

IN THE NAME OF FRIENDSHIP

written by Danielle Ma | July 18, 2015



In a few short hours, I'll be boarding a plane and crossing an ocean to reunite with my best friends in the entire world.

Over the past few weeks, I've been thinking a lot about friendship and how it fits into our modern idea of the driven young professional.

All of us managed to plan our lives around each other to do this. But that's a weird thing to most people.

Let me tell you a story of a boy. This boy was off to grad school for a math PhD (smart & adorably charming, if you're keeping track).

Not everyone would move for a significant other. It would depend, of course, on your personality and priorities.

So, what if friends did that? What if friends planned grad school around each other? That would seem kind of weird.

Here's another story, this one about a girl. One of my dearest friends recently finished her masters degree and was offered jobs across the country.

She has seen happier times. It's not that she's miserable in Irvine, but she's also not entirely fulfilled—professionally fulfilled maybe, but not emotionally or socially.

So don't get me wrong. Don't live your life for other people; that's not what I'm saying. I was the first person in my group of friends to leave my college town after graduating.

We all have different definitions of what makes us feel whole and fulfilled, and we should absolutely follow those inner voices.

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DANIELLE MA

Danielle is a passionate twenty-something living in New York City with too many interests and not enough time in the day.

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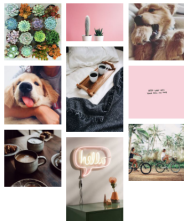
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