

## Before

NIKI

You hid me in your dorm room  
It was Halloweekend, I just flew across the globe  
Twenty-two hours just to see you  
Just to barely fit on your twin-sized bed  
And talk about your cool new friend  
Who I never met, who you dated as soon as I left

Carolina autumn  
It had been a year since I saw you  
Since we ended it  
Had a year to grow into the girl you always wanted  
Now we're holding hands as not quite friends  
But not quite lovers  
Well, we'll just pretend  
You say, "It's complicated to make amends"  
Well, is that the way that we're headed then?

And you couldn't answer me  
Though you could pull me in while I brushed my teeth  
And let your hands both freely speak  
Like I wasn't ever gonna leave, leave

You were all I'd ever known  
And now I'm supposed to love you from a distance  
Like it's nothing, like it's instant  
And you say, "Let's just see where this goes"  
And I don't know how or why you seem just fine  
'Cause I'm having to grasp that you're somehow not mine anymore  
It's so cruel how things are only almost like they were before

Like they were before  
Like they were before  
Like they were before

We walk downtown and it's charming  
You're alarmingly disarming  
Yeah, we've got forty-eight hours left  
Before I fly back to my death  
While you stay just fine and feel alive  
South of the Mason-Dixon line  
Where everyone closes shop at nine  
Where you could somehow finally find

What you were desperately looking for  
Funny how you thought that was gonna be New York  
With our chalkboard walls and slanted floors  
Oh, we could've had that and so much more  
Ask your new lover what it's like to be given  
A real fighting chance before you wish her, "Good riddance"  
Did anything ever really count  
Or was I just a two-year practice round?

You were all I'd ever known  
And now I'm feeling stupid, you're forbidden  
They say, yeah, we were something, too bad we were children  
Ooh, I don't know where to go  
And I don't know how or why you seem just fine

'Cause I'm looking at you and God knows you're not mine anymore  
It's so cruel how things will never be the way they were before

Like they were before  
It's almost just like how it was before  
But it's not anymore