

dear friend,

Wandermaps is a project I started years after an old friend handmade me a map of our sleepy tobacco town in north carolina, where we both went to school. She marked secret places on the map "wonders for you" and one afternoon a week, we set off campus to discover those places together. That map - and that friend - were what taught me to see the beauty in a little southern town: in perfect reading nooks within giant magnolia trees, in a certain stretch of railway tracks, in the sweetest mulberry bushes.

Since then, I have shuffled from metropolis to metropolis, and found myself struggling to learn how to love vast, often alienating cities. It is still difficult, but I am reminded by my friend's gentle attentiveness, and her ability to see things that others overlook. That is how Wandermaps began. It was her gift to me, and now, a gift I wish to pass on to you.

I am writing to you hoping that you will take part in this project that aims to capture beauty, memory, and experience onto a single page. I have included a mapmaking kit with basic guidelines and example maps. If you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact me. And of course, please share your maps by emailing them to me at: kening@wandermaps.org. Thank you for your time, care, and creativity. I am truly excited to hear from you.

best wishes,

Kening