

untitled

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1 **INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - EARLY AFTERNOON**

MAE, FEMALE, EARLY TWENTIES, stares aimlessly out the window, her hands holding a small container of water. She begins to water the plants sitting on the windowsill.

An obituary card with a picture and information for MICHELLE leans against the window. She stops at a rose and admires it.

She begins to add more water.

The harsh sound of a car horn startles her, causing her to jolt and spill some water onto the floor.

Her heartbeat becomes loud in her ears, her breath coming out in gasps. She takes a moment to try and compose herself. The traffic continues and then dies down outside.

CUT TO

Mae sets down a towel over the spill on the floor. Her phone vibrates in her pocket. She pulls it out and reads that the call is coming from her girlfriend, WINNIE'S, FEMALE, EARLY TWENTIES.

Mae answers the phone holding it between her ear and her shoulder, looking out the window.

MAE

Hi

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)

*Hey, I'm on my way home from the store
I thought I'd check up on ya before I
start driving.*

MAE

Check up on me?

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)

*You know what I mean. How are you
feeling?*

Mae's phone indicates that Winnie is trying to video call her, she hits the answer button.

Winnie's face comes into view on the screen. Mae sets the phone on the windowsill and fidgets with a petal on the rose.

MAE

Better than yesterday, I think. I'm going to try and see if I can get some work done on my article today

MAE (CON'T)

What did you get from the store?

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)

**gets in a car and closes the door*
Some more stuff for our trip, I realized I didn't have any travel-sized bug spray.*

MAE

You don't need travel-sized bug spray, you can just buy some when we get there.

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)

You can never have too much bug spray. Especially when you're sleeping in the woods. Trust me, you'll be thanking me later.

Mae laughs.

MAE

We'll see.

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)

I need to head home before my shift but I'll text you later okay?

MAE

Drive safe.

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)

I will.

Mae taps the END button.

2 **EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON**

Mae leaves her apartment and walks to her mailbox. She receives a text.

UNKNOWN SENDER

what r u waiting 4

Mae freezes where she stands and looks around. She doesn't notice anyone who could be watching her, texting.

MAE
Who is this

UNKNOWN SENDER
u kno

MAE
No, I don't

Immediately after sending, Mae receives:

PROVIDER
*THE NUMBER YOU ARE TRYING TO CONTACT
IS NO LONGER IN SERVICE*

Mae is confused but brushes it off as a prank. She puts the phone back in her pocket and retrieves the mail.

3 INT BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Mae enters her bedroom and sits down at the edge of her bed, she sets the papers down next to her. On the floor sits a suitcase, open but empty.

She looks at the cards, and then back at the suitcase.

After a moment she begins to open one of the envelopes. A voiceover of Mae's voice reading the cards can be heard:

MAE (VOICEOVER)
*"I'm terribly saddened to hear of your
loss. Your mother was a wonderful
woman" (new card) I wish you peace and
comfort-" (new card) Your mother was
so loved by everyone who knew her."
(new card) "May she rest in peace and
light forev-" (new card) "Thinking of
you in this difficult tim-"*

She tosses the cards next to her and then flops onto her back, facing the ceiling.

She takes out her phone from her pocket and stares at the home screen. On her lock screen is a picture of her mother's smiling face.

She pulls up her mother's contact and presses the call button. The line rings for a moment

MICHELLE

Hey, this is Michelle. Please leave a message, and I'll be sure to get back to you. Bye!

The voicemail indicator beeps.

MAE

Hey, mo-

Mae tries to leave a message but is interrupted.

DIGITAL VOICE

I'm sorry. The caller you are trying to reach has a full mailbox. Please try again later.

The phone beeps again, ending the call for her. Mae is slightly stunned. She calls again.

MICHELLE

Hey, this is Michelle. Please leave a message, and I'll be sure to get back to you. Bye!

May doesn't wait for the beep, hangs up, and calls again. This continues in a montage...

