

THE PULL THROUGH THE WINDOW

Written by

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INT. DREAM SPACE

FADE IN:

From a distance, we see a LARGE WINDOW FRAME hanging, suspended in the middle of a large open space, with no boundaries in sight. On the opposite side of the frame, we see a BLURRED FIGURE sitting on the ground, holding its legs. Watching.

MONTAGE:

-Two young women sit on a lake shore at sunset. This is DAKOTA and JAMIE. Dakota wears her hair short, almost like a pixie cut. She is smiling and outwardly radiant here, but in a sense that suggests this is not her natural state; this has to be coaxed out of her, or is drawn out by a specific kind of person. By contrast, Jamie has long, flowing hair and speaks and moves in outsized, exaggerated mannerisms.

-Dakota and Jamie ride in a car with ALEX, singing along to a song on the radio that we don't hear.

-Dakota sits on a bench, WRITING. Jamie sneaks up behind her and TICKLES HER EAR with a REED. Dakota turns around, laughing, and playfully slaps at Jamie.

-Among a LARGER GROUP OF FRIENDS, Dakota and Jamie mess around, dancing outside of a bar at night.

END MONTAGE:

The figure STANDS now, clearly FEMININE, facing the window.

She RAISES HER HAND.

MONTAGE:

-Dakota and Jamie sit on opposite sides of the table, quiet, seemingly ignoring each other. In the background, a GUY walks up and addresses Jamie, which Dakota glances up to notice.

-Dakota stands in a hallway, visibly UPSET AND CRYING. Jamie stands further down the hall, IRRITATED.

-Dakota frantically RUNS down a sidewalk at night. She COLLAPSES on the ground.

END MONTAGE

The figure in the frame reaches up, as if to touch the glass. Passing her hand over the surface, she pushes her finger to it. The surface RIPPLES, like water.

INT. HOSPITAL OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Dakota sits in a DESK CHAIR, though she is turned away from her desk to look out the window. The DESK is relatively BARREN, as is the rest of the office.

A KNOCK at the door. Dakota turns back to the desk to see a NURSE poking in through the frame.

NURSE

All settled into the new digs?

Dakota conjures a bemused smile.

DAKOTA

Yeah, just about, I think.

INT. DAKOTA'S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Dakota looks around her new apartment. EMPTY SHELVES and furniture, still new, do their best to fill the space, and BOXES are strewn about the room in various stages of unpacking.

Dakota starts rifling through some of the boxes, pulling out books and dishes and the like to put away. From one box, she pulls out a FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH. She and Jamie stand in front of an old FRENCH-QUARTER STYLE BUILDING. She smiles, then stands up, hanging it on the only nail on the wall.

A loud, patterned series of knocks at the door. Dakota seems to recognize the knock, opening the door to see her new friend KAT.

KAT

Waddup, girl!

DAKOTA

Hey! What're you doing here?

KAT

I wanted to stop by, see how you're gettin' settled. Also...

Kat reaches into her bag and presents a PLATE OF COOKIES wrapped in plastic wrap, handing them to Dakota.

KAT (CONT'D)  
I made a promise to you earlier at church, so.

DAKOTA  
Wow, thanks! That's so thoughtful.

KAT  
Oh, it's nothing.

DAKOTA  
I know, but still...

She pulls a cookie out of the wrap and bites into it.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)  
Oh man, these're so good!

KAT  
Thanks, they're from scratch. My mom showed me how to make 'em.

A long awkward pause as Dakota chews and rewraps the cookies. Kat seemed to expect to be invited in.

KAT (CONT'D)  
Well, I should probably be going.  
Let you get back to it.

JUMP CUT

The door closes. Dakota sits the plate of cookies on the kitchen table.

INT. DAKOTA'S APARTMENT - DAY

MATCH CUT

SUPER: FOUR MONTHS LATER

The apartment is now MOSTLY SET UP, the furniture arranged and lightly decorated. A couple of boxes remain stacked in the corner, and the walls are SPARSELY DRESSED. A couple of unhung posters and pictures rest against the walls at ground level.

