

WHAT WE SEE

Written by

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EXT. - LAKE - NIGHT

ANNA (19) stands in water up to the middle of her back, naked. Her palms, turned down, brush against the surface of the water.

Cut to black.

INT. - LEILA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Anna stands with her back to a wall in a boisterous kitchen where everyone is wearing jeans and flannels. She sips from a red solo cup filled with some variation of Jungle Juice. Leila walks over.

LEILA
Come take a shot with me.

ANNA
Okay. Tequila?

LEILA
Of course.

Anna watches as Leila pours two shots of tequila and hands her one.

LEILA (CONT'D)
To midterms!

The girls knock back the shots, wincing as the alcohol burns their throats.

ANNA
So where's Jack?

LEILA
Jack? He's at some sailing thing or something.

ANNA
Oh.

LEILA
Yeah thank god. He's been SO clingy lately. I mean, I know he wants me to break up with Brian, and I'm going to, but it's not like I'm just going to start dating him.

ANNA
You're not?

LEILA

I'm not spending my last year of college in a relationship, Anna.

ANNA

I thought you wanted to be with Jack though?

LEILA

Be with him? No. I just want something casual.

LEILA (CONT'D)

(Pause) Shit!

Anna and Leila look across the kitchen to see Jack standing in the doorway. He's in a blazer, with the sleeves rolled up to his elbows. A group of guys in the corner see him and start talking heatedly amongst themselves.

LEILA (CONT'D)

I have to go deal with this.

Anna watches as Leila makes her way through the kitchen to Jack, standing in the doorway. Whispering angrily, she pushes him back into the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. - LEILA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Anna, holding two solo cups, walks up to Jack, who is sitting at the bottom of the front hall stairs.

ANNA

Someone's in trouble...

JACK

Wha- Oh. Hey Anna.

ANNA

So why did you come, anyway?

JACK

You know why I came.

ANNA

She doesn't want you here, though.

JACK

I guess. I still wanted to see her.

3.

ANNA

You look like you need this.

Anna hands Jack one of the solo cups, filled with jungle juice.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Cheers.

CUT TO:

INT. - LEILA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

There are only a few people left in the house from the party. Leila stands at the bottom of the stairs going up to the bedrooms.

LEILA

I'm going to bed.

ANNA

What about Jack?

LEILA

What about him?

ANNA

You're just going to leave him down here by himself?

LEILA

No, you're here.

Leila turns to go upstairs and while Anna tries to figure out what she meant.

INT. - LEILA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jack and Anna stand on opposite sides of the kitchen talking. There is no one else in the house. Both are drunk, yet still sipping on Jungle Juice.

ANNA

So what's been going on with you lately?

JACK

Nothing, just lots of work and stuff, you know.

ANNA

Jack. You've been following Leila around like a puppy dog. Sooner or later Brian's going to find out and, well, you know how he gets.

JACK

There's just been some stuff going on.

ANNA

Like what?

JACK

I can't talk about it.

ANNA

Come on, Jack. What's so bad that you need Leila to come sleep in your room every night.

JACK

Is there anything she doesn't tell you?

ANNA

Not really!

JACK

Great. If you must know, one of my friends tried to kill himself last Saturday. He's in your class, actually. Leo Casali?

Anna looks stricken, begins to lean on the door frame for support. Jack doesn't notice and continues talking.

JACK (CONT'D)

It was bad, we had to bring him to the hospital and call his parents, he took like, an entire bottle of sleeping pills- Hey, are you okay?

ANNA

I have to go.

JACK

Wait.

Anna turns to find her coat. She shrugs it on as Jack watches. She looks at him.

ANNA

Sorry.

JACK

Let me at least walk you back.

EXT. - OUTSIDE OF ANNA'S DORM - NIGHT

Anna and Jack pause at the bottom of the stairs leading up to her dorm.

ANNA

Well, good night, I guess.

Anna leans forward to hug Jack. They hold the hug for an inordinately long time.

JACK

Do you want me to stay?

Anna nods into Jack's shoulder.

