

THE WAY BACK

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FADE IN:

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

VICTORIA (early 20s) wears black and sits on a the front row of a pew with her shoulders slanted in a depressed position. She looks at her hands as the PASTOR's (mid 40s) words are heard as MUMBLES.

Her MOTHER (mid 40s) wears black, stands and Victoria joins her.

INT. VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Victoria packs and looks around her room.

VICTORIA V.O.

No one can prepare you for the moment everything changes. Its like a flash over your eyes where you can become blind. The world moves on but you can't.

(Beat)

You won't.

MOTHER O.S.

Honey, shouldn't you be heading out? Its already dark out.

VICTORIA

I'm coming mom.

She throws stuff into her bag and exits the room.

INT. DORM ROOM - NEXT DAY (DAWN)

Victoria lays on her bed, curled in a ball shape with used tissues around her and a tissue box next to her. She holds a teddy bear. Beats pass till a cellphone alarm blares as she forces herself to get up.

EXT. UNIVERSITY DORM - DAY 3

Victoria wears mismatched workout clothes and runs.

INT. UNIVERSITY CAFETERIA - DAY 4

Students push past Victoria as she swipes her card to enter the forming line. Students LAUGHTER fills the air.

She looks down at her phone to see the unanswered messages. She looks around but cannot find what she seeks. Her phone rings.

INT. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - DAY 5

Victoria carries a petite bag of belongings as though they weigh a ton and walks up to the information desk where the Librarian sits. The Librarian an older aunt like person to Victoria smiles and stands.

LIBRARIAN

How are you doing?

She comes around the desk and hugs Victoria.

VICTORIA

It doesn't feel the same, being back after everything... I just wish he was here. I just want a text. You know?

(Beat)

Anything.

LIBRARIAN

I know. What would he say?

VICTORIA

I don't even know anymore. It hasn't been that long and I already hesitate to remember the sound of his voice.

LIBRARIAN

Victoria, what would you say to him if you got the chance?

Victoria cries.

LIBRARIAN (CONT'D)

Come with me sweetie.

The Librarian takes Victoria to the back.

INT. EMPLOYEE AREA - DAY

Victoria dries her eyes as the Librarian grabs a book off a dusty shelf.

VICTORIA

What's that?

The Librarian wipes the dust off and hands the book to Victoria.

LIBRARIAN

Read this.

VICTORIA

I'm not really in the mood for reading right now. Besides, classes just started and...

LIBRARIAN

Trust me. You want to read this one.

Victoria hesitantly takes the book.

LIBRARIAN (CONT'D)

Bring it back when you are done. This one can't leave the library.

INT. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - DAY

Victoria walks to a desk in the back corner of the library. No students are in the area. She sits and looks at the book. She opens and reads it. Time passes and she falls asleep.

INT. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - DAY (1980S)

Victoria wakes up in the same position and place but more students are seen wearing 80's apparel. She looks down at her watch, sees that time has passed. A young man, PAYTON a relaxed college student sits at the desk next to Victoria.

PAYTON

Come on. You stupid little...

His pen obviously out of ink. Victoria looks to see his growing frustration.

VICTORIA (V.O.)

Is this a dream?

(Beat)

It can't be him...

She stares at him a moment nearly falling out of her chair till he looks up at her.

VICTORIA (V.O.)

(laughing)

No way... Weird...