

FIGMENT

Written by

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Harsh computer screen light illuminates the face of ELIZABETH(21). She sits at her desk scrolling through her packed schedule and adds "pick up prescription" to her TO-DO list. She scrolls through Instagram and gets a notification- "@austin.jacobs liked your post" she clicks on the account and scrolls through the photos of AUSTIN(22) and HIS GIRLFRIEND(20s)- she wishes that were her. Her phone rings- "Mom"- she hesitates, then answers.

ELIZABETH (ON PHONE)

Hello.

LISA(40s) laughs on the other end of the phone, preoccupied.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Mom?

LISA (O.S.)

Honey, hi! How are you?

ELIZABETH

I'm fine Mom, what's up?

LISA (O.S.)

I just wanted to see how you're doing! How's school and work?

ELIZABETH

(still scrolling, lying)

Fine. I'm actually about to run out to get drinks with Bella and Anna.

LISA (O.S.)

Oh that's great to hear! Dan and I are so proud you're making some time for yourself.

ELIZABETH

Mhm... Dan.

Elizabeth rolls her eyes as the name comes out of her mouth.

LISA (O.S.)

He's just such a great time! We're going to clean out the garage this weekend and turn it into a-

ELIZABETH

(Stops scrolling.)

Wait... the garage? The one with all Dad's stuff?

LISA (O.S.)
It's time for that to go into
storage sweetie.

ELIZABETH
Storage? Just because you've moved
on doesn't you can just get rid of
his stuff. It still means
something; to me at least.

LISA (O.S.)
Elizabeth Marie, I just call to
have a nice catch up with my
daughter, why do you have to pick a
fight? I'm sorry honey, but we all
need to move on. It's time to clean
out that garage, we just need more
space.

As Lisa speaks, Elizabeth tunes out and looks to a PHOTO-
young Elizabeth and her FATHER in front of a diner. A text
pops up from SCOTT(MANAGER): *Hey, Sydney just called out,
you're working a double tomorrow- thanks.*

ELIZABETH (ON PHONE)
Ok mom, you're right. I'm sorry. I
gotta go. Drinks, remember? Night.

Elizabeth hangs up, likes the message and closes her laptop.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Hey SIRI, set alarm for 5am.

She crawls into bed. Clock reads 11:37 pm. Her eyes remain
open...

CUT TO:

Clock now reads 2:32 am- eyes still open. She gets out of
bed.

2

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

2

Elizabeth's reflection is seen in the mirror. She holds an
orange pill bottle labeled TRAZEDONE and swallows one pill.
She debates going back to bed before shaking out three more
pills and swallowing.

3 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - LATER 3

She gives sleep one last try before glancing at the clock-
2:46 am. Frustrated, she gets out of bed, puts on shoes,
grabs a bag, and exits.

4 EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT 4

As Elizabeth walks, music catches her attention. It grows
louder. As she approaches, warm light shins on her face.
Compelled by the atmosphere, she enters a...

5 INT. DINER - NIGHT 5

Magnificently lit diner. WAITRESSES and BUSBOYS count their
tips. Framed photos of old celebrities and newspaper articles
are posted on the walls. Elizabeth takes a seat at the bar
closest to the door. She's greeted by LINDA(40/50s)who stands
behind the bar at the other end.

LINDA
Just you tonight?

Elizabeth nods.

LINDA (CONT'D)
First time here?

ELIZABETH
Yeah.

Linda walks towards a stack of menus.

LINDA
(while she's walking)
Welcome! Full disclosure, the fries
get a little soggy after 1 and if
you have allergies, I would avoid
the salad dressing. Tony, god rest
his soul, never wrote down the
recipe so we don't have any clue
what's in it!

ELIZABETH
Oh... well, what do you do when you
run out?

LINDA
Hun, lets just say most customers
aren't typically ordering salads.
The apple pie, on the other hand...

Linda plops the menu in front of Elizabeth.

LINDA (CONT'D)
...is just to die for.

ELIZABETH
I'm actually not hungry, thank you.

Linda turns and fills a glass with ice. Elizabeth keeps to herself until...

LINDA
(making a drink)
I knew you were new because I usually know every Tom, Dick, and Harry that comes in late night... What's a girl like you doin' out this late?

ELIZABETH
When I can't sleep I like to walk and clear my head. I've never seen this place before, and saw the lights on. It kinda reminded me of -

She's cut off by the sound of Linda setting a drink on the bar- a Shirley Temple. Elizabeth gawks at the drink.

