

ENTROPIC

Written by

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SHOOTING DRAFT
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CALVIN "CAL" BAKER (twenties) speaks to his therapist off camera:

CAL

So there's the saying "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade" -- right? Which, I totally abide by. Well, not completely -- See there's these-these times when we're handed the wrong things... better yet, there's these times when those lemons aren't all the way ripe -- right because with fruit, you know, you gotta wait until the freshness is there, it's gotta have a good taste -- and so anyway we have these expectations, which don't always follow through and we do what we're good at -- we complain about it. I don't love to complain. But this pandemic really has robbed me of everything except for complaining. Now that's all I do. I mean look at me I'm sitting here -- you know? You with me?

(then)

I've been out of college for a year now. Double major. Political science and Business. Emphasis on global marketing -- just in case you were interested. And I haven't found a job. Unfortunately.

(then)

And then Ali and I ended midway though the semester, which was... I mean I guess you could say it was hard -- and I feel like I did enough to try and make it work, but she probably just... well see that's another story entirely.

(then)

I'm sorry, I feel like I'm talking too much here, am I-am I doing this right?

DR. PASSER (O.S.)

Well, yes that is how this works. I do more of the listening.

2.

1 CONTINUED: 1

CAL

Oh okay, no yeah just making sure.
 (then)
 So yeah, I know. Being a young graduate -- *an adult* an all -- you know the wohooo you're a big boy now type thing -- big deal, depending on who you ask.

DR. PASSER (O.S.) *

And what would you say it is Cal?

Beat. Cal thinks.

TITLE CARD.

2 INT. CAL'S ROOM - DAY 2

CAL answers the phone.

CAL

Hello?

VOICE (V.O.)

Hi is this Calvin Baker?

COLIN

Cal, but yeah this is he. *

VOICE (O.S.)

Yeah, hi this is Michelle from LNP. I'm just calling to inform you that unfortunately due to COVID-19 we will no longer be able to offer you the full time position we originally reached out to you about. Just put it simply, we're having to make some budget cuts right now which are affecting a lot of our new hire positions. *

Kill sound. HOLD ON CAL. *

3 INT. DR. PASSER'S OFFICE - DAY 3

CAL is silent.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

CAL

It was fine. Great opportunity.
Just wasn't meant to be. Wasn't
too broken up about it.

SMASHCUT TO

Cal Rolling a blunt. Smoking a Juul. Taking shots. Lying
on his bed, feeling bad about himself. Eating
unhealthily. Tearing down his room. Staring at pictures
of his ex Ali. Crouched over on the street, crying.

*

*

BACK ON CAL:

CAL

(reluctant to admit)

It was kinda bad. And then what
made it worse was my diagnosis.

4 INT. CAL'S APARTMENT - DAY

4*

CAL is chomping on ice cream as he talks on the phone:

*

CAL

*

What do you mean five-point-nine?
Is that even considered high?
Okay, doc listen -- yeah Dr.
Wilson, sorry -- okay so I've
never *had* any family history,
alright? -- Right but I have NO
FAMILY HISTORY which is why I'm
saying there HAS to be some
mistake in your testing --

(then)

Lifestyle changes? What do you
mean -- I eat fine --

*

*

INSERT CUT: Cal chomping on a cheeseburger and cupcake.

*

CAL

*

I'M NOT EVEN CONSIDERED DIABETIC
YET.

*

CUT TO

Cal throws the phone away. Beat. He continues to eat ice
cream.

5 INT. DR. PASSER'S OFFICE - DAY 5

CAL
(not to worry,)
 I'm still prediabetic. Not
 officially there.

Beat.

CAL
 I started this ten day smoothie
 cleanse. It's ah -- Yeah lotta
 lotta kale and spinach, plus a
 bunch of different fruit combos.
 Really boosting the fiber intake.
 Oh, and the veggies?

Cal does the "mind blown" impression.

6 INT. CAL'S APARTMENT - DAY 6

Cal chews on asparagus. He spits it out.

7 INT. DR. PASSER'S OFFICE - DAY 7*

CAL
 I'll be alright, though. I'm not
 going anywhere anytime soon.
(then)
 And then I'm still unemployed.
 Either fortunately, or
 unfortunately. At this point, you
 know, after almost a year out of
 work... I'm starting to think
 fortunately. It's a sign... it's
 gotta be.

8 EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY 8

CAL is walking a parking lot on the phone.

CAL
 Hey Louie where are you I just
 came by for the interview. You
 WHAT? To who? Oh c'mon I'm out of
 a job here man, you said -- No you
 said -- YOU SAID you were going
 get me something part time here --
 no it was for sure, you said you
 could do it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CAL (CONT'D)

Yeah I know it's COVID but -- oh
god -- you're fucking kidding me --
WHO -- WHAT -- I never said that
YOU said that -- no -- listen
Louie -- LOUIE --

Cal gets off the phone, frustrated. And now, somebody
passes him by, heading into the place that Cal just came
out of -- Cal knows him.