FADE TO BLACK

4 INT BEDROOM - EVENING

Mae wakes up in her bed in the same position as before, her phone rests on her chest.

She sighs and picks up her phone, checking the time. She gets up from the bed.

Running water, brushing teeth, etc. can be heard from the connecting bathroom.

Mae returns to the bedroom and climbs into bed. She opens her phone and reads a goodnight text from Winnie. She sends a reply and lays back down in her bed. She falls back to sleep.

FADE

Mae sleeps in a new position, snoring quietly. The bed suddenly creaks as if someone has sat next to her. Mae is unaware of the presence.

A hand creeps up towards her face, the fingertips seem to lightly graze her cheeks.

The hand softly caresses her face. Mae shifts in her sleep.

FADE TO BLACK

5 **INT. APARTMENT - MORNING**

Mae puts away her groceries in the fridge, she listens to a podcast of someone recounting their experience receiving a message from a deceased loved one.

Her phone chimes, disrupting the podcast.

She closes the fridge and walks to her phone sitting on the table. She apprehensively unlocks it and reads the message.

UNKNOWN SENDER

watching

The next two messages come in succession.

UNKNOWN SENDER (CONT)

u

UNKNOWN SENDER (CONT)

what r u waiting 4

Angrily, she types back.

MAE

Who is this? This isn't funny.

UNKNOWN SENDER

Feeling

UNKNOWN SENDER (CONT)

watching over u

She re-reads the last message and is reminded of a memory of her mother.

FADE IN

6 EXT. PARK - A FEW YEARS AGO, DAY

From Mae's perspective sitting at a table, we see her playing a game of chess.

Mae looks at the board before making her move.

16-YEAR-OLD MAE (OFFSCREEN)
*Mom, do you think Grandma can see us
from where she is?*

MICHELLE (OFFSCREEN)
What do you mean?

Michelle makes her move.

16-YEAR-OLD MAE (OFFSCREEN)
*I mean, do you think she's watching
over us? From heaven or whatever.*

A beat.

MICHELLE (OFFSCREEN)
*Well, I'd like to think that she is
just as interested in everyone's
business now as she was when she was
alive.*

They laugh. Mae makes her move.

MICHELLE (OFFSCREEN)
Why do you ask?

Michelle makes her move.

16-YEAR-OLD MAE (OFFSCREEN)
*I've just been thinking about her
lately...*

Mae makes her move.

Silence.

MICHELLE (OFFSCREEN)
It's okay to miss Grandma, you know.

YOUNG MAE
I know, Mom

Michelle makes her move.

MICHELLE (OFFSCREEN)
*Whenever I miss her I sometimes smell
 whiffs of her perfume...*

16-YEAR-OLD MAE (OFFSCREEN)
Really? How can you tell?

Mae makes her move.

MICHELLE (OFFSCREEN)
*I can't always tell, it's more of a
feeling. A feeling that I know a part
 of her is there, watching over me.*

16-YEAR-OLD MAE (OFFSCREEN)
I never thought about it like that.

CUT BACK TO

7 **INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - MORNING**

Mae holding her phone. After a moment, she hesitantly responds.

MAE
Mom?

I miss you

Chat bubbles appear on screen for a few moments.

MICHELLE
soon

Mae becomes frantic at the response. She quickly types:

MAE
don't leave. are you there?

PROVIDER
*THE NUMBER YOU ARE TRYING TO CONTACT
 IS NO LONGER IN SERVICE.*

Mae is exasperated. She sets the phone down and stares angrily at the screen.

PROVIDER
 THE NUMBER YOU ARE TRYING TO CONTACT
 IS NO LONGER IN SERVICE.

8 **INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON**

Mae types on her laptop, the sounds of the t.v play softly in the background. She checks her phone for notifications but sees nothing, she goes back to typing.

She types mid-sentence:

MAE (TYPING)

For those itching for a sweaty dance floor, inexpensive drinks and a place to meet new people in between bar-hopping, Double Dutch has got it covered.

