

Chrissie Fackenthall

English 100

Formal Assignment #1: Narrative Project

29 October 2018

Broken Dreams

Chrissie grabs the mail out of the gold mailbox hanging outside the brick wall next to her front door. It is a breezy November afternoon in her senior year of high school and she just returned home from school. Chrissie flips through the pile of mail until a purple and gold pamphlet catches her attention. The smiling students on the pamphlet makes her excited because she already wants to apply to this school early this year, to West Chester University. All three of her brothers attended, along with her mother and older sister. The campus was basically engraved in her; how could she not go there?

With the pamphlet in Chrissie's hand, she races up the stairs to her mom's room to discuss the possibility to her future. "Mom, look what came in the mail", she exclaims after opening her mom's door.

"I see, that is very exciting. I thought you didn't want to go to that school because the whole family went there," her mom chuckles as she continues to fold laundry on her bed.

"I know, but after visiting their art department this past summer and seeing student artwork, I really liked it," Chrissie explains.

"Okay, because I know Ana wants to go their as well because of their great early education program," her mom states.

“Yeah I know, but we aren’t going to be roommates. She’s been my roommate all of my life.” Chrissie steps out of her moms room and begins to think. She likes West Chester even though her twin sister did too. She does not like that fact, but she could live with it. West Chester was really affordable anyway for a set of twins. With that thought, she walks down the stairs and heads to her computer to do more research on the school.

Later during the school year, a big envelope sits by the table next to the front door. Chrissie comes home from school and instantly becomes anxious and overjoyed. She picks it up and reads the front of the envelope, “To Chrissie Fackenthall, From West Chester University”. The anticipation was piling up, after years of hard work. She couldn’t wait any longer, so she tears open the envelope. Inside was a letter, “Dear Chrissie Fackenthall, Congratulations! We would like to inform you that you have been accepted to West Chester University as a Fine Arts major in Studio Arts.” Chrissie jumps with excitement, and runs to the kitchen to tell her family the good news.

Her family lived in a beautiful home, with a pool and a giant backyard. Friends and family regularly visited and they hosted many gatherings and parties. They discovered when she was really young that they had to move, and eventually found a smaller house nearby to move into. Her dad was getting into financial debt and decided that her family should move into a smaller house in order to save money. He decided to work constantly in order to get himself out of debt. It took him awhile, but he was eventually able to fix his financial issues.

Chrissie walks into the kitchen and her mom is at the stove cooking dinner, and her sister Ana is sitting at the table. “Did you see what came in the mail” she exclaims while hiding the envelope behind her back, a smile grows on her face.

“No, what is” Ana questions, a little annoyed at her excitement. Her mom and sister became silent, looking at Chrissie and waiting for her answer.

“It’s a letter from West Chester, I got accepted!” Chrissie was so relieved, she has been waiting for a response, and it has finally come.

“I am so proud of you, we have to tell your siblings,” her mom says with tears in her eyes. She knew her mom was imagining a whole family portrait on Chrissie’s high school graduation day of everyone in the family who attended West Chester. After receiving this news, Chrissie takes out every article of clothing that was from West Chester to wear it to school to show off this achievement.

Although the idea of leaving for college was a little scary, Chrissie knows she is ready to start a new chapter in her life. She’s ready to face the new challenges of college, her new surroundings, and meeting new people. West Chester is not too far and if she ever misses her family and dogs, she can always make a phone call or even take a septa bus home. That’s how close she is from home. Ana hasn’t received her letter in the mail but she could imagine their lives together at West Chester.

Throughout the last few months, Chrissie has been asked by classmates, “So, what school are you going to?” She was always happy to answer their question, and would ask them the same question to see if they would be attending the same school or not. It is especially exciting to find out her closest friends are also attending West Chester, it would be such a fun time in her life. College is going to push her out of her comfort zone, but that is what she needs the most.

Walking through the school hallways, student’s everywhere are wearing college shirts or sweatshirts. Today was college decision day, and the day to find out where her peers are going

next year for college. Lucky for Chrissie, she was wearing a grey hoodie that read, “West Chester University” across the front. Her oldest brother Steve gifted it to her a few years earlier, little did she know she would be attending the same school as him. Later that day, Chrissie’s phone began buzzing.

She picks it up and sees its from her brother Steve, “Hey Chritty, I heard about your acceptance to West Chester. I’ll have to take you and Annie out to celebrate.”

“That would be so much fun, you can tell me about your experiences there and maybe give me some advice,” Chrissie says.

He laughs, “I have a lot of stories. Expect a lot of visits from me and I can show you all of my favorite places.”