

BETWEEN DOORS

The Short Film

The Log line:

As dark secrets are revealed through a purpose driven card game, Juliette is given a choice.

The Characters:

Juliette, Felix, Lewis (real date), The Waiter

INT. THE RESTAURANT - DAY

The doorbell rings as Felix walks into the restaurant. His eyes search for Juliette in the dimly lit dinning room. He finally spots her with an observing gaze and walks over to the booth she is sitting at. When Juliette sees him, she gives him an awkward smile and greets him.

Felix: **Hey Juliette.**

Juliette: **(Awkwardly) Hey Felix, how are you?**

Juliette explains to Felix that she feels like their date is kind of weird. Felix cocks his head slightly and asks her why she feels that way. Juliette continues to explain that she's never used a dating app before and it's her first time going on a date with someone she's never met in person before. Felix reassures her that she did not need to feel nervous about their date because he is laid back. Felix begins to take notice that Juliette has a reserved personality and she may be difficult to get to know.

Felix notices she has a necklace on and compliments it. He is fascinated by it because he has a feeling the necklace has complicated history behind it which could tell him what kind of person Juliette is.

Juliette's response to this compliment is to tell Felix that her dad got it for her, but Felix notices that she's hesitant in her response and he senses she is lying to him.

After a moment of awkward silence, Felix pulls out the game "We Are Not Really Strangers" to relieve the pressure of figuring out what to say or ask on the first date. Juliette is relieved by Felix's idea because she had many worries going into the date. Before they began the card game the waiter arrives and asks if they would like anything to drink. Juliette orders a Shirley temple, and to her surprise Felix orders one too.

Felix felt like Juliette might feel more comfortable with him if he ordered the same drink as her. After the waiter leaves with their drink orders, Felix asks if they should begin the game. Juliette reads the card out loud.

Juliette: **What I like most about myself is...**

They both laugh because this means Felix must reveal what he thinks about himself which determines Juliette's first impression of Felix.

Felix: **Hmm... probably my time management skills.**

Juliette is curious by this answer. Felix explains how he used to have bad time management skills but now he has a strict routine. Still curious, Felix continues to explain that there was a lot expected of him and he either had to learn how to manage these responsibilities or he would drown in them.

Juliette asks about what responsibilities he's referring too. She thinks it's school

Felix: **(Bluntly) No. My community.**

Felix's answer was short and blunt. It seemed like a dead end to Juliette. She felt uncomfortable asking any further questions about this community. Felix reads the next card out loud

Felix: **What lesson took you the longest to unlearn?**

Juliette takes some time to think. Then she explains that the belief that putting others before yourself makes you a good person is a lesson she unlearned. Felix is curious about this answer and Juliette explains that she figured out this wasn't true because once she had to put someone else's needs above her own, which almost drove her to insanity. Felix plays devil's advocate by suggesting that you can be insane and be a good person. Juliette says that's not the case for her.

Felix: **So are you a bad person then?**

Juliette redirects his question in a joking manner.

Juliette: **(Jokingly) Hey now, that wasn't the question.**

Moving on to the next card Juliette reads out loud.

Juliette: **A good friend is...**

Felix explains that a good friend is someone that believes in you and supports your "cause".

Juliette asks if his friends support his cause and Felix explains that if his friends didn't, he would cut them off. He then continues to explain that he had to cut off many of his friends for not supporting his cause. Felix believes that those people didn't fit into his life and he asks Juliette that if she were in his position, wouldn't she do the same? Juliette doesn't know many details about Felix's position to lead to cutting his friends off. However, she thinks that if people in her life weren't believing in her and supporting her cause, she guesses she would cut them off too.

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

Felix redirects her question in a joking manner.

Felix: (Mocking) Well that wasn't the question now, was it?

Juliette is curious about his cause now, but she lets the conversation move on to the next card because she doesn't want to pry.

Felix asks reads the next card out loud.

Felix: What's something that has been bothering you lately?

Juliette's face drops and Felix notices that clearly something is bothering her. At first, Juliette tries to cover up her reaction but Felix gets her to uncover that her internship has been bothering her. Juliette explains that she has been competing for an intern position at a top car company for almost a year. She then reveals that she got the position but she's not sure it was worth all the work she put in trying to get the position because she feels drained. Juliette feels like she sacrificed too much for the position. She felt that she couldn't make time for people and it ruined the relationships closest to her.

