

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

SPOILER, WE DIE IN THE END

Written by

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Draft 3

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INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

BEN, a 17 year old boy dressed in a loosely fitted shirt stares at himself in a mirror - He is calm. He is holding a knife.

TITLE CARD

Dialogue over black screen.

THERAPIST

And what do you see in these visions?

BEN

It's more of a feeling really.

THERAPIST

A feeling?

BEN

Yeah, I feel, like...bad.

THERAPIST

Bad?

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Ben is sat in a chair in the middle of a small office. He is sat forward - uncomfortable.

BEN

Yeah, like something really shit is about to happen, or has just happened. It's hard to tell.

Ben's THERAPIST is sat behind a large oak desk which is cluttered with books and old notes. He is old, mid 60's, and wears a classic suede suit and large glasses. He quickly scribbles in his notebook on his lap.

THERAPIST

Do you think this has something to do with...today?

Ben tenses.

THERAPIST (cont'd)

I'd imagine this is quite a difficult day for you, losing a loved one is... it's awful.

Ben shrugs.

THERAPIST (cont'd)

Well, if you...

He is interrupted by the sound of a **school bell**. He checks his watch.

THERAPIST (cont'd)

Well, I believe that is our last appointment.

Ben forces a smile. They stand. The therapist offers his hand, Ben awkwardly shakes it. The Therapist closes his notebook and adds it to the clutter on his desk. Ben walks over to the door.

THERAPIST (cont'd)

Hey Ben.

Ben stops and turns to look at him.

THERAPIST (cont'd)

About those visions. I wouldn't worry yourself too much but if they do get worse, you have people you can talk to right? Old friends, family you can reach out to?

Ben pauses.

BEN

(Softly)

Yeah.

THERAPIST

Good, I find it's never a good idea to bottle these things up, they tend to spill over at the worst times. (he smiles reassuringly)

Ben awkwardly nods. He opens the door and goes to leave.

THERAPIST (cont'd)

One last thing.

BEN

Yeah?

THERAPIST

Have a good summer.

Ben smiles.

EXT. SCHOOL EXIT - EVENING

**60s Doowop plays**

Ben walks through the crowd of people excitedly leaving school. He is wearing earphones. Some of them bump into Ben but he takes no notice.

BEN (V.O.)

Yeah today is a pretty shit day, a year ago today my mum was hit by a drunk driver going down the wrong lane at 90, I heard she died quickly.

Ben makes it out of the crowd, he pulls up his backpack.

BEN (V.O.) (cont'd)

I know deep down he's right about not bottling stuff up but I just don't get how people talk about these things. I don't get how people talk about a lot of things really.

From amongst the crowd behind Ben appears ANNA, she is small for her age with long brown hair wearing an over-sized hoodie and jeans. She mouths Ben's name but we cannot hear her over the music. She catches up to Ben and grabs his arm. He quickly recoils his arm and takes out his earphones.

**Music stops.** Ben flinches in surprise when he sees her, she just smiles.

ANNA

Ben, hey.

Ben is perplexed, he subtly shakes his head and lets out a nervous laugh.

BEN

Umm...Hey?

Anna clocks his confused expression.

ANNA

Sorry to spring up on you.

BEN

No, its...err

ANNA

How are you doing?

Her eyes are sympathetic - she knows.

BEN  
I....ummm....I'm doing.

Anna laughs, silence.

ANNA  
A few people were thinking of heading up to the woods for a bit.

Ben nods, he doesn't follow.

ANNA (cont'd)  
And I was wandering if you wanted to join us?

Pause. Ben stammers.

ANNA (cont'd)  
I know I've been pretty shit over the past year. But it's the last day of school and I'd love to be able to celebrate with my best friend.

Ben awkwardly laughs.

ANNA (cont'd)  
I completely understand if you don't want to but...

BEN  
...How many?

Anna smiles

ANNA  
(reassuringly)  
...Not many.

BEN  
They don't...

ANNA  
No.

Ben takes a deep breathe.

EXT. FOREST - EVENING

Ben sits on a log in a clearing in the forest. THREE BOYS are sat on a longer log to the side of Ben and Anna sits across from him, they all surround a fire. Everyone is drinking except for Ben and one of the boys is smoking.

**Music plays.** Ben looks slightly uncomfortable but is smiling. A tall boy GEORGE is telling a story.

GEORGE

...and then he just falls straight  
into this pond.

Everyone laughs. Ben chuckles to himself. JAMES notices Ben and pulls a beer from his rucksack. We hear feint

JAMES

Hey...

Ben looks up at him.

JAMES (cont'd)

...It's Ben right.

