

FIRSTS

By

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SCENE I

A GYM — ON EXERCISE BIKES IN THE MORNING. BOTH INDIVIDUALS ARE OFF TO A SLOW, SLUGGISH START.

CHERYL

I need this today

HONEY

Oh god, me too.

CHERYL

Last night was rough

HONEY

Bad date?

CHERYL

Well, since you asked... it was actually the worst. I met this guy on Tinder. He was my first Tinder date. I was nervous that he could be some psycho-serial-killer-werido but he also looked a little nerdy so I figured I'd give him a chance, right? I mean I knew if something went south I could take him. So we went out. Ate at a nice restaurant... but our conversations were -

HONEY

-boring?

CHERYL

It's like you were there. He was so boring. So I tried to get the conversation going. I asked about his interests, right? He loves superheroes. Okay, cool. I can get into that.

Both start working harder on the bikes.

HONEY

Right, right.

CHERYL

I take the bait, or whatever I start talking about Aqua Man. How it just hit theaters. And he asked me if I wanted to go watch it with him. I kind of liked that he asked so I said yes... then in the theater, he told me it was his 18th time going to see the movie. He knew the lines, Honey!! He was obsessed. Like weirdly obsessed with fucking Aqua Man.

HONEY

Awh, Cher. Don't be such a bitch. That's kind of cute. At least he wanted to keep the night going.

CHERYL

Yeah, I guess. There was just no spark. At least not between him and me... him and Aqua Man however...

HONEY

My date last night was an *actual* weirdo. Possibly a psycho-serial-killer.

They peddle faster

CHERYL

That guy Sarah set you up with?

HONEY

Yeah. He was fucking odd. We had a nice night. Talked. Good conversation, too! Went home. Definitely some chemistry there. Body chemistry. So we did *that*. Afterward, I grab my phone to scroll through Twitter for a second and I turn around to see he had my UNDERWEAR in his hands and was shredding it. And not like in a sexy *I tore these off of you* way, no. No. More of like a cat with a loose thread. It was horrific.

CHERYL

What the hell did you say to him?

HONEY

Not a damn thing. I was in shock.
I just pulled my leggings back up
and went commando.

They slow down and wipe away their sweat
with towels.

CHERYL

I would've run.

HONEY

I'm telling you I was paralyzed
with shock.

CHERYL

What the hell is wrong with these
guys we keep meeting?

HONEY

What's wrong with us that we keep
attracting these kinds of men?

CHERYL

Oh no. It's not us. It can't be.
We are not going there.

Both simultaneously reach for their water
bottles and take a drink

HONEY

No.. but also do you think/hope
Aqua Man guy is going to call?

CHERYL

I guess. It's at least something
to do. Do you think you're going
to hang out with (in a WWE
announcer voice) "The Panty
Shredder" again?

HONEY

I'll try anything twice.

SCENE II

A BEDROOM. THE ROOM IS PERFECTLY NEAT. THE BED IS MADE. THERE IS A STREAM OF LIGHT POURING IN THROUGH THE WINDOW. THE ONLY MESS IN SIGHT IS THE CRUMBLED UP ALICE WHO LAYS LIFELESS ON THE CARPET.

LAUREN

(Yelling from another room in a frantic manner) ALICE? ALICE?!

(Entering) What are you doing in here?

ALICE

I can't. I don't want to leave. I don't want to go.

LAUREN

You can't not go.

ALICE

I'm not going.

LAUREN

Alice, you can't not come. He would want you there.

ALICE

I don't care about that right now. I can't do it. The second I walk out of this door everything is real. Everything is happening in real time. I'm not ready for it.

LAUREN SLIDES DOWN NEXT TO ALICE. SHE STAYS QUIET WITH HER FOR A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE SPEAKING.

LAUREN

You can't just sit in this room and pretend life isn't happening outside of these four walls. Everything is going to keep moving forward. This doesn't stop time.

ALICE

But why? Why can't I pretend for five more minutes? It helps. It helps to believe that if I just stay in here for five more minutes then time stops just for a moment. I can't do this. I can't.

LAUREN

You are so many beautiful things, but right now strong doesn't have to be one those things. Brave doesn't have to be one either. We just have to take this one step at a time. You need to get up. That's it. Just stand up for me.

ALICE STANDS. SHE PUSHES HERSELF UP AGAINST THE WALL FOR STABILITY. THE MINUTE HER SPINE ALIGNS WITH THE WALL SHE BEGINS TO CRY

ALICE

Lauren, I can't do this. I know people say that saying goodbye is necessary. I just can't watch them put his body in the ground. I can't. Not when it was me. Not when I did this to him.