Dakota sits on the couch, mindlessly flipping channels for a few moments. When she finds nothing to watch, she shuts the TV off, then sits back into the couch. She stares at the ceiling for a few moments, then the PHONE interrupts her silent contemplation with a beep. A TEXT FROM KAT.

KAT (TEXT)

WYD?

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Dakota sits across from Kat and her husband DAVID, eating from her plate of rice and chicken.

DAVID

So where'd you go to school?

DAKOTA

I graduated from Centenary, a couple months ago.

David looks at her quizzically.

KAT

Shreveport. That's where you grew up, isn't it?

DAKOTA

Well, I'm not really from there, just a little ways south of there. But it was close.

An awkward beat. Dakota absent-mindedly plays with the CAT CHARM on her key-chain.

KAT

You a cat person?

Dakota snaps out of her trance, noticing what she's doing.

She gives a soft chuckle.

DAKOTA

No, not at all, I despise cats. They're such hateful little jerks.

Kat furrows her brow, confused. She gestures at the charm.

Dakota laughs again, recalling a well-liked memory.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

It's, uh...when I was in school, all of my friends knew how much I hated cats. It was kind of a running joke.

FLASHBACK - INT. DAKOTA'S DORM ROOM FLASHBACK - DAY

Jamie approaches a bedroom door, trying to be quiet and sneaky. She looks around to make sure no one is around, then opens the door.

DAKOTA (V.O)  
One day, my best friend, Jamie,  
bought this little cat charm from  
an antique place.

Jamie walks over to the bed and pulls out the CAT CHARM. She places it precariously on the bedpost at the head of the bed.

DAKOTA (V.O) (CONT'D)  
And she snuck into my apartment to  
hide it around my room. And every  
few days, it would move somewhere  
else in my apartment.

FLASHBACK END

Dakota smiles big as she tells the story.

DAKOTA  
For a long time, like three or four  
weeks, I thought it was my roommate  
who was doing it. I was going  
crazy, cuz she kept telling me it  
wasn't her...I finally caught her  
when she tried to hide it in the  
cereal box. I practically lost my  
mind, but we both just ended up  
convulsing on the floor, laughing,  
spilled cereal everywhere. It was  
great.

Kat and David listen, amused by the story, but also somewhat baffled.

DAVID  
Sounds like you had a fun group of  
friends.

LATER

Multiple stacks of SPENT PLATES now dress the table as Kat tells a story.

KAT

...so at this point the kids are all running around like wild banshees. Just absolute chaos, mass hysteria...

DAKOTA

I bet.

KAT

Right. And then, this adorable little girl, Nina - just so sweet - stops dead in front of this boy, Brendan...and they both just look at each other for a second, all sheepish-like. And then...

Kat imitates a kiss with her hands.

She plucks this little kiss, right on his cheek!

Dakota is not particularly enthused by the story.

DAKOTA

No way.

KAT

Yes! Just like that.

DAKOTA

What'd he do?

KAT

Oh my gosh, he was so grossed out. He kinda recoiled back, like a monster had just tried to grab him and eat his face, and he just star-

Dakota's phone starts ringing. She looks at it as Kat continues talking. ALEX'S FACE lights up the caller ID screen.

EXT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Dakota answers her phone.

DAKOTA

Hello?

ALEX (V.O.)

New phone, who dis?

DAKOTA  
Oh god. I'm hanging up.

Alex laughs through the phone.

ALEX (V.O.)  
No! Don't go! I need you!

DAKOTA  
I don't believe that, not one bit.

ALEX (V.O.)  
Wow. That hurts. That really hurts.

Dakota chuckles.

DAKOTA  
Who're you living with this year?

Alex pauses a bit before answering. Through the window behind Dakota, we see Kat lean out of the booth, looking for Dakota, and finding her.

ALEX (V.O.)  
Well, I'm living with Karen...and another friend, from Union Board. I don't think you know her.

Dakota notices Kat, and waves at her, putting on a smile for her.

