

## The Cocoon of a Social Butterfly



See these three specific places are one of the main symbols of my social experience with and without Covid. These places are such main, big symbols because if they didn't exist then I wouldn't have any social life or experiences. I wouldn't be as close as I was back then with my friends. I would almost have nothing. With that in mind Covid basically did that with my social life. Covid-19 took all of the places and people I held dearest and snatched them up. Saying this makes Covid sound like it was the absolute worst but that not true. Even though it took all of that away from me it also gave me new places and people to hold dear filling the whole that was once

there. But with these places that were taken away, I had people attached to them that I would go with creating my social life. These people were Amaya and Caroline some of the closest friends I've ever had. After school and on the weekends I would travel to downtown Philadelphia shopping and talking with them having the time of my life. But that was soon to change more than I had realized.

One of these three special places was Urban Outfitters on 16th in Walnut and almost every weekend I would go to this place with my friend Caroline. We had been friends for almost seven years then and we were unbreakable or so I thought. Every Saturday or Sunday we would go on the bus downtown to Urban most of the time not even buying anything but still looking around and always chatting with each other. We would talk about school, home, our friends, what we were going to do the next week, and everything and more. I cherished these days but not as much as I should've because on Friday suddenly there was a Covid outbreak and we couldn't go anywhere. This changed the whole dynamic of our relationship. Yeah, we would contact each other every so often but it got less and less as spring and summer went on. This was the end of eighth grade and we were both going to different high schools so the chances of us getting together for a weekend again were slim. That spring and summer were the only times where we could get the chance to see each other again and we missed it. Keeping in touch with her has gotten hard and hard since she has school now and so do I. For the longest time we were on the same path riding right beside each other but on Covid hit we diverged, separated, and our past was just ash. I had a hole in my heart that I wish could just fill up.

The second place of these three places is Brandy Melville on 17th and Walnut and these were another one of the places I would go with my friend Caroline on those special weekends. I think this place also describes the difference between just me and my personality and how I express myself. This place has a lot of memories that I cherish more now than ever and I will be eternally grateful that I got to experience them with Caroline. Thinking about laughing and having the time of my life in this place always brings a smile to my face, but it also saddens me because I know I will never be able to experience those same types of memories with my friend because of Covid. This sadness filled my heart last almost all summer but luckily it went by so fast that it felt like only a month. With this sadness gone, I'm glad I experienced it because now I can live my life more appreciative of the things around me, but somehow there will always be that hole in my heart from the loss of my friendship with Caroline.

The third and last place I chose to show and symbolize my social life in and out of Covid is the Capital One Cafe on 16th and Walnut. The friend I would travel to this place with was named Amaya. Every so often after school, we would get off the bus to go home and walk to this cafe. The peace and serenity I felt spending time with Amaya at this place could never be matched. The sear chillness those days brought me was just enough to get me through the rest of the week. Life felt complete with those days in my week but once it was all away the hole in my heart grew bigger than I could've imagined. One of my favorite friendships was stripped away from one of its traditions and it never felt right after.

Eventhough I've been talking about how terrible Covid-19 has been on my social life it still has benefited me as well. From meeting new people at my new high school to still sometimes being able to contact my old friends from my old school Covid has been all that bad. One of the outlets that I've been able to reach my friends and make new ones on is Instagram. This and many other forms of social media have benefited me and my social life more than I could've imagined. But it will never be the same as before and that could be looked at as a good and bad thing that's for you to decide. My social life has been a crazy rollercoaster because of Covid-19 but I wouldn't give it up for the world.