

Between Doors

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Third Draft

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FADE IN:

INT. THE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Around 7:00pm, the exit door of the restaurant creaks as Felix walks inside. FELIX, 21 years old, confident, manipulative, sees JULIETTE, 20 years old, kind-hearted, timid, sitting at a booth. She spots him. He walks over.

JULIETTE

Hi...This is kind of weird, isn't it?

FELIX

Weird? What do you mean?

JULIETTE

It's my first time going on a date with someone I've never met before.

FELIX

Ah. I get that, but there's no need to be nervous around me.

Felix points to her necklace.

FELIX (cont'd)

I like your necklace, by the way. Simple but elegant.

JULIETTE

Oh... uh thank you. My... uh... my dad got it for me.

Felix smirks and nods.

FELIX

This might make things a little weird but I brought something that could help us get to know each other better.

Felix pulls out the game "We're Not Really Strangers" from underneath the table and sets it down in front of him.

FELIX (cont'd)

But, of course, we don't have to play if you don't want to-

JULIETTE

No, this is perfect. It's always hard for me to figure out what to say on a first date.

JULIETTE (cont'd)
I never know if I'm gonna be boring
or get too personal-

Felix pushes the game closer to the middle of the table.

FELIX
I feel the same way.

The waiter walks up to the booth. The waiter sees the card game and looks at them judgmentally.

WAITER
What would you guys like to drink?

Felix looks at Juliette and politely waits for her to order.

JULIETTE
Just a water is fine.

The waiter looks at Felix.

FELIX
Water, please.

The waiter leaves.

FELIX (cont'd)
Let's start the game.

Juliette takes out the first card in the deck.

JULIETTE
What I like most about myself is...

Juliette puts down the card and looks at Felix.

FELIX
I have to be careful with this one. I
could make a bad first impression.
(beat)
Probably my time management skills.

JULIETTE
Really?

FELIX
I used to be so lazy and I would
procrastinate. But now I have a
pretty strict routine.

JULIETTE
What changed?

FELIX

I had a lot on my plate and I either had to learn to find balance in my life or I was going to drown.

JULIETTE

Do you mean school work or?...

FELIX

No. My community.

JULIETTE

Oh your community. I got it. I used to do some volunteer work around my neighborhood too.

(beat)

I'm impressed. I expected a less humble response.

Felix puts his hand over his chest and gasps.

FELIX

(Pretending)

Wow.. you think so low of me...

JULIETTE

Well, that might change.

(looking into
eachother's eyes)

Okay, next card.

Felix takes out the next card from the deck.

FELIX

What lesson took you the longest to unlearn?

Felix turns the card over to Juliette so she can read it.

JULIETTE

Believing that putting others before yourself will make you a good person.

FELIX

It doesn't?

JULIETTE

No, not from my experience.

FELIX

Tell me more.

JULIETTE

(Hesitantly)

I tried putting someone's needs above my own and I almost went insane.

FELIX

But that didn't make you a bad person... You can still be a good person and be insane, right?

JULIETTE

Not me I guess.

FELIX

So are you a bad person then?

JULIETTE

(Jokingly)

Hey now, that wasn't the question.

Felix puts his hands up.

FELIX

Okay, okay. You're right I'm getting ahead of myself.

Juliette pulls out the next card from the deck.

JULIETTE

A good friend is...

FELIX

A good friend... Someone that supports you. I would cut off anyone that didn't support me, or my cause.

JULIETTE

(Jokingly)

Uh oh, it sounds like someone has high standards.

FELIX

Wouldn't you do the same?...If that happened to you.

JULIETTE

I don't know much about your experience...

(beat)

But when you put it like that... Yeah I guess I would.

FELIX

Exactly.

JULIETTE

Well... what is your cause anyways?
What did these ex friends of yours
not support?

FELIX

(Jokingly)

Well that wasn't the question now,
was it?

Juliette tilts her head out of curiosity. Felix reaches in
the deck for the next card and pulls it out.

FELIX (cont'd)

What's something that has been
bothering you lately?

Juliette's face drops.

FELIX (cont'd)

What?

Juliette shakes her head.

JULIETTE

(Softly)

It's like those cards are reading my
mind.

FELIX

Go on...

