

*a conversation about dreams because life is a dream and it's hard to be lucid all the time when it's more comfortable just letting the whole thing follow its own course*

*and why do we dream really?*

*writer's note -*

*"me" is my own thoughts.*

*"you" is the thoughts of others. it could be an academic source.*

*it's probably not. it's mostly quotes from friends, teachers, youtube videos, and a podcast about a town that doesn't exist. that is my research. at the end of every "you" quote is its source, if you find it helpful.*

*it is a conversation between me and the rest of the world: a discussion propelled by thoughts outside of my own, and developed in "me", until it reaches the beginning again. to go in a circle is the nature of the questions that i'm asking. but there's still a lesson in there. witness a "polished" revision of my live thought process as i find new quotes that are cool and interesting.*

*without further ado-ing - "dear diary"*

i dreamt that i was home  
and then i realized that oxbow ended  
and that everything in it was over  
the people, the relationships, the locations...  
the potential  
was gone.  
and it's like i had this different life  
but i didn't actually do what i had hoped to  
i just kind of existed for a while and then left  
it's like i was never there  
white walls in the dormitory  
i could have done something  
i could have made something out of it  
i could have talked to more people  
that's something i never did enough of  
why didn't i do enough  
and then i woke up and i was back again  
such a weird fever this life suddenly becomes  
when you are in the dream your dreaming self wishes to have  
soon to be that dream  
the life i'm already having here  
have i done enough?  
if i left now i wouldn't be satisfied  
so what's the difference between now and then?  
what is it that makes me satisfied?  
if i haven't gotten what i wanted yet, then what do i want?  
in the meantime i've tried my hardest to take on anything new  
i signed up for the hiking trip  
i don't know if i'll enjoy it or not but i can't just ask myself "what if" anymore  
me: that's why i'm going hiking this weekend  
me: what do you think about that

you: never confuse movement with action  
you: you can pace when you're worried and it makes you feel better  
you: but don't forget what it feels like to stand still sometimes, ok?  
you: maybe you shouldn't try too many new things and just do what you love  
(AJ, in a text message)

me: i don't even know what that is anymore  
me: i don't want to just be what i do right now  
me: i want something more out of it  
me: if i don't just lounge my life around and i actually do things when i have the  
opportunity i feel like it'll at least feel like i did something  
me: what about you

you: if i were to look at my life as it is right now  
you: i'd realize that it doesn't matter whether or not i like my life outside of school  
you: i'm still not satisfied  
you: how can i feel satisfied when i have to waste 7 hours a day, more like 9 including driving time and homework time and staying after for math team and shit  
you: and i can't bring myself to put in a second longer than that  
you: some people stay after school for an hour and a half every day  
you: and i ask how the hell they can feel happy when they're wasting that much time  
you: but you're in a position to ask me that same question  
you: you're at oxbow  
you: so what does that say about me  
(AJ, in the same text message)

me: i've always had that feeling about my life  
me: and now that i'm finally here at oxbow where more is happening than ever and my life is the most interesting and dramatic it's ever been  
me: i still feel like i'm wasting it  
me: i feel like it's wasting away  
me: like i'm wasting away  
me: but what use is it to feel that way when it only serves to ruin what's left  
me: what's right in front of me

you: there is never gonna be a time where life isn't painful  
you: there's never gonna be a time where life is easy and there's no suffering and there's no hardship, ever  
you: no matter who you are, no matter where you are in the world  
you: the suffering and despair of being alive is going to catch up to you, always  
you: and even though that sounds depressing it's incredibly helpful  
you: because once you stop trying to be comfortable all the time and you stop trying to find things that are going to make everything feel better  
you: all of a sudden you can actually do something of value with your life  
you: it's why i have a problem with bucket lists  
you: it's this notion that if you do things a certain way and you just go out and conquer and check things off of your list that you're gonna feel better  
you: say "im proud of what i've done"  
you: there's no substance to any of that  
you: it's an adrenaline high  
you: traveling the world is just a high  
you: i love traveling but it doesn't mean that when i'm looking back on my life that i can say that i've done something with my life that i'm actually proud of and okay with  
you: a bucket list is not going to make you feel better when you die