Felix: Who did you sacrifice?

The waiter interrupts his question and gives them their drinks.

When the waiter asks if they are ready to order, Juliette is discombobulated because of the conversation her and Felix were just having. Felix suggests she orders a chicken sandwich and she subjectively does. Like before, Felix orders the same thing as Juliette, a chicken sandwich. When Felix tries to continue their conversation Juliette quickly changes the subject and moves on to the next card.

Juliette: Your biggest regret is...

Felix: **Easy. Not finding my potential sooner.**

Juliette laughs at this. She thinks he's too young to be worried about his potential. Felix has her recall the time he said that he had to change his way of life or else it would be chaos. Then he continues to explain that he began a networking community a few years ago and their objective is to teach people how to navigate their way in the world. He believes that there is a world that school and parents teach you about. This world he describes is one where people are inherently good and people will hold your hand through life. Felix believes that this way of thinking about the world has led him down the wrong path because that is not how the world actually is. His community is meant to lead people down the path of reality, and to teach people how to navigate in the world with how it truly is. Juliette is in shock hearing this. She is speechless.

Then Felix reads the next card out loud.

Felix: **Who was your first love and why did you love them?**

Juliette: **Damn... This is the worst possible question to get.**

Felix laughs.

Juliette reveals that her ex-boyfriend was her first love and first boyfriend. She continues to explain that he was an intelligent and kind person. She begins to explain that she has both good and bad memories of him when they were together but she didn't want to go into too many details because she felt that she was oversharing. Felix says she can go on with her explanation of her ex-boyfriend and she admits that she lied to him earlier. Juliette explains that her necklace is not from her dad, it's from her ex-boyfriend. Felix figured this was the case because she was hesitant when saying it was from her dad. There is a moment of awkward silence.

Felix: **Your ex-boyfriend.. Was he sacrificed for the position?**

Juliette chokes on her drink.

Felix explains that her concern about sacrificing too much to get the intern position caught his attention and he asks her if he can give his opinion.

Juliette: **(Unsure) Sure.**

Felix then explains that he doesn't believe she's sacrificed too much, in fact, he thinks she should sacrifice more and become a whole new person, start again.

Juliette explains that she doesn't feel like she's herself already and Felix asks if she hates the person she has become. Juliette doesn't know if she hates the person, she's become but she feels like she doesn't deserve the intern position she got, but she also feels like if she didn't sacrifice so much, she wouldn't have gotten it. She explains that her boyfriend was also competing for the same internship, there were many people who wanted the position, but the real competition was between her and her ex-boyfriend. Although she was qualified for the position, her ex was favored among the heads of the company and she felt that all she could do was sit back and watch him take the position. Felix suggests that she had to make a choice which would secure her the intern position in the company. She agrees, but she is hesitant to explain more. Felix asks her what that choice was. In a panic Juliette insinuates that she had to make this choice or else she wouldn't lead a life worth living. The internship was everything to her.

Felix asks her again about what choice she made.

Juliette finally reveals that she killed her ex-boyfriend to guarantee her intern position in the company.

She is in shock that she said this out loud. Her guilt is visible in her reaction.

She wonders if she's a bad person.

Felix: Good. Bad. Who gives a shit?

He is a strong believer in shaping your own destiny and that you make your choices, no one else.

Juliette seeks Felix's advice on what to do with this guilt that she lives with. Felix offers her to either join his community where she will learn to live without guilt from the choices she has made and will make, or she can continue living how she is now, thinking she is a bad person from the choice she made.

After Felix's proposal, the waiter brings them their chicken sandwiches. Juliette stares off into space, still in shock from revealing that she killed her ex-boyfriend and also pondering about what she will do given her choices.

Felix pulls out the final card in the deck which has information about his cult-like community on it.

Felix: Which will it be?... It's your choice.

Then, he gets up to leave as Juliette's real date, Lewis, enters the restaurant through the entrance door. Felix walks out through the exit door as Lewis sits down.

Lewis explains to Juliette why he was so late, but she cannot pay attention to him because she is still trying to make her choice. As Lewis rambles on, Juliette yanks the necklace from her neck aggressively. She puts it down on the table. Then she gets up and begins to walk out the exit door, the same way Felix left.