

GONE TOMORROW

Written by

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I/E. NOAH'S CAR / FREEWAY - NIGHT

NOAH (20), a young man with hardened hair slicked to the side, seemingly by a cow's lick. He is driving his MOM (45), a mother of 3 that has pitch black hair and tattoos from the '90s scattered throughout her body.

NOAH and MOM are on the freeway to NOAH's aunt's house. Music is BLARING at the moment as they sing 'DRE DAY' in unison, but slowly starts to get quieter.

MOM

Has Mike texted you or called you?
He wouldn't answer my calls or
texts. I heard he got a job at
Disneyland.

An uneasy beat passes.

NOAH

Nah, I haven't talked to him since
last Christmas. I haven't even seen
him in a long time now.

MOM

Yeah he hasn't come over to the
house in a long time, but hopefully
your brother doesn't work today and
can be at the party.

NOAH

(under his breath)
I wouldn't count on it.

MOM twists the volume knob 'till it clicks and starts to speak louder.

MOM

Did you hear that your dad has
cancer and is doing treatment?

NOAH looks unreadable and dazes out the front window while he drives.

NOAH

What?... Is he still in Mexico?

MOM

Yeah. He has colon cancer. Your
dad's sister told me that Mike has
been talking to him for a while
now. He's tried to message you too,
right?

NOAH

Yeah he tried in the past, but I just didn't want to.

MOM

I know you never wanted to. Remember, on Father's Day I would say you have a dad and mom all rolled up into one. What more could you want?

NOAH and MOM find relief to the tension and go on to the party.

EXT. AUNT'S HOUSE- SIDEWALK - NIGHT

NOAH and MOM stride up to the house and enter the party through the back.

MOM spearheads for the liquor table and NOAH strolls inside the house.

INT. AUNT'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

NOAH marched around the house as if looking for something.

INT. AUNT'S HOUSE- HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS

NOAH stops at the mark he sought.

INT. MIKE'S ROOM - NIGHT

MIKE (26), a man with a thin beard and usually wearing work clothes. He is wearing a McDonald's crew outfit that smells like fries and is unkept.

INT. MIKE'S ROOM- NIGHT

NOAH stands behind MIKE as he is talking to him. His eyes wander from sports memorabilia to comic books to a lizard.

NOAH

You have a job at Disneyland now?
Did something happen again? Or you quit?

MIKE finishes dressing himself to step out to the party.

MIKE
(not looking up)
Yup. Finally.

NOAH hesitantly looks at MIKE.

NOAH
Are you tired? I'm hella tired. Im
tryna get outta here, but I'm mom's
ride.

Only the AC fan noise fills the air for a brief pause.

NOAH (CONT'D)
(barely audible)
You don't seem to be as tired as me
though so maybe you can...

NOAH'S MOM BURSTS into the room bringing her jovial laughs
and music blaring in the distance.

MIKE SHOOTS up off the bed and all in one SWOOP leaves the
room.

MOM
(slurring words)
When did he get here? He never even
came to say 'Hi'!

NOAH attempts to gather his MOM and lead her out of MIKE'S
room and back to the party

INT. AUNT'S HOUSE- HALLWAY- NIGHT

NOAH helps MANEUVER and PIVOT his MOM towards the screen door
that leads her back to the party

EXT. AUNT'S HOUSE- BACKYARD- NIGHT

GLOWING string-lights line the perimeter, lighting the
backyard and streaming across overhead. A sparse crowd of
partygoers fill the backyard.

Liquor bottles-- empty and half-full-- fill one table that is
in the corner of the backyard. MIKE is SLAMMING down shots at
the liquor table, leaving them lined up.

NOAH gets his MOM back to the party and shuffles toward the
liquor table. MIKE'S eyes DART at NOAH. NOAH can FEEL the
intensity just from his peripheral view.

NOAH

(to self)

Damn there ain't shit but alcohol. Not even a damn diet Pepsi or something. I guess I'll just get a water.... Damn, he's STILL looking at me

(to MIKE)

There ain't shit too drink, huh?

MIKE sways back and forth with a look of DISCONTENT. His eyes are low. His eye contact is constant, but fading.

MIKE

LOOK, I'm not trying to make you feel bad, or sad, or make you do something you don't wanna do. I'm just trying to make sure you don't do anything you'll regret later. I know you have your own feelings already, and don't really know him like that, but still I just want to know what you think about it?

NOAH QUICKLY finished his water bottle and he reaches for another.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I started to talk to him on Facebook like 6 years ago, but he just asked me for money, so I stopped replying. But after awhile he messaged me again and we kept in contact after that time. Finally he didn't just ask for money so I was able to see how he's been and everything. The internet isn't the best over there, but he still messages when he can.

NOAH

I don't know him. I don't have one memory of him. He's just like a stranger to me. A stranger I feel bad for, but still just a stranger at the end. I know him through Nana's home videos and the stories I've heard from everyone. He tried to message me through Facebook too, but I only saw a stranger messaging me.

MIKE

For one last wish, all he wants is to speak to you one time. He understands you might not want to.

NOAH is speechless. He stands there having 3 empty water bottles to his side now.

NOAH

Even as a stranger, maybe it's you, but I feel that I have a weird connection with him still. Whether it's as simple as me having his nose, or I'm just tryna show plain kindness at the end of the day. I see that I must find out for myself, whether he's what I've been told he is all my life, or he's like any other person that doesn't want to leave this place with regrets. I also don't want to leave this with regrets. I'll talk to him.

MIKE

I know he will be happy to finally speak to both of his sons. I know its hard, I don't want any regrets either, don't worry.

NOAH

This'll be hella weird. I've never lived a day in my life where I've talked about my dad or even said I have a 'dad'. Throughout elementary I would tell people he was dead just because that was easier for me to say than the truth.

MIKE

I know, I know.
(hands NOAH his phone)
He's been waiting to see if you can talk, and I got him on the phone...
NOW.

A long, awkward beat passes.

DAD (O.S.)

Hello? Noah? Are you there?

NOAH

Hey. Yeah, I'm here.