LAUREN

(Hugging Alice and making hushing noises) No, no, no. You can't do this to your self. It was not your fault.

ALICE

(Still embracing Lauren) If I would've answered the phone. If I would've have let him stay. He wouldn't be gone right now. I can't even wrap my mind around it. He's gone. He is gone. And he isn't ever coming back. And it's my fault.

LAUREN

Alice.

ALICE

(Attempting to collect herself) I broke his heart. I only thought of myself. If I had kept on pretending to be happy then he would still be here.

LAUREN

Listen to me, he was sick. He had demons that medical professionals couldn't control. I know you tried your hardest to help him but you couldn't. No one could. It's not your fault. I know everything feels safe in here. But if you can muster up even a little bit of energy to say goodbye... that would be enough. If you stay in this room any longer, in the long run, you'll regret it.

ALICE

I just wish I could've loved him. He loved me. I couldn't love him back. I tried so hard. I squeezed on everything hug. I pushed hard on every kiss... but each time it felt like nothing. I just wish it hadn't. I feel so guilty.

LAUREN

It's not your fault, Al. I'm here. It's not your fault.

ALICE

I've never been to one of these before. I hate this. I hate this. I sound so pathetic right now, but please don't leave my side. I hate sounding needy. I really do. But if I do this. I really can't do it without you.

LAUREN

I'll be right by your side the entire time.

SCENE III

A BAR — THERE IS NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT. NO FLICKER OF AMBIANCE OR CHARM IN SIGHT — IT IS JUST AN AVERAGE BAR. BEHIND THE COUNTER A WOMAN IS CLEANING BOTTLES AND GLASSES. THE PLACE IS EMPTY BESIDES TWO PEOPLE SITTING AT THE BAR.

AIMEE

What's your favorite color?

JACKSON

Green. Now ask me a question with some substance, please.

AIMEE

Okay... have you ever cheated on anyone?

JACKSON

Yeah. I have. Not proud of it but the past is the past. I would never do it again.

AIMEE

I understand. Life happens.

JACKSON

It does. And it wasn't really my fault. I tried to break up with her first but she just wouldn't really let me off the hook.

AIMEE

What do you mean?

JACKSON

I told her I didn't want to be her boyfriend anymore and all she did was cry. I felt so bad seeing her like that. I did care for her in some way.

Just not in a "I wanted her to be my girlfriend" way. Then I stopped trying to break up with her, and did what I wanted anyway... which meant seeing other people. Eventually, Beth found out on her own. Went ballistic on me at one of my baseball games.

AIMEE

I never really understood how someone could cheat on a person they cared about but that makes sense to some degree...

JACKSON

It was wrong, but it happened. I have to use the rest room. I'll be right back.

Aimee looks distraughtly at Jackson's beer. She grabs her purse and pulls out a pill case from which she plucks two little circular white pills. She quickly scans the bar. No one is in sight. She tosses the two pills into Jackson's beer and swishes it around.

KATIE

Hey, what the hell do you think you're doing?

AIMEE

Not doing anything.

KATIE

I just saw you toss some shit into that. That's not cool.

AIMEE

Mind your business. I am taking control of a situation that I can't handle otherwise.

KATIE

Don't tell me to mind my business.

This is my bar. Are you in some kind of danger?

AIMEE

Yes. I am in danger. I am in danger of getting sucked into this guy's orbit. He is gonna charm me, and then he's gonna take me home, plow away at me for like maybe five minutes, and then we'll go to sleep together and he will hold me at first, right, but then he'll casually roll away from me minutes into "falling asleep". I'll lay there in the dark with tears rolling down my face until I fall asleep. I'll wake up the next morning. I'll get dressed. He'll offer to drive me back to my apartment, but I say "I'll get an Uber, don't worry about me" in hopes that he will insist, but he won't. We'll text once or twice but it'll fizzle out. Eventually, he will stop talking to me and despite knowing all of this, despite being able to tell how this is going to play out I'm going to fall for it anyway. Then I'm gonna lay in bed crying over it. And I'll spend two weeks recovering. I just can't do that. I just can't.

KATIE

You can't drug someone either. That's not fair to this guy. You barely know him. You need to walk away from this right now. If that's how you think this will go, get up and leave. I hope you work your problems out. I do. But you can't do it this way. Pulling someone else down and making them unable to be in control of their actions isn't going to fix the fact

that you can't get something to stick. Now go on, get out of here.

AIMEE

I can't.

KATIE

If you don't leave right now, I'll call the cops and tell them you tried to roofie your date in my bar.

Aimee grabs her coat and purse and darts out the door. Katie picks up her glass and wipes where it was sitting. Jackson comes back from the restroom and notices Aimee is gone. Jackson sits down at his seat. Katie looks at him regretfully.

