

The Reminders (Sample)

written by

Samantha Vitabile

[vitabile.samantha@gmail.com](mailto:vitabile.samantha@gmail.com)

EXT. SUBURBAN BACKYARD - DAY

A picturesque backyard, landscaping meticulously thought out with a cobblestone path winding between gardens and willow trees.

On the lawn there's a table covered in snacks where teenagers decked out in prom outfits snack alongside overly eager helicopter moms and disinterested dads.

In the center of a large, floral garden stands a small metal archway covered in fairy lights.

Beneath the arch stands a 17 year old girl with long, dark hair pulled into an intricate up-do, make up carefully covering her face and matching her golden colored dress.  
AVERY GORDEN.

She smiles widely with her hand on her hip as her MOM (55, chubby, short hair) snaps her picture.

AVERY'S MOM

Oh, sweetie you look so gorgeous.

Avery smiles, shifting her pose.

AVERY

Thanks, Mom.

Avery's Mom lowers the camera, looking around.

AVERY'S MOM

Spencer! Get over here!

SPENCER (17, black and gold tux, dark, carefully styled hair, excited) Stands at the snack table talking to someone, he shoves a tortilla chip into his mouth and runs over.

SPENCER

Yes, Mrs. Gordon?

AVERY'S MOM

Get in the picture! You can eat later!

Avery blushes, Spencer laughs, putting his arm around her.

SPENCER

Yes, ma'am.

AVERY

(hushed)  
I'm so sorry.

SPENCER  
It's quite alright.

They smile and pose while Avery's Mom snaps pictures. They shift, Spencer kisses Avery on the cheek and she pops her foot.

Someone makes a GAGGING sound, to the side KAITLEN (17, ginger, pink, sparkly dress, soft makeup) stands laughing.

KAITLEN  
Eeeew.

Avery rolls her eyes.

AVERY  
Shut up and get in here.

Kaitlen smiles and joins the photo.

EXT. LAKEWOOD SENIOR HIGH - TWILIGHT

Crowds of eager students pool outside the front of Lakewood Senior High, a quaint little suburban High School.

Students dressed to the nines compliment each other, say goodbye to their families and eagerly look down the street.

A blue minivan pulls up to the curb, Avery, Spencer, and Avery's parents emerge.

Avery smooths her dress to her body, bouncing eagerly.

AVERY  
Aaah I'm so excited.

Avery's Mom comes around the car and hugs her.

AVERY'S MOM  
Have fun, Sweetheart. You deserve this night.

AVERY  
Thanks, Mom.

AVERY'S DAD (59, balding, glasses) gets out the passenger side door and gives Avery a hug.

AVERY'S DAD  
You look beautiful, Marshmallow.

Spencer and Avery stand together as Avery's Dad and Avery's Mom get back into the car. Avery's Mom leans out the window.

AVERY'S MOM  
Have fun, kids!

They drive off. Spencer and Avery turn to each other.

SPENCER  
(wryly)  
Alone at last.

He leans in to kiss her. Before their lips meet, they're interrupted by a voice:

JARED (O.S.)  
PDA! PDA!

Spencer rolls his eyes, placing his arm around Avery and turning to face his friend.

JARED (18, shaggy hair, baggy tuxedo, skinny) approaches them, smirking.

SPENCER  
(unamused)  
Hi, Jared.

JARED  
You guys look great.

AVERY  
Thanks.

SPENCER  
What happened to Maria?

Jared gropes the back of his neck.

JARED  
Sheeee decided not to go with me.

AVERY  
Oh, Jared--

JARED  
It's alright, Chinski's going stag.  
I'm all good.

Spencer and Avery stare at him, unconvinced. Kaitlen approaches, her arm locked with her date, THOMAS (18, handsome, buzz cut, black and white tux.)

KAITLEN  
When are the busses coming?

JARED  
Kaitlen! You look lovely tonight!

KAITLEN  
Thanks, Jared.

JARED  
Will you save a dance for me  
tonight?

THOMAS  
Dude, she's my date.

KAITLEN  
I can dance with both of you.

Before anyone can respond to this, four school busses round the corner. The crowd of student's cheer.

The busses stop in front of the curb, their doors opening.

INT. BUS

Avery and Spencer find a seat in the middle of the bus. Spencer gets the window seat and Avery sits on the aisle.

Kaitlen and Thomas sit in the seat behind them, while Jared sits in front of them.

The ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (35, energetic, suit) boards the bus and looks at the students eagerly.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
Who's ready for prom?!

The students cheer.

EXT. HIGHWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The rickety old school bus chugs down the highway.

INT. BUS

Spencer and Avery cuddle in their seat and take a selfie. Avery posts it to her Instagram story and puts her phone away.

SPENCER  
I can't believe we're graduating  
this weekend.

AVERY  
I know, and things were just  
starting to get good at Lakewood.

SPENCER  
Oh come on, it wasn't that bad.

AVERY  
Speak for yourself, until last year  
it was just me and Kaitlen.

SPENCER  
Yeah I guess, but we met last year.

He pulls her closer to him.

AVERY  
I know.

They kiss, the bus rattles slightly but no one notices.  
Jared pops his head up from the seat in front of them.

JARED  
(jeering)  
Eeeeeew Spencer and Avery are  
kissing!

SPENCER  
Come on, Chinski, we're having a  
nice moment.

Kaitlen peers around the side of her seat, tuning in.

JARED  
Oh shit, did you just give her the  
thing?

KAITLEN  
Jared! Shut your trap and sit down!

Jared puts his hands up.

JARED  
Sorry!

He sits down. Avery looks at Spencer inquisitively.

AVERY  
What's "the thing?"

SPENCER  
I don't know what you're talking  
about.

AVERY  
Come on! Tell me!

She pokes at his side, he laughs and grabs her hands.

SPENCER  
Fine, but don't get mad I'm doing  
this on a smelly old school bus.

She stops poking him, he keeps her hands.

SPENCER (CONT'D)  
I was gonna give you this tonight.

Jared watches through the crack between the seat and the window. Kaitlen peers around her seat.

Spencer hands Avery a small bag, she opens it to reveal a gold ring with a tiny, pink stone in the center.

AVERY  
Spence--

SPENCER  
I-I know we really haven't talked  
about what we're gonna do in the  
fall. W-With me in New Hampshire  
and you in Ohio.

Avery stares from the ring to his eyes.

SPENCER (CONT'D)  
But-

The bus shakes, Avery almost drops the ring but she and Spencer both catch it, their hands locked.

SPENCER (CONT'D)  
But uh, I'm really in love with  
you, Avery.  
(laughs nervously)  
And... i...it's a promise ring.

Avery stares at the ring, then at his eyes. Spencer smiles nervously. Avery puts the ring on and kisses him.

AVERY  
I love you.

EXT. BRIDGE

The bus turns onto a bridge. It jerks slightly to the right, but goes back to normal.

INT. BUS

Jared pops his head up and peers over the seat where his friends are talking.

JARED  
You guys are--

EXT. BUS

The right wheel of the bus shakes and jerks to the right.

INT. BUS

The students are thrown to the right.

EXT. BRIDGE

The bus swerves uncontrollably from left to right before going through the barrier and over the side of the bridge.

BLACK.