

The Three Little Dots
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BOBBY is a nervous wreck and trying to work up the courage to send a text to a girl. He is holding his phone in his hands.

BOBBY: (deep sigh) Alright, okay, okay. (under his breath) Just... rip off the Band-Aid. (beat, starts texting) "Hey, it's me. I know you're probably *not* in the mood to talk right now, but I just can't keep putting this off any longer. Communication is key to good relationships. (sighs) (beat) Which is kind of what I wanted to talk about. I've been trying to reach you for a while now to talk about important things. Things that are important to me and that I know are important to you. But you just keep putting it off. You're ignoring my calls, and you're pretending like I don't even exist when we're out together (beat) So I think it's time that I tell you that I think we should end things. I'm sorry to do this over text, but you haven't really given me a chance to do it any other way. Your behavior was really frustrating and confusing. I'm sorry if that sounds mean, but it's what you need to hear. (sad sigh) Regardless, I really do want to tell you that I will always cherish our memories together. I really did love you, and I know, sometime long ago, you loved me too. I hope you understand, and I hope you eventually find what you're looking for in life."

BOBBY prepares to hit the send button, and hesitates for a moment before gathering up his courage and pressing:

BOBBY: "Send." Well. That's it. It's done. No turning back now. All I gotta do now is wait for those three little dots. Those three... little... bouncy... dots. (beat) God, the wait is always the worst part. I remember first sending her that "You wanna go out?" text all those months ago. Well, I guess a couple years ago now. Man, time flies when you're having fun, y'know. Anyways, I remember sending her that text and just waiting to see those three little dots. To see if she thought I was even worth her time. And then she did text back! (chuckling) She said, "Who is this?" I had just gotten her number and it didn't even cross my mind to lead with my name. But it was funny. I made myself look like an idiot, but it was funny. Something great started that day. And now I guess something great is gonna end today. (beat) Well, I guess it's already ended. It's not like I can take back that text. All I can do is wait for those three little dots. It... it feels like that period of time between your last final and graduation. You're just kinda waiting for it to be over. You know you've done all you gotta do, but all that's left is that little piece of paper to seal the deal. And once you got that, you're ready to head off into the next chapter of your life. You know what? That's what I'll call this. Just the end of one chapter of my life and the beginning of a new one!

BOBBY is grinning, but his grin slowly melts away.

BOBBY: Oh, but what if I made a mistake? What if this is the girl I've been looking for my whole life? What if I never meet someone as amazing and fun and beautiful as her ever again? I don't know what I'll do if that's the case. If that happens I'm just gonna hide away in the mountains and live in a cabin cut off from society. Mother Nature will be my soulmate. (chuckles, then stops) I do feel bad though. She's a sweet girl, and I just know this is gonna tear her to pieces. I don't

wanna do that to her. (starts breathing nervously) M-maybe I'll just send her a follow-up text! (starts typing) Yeah, just say, like, uhh... it was a prank! Yeah! "My friend stole my phone and sent you this!" That'll work!

BOBBY starts typing, and then realizes what he's doing, then deletes the message.

BOBBY: No, no, no. I can't do that. I need to be honest. That text I sent earlier... that was how I really felt. And I need her to know that. She needs to hear that. Otherwise we're just gonna be stuck in the same place forever. Like some kinda limbo situation. No growth. No change. That's not a life worth living. This is the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new one. And that's something I'm gonna have to accept.

BOBBY looks at his phone.

BOBBY: Ohmigod, three little dots! Oh man, what's she even gonna say? This is the first time she's even bothered to text back in so long. (he closes his eyes and tries to calm himself) Whatever happens, you've got a new thing ahead of you. Change. Growth. A future.

BOBBY takes a deep breath, opens his eyes, and takes a closer look at his phone.

BOBBY: "I swear to God, whoever this is, stop texting me or I'll call the cops."

BOBBY leans back, takes a deep breath, and breathes a sigh of relief.

BOBBY: Hoo man, that was a lot more painless than I thought it was gonna be! (exhales) Welp! On to the next one! (he begins texting) "Hey, it's me. I know you're probably *not* in the mood to talk right now..."

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