DAKOTA  
Cool. I love Karen. She's a lot of fun.

A thought occurs to Dakota.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)  
Have you...talked to Jamie any?  
Since you got back?

ALEX (V.O.)  
Not really. She hasn't been around much lately.

FLASHBACK - EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Dakota, Alex, and Jamie are together, walking on campus. The sun is out, shining bright and electrifying

ALEX (V.O.)  
I mean, we texted a bit over the summer. But other than that...



FLASHBACK - INT. STUDENT DORM

The three gather around a card game, laughing and teasing each other energetically.

ALEX (V.O.)  
Honestly, I might not be seeing  
much of her this year.

FLASHBACK - INT. JAMIE'S APARTMENT FLASHBACK - NIGHT

Dakota sits on the couch, sullen, looking slightly downward.

Her face is WET FROM TEARS, a mix of intense anger and anguish in her eyes like someone jabbed a knife through her hand. She just barely manages to look up at Jamie, who's standing across the room, regarding Dakota with hostility and frustrated anger. They don't speak.

FLASHBACK END

DAKOTA  
Why's that?

ALEX (V.O.)  
She's been spending a lot of time  
with Jake lately.

Dakota quietly absorbs this information, her demeanor completely shifted from the playful rapport she had earlier.

A slight, pained expression reads on her face.

DAKOTA  
So her and Jake...

ALEX (V.O.)  
Yeah.

DAKOTA  
(half-hearted laugh)  
She finally got her a guy.

A heavy, knowing silence from Alex.

ALEX (V.O.)  
You know, she didn't mean any of  
it, really. Whatever she said, that  
night.

DAKOTA  
You weren't there, Alex. You didn't  
hear how she said it.

FLASHBACK - EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Dakota walks briskly back to her apartment after her fight with Jamie. She's barely able to hold in the sobs, and eventually she collapses on the ground in tears.

FLASHBACK END

DAKOTA

So much venom. No one's ever talked  
to me like that.

Dakota's eyes well up, and a tear rolls down her cheek.

Behind her, Kat and David collect their things and go to the register to pay. Dakota sees them do this, but turns away to hide what's going on.

ALEX (V.O.)

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have...

She doesn't finish the sentence, letting it hang.

ALEX (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Dakota doesn't answer.

INT. DAKOTA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dakota walks into the apartment, throwing her bag on the ground. She closes her eyes and puts her hands up to her head. She walks further into the apartment, and then stops in front of the PICTURE of her and Jamie. Dakota smiles weakly, lifting the frame from the wall. She puts her hand UP TO THE GLASS, as if reaching for her old friend.

Suddenly, Dakota vanishes from the room with a WHOOSH.

EXT. CITY - DAY

WHOOSH. Dakota is standing in the same spot that she was in the picture in her apartment. She's bewildered, thrown off balance, and falls to the ground.

JAMIE

Whoa! Nice going, ya klutz.

Dakota looks around wildly at her new surroundings, in shock of all of it. But when she hears JAMIE'S VOICE, her eyes widen, locking on her friend.

DAKOTA  
...Jamie?!

Jamie is holding a camera, having just taken a picture - THE picture - of the two of them. She flashes a big grin on her face as she extends her free hand to help Dakota up.

JAMIE  
Remind me, how many mimosas did you  
have at brunch?

Dakota is still in shock, saying nothing. She begins to take her hand when a LARGE TRUCK suddenly blows by, HONKING its horn. The sound knocks Dakota out of her stupor, only to suddenly...

INT. DAKOTA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

WHOOSH. Dakota blinks back into her apartment, sitting on the ground in the SAME POSITION she was in on the sidewalk.

She's breathing heavily, not sure of what just happened.

DAKOTA  
OHHHHH MY GOD.

The photo, HANGING IN THE AIR where she was holding it before, falls to the ground. At the last second, she CATCHES IT, staring at it, struck with wonder.

She sets the picture down. She holds her hands up in front of her, then examines the rest of her body. Then she looks around the room. Everything is as it was before. The clock on the wall reads the same time it did when she entered the apartment.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)  
What just...

