

APPENDIX I

SUMMARY OF YOU'VE REACHED SAM

You've Reached Sam is a story about a seventeen-year-old, Julie, who has her plans firmly set for the future. Her parents divorced a long time ago and Julie lives with her mother in Ellenburg. Her mother is a lecturer at one of the campuses in Ellenburg. Julie also does part-time at a cafe with the aim of helping her family's economy. Julie has a boyfriend who is also her classmate, Sam. Julie always spends time with Sam even though Julie and Sam had planned to live together when they graduated from school. Sam plans to move to a small town and buy an apartment for them to live in together later. But unlucky, their plan is destroyed because Sam died in an accident and everything changes. Sam had an accident when he is going to pick up Julie when Julie was at the station. At that time, around midnight, when Sam is driving, there is a truck turning into his lane, which makes Sam swerve with the aim of avoiding the truck, but unfortunately, he has an accident. At the time of the incident, Sam does not lose his life immediately. He still manages to free himself from the chair and crawl out onto the street, and he starts walking. Sam manages to walk up to a mile down the road before collapsing. Sam loses too much blood and dies of exhaustion. Julie panics upon hearing the news of Sam's sudden death in an accident. She is deeply shocked and unable to accept the fact that her beloved Sam has departed forever. Julie often denies that she has lost Sam forever, without having the chance to say goodbye. She perceives this as profoundly unfair since she and Sam had meticulously planned their future together. Julie feels guilty about the incident. She blames herself and Julie strongly feels that this is unjust and that Sam couldn't simply leave her like this.

Julie is overwhelmed with devastation, feeling like she has hit rock bottom in her life. She cries every day and ends up skipping school for an extended period, causing her to fall behind in her coursework and jeopardize her chances of graduating. She neglects self-care and isolates herself in her room, drowning in her sorrow. The thought of why all of this had to happen to her constantly consumes her. She wonders why it had to be him. Julie is so shattered that she can't bring herself to attend Sam's funeral because the sight of him no longer being alive would be unbearable for her. Julie is still grappling with the immense tragedy of Sam's death. The reality of losing her beloved boyfriend in such an unjust manner weighs heavily on her heart. It is a constant struggle for Julie to accept that Sam is no longer by her side. The magnitude of this truth overwhelms her, and she finds it incredibly difficult to come to terms with the harsh reality of the situation. Every day is a battle as Julie confronts the painful realization that Sam is truly gone, leaving her to face life's challenges on her own. The absence of Sam, who had been her pillar of strength and source of joy for the past

three years, leaves Julie feeling profoundly isolated and alone in both her moments of sorrow and fleeting moments of happiness. She bargains with her emotions, hoping that by rewinding time, she could alter the outcome and make everything right again. Julie's longing for Sam's presence intensifies, and she yearns for a way to bring him back into her life.

Overwhelmed by her emotions and yearning for Sam's presence, Julie impulsively reaches for her cell phone and dials Sam's number, desperately hoping that he would answer, just like they used to do before his untimely demise. Her thoughts are scattered, and she begins to experience hallucinations, envisioning a scenario where she can call Sam and ask where he is now, longing for his return to her side. To her astonishment, the call connects, and Sam's voice resonates through the phone. Julie is taken aback, unable to believe her ears. She had desperately hoped for this moment, but it seemed like a surreal dream. Gradually, she reassures herself that it is indeed Sam's voice on the other end of the line. Uncertain of whether the voice is real or a figment of her own imagination, Julie decides to answer the call anyway. Surprisingly, her cell phone is connected to Sam's contacts, and she discovers that Sam had passed away a week ago. Despite her awareness that this might be an unrealistic dream, Julie embraces the opportunity to talk to Sam once again, even if it is only through voice. She disregards the possibility of it being a dream and cherishes the chance to have this connection with Sam, even if it is transient. In her desperation, Julie sets aside rationality, focusing solely on the desire to be with Sam once more. Their conversations unfold like a dream, blurring the lines between reality and fantasy.

But over time, Julie realizes the need to accept her boyfriend's death as a permanent reality and reestablish herself in her previous life. She acknowledges that there are various aspects of her life that require attention, including her education and repairing her relationship with her mother. However, she faces challenges in this process of starting over. Julie takes courageous steps toward accepting Sam's death, even though the journey remains challenging. Embracing the acceptance stage, Julie strives to rebuild relationships and discover new connections in her life. Julie realizes the detrimental effect her sadness has had on her daily activities, such as schoolwork, studying, and writing her book. She recognizes the need to rebuild her old self and regain her focus on the future. Julie is determined to graduate, finish writing her book, and make her mother, father, and even Sam proud. Embracing acceptance, she is motivated to channel her energy towards her goals and create a brighter future for herself.

Heartbroken Julie after the unexpected loss of her boyfriend Sam. Julie, who never had a chance to say goodbye to her boyfriend, distanced herself from her friends and family and gradually began to isolate herself from her grief. Losing Sam is one of

the hardest experiences Julie has had. The sadness that Julie felt was getting bigger when she often had hallucinations, as if Sam was still alive. She is also a very sensitive person. Every time she saw everything related to Sam, Julie felt even sadder and could not accept the fact that Sam is gone. Julie calls Sam's cell phone to check his voicemail and is shocked when Sam answers. By a miraculous coincidence, Julie gets a second chance to say goodbye. The connection is temporary. But when she hears Sam's voice, she falls in love with Sam all over again and with each call, it gets harder and harder to let him go. But keeping her otherworldly conversations with Sam a secret isn't easy, especially when Julie watches Sam's family suffer. Unable to stand by and watch her loved ones suffer, Julie is torn between revealing the truth about her calls with Sam or risking her relationship and losing it forever. Julie acknowledges that life must continue, and she is determined to rise above her grief and create a new beginning while carrying the enduring love and connection she shares with Sam.

Julie takes the final step of saying goodbye to Sam. Despite not being able to attend Sam's funeral and express her farewell earlier, Julie now feels ready to visit Sam's grave and bid him a proper farewell. She hopes that by doing so, Sam can find peace in that resting place. . She realizes that it is time to accept the reality that they are now in different worlds, unable to deny this truth any longer. While Sam may be gone from this world, Julie is determined to continue living her life and cherishing the memories they shared.

APPENDIX II

Dustin Tao is a Vietnamese-American author based in New York City. He graduated from Amherst College with his bachelor's degree. over there. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and is currently enrolled in a PhD program at Northwestern University, where he is working on his literacy research for critical media. He is a contemporary novelist and his debut novel *You've Reached Sam* will be published by Wednesday Books in November 2021.



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