Ben nods

James offers him the drink. Ben puts out his hand.

BEN

Oh no...cheers.

James pauses then makes a face to say *fair enough* before returning the drink to his bag.

JAMES

So Anna tells me you're into video  
games.

Ben nervously laughs.

BEN

Oh yeah, I don't really do that  
anymore.

James grunts. Anna overhears the conversation.

ANNA

Oh, how come?

BEN

Dad got rid of my Xbox.

HENRY comes out of the woods behind Anna, doing up his black skinny jeans. He is handsome and wears a white sweatshirt. Ben notices him, he tries to carry on his conversation with James but doesn't move his eyes off of Henry.

BEN (cont'd)  
But yeah...I played a few things like  
Halo and Portal...

Henry sits down next to Anna and puts his arm around her. She leans into him as he kisses her on the forehead. Ben's face goes stern, he swallows.

JAMES  
Oh nice, I used to love Portal, such  
a classic.

Ben smiles at James and nods.

Anna is passed a Joint by CHARLIE, she takes it and takes a long drag. Ben twitches. She passes it to Henry who does the same. He looks round the circle and locks eyes with Ben before extending out his arm. Ben recoils slightly and shakes his head.

BEN  
Oh....um....no....I don't

Henry moves his arm closer.

HENRY  
Go on mate, it's basically finished.

Ben looks nervously around the circle - The boys are looking watching, Anna smiles reassuringly.

Ben leans forward to grab the joint, it is just out of reach; he lunges and accidentally knocks it from the older boy's hands. The other boys are silent. Ben recoils back onto the log. Henry shakes his head in amusement and picks up the joint. He stands up and walks over to Ben, looming over him he hands it to Ben who nervously takes it.

Ben nervously puts the joint in his mouth and inhales.

Henry laughs, pulls a lighter from his back pocket and offers it to Ben.

HENRY (cont'd)  
I think it went out.

He smiles nervously and takes the lighter and returns the butt of the roll in between his lips.

Ben awkwardly tries to ignite the lighter but cannot get it to work, the boys watch silently. Ben achieves the odd flame but cannot keep it longer than a few seconds.

Henry offers his hand, takes the lighter from Ben and squats down in front of him.

Henry produces a flame with ease. As Ben leans forward the boys lock eyes. They stare at each other.

HENRY (cont'd)  
Now breathe in.

Ben begins to take a deep breath but suddenly bursts out into a coughing fit. The boys chuckle. Ben looks around embarrassed.

HENRY (cont'd)  
You want me to kill it for you?

Ben gingerly hands the joint back to Henry. Henry returns to his seat next to Anna before finishing off the joint and flicking into the woods behind him.

Anna catches Ben's eye. She mouths *you okay?* Ben nods. He then gestures behind him and tries to mouth something to Anna which just turns out indistinguishable.

Anna makes a confused face. Ben mouths *Piss*. Anna still confused.

BEN  
(Trying to whisper)  
Piss

JAMES  
What?

Ben looks at James - awkward. He nervously laughs.

BEN  
(Stammering)  
Oh...I was...um...Just...Going to  
take a piss.

JAMES  
Oh, okay.

Ben quickly stands and rushes off into the forest.

JAMES (cont'd)  
Is he alright?

Anna watches Ben go, she looks concerned.

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST - EVENING

Ben is sat against a tree, he holds his head in his hands.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

*Ben walks down a hallway, he grasps the knife in his hand.*

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST - EVENING

Back to Ben.

BEN (V.O.)

I used to get theses violent urges a lot when I was younger, I'd get angry seemingly out of nowhere, got in a lot of trouble at school. but as I got older I was able to suppress them, Anna helped a lot with that.

Ben looks up, his eyes are red (tears not weed), he exhales.

BEN (V.O.) (cont'd)

But ever since Mum died I've always felt like I could get bad again like I'm on a knife's edge. All I need is a little push...

Ben desperately fumbles in his coat pocket and pulls out his wallet. From his wallet he pulls a photo of himself and Anna as kids. He rubs a tear from his eye and smiles.

EXT. FOREST - EVENING

The group is how we left them except for a vacant Ben.

HENRY

Oh come on, you've got to admit he's a little bit odd.

Anna glares at him.

HENRY (cont'd)

I'm sure he's lovely, just a bit... quiet.

ANNA

He's just shy, can guys please stop talking about him. He struggles a lot with people.

Charlie finishes lighting a cigarette.

CHARLIE

I heard he punched Miss Williams when he was in 5th grade.

GEORGE

Wait that was him!?

Ben walks through the forest back to the group. He looks shell shocked.