Dakota cautiously stands back up, slowly approaching the picture again. She looks intently at it, then back down at her hands. She picks it up, placing it back on its nail, and, very slowly, touches the picture. She disappears with a WHOOSH.

EXT. CITY - DAY

WHOOSH. Dakota is once again standing next to Jamie. Dakota staggers back like before, but this time maintains her balance. Jamie is holding the camera in front of them, her other arm wrapped around Dakota's, and she helps her balance.

JAMIE  
Whoa, careful!

Dakota looks around, sort of dazed and in awe.

JAMIE (CONT'D)  
Remind me, how many mimosas did you  
have this morning?

Dakota turns to look at her.

DAKOTA  
Jamie...you're here?!

JAMIE  
I don't know how to respond to  
that. Are you okay?

DAKOTA  
Where are we?

JAMIE  
Like the street?

DAKOTA  
The city.

JAMIE  
I think the mimosa question bears  
repeating.

DAKOTA  
No, no, I'm fine, I'm just...what  
day is it today?

JAMIE  
It's October 15th, and you're kind  
of freaking me out in a major way  
right now. What's going on?

DAKOTA  
October fift-...it's our New  
Orleans trip!

JAMIE  
Yeah, we're in New Orleans. Jazz.  
Mardi Gras. Cajun food. Booze. That  
last one should really be ringing a  
bell for you right now.

DAKOTA  
I think- I think something amazing  
is happening to me!

JAMIE

Truly, public intoxication is the  
pinnacle of human experience.

DAKOTA

No, just let me expla-

The TRUCK FROM BEFORE blows by again, blaring its horn.

Dakota is startled again and...WHOOSH

INT. DAKOTA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dakota blinks back into her apartment, this time on her feet. She stands there for a moment in complete awe. Then she looks at ANOTHER PICTURE, hanging out of the unpacked box in the living room.

She walks over to pick it up. It's of her, Jamie, and Alex in a church. Once again, she presses her fingers up to the glass, then vanishes.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Dakota, Jamie, and Alex all sit in a row in a PEW. The sanctuary is packed with people for Sunday morning worship, and the girls are all DRESSED UP. Alex lowers her PHONE from taking the SELFIE to look at the picture. Dakota is aglow in excitement, chuckling to herself at what she's just done.

She looks at the phone, seeing the same picture she had touched in her apartment.

ALEX

Ugh, the lighting's not right.

JAMIE

You're such a perfectionist, Alex.  
We look great!

ALEX

I look like I have a mole! Like a  
witch's mole! Right there on the  
side of my nose.

JAMIE

Well, you are a witch, so.

Alex raises her hand to playfully slap Jamie, laughing as she does it. Dakota is looking around the room, seeing friends and waving hello.

DAKOTA

If that were the case, wouldn't  
she, y'know, be on fire, being in  
here and all?

JAMIE

You're not helping, Dakota.

The worship team begins playing.

WORSHIP LEADER

Please stand with me.

The congregation STANDS UP, and the girls stand up too. As  
Dakota stands up...

INT. DAKOTA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dakota blinks back into the room, just in time to catch the  
picture she had been holding when she disappeared as it falls  
to the ground. She LAUGHS.

Quickly, Dakota rushes to grab as many PICTURES from around  
her apartment: pulling them off walls, digging through  
DRAWERS, rifling through BOXES. Pictures from COLLEGE,  
CHILDHOOD, of FAMILY, FRIENDS - even OLDER, VINTAGE  
photographs of places like PARIS and NEW YORK CITY. She  
carefully arranges them on the BIG WALL in her living room,  
where the first picture had been hanging.

She stands back for a beat, taking in the arrangement. She  
breathes deep, then raises her hand to a picture.

Dakota vanishes, then immediately flashes back into the room.  
She touches another picture - gone, then back. She's never  
gone for more than a couple of seconds, but doesn't stay for  
much longer either. She moves from picture to picture,  
vanishing and reappearing again and again with a loud WHOOSH  
of air at each apparition.