CAL

Oh you gotta be kidding me. James? *

JAMES turns. Sees Cal. *

JAMES *

Oh great. What are you doing here
Calvin?

CAL

Don't fucking call me that, okay.
It's CAL and you know that. What
are you doing here, you don't even
work here!

JAMES *

Ah... yeah. I do.

CAL

Since.... when?

JAMES *

Since before COVID.

Cal is tired hearing about that, but he lets it go.

CAL

I need a job here. Could you talk
to your manager?

JAMES *

You were just screaming at him on
the phone --

CAL

No not Louie, the other guy --
Travis.

JAMES *

Yeah no I'm good. Thanks. *

Cal gets close to James, arms on his shoulders

(CONTINUED)

CAL
 (you don't
 understand,)
 Hey look man --

JAMES *
 Okay, wear your mask man,
 seriously. *

CAL
 I don't have one.

JAMES *
 How do you not have a mask?

CAL
 ...because I don't.

Cal improvises. He covers his hand over his mouth.

CAL
 Okay. Here. How about this. This
 good? Okay -- look I graduated
 last year, my parents are cutting
 me off next week -- I need
 something here. Okay? Please..?
 (then)
 I'm also prediabetic.

JAMES *
 Dude. You graduated with a degree.
 Go look for a better job.

James lets off of Cal. *

CAL
 I can't because of COVID --

JAMES *
 Well then keep trying. Sorry about
 your diabetes by the way. That
 sucks man.

James walks away. Cal screams back: *

CAL
 PRE-DIABETIC!

CAL gets in his car. Beat. He BANGS on the wheel. ANGRY.
 Then leans back. And now he sees something...

9 CONTINUED:

9

Under the passenger's seat, he finds a DIY bracelet.
Picks it up. The bead letters on it read ALI.

10 INT. DR. PASSER'S OFFICE - DAY

10

CAL

You know the small doses of
nostalgia every now and then we
get..? Just like those little --
little reminders, like the "oh
yeah I forgot about this" or the
"Ah god, why'd ya have to remind
me? Know what I'm talking about?

(then)

I like to think that Ali and I are
still close. Despite that things
ended pretty abruptly, and maybe
with some hostility, but it wasn't
like... so I was obviously super
bored during the quarantine and
all -- just thought it would be
nice to... you know. So I sent her
a text, just like a "hey, how's it
going, are you safe" kind of
thing...

(then)

She left me on read. Both times.
Which, I'll admit. That should
have been my indication.

11 EXT. PARKING LOT - GROCERY STORE - DAY

11*

CAL barges out of the grocery store in a hurry. Carrying
a box of cookies. He's on the phone.

CAL

Megan -- Listen listen listen --
Megan -- I need to see her -- no I
can't I already tried she doesn't
answer my texts. She blocked me on
snap.

He trips and falls. Picks himself up. Desperate.
Overwhelmed --

CAL

No no no!! DON'T HANG UP ---
MEGAN -- DO NOT HANG UP.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

CAL (CONT'D)

I know you know where she moved to
 just give me her address please --
 No I KNOW YOU KNOW IT. Just tell
 me -- just tell me -- Megan --

*
*
*
*

SMASH CUT TO

*

CAL

JESUS MEGAN JUST GIVE ME HER
FUCKING ADDRESS!!!

*
*
*

12 EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - PARKING LOT - DAY

12

ALI comes out of her car carrying grocery bags and see
 CAL approaching her.

CAL

How's it going? Need help?

*

ALI

Oh you gotta be fucking kidding
 me.

*

CAL

Listen -- just hear me out.
 Yeah I know it's crazy
 right, I found you.

ALI

What -- how did you even
 find where I live? God!

*

Ali's headed towards her apartment. Cal follows her,
 relentlessly.

CAL

Ali -- wait -- hey, look I got you
 cookies.

*
*
*

ALI

Are those peanut butter?

*
*

CAL

See I knew you'd like 'em.

*
*

ALI

I'm allergic.

*
*

CAL

No kidding? Since when?

*
*

ALI

Cal why are you here?

*

CAL

What do you mean -- I missed you.

(CONTINUED)

ALI

Really?

CAL

What? I did?

ALI

What do you need Cal?

CAL

Okay, I need a job. I was thinking if you could hit up your boss Maddie, or if she's still your boss, I don't know and just be like "hey, if we have anything available --

*

ALI

I am not working with you.

CAL

Okay -- seriously -- look, I've been out of school for seven months now. I'm-I'm twenty two. I don't get loans anymore. And then with all this COVID stuff...

*

(then)

I need something. Alright -- the last -- this whole year I've just been alone -- no friends, nobody wants to hang out -- I'm on my phone way too much -- plus I'm either too old because I'm graduated, or I'm either not fun enough. I don't know.

(beat)

This sucks...

