

# Epilogue

The epilogue reflects on the protagonist's journey of recovery and self-discovery three years after surviving Covid. Emphasizing the importance of living in the present, the narrator dismisses grand ambitions in favor of appreciating small victories—health, shelter, and loved ones. Now an art therapist with her own practice, she travels to the Galápagos alone, symbolizing closure and independence. The chapter underscores the fleeting nature of moments and the value of cherishing what one has, rather than yearning for what's absent.

Arriving in Puerto Villamil, the protagonist observes the vibrant, tourist-filled town, contrasting it with her pandemic memories. She reconnects humorously with her friend Rodney, who supported her through her breakup with Finn and her mother's death. The narrative touches on Finn's new life with another woman, acknowledging the protagonist's genuine wish for his happiness. Her solo trip represents a final chapter, a deliberate step toward personal resolution and growth after years of upheaval.

The protagonist checks into a boutique hotel, noting its dissimilarity to her dreams, and inquires about a woman named Elena, hinting at unresolved threads from her past. She reflects on her master's thesis about memory's unreliability, drawing parallels to Japan's tsunami stones—monuments meant to preserve hard-earned wisdom across generations. Her art therapy practice has channeled this idea into creating "pandemic stones," collaborative artworks by survivors to memorialize their collective trauma and lessons. One such stone stands in the MoMA, near her mother's photograph, bridging personal and communal healing.

Exploring Isabela Island, the protagonist confronts discrepancies between her memories and reality, blending familiarity with newfound details. She visits the tortoise breeding ground, another site that diverges from her imagination, and jogs along the coast, savoring the ability to breathe freely—a stark contrast to her Covid experience.

The epilogue closes with her embracing the present, acknowledging the past's weight while stepping forward into a life shaped by resilience, art, and the quiet joy of survival.

