

Nodus Tollens

By Madelyn Tuns

Hello Old Friend,

Did you miss me? Well, I'm back. It took a while to track you down, you've changed greatly since our last encounter. Did you do something with your hair? Are those new shoes? Have you redesigned yourself externally to match with your redesign internally?

You're mad at me, I can tell. You were hoping to not hear from me again. You hate me. But remember, I wasn't the one who abandoned ship.

You left *me* behind. Not the other way around.

Was I not good enough for you? Not fresh? Do people say fresh? Frankly, I don't know, and even franker, I don't care. But I'm sure you do. I suppose you now care about those things.

I've done my research, and I have to admit, I'm not impressed. This is why we needed to stay together. This is why you needed me. I never wanted to see you like this.

You found some parasites to replace me with. They drool at every word you say. Praise you for everything they think you are. Your (forced) smile makes the sun look dull.

You should be applauded for your performance.

Clap.

Clap.

Clap.

Congratulations. I'm sure you're so proud. I don't know what exactly you're proud of, but I have no doubt you'll find something. And I'm sure you'll exclaim it so the whole world will hear, and so they can celebrate your ever important achievements. Do you remember what an important achievement is? How many have you falsely claimed?

I annoy you. Why? Is it because I'm holding up a mirror, and you don't like the image? Darling, remember. That's *your* reflection.

Do you remember, in the darkest hours of the night, when we couldn't fall asleep. You remember telling me that even though things weren't always easy, hard work was worth it, because at least you had me. Because even though everyone else had left me behind, I would never be alone. Because I was essential, and important. Because I was necessary. You told me you'd never let me go.

How does it feel to be a hypocrite?

I am essential, and I am important. I am absolutely necessary. And I'm sorry that you are blinded to my worth, but that does not diminish my value.

Even if no one in the world can see it.

Don't ever say I didn't do anything for you. I came back, even though you don't deserve me. Even though you made it so very clear life is still very operable without me around. But remember, when they leave you all behind, and trust me, they will, I would have stayed with you.

I would have gone through anything with you. I would never have left you behind. But I will not stay in the shadows until you deem me covenant to you. I am not a convenience. I will not be treated as one.

You're not happy. We both know this. Who's fault is that?

But hey, look on the bright side. It's not all bad. At least you don't have to be alone anymore. Now you can just be lonely.

You became everything you said you would never be.

Was it worth it?

Sincerely,

Your Humanity