MATCH CUT TO

CAL

This sucks so much... When I graduated I thought I was doing something monumental, something everyone would look at and be like "Oh look at him, he's got it" -- I thought... I thought it was gonna get me places...

*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CAL (CONT'D)

and now I'm just sitting here
going you know "is that it?" Like
is this all there is? I put in all
that hard work and -- Did I --

*

DR. PASSER (O.S.)

Fail?

*

*

CAL

Well no not even fail, just
...did I rush it?

*

*

*

He trails off, angry at the world -- at himself -- and
he's a bit embarrassed about it too.

CAL

(I'll admit)

I love control... I love having
it... I love knowing the future...
but right now... it doesn't even
matter because I don't have it...
not that it matters that I need
it... I mean who ever really needs
anything. Except maybe water...
and laundry detergent.

*

*

*

*

*

*

(beat)

No one has it. There you go, yeah
that sounds right.... No one has
control.

CUT TO CAL is now emotional, tearing up.

CAL

I fucked up... I fucked up SO
bad...

*

CAL and ALI are sitting on the bench. Ali is Masked.

*

CAL

ALI

Can you please take that
off. I mean, this is just --
c'mon.

*

CAL

No? Okay.

A long beat. Ali finally takes her mask off.

*

CAL

I got diagnosed as prediabetic.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

ALI

Why because of the way you eat?

*

*

CAL

Okay I don't eat that bad...

*

*

Ali gives him a look. Cal looks away. Beat.

*

CAL

Look how about we just get back together?

*

ALI

Cal...

CAL

I know. I'm a mess. I know. But I can -- I can be better. I promise -- I'll -- I can start seeing a therapist, like the one you were seeing -- Celia... Passer? Right, I forget her name.

ALI

You're going to start seeing *my* therapist?

Beat. Cal is at a loss here.

CAL

I can do better. I just need some time to pick myself up, I know. But I can be there for you, alright -- you'll be in school --

ALI

I dropped out for the semester. COVID.

*

Cal can't say anything more.

CAL

Okay so that would give us even more time --

ALI

Cal. I can't.

CAL

Why not?

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

ALI

Because you're you, and always
have to have everything your way --
and I....

CAL

What do you -- what do you
mean I'm me -- of course
I'm me -- I'm always going
to be me -- I'm telling you
this COVID crap has just
ruined everything for us --

ALI

Cal -- Cal -- I'm talking --
Cal --

*

ALI

Cal. It's not COVID. It's you.

Ali gets up and walks away. Cal stays put. HOLD. Music
fades in...

*

*

FADE TO

*

15 EXT. MASS STREET - NIGHT

15*

A SMALL MONTAGE. "Get You" by Daniel Caesar plays. CAL
AND ALI WALKING MASS STREET AT NIGHT. Talking. Holding
hands. Enjoying each other's company. They start dancing
through the streets. It's romantic and sweet, reminiscent
of a time that was much simpler.

*

*

*

*

*

CUT BACK TO:

*

CAL. He shakes the memory away and leaves the bench.

*

16 INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY

16*

ALI peeps through the door. She watches CAL leave. She
then shuts it. Leans back against the door.

*

*

17 INT. DR. PASSER'S OFFICE - DAY

17*

ALI is now talking to Dr. Passer --

ALI

I'm just still trying to figure my
whole life out here.

(chuckles,)

Between this whole pandemic and
trying to have a normal life,
while still actively trying not to
get sick and die...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

ALI (CONT'D)

I just wouldn't have been able to -
- I guess reignite, for lack of a
better word -- yeah reignite
things with him again.

DR. PASSER (O.S.)

And why's that?

ALI

Because... it wouldn't have been
the same...? I don't know -- this
whole year has felt like five
years rolled into one... and I
don't... I don't think I'm the
same person anymore, honestly. I
mean I don't think anyone is.

(then)

Except maybe Cal.

(then)

You can tell him I said that, by
the way.

Beat.

ALI

You probably can't...

DR. PASSER (V.O.)

Right, you know I can't.

ALI

Right. Sorry.

18 INT. CAL'S APARTMENT - DAY

18

CAL comes in. CUT TO

He opens his fridge. Sees a chocolate pie. Grabs it. CUT
TO

Cal sits at his dining table and starts eating.

He keeps eating... and eating more... and more... He
keeps going. Not being able to stop. *

He starts to tear up... CUT TO *

Cal keeps on shoving globs of pie into his mouth. More
intensely, almost as if he's forcing himself. It's
sickening, but also sad on some level. *

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 14. 18
Cal finally puts the fork down and cries... not for anyone but himself.

19 INT. DR. PASSER'S OFFICE - DAY 19
CAL shrugs, perhaps reflecting on that very moment: *

DR. PASSER (O.S.) *

Same time next week..? *

CAL

Yeah... *

20 EXT. BLOOMINGTON BEACH - EVENING 20
It's twilight. CAL stares out to the water, quiet and pensive. HOLD. *

CUT TO BLACK

THE END