

I had no idea when i decided to move to VA, i was deciding my future. I just wanted to get out of Columbus. I had escaped once, only to be pulled back in when my mom got sick. Once she recovered, I waited for my chance to escape.

That chance came one day in March when my college roommate from Pittsburgh who had ended up back in Buffalo called with news she was going to be receiving her station in the navy and was bummed that she would have to find a new roommate.

“I’m your roommate,” I exclaimed. And with that, I was moving and I didn’t even know where yet.

April came and I found out I would be moving to Portsmouth, VA.

In June, on a sweltering day, i drove the moving van, followed by my brother in my car, into the parking lot of my new home. I walked into the office to sign my lease feeling completely out of place. Bright tiled floors and fancy vases greeted me.

What had I gotten myself into?

I cried as I got ready for dinner that night. The enormity of what i had just done settling onto my shoulders. I had left a good life with good friends and a good job to scratch this wandering itch i had always had. The unknown suddenly seemed terrifying.

Two years later, as i packed the trailer in preparation for another unknown, I realized the leap that I had made was totally worth it. I moved to VA a broke, single waitress and left with a master’s degree, a career path, and a future husband, and some money in the bank. I move there as a kid and left a grown up.

I love that feeling. The rush of a new place, a new state, a new house, unknown streets and people. The prospect of a fresh start. To be anyone I want.

Standing at the base of a huge rock eating leftovers heated on a campstove, , i felt that rush again as Ryan and I decided to move to Idaho on the basis of “when will we ever get the chance to live in Idaho?” Seriously, that was our logic.

After setting up house in Salmon, I realized that, again, I had jumped into something that, while it could have gone terribly wrong, turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made.