to go through these ceremonies but frankly it shouldn't. Focus on how happy it makes you to see your friend tie the knot and embrace how proud you are to see them come this far. It is important to not let your negative perceptions of marriage keep you from fully supporting them throughout the process because God knows they need it from you now more than ever. However, be sure to give them your say if certain levels of concern is justified.

In a nutshell, weddings always bring out a plethora of emotions all around – some good, some bad. It is good advice to remember that whatever you're going through, your friend who's actually getting married is going through twice that in addition to the stress of fitting into their wedding attire. So be sure to be in your most supportive chirpy self, pumping them up for their big day like nothing else matters. For all the times you had to reimburse their faith in love, life and themselves, this is your last act of duty as being their wingman. Be sure to do it justice.

Veronica Gomes is a socially awkward sophomore. Feel free to trigger awkward encounters by reaching out to her at gomesveronica1997@gmail.com

Tantrums you have as you approach graduation

RABITA SALEH

You're almost there. You have toiled away for nearly the last four years and the finish line is now so close it's almost tangible.

However, the closer you get to graduation, the more certain worries begin to creep up on you. No matter how many times you heard the phrase “stepping into the real world” during your high school graduation, you know that graduating from university is the real deal. And if you're close to that point in your life, you're highly likely to run into one, if not all, of these concerns. **THIS CAPSTONE PROJECT IS NEVER-ENDING**

Graduation is almost here, but you can't actually see it because there is a huge mountain that stands between you and that goal – your capstone. That final project or thesis often seems never-ending. Will you ever manage to get it done? The short answer is: yes. Yes, you will. For better or worse, in almost no time you'll be done with that capstone. So stop worrying, get a cup of coffee, finish this article, then get back to work.

I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING I STUDIED

Given the grade-centric method of learning that is still prevalent amongst the youth in our country, this is one of the common worries we have. Learning overnight to get good grades on an exam and then forgetting what we studied right after is a sure-fire way to end up in some deep faecal matter later in life. However, most of your worries are unfounded. You aren't supposed to remember all the details. As long as you understood what you were studying when you studied it, rest assured that upon some revision,

when the time comes you'll be able to recall what you need to. If you're part of the crowd who got by this far by rote learning though, err... good luck?

MY CGPA IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH
For each of the last three semesters you've been telling yourself that this will be the semester you turn that CGPA around. Alas, graduation is almost here, and your CGPA is never as good as you'd like it to be. Trust me, it's not just you. Even the ones with that almost perfect CGPA wish that it were higher. If you're really concerned though, you should understand that there are other ways of proving your merit to companies or schools. Work on your skills, and find ways to exhibit them. You're part of a digital generation in which showcasing your skills is easier than ever before. Use your tools, get creative.

THE FUN YEARS OF MY LIFE ARE COMING TO AN END

The rose-tinted glasses from the last day of high school are back in full force. You keep getting constant hits of nostalgia – when you see freshmen in the corridors handcrafting decor for some event, when you hear that group of singers in that particular corner of campus, and even when you're simply chilling with your friends in your usual spot. Every experience ends with a bittersweet postscript reminding you that this might be one of the last times you get to feel this way. Am I going to tell you that your concern is unjustified or am I going to go cry into my pillow because we're all slowly but inevitably moving towards our graves? You choose.

Rabita Saleh is a perfectionist/workaholic. Email feedback to this generally boring person at rabitasaleh13@gmail.com