LINDA
(Gesturing to the drink- it's for Elizabeth)
Reminded you of what?

ELIZABETH
I said I didn't need anything...

LINDA
(pushes the drink forward)
No, you said you weren't hungry. C'mon, it's on me, in exchange for some new company.

Linda pats a bar spot closer to her, inviting Elizabeth. She is hesitant, but finds Linda comforting.

CUT TO:

Elizabeth has moved to the stool Linda invited her to. Linda sits beside her as they slurp down their drinks through laughter.

ELIZABETH

And he didn't get fired?

LINDA

No way! That sneaky little son of a gun had us all fooled. It wasn't until he put in his two weeks that the truth finally started comin' out.

ELIZABETH

Wow, you must see all kinds of crazy working somewhere open this late.

Linda nods and takes a swig of her drink, their laughter dies down.

LINDA

So, how 'bout you, sweetheart? What kind of crazy is keepin' you up at night?

ELIZABETH

Well, my boss at work is worse than a dictator, I am somehow teaching an entire freshman course as a TA, I can barley keep up in my own classes, and if I pass those who knows if I can even afford to graduate. I haven't seen a friend in the past two months, let alone had any attention from a boy other than the cashier at Trader Joes, oh and my Mom is unable to focus on anything unless it's her new boyfriend...DAN.

Elizabeth realizes she unloaded onto a stranger. A beat.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

I am so sorry... word vomit... I-

LINDA

(Laughing)

Oh honey, don't apologize you can't keep all that bottled up so tight.

Elizabeth smiles, and takes a sip. Linda looks at her, knowingly.

LINDA (CONT'D)

You got a man on the brain?

Elizabeth laughs through her straw

ELIZABETH

What? No, no, the only men in my life are the creepy old ones at work who tip you \$10 if they can see your cleavage.

Linda nods, suspiciously. Her attention shifts.

LINDA

Speaking of men, Ray?

She calls to RAY(20s) - tall, charming, handsome, (resembles Austin from Instagram) lifts his head in their direction. Elizabeth is taken aback- well, damn.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Would you be a doll n' grab us a slice of apple pie?

RAY

Sure thing.

Ray notices Elizabeth. Linda senses their chemistry, but keeps it to herself.

LINDA

(off to Elizabeth)

Oh Ray? He's a darlin'. Nothin' like those creepers.

Elizabeth snaps out of it and nods her head, Linda chuckles. Beat.

ELIZABETH

You know my grandpa opened a place like this, and passed it down to my Dad. It was his pride and joy; that's actually why I came in. I worked there just so I could spend time with my him. After every shift he made us Shirley Temples just like this; extra cherries and an umbrella...
It was my favorite place to just... exist. Not plagued by the world... yet.

LINDA

You still visit?

ELIZABETH

No, my Mom, she... well after my
Dad-

RAY (O.S.)

Here you are ladies.

Elizabeth is distracted as Ray sets down the slice. He shoots her a slight wink. The clock behind him catches her eye- 4:07 am.

ELIZABETH

Shit, I gotta get home.

She scrambles, unknowingly leaving her wallet on the counter. On her way out-

RAY

You gotta come back and try the
pie!

LINDA

Ray's right, it's to die for.

Elizabeth smiles, wishing she could stay, before exiting. As she slams the door...

MATCH CUT TO:

7

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING TO NIGHT

7

DING! Her clock rings. She rises as if she had the best sleep of her life. She puts on clothes and packs a bag- her wallet is missing. She digs before accepting defeat and exits.

Our attention stays on the orange pill bottle on her desk-- nearly empty-- as day TRANSITIONS to night.

Elizabeth enters, exhausted. Clock- 10:36pm. She grabs the bottle and examines it- surprised to see it nearly empty. She then tosses herself on the bed when, DING! She receives Snapchat video from... Austin! "*Hey, having a party tonight. Come thru and bring friends!*" Elizabeth stares at the phone. As the pill bottle comes into focus, she looks between it and her phone, debating. Torn between her options, she clicks off her phone and flops back on the bed when we...

CUT TO:

8 EXT. DINER - NIGHT

8

Music from before grows louder as the warm light of the diner shines on Elizabeth's face. We follow her as she approaches. Linda props the door open and holds up the missing wallet.

LINDA

I've been holding it for ya all
day.

Elizabeth enters.

SMASH CUT TO:

TITLE: FIGMENT