INT. DAKOTA'S APARTMENT - DAY

The SUN shines brightly through the window in the living room  
as Dakota continues blinking in and out of existence four  
more times before she finally STOPS visiting the pictures.  
Exhilarated but clearly exhausted, she steps back from the  
collage and sinks into the couch. It's been mere hours here,  
but for her it has been days, weeks - there's no way for her  
to know for sure. She closes her eyes for a minute before the  
sun shining through the window bothers her enough to give up  
on sleep.

She checks her phone. Several MISSED CALLS FORM WORK, as well as one from KAT. She sighs as she dismisses them and opens Facebook.

Dakota begins scrolling through her feed, through pictures of parties, schools, weddings, and vacations. She stops at one picture of a BEAUTIFUL BEACH. She pauses, her face contorting into a clever smirk as if entertaining an idea.

She touches the screen where the picture is.

Dakota vanishes, then reappears instantly, CATCHING THE PHONE as it falls from where her hand was before. Her skin is slightly more TANNED, and she BRUSHES SOME SAND off her pants.

Dakota continues scrolling, and stops on another picture.

Her smile disappears. The picture was posted by Jamie, and is a GROUP PHOTO of Jamie, Alex, and another girl. They're making goofy faces at the camera. The caption reads: NIGHT OUT WITH THE ROOMIES = MASS DELIRIUM

Dakota, confused and somewhat hurt, studies the picture. She touches the photo and vanishes.

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Jamie, Alex, and the FRIEND sit at the bar. Jamie lowers the phone with which she has just taken the picture. Dakota finds herself standing just a few feet behind the girls.

Dakota and the group are both facing away from each other.

Dakota looks around, eventually turning around and seeing them.

ALEX

So when's Luke gonna be here?

JAMIE

Never, because I told him this was ladies' night.

ALEX

Oh, how considerate of you, glad we could finally get a night to have you to ourselves.

Alex turns to the friend as Dakota moves closer to the bar, trying to not be seen.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What do you think we should do with her on this special night?

FRIEND

The possibilities are endless.

Alex and the friend continue talking, laughing and giggling.

Dakota watches Jamie as she half pays attention to the conversation, her eyes wandering the bar.

Her eyes eventually REACH DAKOTA, and they MAKE EYE CONTACT.

A gasp catches in Dakota's throat. Jamie's face freezes in surprise and a mildly hostile look of suspicion.

JAMIE

Dakota?

Dakota looks away, startled.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

What the fu-

Dakota closes her eyes.

INT. DAKOTA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Dakota reappears on the couch. Her phone CLATTERS TO THE GROUND. She lets out a sigh of relief, leaning forward to cradle her head. She then sinks back into the couch.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Looking DISHEVELED from her long "night," Dakota walks down the aisles, picking out various bags of JUNK FOOD. She has a glazed, distant look in her eyes.

As she walks up to the check-out, someone TAPS on her shoulder. It's Kat.

KAT

Dakota?

It takes a moment for Dakota to recognize her.

DAKOTA

Hey, uh...Kat. How're you?



KAT

Good, good. Just fine. I wasn't expecting to see you here, thought you'd be at work.

Kat looks Dakota up and down, concerned.

DAKOTA

Oh, yeah, I...called in today. Wasn't feeling good.

KAT

I see. Are you okay? I called you earlier and didn't get you. You seemed pretty upset last night when you left. I just wanted to check up on you.

DAKOTA

Yeah, I'm...fine. Y'know, last night, uh...yeah, last night I just...

She pauses and looks away from Kat, rubbing a little moisture away from her eye as she tries to recall.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

Yeah, last night, I was just missing friends. Missing school. That's all. Just being a little nostalgic.

Kat gives a weak smile of sympathy.

KAT

Right. I think we all get that sometimes. I know it's hard, moving to a new place, not having a lot of people that you know. It can be pretty lonely...

Dakota just nods, looking down. Kat steps forward, putting her hand on Dakota's shoulder.