INT. - ANNA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Anna opens the door and flips on the light. Jack enters behind her.

The room is a medium sized single dorm room, with posters of bands, an American flag, a school pennant, and photos covering the wall. There is a single bed, a desk, a dresser, and a small chest in the corner.

JACK

Nice place.

Anna crosses the room, removing her shoes, and sits cross-legged on the bed. Jack slips off his shoes as well and moves to sit on a chest opposite her.

JACK (CONT'D)

Do you want to talk about it?

ANNA

Talk about what?

JACK

Whatever it is that is clearly bothering you.

ANNA

It's... It's kind of a lot. I don't want to freak you out.

JACK

Anna, hey. Look at me. You can tell me anything. Who knows, maybe I'll even be able to help.

ANNA

I fall apart sometimes, okay?

JACK

Okay.

ANNA

Like tonight, before I went to Leila's, I was having a hard time. I went anyway, though, and everything seemed okay. But then...

JACK

I started talking about Leo.

ANNA

Yeah. And I just... it's just too much for me to think about.

(Pause) I'm sorry.

JACK

For what?

ANNA

This. It's 2:00 AM and I'm just dumping all of this on you. This is bad, so, so bad.

Jack unzips his coat and settles onto the seat.

JACK

It's fine, I haven't been sleeping lately anyway.

ANNA

I'm sorry. It's just that none of this feels real. Like it's all in my head.

JACK

It is all in your head.

ANNA

You know what I mean.

JACK

Does Leila know?

ANNA

That I have a mood disorder, yeah.

JACK

Mood disorder? So like, bipolar or what?

ANNA

Bipolar. Bipolar II. Fuck, I hate saying that.

JACK

Damn.

ANNA

What?

JACK

That just sucks.

ANNA

Tell me about it.

JACK

Well, hey. I'll be your distraction. I can stay as long as you want.

INT. - ACADEMIC BUILDING STAIRWAY - DAY

Anna sits on the bottom of a secluded stairway, talking to Leila.

LEILA

I just want you to be careful.

ANNA

I know, I know.

LEILA

No, seriously. He's pretty deceptive, Anna.

ANNA

So you've said.

LEILA

After the stunt he pulled last night, showing up when I specifically asked him not to. I'm pretty done.

ANNA
Wait, what?

LEILA
I'm over it, he's pissing me off.

ANNA
So... That's it?

LEILA
That's it.

ANNA
Do you care if I...

LEILA
If you what? Go for him?

ANNA
Yeah.

LEILA
I mean, I wouldn't. He's a pain in the ass. But if you want to, I guess you can find out for yourself.

INT. - STUDY ROOM - NIGHT

Anna walks into the a study room to find Leila and Jack lying on the floor together, looking at the ceiling. Jack has his arm around Leila's shoulder.

Silent. Leila jumps up from the ground and moves towards Anna, reaching her arm out for her. Anna turns, hair whipping, and runs out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. - ACADEMIC BUILDING STAIRWAY - NIGHT

Anna runs down the stairs, shoes slapping against the metal and linoleum. She reaches the bottom and pushes her way out the door into the darkness.

EXT. - COLLEGE QUAD - NIGHT

Anna walks quickly along a path. Her eyes stare straight ahead, as if fixed on a single point in the distance.

CUT TO:

EXT. - ANNA'S DORM - NIGHT

Anna scans her ID and wrenches open the door to her dorm.

CUT TO:

INT. - ANNA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Anna slams down three shot glasses and pours cheap vodka in them. She takes the shots in three quick motions, no hesitation. She wheels from her desk and goes to her dresser, opening drawer after drawer and searching through them frantically.

Anna's phone lights up and she pauses to look at it.

Text for Leila - "It wasn't what you think, it was nothing, I promise."

Anna throws her phone across the room and returns to her desk, pouring herself another shot and taking it.

Returning to her dresser, she continues searching until she finds a red Swiss Army Knife. She plays with it in her hand, and slides the ground. She continues to look at it before slowly flipping open the knife.