

June, 14, 2016

## Song

Where do I begin? From the frost-bitten night I was born, or the first difficult switch of schools.

Where do I begin? Never really fitting in because I didn't have time to, I always left before I understood where and who I was supposed to be. Four elementary schools, and one lasting friendships.

Where do I begin? When I first walked into class with a face similar to Freddy Krueger's. Layers and layers of stitches running across my upper lip. Hearing an audible gasp reach the corners of that small 2nd grade classroom. Not a single peer had turned away, all with wide eyes and jaws dropped. Some kids laughing, some whispering, and some trying to touch my face. The teacher still too shocked to stop them.

Where do I begin? The two IVs in each wrist, and gut wrenching pain of a ruptured appendix in a foreign country.

Where do I begin? The horribly hot days of the wretched boys and girls club, where I spent most of my summer. Where the staff each day promised my parents that it was a safe place. Only for me to come home with small bruises and emotional scars.

Where do I begin? When my parents left each other before I could make memories of ever having a whole family. Leaving me to myself and my dog. No siblings to help. No parents who truly understood.

Where do I begin? From the moment my only comfort in the whole world died.  
My dog. My brother. My best friend.

Where do I begin? Holding myself back from interacting with others, in fear of  
labels and social displacement.

Where am I now? Strong friendships and a consistent school.

Where am I now? Where I've found my place and have grown to fit in.

Where am I now? Scars healed and not a main point of conversation, and walk-  
ing straight.

Where am I now? Spending my time with my friends instead of antisocially sitting  
in a corner with my book.

Where am I now? I have gained new friends that won't leave me because they  
can't handle sarcasm, and surrounded myself with others like me.

Where am I now? Continuing to break my barriers and the social expectations I  
hold for myself, becoming a more outgoing person.

Where am I now? Moving on into a larger, busy, and anxiety filled future in high  
school.

Where will I be? Moving on from past relationships and improving the ones I al-  
ready have and need.

Where will I be? Moving forward in my high school career and graduating.

Where am I now? Making memories with both of my families and viewing them  
as a whole.

Where will I be? Striving to further my current success and future successes.

Where will I be? Attending a four year university and playing basketball.

Where will I be? A nurse anesthetist in the navy serving our country, and studying marine biology on the way.

But for now. I am here.