KAT (CONT'D)

But...it doesn't have to be. If you need to talk, about anything...you can tell me. You know that, right?

Dakota barely looks up to acknowledge the question.

## INT. DAKOTA'S APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment is in a state of disarray. We see Kat's PLATE OF COOKIES again; the tops are FUZZY with MOLD and DECAY, and haven't been touched in a long time. Dakota sits in front of the collage in her living room. Some of the pictures have fallen down, others have been taken down intentionally, neatly stacked to the side. Most of the ones remaining on the wall contain Jamie.

With a huff, Dakota goes to her bedroom and digs through a drawer. She finds another photo, this one of her and Alex in gowns for a DANCE. She tapes it up on the wall, and then goes into it, disappearing.

## INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT

FLASH! Dakota and Alex stand in front of a large PHOTOGRAPHY BACKDROP, the flash from the camera fading. They walk away, and Dakota searches the crowd. Eventually she finds Jamie, who's talking to a YOUNG MAN in a nice dress shirt and tie.

DAKOTA

Hey girl.

JAMIE

Hey.

DAKOTA

You didn't want in on the photo?

JAMIE

Oh, you guys already did that?

DAKOTA

Yeah, you just missed it.

JAMIE

Well, we'll get another one later.

The song playing from the dance floor changes to a more upbeat track.

DAKOTA

Oh my god, we gotta go dance,  
c'mon!

Dakota grabs Jamie's arm and drags her onto the dance floor.

Jamie is slightly resistant, looks back at the Young Man apologetically.

Dakota, Jamie, and Alex all mix with the crowd, dancing excitedly.

JUMP CUT

LATER

A new song is playing as the group continues dancing. Jamie is GONE. Dakota notices Jamie's absence and starts looking for her again. She spots her next to the food table, talking to the young man from before. Dakota breaks away from the group to go to Jamie.

DAKOTA

You gotta come see something. Colby is over there, and he's going absolutely insane right now.

Jamie feigns a polite smile, just barely hiding her annoyance with Dakota.

JAMIE

(to Dakota)

Okay, just one second.

DAKOTA

No, the song's almost over, you're gonna miss it.

JAMIE

Tragic. I'll be there in a minute.

YOUNG MAN

Hey, I think I'm just gonna go.

JAMIE

No, don't go, not yet!

YOUNG MAN

Nah, I'm kinda tired.

JAMIE

It's barely even 9, you wuss.

YOUNG MAN

I know, but I stayed up late last night working on that paper. And then you started texting me after that, so...

JAMIE

Alright, fine. Well maybe we can meet up later.

YOUNG MAN

Yeah, sure.

YOUNG MAN (CONT'D)

(to Dakota)

See you, Dakota.

The boy walks away. Jamie watches him leave, shoots Dakota an incredibly annoyed look, then begins walking away from the dance floor.

DAKOTA

What?

JAMIE

You know what.

Dakota stops dead in her tracks.

DAKOTA

Oh, what, him? You know he's talking to like six other girls here, right?

JAMIE

I don't care. It's not just about him. Seriously, you can't just leave me alone to talk to a guy for two seconds?

DAKOTA

If the guy's a complete asshole...

JAMIE

What, are you jealous?

Dakota pauses.

DAKOTA

No, I just care about you. I'm your best friend.

JAMIE

Yeah, well, you're not always going to be, now are you.

Dakota is hurt. Her eyes begin to water a bit at the corners. She can't bring herself to say anything.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

I mean, we're gonna graduate and leave this place, and we'll go our separate ways, and what am I left with then?

DAKOTA  
(quietly)  
...this isn't how this goes...

JAMIE  
I can't stay single my whole  
freakin' life.

DAKOTA  
(quietly)  
...not tonight...

JAMIE  
What-

Jamie looks up and sees Dakota's face fighting back tears.

JAMIE (CONT'D)  
Oh please. Don't do that. You don't  
get to be the victim again.

DAKOTA  
I just...