CHARLIE

Yeah apparently she wouldn't let him use this colored pen and he (mimics punch).

Henry lets out a shocked laugh. Anna is visibly upset.

ANNA

Guys...

Ben gets nearer and tunes into what the group is saying.

HENRY

Oh come on, you have to admit that's a bit mental.

Anna sighs.

ANNA

Okay maybe he was a bit...weird as a kid but...

Ben steps forward from behind Anna.

BEN

What did you say?

The group all looks at him. Anna freezes and turns around. Ben aggressively walks towards her.

BEN (cont'd)

Are you talking about me?

He grabs her by the arms and violently shakes her.

BEN (cont'd)  
Are you fucking talking about me!?

Ben is back on the outskirts of the circle - terrified of what he just saw. His body shakes as he brings his hand up to his mouth.

ANNA  
...He's much better now.

Ben takes a deep breath and walks back into the clearing. Anna turns to see him and her face drops.

ANNA (cont'd)  
Ben...

Ben forces a smile onto his face.

BEN  
Hey.

Ben crosses the circle to his seat, everyone watches him. Silence. Ben sits and looks at the floor.

James takes out his phone. He turns it on while standing.

JAMES  
Hey, I'm really sorry guys but I've got to head back now, big game tomorrow.

Anna tries her best to smile and nods. George stands

GEORGE  
Did your dad say he could give me a lift?

JAMES  
Uhh yeah, and you as well Charlie if you wanted.

Charlie stands.

CHARLIE  
Sound.

The boys go to leave.

JAMES  
Well it was great seeing you guys.  
And nice meeting you Ben...

Ben looks up and forces a smile.

HENRY

Seya.

ANNA

Bye.

The boys leave. Silence.

ANNA (cont'd)

Do you guys want to head up to the house?

HENRY

Yeah sure.

ANNA

Ben?

Ben looks up at her. He doesn't say anything.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The front door opens. Henry and Anna walk in, Henry holding a beer.

HENRY

Jesus, is this yours?

ANNA

Grandparents'.

HENRY

Mad.

Ben stays outside the house for a second. He takes a deep breathe. Enters.

Ben leans down to take his shoes off.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

*Ben is now coming to the end of the hallway, his knife still on display.*

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Ben winces, Composes himself, then finishes his shoes.

**MUSIC** (style TBD)

Slow motion - Ben walks into the living room. He notices Anna and Henry kissing on the sofa. He carries on into the kitchen and sits down at the table. His face is stern, it begins twitching, slowly at first but getting progressively more violent.

We hear Anna and Henry laughing in the other room. Ben reaches back into his coat and pulls out the picture again. He rips it up and slowly returns the pieces into his pocket.

INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Anna pulls out a kiss with Henry and stands. Henry playfully moans and wraps his arms around her legs. Anna laughs and pushes him off of her.

She walks into the living room. Ben is sat at the table staring into the distance.

ANNA

Hey Ben.

Ben's face remains cold. Anna doesn't notice

ANNA (cont'd)

Sorry about all that shit with the joint earlier. Henry just wanted you to feel involved.

BEN

I never knew you smoked.

Anna grabs two glasses out of the cupboard.

ANNA

Only socially...you want something to drink?

She starts filling up the glasses at the sink.

BEN

I don't drink.

ANNA

I mean water.

BEN

I'm alright.

Having filled both the glasses Anna crosses over to Ben and sits down next to him. She places the glass in front of him, he ignores it.

ANNA

So what do you think of the new kitchen? They got it redesigned early this year.

Ben nods.

ANNA (cont'd)

I much prefer it to the old design, I always thought it was a bit plain, didn't match the rest of the house. Although the guest bedroom is a bit...

BEN

...Is he your boyfriend?

ANNA

What?..Henry? (pause) No, not really, I mean I do like him but I've only just met him and I really don't want to...

Ben's eyes are closed as he fights back tears. Anna suddenly notices and goes to put her arms round him.

ANNA (cont'd)

Hey...

Ben recoils.

BEN

I heard what you said at the fire...

Anna's face drops.

ANNA

No Ben I didn't mean...They were saying...

BEN

...I know what they were saying.

ANNA

I was trying to defend you.

Ben scoffs. Anna's eyes slowly fill with tears.

BEN

Why did you invite me out tonight? I don't know those people...I don't do people I thought you knew this...I thought you knew me.

Ben stands and starts pacing. Anna stays sitting, they are both crying.

ANNA  
I just wanted to...

BEN  
...Just wanted to what? Show me all your new friends? You don't speak to me for over a year and then you suddenly just appear as if nothing happened.

ANNA  
I thought maybe it would be good for you to...

