

MONDAY AUGUST 29, 2022

Hi Mom! I hope the trip back to Miami went well. As I'm writing this, I know you're probably still on your way back, but I couldn't wait to write to you. I finished unpacking my boxes this morning, but I'm still not fully settled in. My roommate still hasn't shown up, but she says she'll be moving in on Thursday. I'm getting dinner with Marla tonight after she finishes getting settled in; we want to check out one of the dining halls! Anyway, I miss you already. I'll call you often.

Kisses,
Alba

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

Hey Mom!! God, I feel like time's flown so fast. I feel like I wrote you yesterday. I got your postcard on Sunday and it was so cute! I love the little flamingo design. I decided I'm gonna start hanging the postcards you send me above my bed and make a little collage of them. I'm glad things at home aren't falling apart without me yet ;) Oh, and I started classes! They're okay, I'm not a fan of the huge lecture halls, no one really seems to pay attention (you wouldn't believe how many people I see online shopping DURING class). But it's not awful! We'll see if that holds up haha! I loved getting to call you last night. Give Lemon a big kiss and a treat for me.

Love,
Alba

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

Hi Mom. I know I just wrote you, but I thought I'd surprise you with another postcard so soon. Nothing much has changed in the couple of days since I wrote my last one. The only thing is that when we called earlier today and I told you that Emma and I have been living together fine, I wasn't exactly honest. I shouldn't have any reason to not tell you, but for some reason I felt like I shouldn't. But she's bringing a lot of people by all the time and it's really noisy at night, even on weekdays. I've asked her to keep it down, or at least let me know when people are coming over, and she just doesn't. I feel stupid writing about this, like I should be able to handle this on my own. But anyways, at least I did tell you about it. I promise I'll be okay. Try not to worry about me.

Hugs,
Alba

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Hey Mom. The semester has really started to pick up speed. I have so much work to do it's not even funny. I'm staying at the library until late at night almost every day writing papers and studying and reading. Honestly though, I think I'm trying to avoid Emma. I

haven't figured out how to confront her about the smoking, so I've just been trying to spend as much time out of the dorm as I can. I don't understand how the RA hasn't come knocking yet, I can smell it down the hall. Maybe it's because I know it's our room that it feels obvious to me. I don't know. I miss Lemon. Keep sending me pictures of her, it's nice to see how she's doing (I cried a little when you sent me the photo of her on my bed). I miss you lots.

Kisses,
Alba

MONDAY OCTOBER 24, 2022

Hey, I'm sorry I haven't written in so long Mom. I've been really stressed and overwhelmed with work. I can't figure out how to build a routine and get my work done on time. And really I've just been forgetting to do a bunch of things. I've been getting really homesick, and I saw this postcard and the dog reminded me so much of Lemon that it reminded me to write. I love hearing your voice when we talk. Now more than ever I wish I could call Dad. I know he'd be proud of how I'm doing. I miss him too. I'll try to write more often.

Love ya,
Alba

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2022

Hi Mom! Only three weeks left until Thanksgiving break, and then I can come home! I'm really excited to see you and Lemon and Georgie, who won't stop calling me about everything we're going to do when we both get back. I'm getting a little more on track with my school work. I did like you told me and I've been talking to my professors and being in communication with them. I know you're right, they're always kinder than I think they're going to be. But I'm working on not being scared of them. And I've gotten all my late assignments made up and turned in, so now it's just a matter of keeping up with the work as it comes.

I'll see you soon!
Alba

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2022

Hey Mom!! I'm actually writing this one before leaving for the airport, so you're going to see me before you get this! I chuckle sometimes when thinking about "snail mail" and how quickly we can reach each other now. But I still like sending you postcards. It's nice to see your handwriting. I'm all packed and writing before calling a cab to the airport (everyone's leaving today for break so Ubers are really expensive). I'm bringing little gifts for everyone, and I can't wait to show you yours. I don't want to write about it

to not spoil the surprise, even though I know you're going to see it later today when I land. God, I miss the warm weather. I'm so excited to not wear three layers for the next week. And the beach! Who would've thought I would actually miss the beach?!

Hugs,
Alba

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2022

Hi Mom. I'm back home and in the dorm. I actually just hung up with you. I hope you like the postcard! I thought it'd be funny to send you a Miami postcard from New York, so I picked one up at Barnes & Noble. Aaaaand I'm back to the cold. It hasn't started snowing yet, but since I didn't take my coat with me back to Miami, standing outside of the airport waiting for my Uber back to the dorm was MISERABLE. I'm starting to miss you a lot writing this. Hey, there's less time this time until I see you next. Just a few weeks for winter break, and it'll be the holiday season!

Love,
Alba

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1, 2022

Hi Mom. I'm so homesick. I did finally talk to Emma, but she's just been so rude. She's loud when I'm asleep, she started smoking "by the window" but doesn't blow any of the smoke actually out the window, and she's just unpleasant to be around. She asked me the other day why I couldn't understand that "we're in college, and this is normal and I have to get used to it." It's so icky to be around her. I don't know how to deal with it. I don't want to go to the RA because I don't want to make her mad and have to deal with that. I don't want to deal with any of this. I just keep thinking about how I'll be back home so soon.

Ugh,
Alba

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 2022

Hey Mom. Less than two weeks! I found your Christmas present today and I can't wait to show it to you. In other, stranger news, Emma finally moved out. After meeting with the RA, she was told that the violations she'd made were like a third degree something or other, which meant she'd lose housing privileges. I don't know where she's staying, and I didn't care to ask, but the building sent someone up to the room to do like a maintenance cleaning of our walls since it reeks of smoke. Slightly silver lining, since it's so close to the end of the semester, they're not going to move anyone else into the room, so I get a single for these last few weeks! I'll send you photos of what I do with her side of the room.

Love,
Alba

MONDAY DECEMBER 19, 2022

Hi Mom! My last postcard of 2022. It feels so cliché to say, but I really do feel like this semester has just flown by. I know I'll see you in a couple of days, so if I'm in the house already when you get this, just promise you won't come crying to me. But I wanted to take this last postcard to thank you. I'm really proud of the fact that I was able to deal with Emma, and you helped me do that. I've missed you a lot this semester, and it hasn't been easy. I wasn't exactly expecting it to be easy, but in reality I'm not sure what I was expecting. I love you. Thank you for being my mom.

So much love,
Alba