JAMIE  
God, you're so sensitive. I can't  
so much as breathe around you. No.  
I can't deal with this right now.  
I'll catch you later. Just...here.

Jamie stuffs a NAPKIN into her hand, then walks away, out of  
the ballroom. Dakota just stands there.

INT. DAKOTA'S BEDROOM

Dakota reappears in her bedroom, still in a state of shock.

She sits on the floor.

She picks up her phone and pulls up the messaging app. She  
scrolls through message threads for QUITE A WHILE before  
finding the one between her and Jamie, last message sent FIVE  
MONTHS AGO. It reads:

"I'll be there in a minute."

Dakota dials Jamie's number, raising her phone to her ear.

The phone rings several times, then Jamie answers.

JAMIE (V.O)  
Hello?

DAKOTA

Jamie?

JAMIE (V.O)

Oh. Hey.

DAKOTA

Hey yourself. It's been a while.

JAMIE (V.O)

(to someone out of  
earshot, muffled)

What?...no, it's Dakota...no no,  
it's fine.

DAKOTA

I'm sorry, are you with someone?

JAMIE (V.O)

Yeah. Jake is over here. I'm sure  
at this point you know...

DAKOTA

I heard, yeah. I'm happy for you.

JAMIE (V.O)

I bet you are.

DAKOTA

No really, I am...I'm glad. You  
deserve it.

JAMIE (V.O)

Well...thanks.

DAKOTA

I was just thinking about you,  
y'know. I found some old pictures  
of us, some good times. The New  
Orleans trip. Of the Spring  
cookout. You remember the  
NeedtoBreathe concert? How we  
waited for an hour outside in the  
rain to see your favorite band. And  
when we got in, there was just  
barely enough room in the very back  
of the bar? We couldn't even make  
out any of their faces.

Dakota gives a slight laugh as her eyes water. Jamie stays  
silent.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

You know I miss you. I miss all of you guys, but I really miss you. A lot. More and more every day.

Jamie sighs.

JAMIE (V.O)

Well...same, I suppose.

DAKOTA

Yeah...

Dakota's eyes are really watering now, the tears coming freely.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

I wanted to tell you...that I'm sorry. For what happened. I know I was needy. And clingy. I didn't mean to make you feel suffocated. To put that on you. I needed someone to make me feel wanted. To make me feel needed. And I shouldn't have expected you to fill that all the time.

Dakota is barely holding back a full sob.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Jamie.

JAMIE (V.O)

Well...that's nice of you. Thanks.

Dakota winces, closing her eyes.

JAMIE (V.O) (CONT'D)

I really need to go now. I'll call you some other time.

DAKOTA

(voice quivering)

Okay, bye. I l-

The line clicks off. Dakota holds off the tears just a few moments more, and then when she can't fight it anymore, breaks out into a FULL SOB, falling over on her side to LAY ON THE FLOOR.

Eventually, Dakota calms down. She looks at her phone, from which Jamie's face SMILES BACK at her.

Dakota calmly stands up, wiping her face. Then she walks out of her bedroom.

INT. DAKOTA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

Dakota stands in front of the wall where the collage was.

ONE PICTURE remains hanging: a picture of Jamie and Dakota in a freshly unpacked apartment, smiling. They look much younger in the picture than we've seen them.

Dakota reaches up to the picture, pulling it off of the wall and holding it close to her. She stares at it for a moment, the tears beginning to come back, then looks up at the ceiling, as if searching for a reason, any reason. She closes her eyes, and her HANDS CLENCH, CRUMPLING THE PHOTOGRAPH in them...

And then she vanishes.

The photo, now crumbled into a ball, quietly FALLS TO THE FLOOR and ROLLS TO THE SIDE.

The room stays perfectly still.

Dakota does not come back.

INT. DREAM SPACE

The window frame remains suspended as before. Otherwise the space is now empty. The FEMININE FIGURE is no longer present.

In close-up, we see the surface of the glass, again like water. It has been disturbed, with small waves rising and falling, as though a rock had fallen in.

THE END