JULIETTE

I've been competing for an intern
position at a top car company for
almost a year, and I got the position
but...

Felix waits for her to continue.

JULIETTE (cont'd)

I'm not sure it was worth it.

(beat)

I put in so much work getting the
position. Now I just feel drained.

Juliette sighs and rubs her forehead.

FELIX

You sacrificed a lot for it?

JULIETTE

Maybe too much.

FELIX
(Robotically)
You couldn't make time for people.

JULIETTE
(Quickly)
Yes.

FELIX
You became obsessed.

JULIETTE
Yes.

FELIX
It ruined your relationships with the
people closest to you.

JULIETTE
(Shocked)
Yes- How did you?...

FELIX
Who? Who did you sacrifice-

The waiter comes to the booth with their waters and sets
them down on the table.

WAITER
Here are your drinks.

The waiter gets out his notebook and pen.

WAITER (cont'd)
Are you ready to order?

Felix looks upset that their conversation was interrupted.
He straightens himself up. She picks up the menu placed a
little to the right of her and tries to quickly read the
menu.

FELIX
I think we need more time.

The water leaves.

FELIX (cont'd)
So I was asking-

JULIETTE
It's your turn.

FELIX

No, I'd like you to go. Pick up the next card.

Juliette picks up the next card from the deck slowly. She reads it and looks uncomfortable.

FELIX (cont'd)

What does it say?

Felix tries to read Juliette's concerned expression.

JULIETTE

Who was your first love and why did you love them?

FELIX

The forbidden first date conversation.

(smirking)

I understand if it's too personal. But it's just a game, right?

JULIETTE

(hesitantly)

My ex boyfriend. We met my freshman year.

Felix beckons with his hand impatiently.

JULIETTE (cont'd)

(touching her necklace)

At the time he was the most intelligent and kind-hearted person in my life.

(nervously playing with her necklace)

It's all my fault. I regret so much.

(she stops playing with her necklace)

Sorry, I don't want to overshare.

Felix stares at her, studying her movements. She hears a ping from her phone, it reads; From Lewis - Hi Juliet, sorry traffic was terrible, I should be there soon.

FELIX

It was your ex, wasn't it? The sacrifice?

JULIETTE

Excuse me? I don't know what you're talking about.

FELIX
(Staring at her
intently)
Come on Juliette, admit it. You had
to make a choice.

JULIETTE
Yes, but-

FELIX
You needed that position, right?

JULIETTE
Yes.

FELIX
So, admit it then. Say it out loud.

They both sit in silence, the tension grows intensely and quickly enough for Juliette to break.

JULIETTE
It was either me or him. You have to understand. This internship is everything to me, it guarantees me a life of success. It would've been me who died if I didn't get that position. So I did the only thing i could...

FELIX
And what did you do?

JULIETTE
(beat)
I killed him.

She covers her mouth from shock.

FELIX
Read that last card.

Juliette's hands shake as she reaches for the last card. She looks at it as a tear strolls down her face.

FELIX (cont'd)
You have two choices, Juliette.

As Juliette is in disarray from revealing her dark secret, Felix watches her carefully and takes a deep breath.

Felix points to the entrance door.

FELIX (cont'd)
Join my community and learn to live
in this world, without guilt or
judgment from others.

Felix points to the exit door.

FELIX (cont'd)
Or you can continue living as you are
thinking you're a bad person, and
that you made the wrong choice.

The waiter walks back up to them.

WAITER
(annoyed)
Have you made up your mind yet?

Juliette looks up at the waiter.

FELIX
The choice is yours.

Juliette looks back at Felix.

Felix looks past Juliette's shoulder. The entrance door bell rings. Her real date, LEWIS, walks into the restaurant. Juliette looks behind her. She looks back to Felix, but he has disappeared. Lewis walks up to the booth and sits down.

LEWIS
(to waiter)
Hey.
(to Juliette)
Hey Juliette. Not sure if you got my
message.

Lewis doesn't notice she has a shocked expression. Juliette remains silent. She stands up, sliding the card towards her.

LEWIS (cont'd)
My car was acting up then traffic
hit, and- Juliette?

Juliette walks out of frame leaving the viewer questioning what she chose. Lewis and the waiter are left alone in awkward silence.

FADE OUT