On the screen reads "The 10 Best NightClubs in San Francisco. M Borns March 2022."

She finishes typing and sends the email. She checks her phone and has no new notifications. She tries watching the t.v.

The sounds of the conversations become more and more muffled. Her phone vibrates, she quickly picks it up and sees Winnie's face on her screen.

She stands from the couch and enters the kitchen. She answers the call and sets Winnie on the counter before opening her fridge.

MAE (FROM BEHIND FRIDGE)
Morning sleepyhead

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)
**groggily* Morning*

She shuts the fridge and sets her ingredients on the counter.

MAE
How did you sleep?

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)
Fine. Did you finish your article on San Diego, Fresno, or wherever?

MAE

San Francisco. And yea I just emailed it, actually. Hopefully, my boss won't notice how uninterested I was while writing it.

Mae starts making a sandwich.

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)

He always likes your work regardless, you'll be fine. How's the packing going?

Silence.

Mae stirs a jar of mayo and doesn't look at the camera for a few seconds.

MAE (HESITANT)

Fine...

She trails off.

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)

sighs Mae, you told me you started packing days ago-

MAE

I know Winnie. And I did, a little. It's just, going a little slow is all.

Mae finishes making her sandwich and takes a bite. Winnie watches her chew and they sit in silence for a few moments.

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)

Mae, your mother would want you to go.

MAE

You don't know that. I don't even know that. We planned this trip *before* the damn accident!

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)

I understand that. I do know that she wouldn't want you keeping yourself trapped in that apartment.

Mae sighs.

WINNIE (ON THE PHONE)
You can't wait forever.

Mae doesn't respond.

9 **INT. APARTMENT BATHROOM - NIGHT**

Mae is brushing her teeth at the bathroom counter. Her phone is laying next to the sink. She alternates between looking at herself in the mirror and her phone.

She spits. No text.

10 **INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Mae is now dressed for bed. She plugs her phone in and sets it on her nightstand before climbing into bed. She unlocks her phone and takes one last look at the text conversation from earlier.

MAE
don't leave. are you there?

She turns off her lamp and turns over. Sleeping.

FADE

11 **EXT. DREAM PARK - DAY**

Mae walks in a park, admiring the nature around her. Her hands graze blades of tall grass as she passes by.

She comes across a bench and takes a seat. Michelle appears next to her.

MAE
I miss you.

MICHELLE
I miss you, too. So much.

MAE
Why didn't I feel you sooner? It's been over a month. I needed you. I looked, everywhere.

MICHELLE

I was always there, baby. Even if you didn't know, even if you couldn't feel it, I was there.

Melissa grabs Mae's hand and squeezes.

MICHELLE (CONT)

Why are you still here? You know Winnie is waiting for you.

MAE

I don't know. It just didn't feel right. You were gone, and it just felt too soon.

MICHELLE

You found a lovely person to spend your life with. Don't mess that up because you got hung up on me. (beat) I'm so proud of you, baby. You know that I will always be with you. It's okay to let me go whenever you're ready.

MAE (TEARFULLY)

I love you, mom.

Michelle lets go of Mae's hand and stands. She kisses Mae on the forehead.

MICHELLE (ECHOING)

I love you, too, baby.

Mae looks up and her mother has disappeared. She opens her hand and a rose is sitting inside.

FADE

12 **INT BEDROOM - MORNING**

Mae wakes up in her bed, she opens her phone and finds her most recent contact. She clicks the number and types out a text.

MAE

is everything going to be okay?

PROVIDER
ERROR INVALID NUMBER

13 **INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - MORNING**

Mae enters the kitchen and brings out a kettle for a cup of tea. As she waits for the water to boil she looks to the plants at the window sill. Where there once was a single rose in a vase is now a bouquet.

Mae starts to tear up.

14 **INT BEDROOM - MORNING**

Mae goes back to her bedroom and looks at the suitcase on the floor. She picks it up and sets it on her bed.

After taking a deep breath she starts to pack the suitcase.