JACKSON

Aimee using the bathroom?

KATIE

No, she took a call and said she had to be somewhere. Seemed like a nice girl. Not really your type though.

JACKSON

Did you scare her away, Katie?

KATIE

I didn't do a thing to her.

JACKSON

How much longer will you be here tonight?

KATIE

I'll probably close up at midnight. I have my keys though. If you talk to mom and dad, let them know that I still need them

to make that appointment for my
oil change.

JACKSON

I will, love you!

KATIE

Love you, too. See you later.

SCENE IV

A BENCH, OR ANY PRIVATE SPACE. JOHN IS WAITING NONCHALANTLY.

JOHN

Macy! What's going on? I feel like I haven't seen you in weeks.

MACY

I've been swamped. LIFE.

JOHN

LIFE. Yeah. It isn't slowing down anytime soon for us, is it.

A moment passes.

Mace, are you okay? You don't really seem like your normal, bubbly self.

MACY

Man. I haven't been myself. I don't even know who that person is anymore.

JOHN

You good?

MACY

Not exactly.

JOHN

You wanna tell me what's going?

MACY

John, I kissed a girl.

JOHN

And you liked it? Oh god. Don't tell me it tasted like cherry chapstick?

MACY

John. Stop. This isn't funny.

JOHN

Come on. I'm trying to make light of it. So what you kissed a girl? I kissed girls all the time. I kiss guys all the time. It's just a kiss unless it meant something to you...?

MACY

I don't like boys.

JOHN

You're gay?

MACY

I don't like boys. I don't want to kiss boys. I didn't think I liked girls though. I just thought I was stagnant. Then I kissed her and now she is freaked out. I'm freaked out. I messed everything up.

JOHN

Wait, who did you kiss?

MACY

De.

JOHN

You kissed your best friend?!

MACY

We had both just been laughing on the trampoline and we laid down and the trampoline was warm, and the sun was beating down. She looked like the embodiment of light. And so I leaned in and kissed her. She pulled away and had this distorted look on her face. Then she started laughing.

JOHN

And you laughed it off, too?

MACY

I left.

JOHN

Wow. This is some tea. My bff is out of heteroville. I can't believe it!

MACY

I like girls. I guess. I don't know. I'm so damn confused about all of this I can hardly think straight.

JOHN

Sometimes these things sneak up on you. When it all boils down, trust me, it's a heavy weight lifted off your chest.

MACY

I have a million other things going on right now though. I can't handle dealing with this right now. I don't have time for it..my parents are going to freak out.

JOHN

You'd be surprised. They might've already known. Mine did. My mom cried because I finally had the "courage" to tell her, and my dad just hugged me and told me he loved me. You have cool parents. You'll be just fine.

John hugs Macy.

JOHN

So I guess this makes me the first person you've ever come out to? I feel honored.

MACY

I guess so... if you don't count De.

SCENE V

A BAR

THERE IS ALREADY ONE PATRON SITTING AT THE BAR. NO BARTENDER IS IN SIGHT. A SHADY MAN APPROACHES THE BAR, CARRYING A DUFFLE BAG AND SITS DOWN BESIDE THE PATRON. SHE SPEAKS FIRST.

WHITNEY

Did you bring the stuff?

LUKE

I did. And not that we aren't happy to have your business, kid, but this stuff isn't any good for you.

WHITNEY

Please. You are not my father.

LUKE

I know I'm not. We've known each other for a while though, I just don't want to see you go down a dark path.

WHITNEY

This is the first time I've had any this whole year.

LUKE

This whole year started three months ago.

WHITNEY

That's an accomplishment, you know? My supply ran out in the middle of the summer.

LUKE

Like I said, I just care about you.

WHITNEY

That's sweet. How much did you bring?

LUKE

Not enough to have a mid-summer stockpile. We're starting to run low but I can let you know as soon as I get my hands on more.

Whitney reaches down to grab the duffle bag. Luke stops her.

LUKE

You can't just reach down there and pull that shit out around here. You want someone to see you with it? Somebody will jump you for that shit.

WHITNEY

I wasn't going to. I just wanted to look. Make sure I'm getting my money's worth.

LUKE

Alright, check it out real quick. I'll keep watch.

Luke watches the bar. Whitney opens up the duffle bag and pulls out several boxes of Girl Scout cookies.

WHITNEY

This should be enough to last me a little while. But I'll definitely need more.

Whitney puts the cookies back in the bag and zips it up.

LUKE

Alright, I'll let my little sister know. This year's prize is a pair of AirPods, she's been going pretty hard trying to win.

WHITNEY

Quite the upgrade from the bicycle last year.

LUKE

I'd say so.

