

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

SPOILER, WE DIE IN THE END

Written by

Taran Field

Copyright (c) 2020

Draft 4

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

**60s Doowop**

BEN, 17, sits alone on a bench. He wears a dark blue jacket with the collar of a yellow shirt peaking out of the top. He sits with his legs together and his hands clasped together. He has earphones in. His face shows no emotion.

BEN (V.O.)  
*They say not to bottle things like  
this up but I just don't get how  
people talk about it, I don't get how  
people talk about a lot of things  
really.*

People walk back and forth in front of Ben.

Ben walks through the crowd of people, now wearing a backpack. Most walking against him, knocking into him.

BEN (V.O.) (cont'd)  
*They say it'll all spill over if I  
don't. But I don't think I work like  
that. I feel like I've spent my  
entire life on the edge of boiling  
over...*

Ben suddenly stops walking.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

**Radio static, music becomes muffled.**

Ben is stood in a small bathroom, in front of a counter-top, his backpack and jacket is gone leaving his yellow shirt underneath. He looks himself in the mirror - scared.

He looks down, knife. He begins to panic.

**Intense noise builds**

We hear a faint voice in the background which slowly grows louder.

ANNA  
(Distant)  
Ben.

INT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

**Music resumes normal volume**

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

Ummm...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.  
HENRY, 18, is sat next to Anna. He wears a white jumper and  
black skinny jeans. 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 the pond.

Everyone laughs. Ben chuckles to himself. JAMES notices Ben  
and pulls a beer from his rucksack. The two conversations  
overlap (good luck reading this).

JAMES  
Hey...

ANNA  
(laughing)  
Oh my god.

**Ben looks up at him.**

JAMES  
...It's Ben right.

GEORGE  
He was on the floor like  
(imitates spasm)

CHARLIE  
(laughing)  
Nah nah nah allow it...

**Ben nods**

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

CHARLIE  
..I couldn't see shit.

HENRY  
I feel sorry for the poor  
fish

BEN  
Oh no...cheers.

GEORGE  
They must have been launched.

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

Charlie is laughing to himself as he rolls a joint.

ANNA  
I can't believe I missed that.

CHARLIE  
Anyone got a lighter?

GEORGE  
Honestly it was priceless.

JAMES  
So Anna tells me you're into video  
games.

**Anna tunes in to Ben and James' conversation.**

GEORGE  
Nah sorry mate

**Ben nervously laughs.**

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

Henry reaches into his pocket and passes his lighter to Charlie.

CHARLIE  
Sound.

HENRY  
Thought you bought that new one.

ANNA  
Oh, how come?

Charlie lights the joint and takes a drag.

CHARLIE  
(Passing the joint to Henry)  
Lost it.

BEN  
Dad got rid of my Xbox.

Henry smokes.

HENRY  
Already?

Anna is passed a Joint by Henry.

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.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Henry's face is covered in blood as he lies against the living room floor - dead.

EXT. FOREST - EVENING

Ben suddenly bursts out into a coughing fit. The boys chuckle. Ben looks around - shaken.

Henry stands.

HENRY  
Don't worry about it.

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 before returning his stare to the floor.

BEN (V.O.)  
*What the fuck is wrong with me?*

Ben looks around at the others, they nervously glance at him while trying to go back to their conversation. Ben settles his stare on Henry who is the only one not glancing at Ben. Henry puts his arm round Anna and pulls her towards him.

Ben tries to subdue a wave of emotion that comes over him behind his neutral expression.

Ben suddenly stands.

JAMES

You good?

BEN

Just going for a piss.

Ben leaves into the forest.

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.)

We always like to think that we're in control, in control of our actions, of what we do. But they've been getting louder recently - the urges. I thought I'd got better, you know, but I guess these things never really go away.

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.

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 somewhere that he punched his  
teacher in year 4 cause she didn't  
let him go to the toilet or  
something.

Henry makes a face at Anna as if to say 'you see?'

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...

James' voice fades into the background as James, George and Charlie stand to leave.

Ben sits staring at the ground.

JAMES (cont'd)

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.

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

So you smoke now?

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.

They sit in awkward silence.

ANNA

So what do you...

BEN

...Is he your boyfriend?

ANNA

What?..Henry? (pause) No, not yet. Maybe one day.

Silence.

BEN

Why am I here?

Anna looks at Ben.

BEN (cont'd)

With you and Henry, with all of them?..

Ben looks Anna dead in the eyes.

BEN (cont'd)  
Why?

Pause

ANNA  
Because I wanted you there... I just  
wanted to be with my friend.

BEN  
Friend?

Anna looks hurt

BEN (cont'd)  
I heard what you said at the fire.

Anna's face drops.

ANNA  
Ben...

BEN  
Why?... After everything... Did you  
invite me here? Just to say all that  
behind my back?

ANNA  
I was trying to defend you.

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

ANNA (cont'd)  
I'm sorry Ben.

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

ANNA (cont'd)  
I just wanted to...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.

(MORE)

BEN (cont'd)  
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 dissapeared.

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. I tried  
convincing myself that I was helping  
but you only seemed to get worse... I  
couldn't bear to see you upset  
(pause) 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 starring 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