

Start

INT. UNIVERSITY BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

1/7

ALLI

Hi.

ETHAN

Hey.

Ethan offers his glass as Alli approaches.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Want one?

ALLI

I'm fine.

Alli stares at Ethan for a long moment.

ALLI (CONT'D)

How're you doing, Ethan?

ETHAN

Great.

ALLI

I saw you with Malcolm. How'd that go?

ETHAN

I figured he told you.

ALLI

Just about tomorrow. You ready?

ETHAN

Would it be better if I wasn't?

He looks up with wet, accusing eyes. She brushes it off.

ALLI

Why don't I take you home.

ETHAN

Trying to get me in bed, Dr. Fisher?

ALLI

If memory serves, you're no use in your current state.

Ethan smirks and contemplates his glass.

ETHAN

Ever wonder if there's a better
you? Drinking Pappy's with a
sharper crowd.

2/7

Alli shakes her head, and Ethan takes another drink.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I'm close, Alli.

He shows the distance between thumb and finger.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

The tip of my tongue.

He pockets the notated napkin and taps the rim of his empty
glass.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Jatin.

JATIN

Sorry sir. Bar's closing.

Ethan has difficulty processing. Alli looks to the exit.

Stop

Start

INT. ETHAN'S HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

3/7

Alli consolidates her bin with the kitchen's.

Ethan retrieves two glasses from the pantry and sets them on the kitchen table with the bottle.

ETHAN

Want one?

She indicates "no" but joins him at the table. He smiles sadly, and she does her best to smile in return.

ALLI

So fill me in on your work.

Ethan hesitates.

ETHAN

I thought you weren't a fan.

ALLI

I'm a fan of its ambition. But you don't always think of the consequences.

Ethan ponders this. She leans towards him.

ALLI (CONT'D)

Come on. I was an early programmer, remember? Let me help you prepare.

ETHAN

I work better when I'm not walking you through things.

Alli pulls back, and Ethan detects the words' sting despite his fog.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

It's just... I'd rather...

ALLI

It's fine.

Alli shuttles a few dishes to the sink. Ethan pours a drink for each of them. This isn't going how he'd hoped.

ETHAN

Look. Let's relax and catch up for a second.

She notices the black notebook on the counter nearby. She picks it up and flips through. Ethan clocks her curiosity and goes over.

He closes the notebook and leans into her. They're very close. He sways in place, and they study each other.

He moves to kiss her. After a moment, she pulls away.

4/7

ALLI

I'm gonna go.

She takes a set of keys off her chain and places them in a cutlery drawer.

ALLI (CONT'D)

The lab key's here too.

She moves to the foyer, gathers her purse, and exits the front, leaving Ethan alone in his kitchen.

Stop

Start

INT. ETHAN'S HOME - FOYER - NIGHT (3:05 AM)

5/7

A Woodford bottle is retrieved from the coffee table.

Ethan reclines in his couch bed, blanket tucked to the nipples. Alli opens the door to a hearty entrance.

ETHAN

Hello there!

Five minutes in, and he pours his third.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Is Malcolm home?

ALLI

He is.

ETHAN

Brain fried?

ALLI

He was lucid before I left. We should be okay.

(beat)

What're you doing?

Ethan sips from his glass.

ETHAN

Relaxing.

ALLI

Should you be in the lab?

ETHAN

I'm gonna sit this one out.

She strides past him into the kitchen.

ALLI (O.S.)

Sounds risky...

He listens to her rustling in the other room.

ETHAN

What're you doing?

ALLI (O.S.)

Getting more coolant.

ETHAN

Where will you put it? The tanks exploded, remember?

ALLI (O.S.)
I guess we'll have to figure it
out.

6/7

She reenters with the university lab key. She gathers her
things and heads to the door.

ETHAN
Sounds wonderful. If I could trust
who's on my side.

She stops and turns toward him.

ALLI
Ethan, we didn't know what Section
8 was gonna do to Malcolm. It was
better for Intellect to handle.

ETHAN
Well gee. I guess it's easier when
I'm in the dark.

They glare at each other.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Why're you even here, Alli?

ALLI
Well, you botched your science
project, and I'm--

ETHAN
No, no. I mean, why'd you leave
Stanford?

She stares down the insinuation.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
You could've made a name for
yourself. Why'd you come back?

ALLI
You're wasting time--

ETHAN
They must've promised something.
They promise my work?

Alli's gaze waivers.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
They did, didn't they? Figured I'd
fuck up, and it'd fall to you.

He shakes his head and pours another.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

After they begged me to finish
it...

ALLI

Ethan...

ETHAN

I hate him! I fucking hate him!

ALLI

Ethan, your father tried to give
you credit. Malcolm left you off.
And yeah. They brought me back.
They're not gonna trust this
project to an angry child.

It's a heavy revelation. Ethan takes another swig, his eyes
glassy and distant.

ALLI (CONT'D)

Now, I'm gonna go figure out the
coolant.

She exits, leaving Ethan alone in the dark, staring at the
floorboards.

Stop

7/7

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