

Death Stare

INT. CAR - DAY

ALI (21) is in the driver's seat and MEGGY (21) is in the passenger seat. The car is parked and still running.

They are both dressed in black and sit motionless facing an overwhelmingly busy parking lot. On Meggy's lap is a cardboard box that holds a large mason jar filled with sunflowers.

ALI
Should we go in?

Ali looks at Meggy.

MEGGY
Can we wait a little longer? I feel like I'm going to puke.

Meggy looks at Ali.

ALI
Yeah, that's fine.

They both regain focus on the parking lot.

ALI
Did you bring some Kleenex? I brought some just in case.

MEGGY
No, I don't have any. But they usually have some in there right?

ALI
Yeah, but it'll be the *really* thin cheap stuff. It feels like parchment paper and makes your nose all red and dry.

Ali rubs her nose.

MEGGY
I should be fine.

ALI
Don't leave me while we're in there, okay?

MEGGY
Don't leave *me*.

They look at each other.

ALI

I don't want to cry in front of Corey. He's the one that lost his sister. We can't be the ones crying.

MEGGY

Do you think she hugged Corey before she did it?

ALI

I don't know. If she hugged him, he would have asked her where she was going.

MEGGY

Why do we assume that a hug is goodbye?

ALI

Because it usually is.

Ali picks at the dirt underneath her fingernails.

MEGGY

I'm going to tell Corey's parents that Katherine was a beautiful girl.

ALI

She had a good smile. Definitely one of the prettiest girls in her grade.

MEGGY

Should I say Katherine *is* a beautiful girl?

ALI

I think you should say *was*.

MEGGY

But *was* is so harsh. So blunt, so not *here*. Like she never existed.

ALI

I guess she still *is* here, just not in the way that everybody else wants her to be.

MEGGY

Exactly. She messaged me on Facebook two months ago. She said

MEGGY
something like: I'm jealous of all
of your adventures out in B.C, I
really want to travel out there
soon.

ALI
Yeah, your adventurous Instagram
pictures definitely make people
jealous.

Meggy shifts uncomfortably.

MEGGY
All I said back to her was: you
should come out to B.C! Imagine if
I made more of an effort? If I was
able to take her camping or hiking
and it changed her perspective on
the world? She may not have killed
herself.

Ali turns off the car.

ALI
This wasn't something anyone could
have fixed - you know that.

MEGGY
What if it's open casket?

ALI
I doubt it will be. Why would her
parents want that?

MEGGY
Oh my god. But what if it is?

She shifts her hands around the box of Sunflowers to reveal
sweaty hand prints.

Ali wipes the sweat off her own forehead.

ALI
Let's just go inside.

MEGGY
Okay, let's go.

Meggy and Ali get out of the car. Meggy takes the sunflowers
out of the cardboard box and throws the box in the front
seat.

Meggy and Ali walk toward the funeral home entrance.

Meggy stops walking.

MEGGY

Should I bring the flowers in the box?

ALI

I don't think it matters. You'll get rid of the box inside.

MEGGY

Yeah, but should I bring the box?

ALI

Meg, it's just a box. We should go inside now.

Ali grabs Meggy's arm and gently ushers her forward.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - NIGHTTIME

The main corridor is at capacity - stuffed with funeral staff and guests. Ali and Meggy stand at the front entrance, searching for a lifeline.

Ali tries to wave down a funeral staff member that is evidently busy executing tasks on their own.

Meggy nods at a group of teenagers, but looks away before locking eye contact.

They give the sunflowers to a tall, male staff member who smiles with his mouth closed.

Ali and Meggy shuffle toward a room with an excessive amount of flowers, an overcrowding of people and the sounds of sniffles. They are amongst a line of people waiting to say their condolences to the family.

At the entrance of the room there is a portrait of a young girl smiling in a graduation gown. Past the portrait, in the center of the room is an open casket with the same girl in the photo laying there. There are intravenous tube imprints under her nose and she is dressed in a turtleneck. Besides her lifeless face, her wrinkle-free porcelain skin beautifully glows.

Above the casket is a projector screen that has a looped slideshow of pictures of the young girl. Everyone in the room is either crying or trying not to.

Meggy and Ali look at each other, panicked.

MEGGY

Oh my god.

Meggy starts sobbing and causes people to stare.

ALI

Here.

Ali hands Meggy a Kleenex out of her purse.

Meggy takes the Kleenex, but refuses to use it.

ALI

Use it, Megs. It's okay to cry.

She tips her head up toward the ceiling to stop a tear about to roll down her cheek.

MEGGY

I don't think I can do this.

ALI

What?

MEGGY

We need to leave.

Meggy jumps out of the line and goes back to the main door.

Ali follows immediately after Meggy.

MEGGY

She was just like us. She *is* just like us.

ALI

Depressed?

MEGGY

We can't say we know exactly what she went through. I mean, that would be wrong. Wouldn't it?

ALI

If it's wrong, then why did we just run out of there?

Ali and Meggy look at the casket.

ALI

Katherine would understand why we left. She left too.

They leave the funeral home. Ali places her hand on Meggy's shoulder as they walk toward their car.