you: a bucket list is not going to make your life worth living  
you: giving something of ourselves is what's gonna make our lives worth living  
you: that might be the only thing that i know about this world  
you: giving yourself - giving everything you have to the world is the only thing  
that's going to make you feel okay  
you: and that has nothing to do with what you experience  
you: nothing to do with your circumstance  
you: nothing to do with whether you're jumping out of a plane in bali or not  
you: it has to do with who you are  
you: it's incredibly painful to look at yourself - really look at yourself, and really  
evaluate what it is you've done in life and what you've given and whether or not  
you've spent your time running away  
you: i think that one of the most painful things that i've ever done is really look at  
myself and realize that i don't fundamentally respect who i am  
you: not because i've done anything really horrible  
you: but because i'm not the person i want to be  
you: i'm doing so many things in my life right now that are so uncomfortable  
you: i'm so overwhelmed and in pain every single day  
you: i could choose not to do it  
you: but i'm trying  
you: desperately  
you: to make my life into something that i could be kind of proud to live  
you: because what makes you happy in the moment is not what's gonna make you  
happy in the end  
you: if you wanted to just be happy all the time and get dopamine and serotonin to  
fire in your brain then just get high, you know?  
(Claire Wineland - "I don't want to be happy")

me: and i still want to be happy  
me: it's an unquenchable thirst for a deeply satisfying fulfillment that does not  
exist  
me: i'd like to think that it exists  
me: but i think it's more practical to come to terms with it not existing at all  
me: a want for anything, everything  
me: a hole in the center of your being  
me: that will never be ful-filled  
me: and so what exactly is there left to do  
me: other than to give everything i have  
me: everything i have left  
me: for however long i have left  
me: it's not just oxbow  
me: it's anything that happens once and then never again  
me: i have one chance to give it a go  
me: it doesn't even matter whether or not i give it all i've got  
me: it'll be gone

me: it's my life  
me: it's my entire life  
me: the time we have left is always running out

you: do something this summer  
you: you know - the thing you've always wanted to do and you know you have the time to do but you never get around to it because you don't feel like starting it today  
you: start it today  
you: the deadline is time itself  
you: so run  
(Austin McConnel - "Let's make something this summer")

me: where do i go?  
me: what do i run towards?  
me: what do i run from?  
me: what do i want?

you: don't be asking me the big questions  
you: those questions are circular and basically meaningless  
you: not knowing the answer is a part of the question  
you: just start with something small that makes you feel alive  
you: like when you look in the mirror for the first time in the morning and you think  
you: i can't deny it - i'm here  
(Celeste, abridged)

me: there's nowhere to run  
me: no matter what, you'll die  
me: but that's why you have to keep it up  
me: you can hide  
me: but you'll die having waited your entire life  
me: so just do what's right in front of you  
me: think about the future  
me: but not too much  
me: even though that's an impossible thing to do  
me: everyone thinks too much  
me: maybe it really does only serve to ruin what's there  
me: we should free ourselves of our burdens

you: oh, i'm so sorry to hear that  
you: you haven't done much  
you: have you?  
you: now, i know you haven't wronged anyone  
you: and i know you paid your bills

you: you didn't cheat lie or steal  
you: and you sponsored that kid in africa  
you: i hear he's a lawyer in ghana now  
you: but  
you: are you a good person  
you: were you a good person  
you: there's so much you could have done  
you: weren't you a good person  
(Mikasacus - "Good Person")

me: and i want desperately to live  
me: even though it's grim  
me: even though i don't think i'll ever be totally okay  
me: i still need to have a life  
me: because life is me  
me: it's the people  
me: the potential  
me: life is potential  
me: it's the prospect of anything at all  
me: and that's beautiful  
me: we need our minds in order to reflect  
me: to look at ourselves  
me: really look at ourselves  
me: in order to make a better life  
me: to direct us towards something that's worth living for  
me: but only if that's something that you feel like doing right now  
me: no pressure  
you: many of you are trapped in mistaken impressions of how your life should  
supposedly be  
you: that's something only you can fix  
you: through reflection, and laughter, and acceptance  
(Welcome To Night Vale episode 48: Renovations)

me: we need to know if we're even doing it right  
me: and that's pretty airous  
me: so figure it out for yourself  
me: try something new for a change  
me: and change, for a change

you: your life is your life.  
you: know it while you have it.  
you: you are marvelous.  
you: the gods wait to delight in you.  
(Charles Bukowski)

dear diary - after all this  
if you don't like what's ahead  
change course  
abandon ship  
you can always find another ship.

those dreams filled with regret about things i had never done...  
i am lucky to experience my own deathbed  
before my death  
so that i might change it.

i might not be able to change it  
but i know the consequences either way  
so i can't do anything but try  
and then at least i'll know i tried

and who knows  
there might not be a death in that  
i'm prepared for anything

me: that's why i'm going to do something this weekend  
me: what do you think about that