

A Dear John To My Dear Calculus Class

By Emmalisa Horlacher

Dear Cal,

I am so grateful for all you taught me this semester. Being together has really shown me how to ask for help and reachout, however, I think it's time we end things. Now I know you and you're probably asking why. You probably don't realize how hard it was for me to understand you, how I didn't feel respected, and how, with you, there were always problems.

You always did want logical reasons for everything. So let me tell you my reasons for breaking up:

First off, I will be brutally honest. You did not respect my boundaries. You claimed to be a full supporter of rules and boundaries, but truthfully, I think you would just make stuff up or move things around just to get the answers you wanted. You were always trying to push the limits, "define the limits". You told me I was infinitely blowing things out of proportion. I told you where I stood on things and if I've told you n amount of times, I've told you $n+1$ amount of times. But would you listen? No. Which leads me to my second reason: Communication.

Cal, our communication was awful. There were so many times I felt like you were just creating your own definitions for things. Take "Riemann sum" for example, is that even a word? I felt like I had to learn a whole other language in order to talk to you! And deciphering your body language was like trying to decipher a graph; and boy, you have more curves than I do. Sometimes I felt like the only time you would listen to me was when I was trying to simplify things. It was rough. You don't understand how my friends and family were very worried about me, they considered holding a convention.

Lastly, you were always creating problems for me. As soon as I'd think we solved something, or I'd finally gotten it right, you'd add another variable. You always kept telling me that there was something differentiable between us. You'd say that you just wanted to "optimize our relationship", "derive the source of our issues", see if you could "find a root" or something. Cal, as much as you'd like to believe it, those are **not** integral parts of our relationship. Not everything has to be squared and sometimes, I'd prefer it if they weren't.

I used to appreciate how you'd always try to equal things out between us and make sure we were both even in our efforts, but what you demanded, it has just become too much for me. For instance, I knew that you had dated previously, but I didn't realize how many of your Xs I would have to be dealing with. I think you need someone who will appreciate your Xs more than I do.

These are the main reasons I believe our relationship is discontinuous. Our problems, communication and unbounded relationship has just become too much for me. Yes, I do remember your last effort when you wanted to do a final examination on our relationship. The truth is that I only agreed to it because you wanted to. But when you told me I was just barely passing, I was mad. I want to wish you the best. You truly are a grade-A kind of guy, and so I hope you're able to meet someone someday who fulfills your expectations and requirements, but I'm sorry, I just don't think I'm her. Good luck, and don't get mad if I start dating Arthur. Art's a good guy and he really lets me express myself okay.

Love,

One of your X's

P.S. Thought you should know:

Our dates to the math lab were always a little less than romantic.