BEN  
Oh brilliant! Still trying to fix me.

ANNA  
No...

BEN  
You said it yourself I'm a fucking weirdo. Did you drag me all the way out here just to tell me that? I hate to ruin your fun but I already fucking knew that...I thought you'd given up trying to fix me...

Ben goes over and leans on the counter top.

BEN (cont'd)  
...I have.

Silence.

Anna stands up and walks over to Ben.

ANNA  
I'm sorry. I'm sorry I've been such a shit friend...or not really a friend at all. But I do care about you a lot, and I just wanted to be there for you today.

BEN  
(Softly)  
It's too late.

Silence.

BEN (cont'd)  
I needed you then.

Anna goes to put her hand on his shoulder but again he pulls away.

BEN (cont'd)  
I really needed you.

ANNA  
I tried...

BEN  
I didn't have anyone else, and you just...left.

Anna tenses.

ANNA  
Don't...

BEN  
What?

ANNA  
Don't say that.

BEN  
How else am I meant to say it?

ANNA  
I was there for you! Don't lie!

Silence

ANNA (cont'd)  
All those nights when I held you as you cried, I cried with you, I cried for you. But you just disappeared.

Silence.

ANNA (cont'd)  
I thought you'd get better but you just stopped talking to me, I thought I'd lost you.

BEN  
I was mourning.

ANNA  
So was I Ben. I was young and I didn't know what to do.  
(MORE)

ANNA (cont'd)

I tried convincing myself that I was helping but you only seemed to get worse... I couldn't bear to see you upset. So, I started hanging out with new people for a bit, I thought you needed space. I always intend to come back but I was just so...Afraid.

Ben slowly turns to look her in the eye. They stand for a few seconds.

BEN

You selfish bitch...

We suddenly see Henry who has been stood at the kitchen door.

HENRY

What the fuck did you just call her?

Henry rushes at Ben and shoves him against the kitchen counter.

ANNA

Henry!

Ben manages to wriggle free and runs out of the kitchen. Anna tries to follow but Henry stops her.

HENRY

Hey, leave him.

Anna struggles for a few seconds before giving in and falling into Henry's arms, he holds her tight as she cries.

INT. HALLWAY/BATHROOM - NIGHT

Ben stumbles along the hallway, tears streaming down his face. He bursts into the bathroom at the end of the hallway, tearing off his coat as he goes revealing the shirt he is seen wearing in his visions.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Anna is held tight in Henry's arms.

ANNA

You don't understand.

HENRY

I heard what he said.

ANNA  
He's upset.

HENRY  
I don't care.

ANNA  
He didn't mean it.

The camera settles on a knife block, one is missing.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Ben stares at the knife in his hand. He looks himself in the mirror - he is broken. The anger builds inside him as we see him coughing up the joint in the forest, Anna calling him a weirdo, and Henry rushing him in the Kitchen.

Ben pulls himself together, turns to the door. He opens it.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

HENRY  
Why are you always defending him?

ANNA  
He's my best friend.

Henry scoffs. Anna pulls away from him. She stares him dead in the eyes.

HENRY  
What?

ANNA  
Fuck you.

HENRY  
What?

Anna runs out of the Kitchen.

INT. HALLWAY/BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Ben paces down the hallway, knife in hand. His breath is shallow and raspy. **intense sound effects**. As he approaches the stairs we hear the sound of children's laughter. Ben freezes. The sound progressively gets louder until he turns his head. The door next to him is open and we see a bedroom - Anna's bedroom.

Ben stands at the doorway, staring inside. Something on her bed side table grabs his attention and he slowly makes his way over to it. It is a photo - the same one he had in his wallet. He swallows.

Ben slowly picks up the photo. His hand is shaking. He turns it around to reveal a message on the back *My Best Friend*.

A single tear rolls down Ben's face. He lowers the photo and sees the knife in his hand, he drops it in horror and pulls his hand to his face. Disorientated he stumbles to the door.

As he gets there Anna turns into the room. They stand for a moment staring at each other.

Ben moves and pulls her into a tight embrace, she stands in shock for a second then hugs him back. Ben breaks into tears and his knees buckle. Anna is able to catch him and slowly lower the two of them to the ground, they land in a tangle of limbs.

BEN

Anna...

Anna quietly shushes him and brings her hand up to the back of his head. They are both in tears now. Ben brings his head back and looks Anna in the eyes. Her mouth explodes into a smile. Ben can't help but smile back. Anna pulls his head towards her and kisses him on the forehead. They embrace again we slowly track out of the room.

**Soft 60s music plays**

FADE TO BLACK

CREDITS