

THE IN BETWEEN

Written by

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1

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

1

The sun shines in on white sheets. A couple is waking up. JUNE, 20s, see-through, hollow, outlined in white like a rough pencil sketch, wakes up in shock, unaware of how she ended up there.

June sits up and stretches, disoriented but still just waking up, until she glances over to see a girl sleeping next to her and jumps. The jolt doesn't wake her up. She leans over to see it's her ex, Charlie. She is unsure how she got there or what to do next. Frozen, she sees herself in the mirror, with a heart wrench, she whispers to herself.

JUNE

Holy shit it worked.

2

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

2

June cautiously walks down the hallway into the living room, not sure how she ended up there.

She tries to leave out of the front door, but she can't touch the handle.

When she hears Charlie leave the bedroom, she whips around, wide eyed, about to explain why she is in her living room when - Charlie walks right through her.

Walking through appears to hurt June, like getting hit by a wave. She clutches her chest and then recovers, walking over to Charlie to try and make herself seen.

3

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

3

As Charlie makes coffee in the kitchen.

JUNE

Charlie?

June waves her hands in the air, slaps Charlie in the face, punches her, but it's no use. She's invisible and hollow. She screams, but no one can hear her.

JUNE

CHARLIE? Hellooo? Fucking look at me! Hello? You're fuckin' joking.
CHARLIE!

4

INT. APARTMENT MONTAGE - DAY

4

June begrudgingly watches Charlie eat, work, sleep, repeat. We feel June's boredom and attraction grow side by side throughout:

Charlie eats with June at the other end of the table

Watch the same shows.

Sleep in the same bed facing away from each other.

Charlie makes coffee, June sits on the counter.

Charlie paints, June watches.

Charlie sleeps, June watches.

Charlie smokes on the balcony, June tries to suck up the smoke.

Charlie is getting into party clothes, June watches from the bed like a jealous girlfriend. Her anger is beginning to melt into attraction as she watches her dress.

When Charlie leaves the apartment, June is laying on the floor next to it. She has no choice but to wait around like a co-dependent puppy for her to get home all day. She's trapped and getting frustrated.

5

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

5

Charlie gets home drunk and passes out on the couch, June walks in and examines her. Charlie is deep in a drunk sleep. June admires her skin, her sweat, her intoxication.

June sees a stamp on her wrist, glitter on her face and hair, her dark makeup smudged, her sweaty collarbone moving up and down from breath. She looks like she's been kissing.

June's eyes are filled with longing, envy, confusion, anger. June reaches out to touch her, grazing her cheek lightly, Charlie reacts with a scratch. June pulls back, she can't believe it, Charlie felt her, even slightly. She goes to touch her again. Charlie wakes abruptly, making June jump back.

Charlie is drunk and half asleep, she stumbles to a lamp and turns out the light. Scanning the pitch black living room paranoid, she spots a dark cloud where June is and throws the light back on. When she turns on lights to check, June disappears. Again she turns out the light, the blob remains, she quickly turns them on again in fear.

She turns the light off again and breaks into a sprint, as if getting to the bedroom faster means the monster won't get her.

6 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

6

Charlie slams the door behind her, breathing heavy, she turns around to make sure nothing is there. She cracks open the door just enough to see the ghost walking down the hall.

In shock, she slowly backs away, letting the door open with her. Her knees give out in fear, she is backing away on the floor. Speechless, until the ghost speaks.

JUNE

Hey-

CHARLIE (SCREAMING)

WHAT THE FUCK?!

JUNE

Charlie? Can you see me? It's me.

CHARLIE

STOP STOP GO AWAY PLEASE!

Charlie is inconsolable with fear.

JUNE

Charlie. It's me. It's June.

Breathe. Shhh.

CHARLIE

What do you mean? June? You're not June. Who are the fuck are you?

JUNE

Charlie calm down first.

CHARLIE

What the fuck are you?

JUNE

Charlie...it's me.

CHARLIE

Why would June be here?

June hesitantly gets closer. Charlie backs away, but then hesitates to reach out. She starts feeling for her face. She can't touch her, her hand moves through her. Long pause as Charlie stares at June's hollow face.

CHARLIE
June?

7 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

7

Charlie and June sit across from each other at the dining room table. They sit in silence, unsure where to start. Charlie breaks the silence.

JUNE
So how ya been?

CHARLIE
I guess you would know that, huh?
(beat)

How long have you been
here...watching me? How are you
here? What are you?

We hear the tea kettle beginning to whistle.

JUNE
I don't know. I just woke up here.

CHARLIE
That doesn't feel true.

JUNE
I don't know, ok? I don't know why
I'm here, or can't leave, I'm just
being...punished.

CHARLIE
Yeah then why am I being punished?
Why can I hear you? I don't even
want to- I just wanna be alone.

JUNE
Yeah I can see that, and how is
that workin' out for ya?

They stare at each other angrily. The tea kettle is screaming. Charlie gets up to let it off and pours it.

CHARLIE
(from kitchen)
I am glad to see you, June.
Even...like this. Whatever this is.

JUNE
Why?

CHARLIE

(making tea)

Because I...missed you...and seeing
you like this just makes me...miss
you more.

JUNE

You didn't want me when I was here
and now you're-

CHARLIE (SCOFFS)

That's so unfair, how can you even
say that? After all I- You know
what? You're the most selfish
fucking person I've-

JUNE

I'm what?

CHARLIE

(standing)

Yeah June, the way you left was
selfish. You had it pretty good.
You had people that loved you, that
gave years of their life to you. I
gave everything to try to make you
happy, and for fuck all apparently.
And what about Annie? What about
your mom, June? Oh my god. I really
hope you found...whatever you were
looking for.

JUNE

I'm sure it must seem pretty
selfish to you, who never had to go
through fucking anything, but you
have no clue what I was going
through. You thought you knew, you
thought it was shitty having to
date me? Imagine being me? All the
fucking time. No out. We were not
fighting the same fight, Charlie,
so please don't act like I quit.

CHARLIE

Wasn't I? After all the years we
spent together? I think I know
enough. It's why we broke up, it's
why you're-

JUNE

Don't blame it all on me. I didn't
ask for this.

CHARLIE

Didn't you?

JUNE

What does that mean?

CHARLIE

I think you know. Look at where you are right now.

JUNE

You aren't listening.

CHARLIE

I'm so bored of listening.

JUNE

I'm bored of you.

CHARLIE

Then PLEASE, BY ALL MEANS, GET THE FUCK OUT!

JUNE

I CAN'T!

CHARLIE

WHY, JUNE? WHY HERE? WHY ME? WHY ARE YOU DEAD?

Quick flashing shots of them fighting; Crying on the bathroom floor. Charlie banging on the door.

JUNE

(screaming)

JUST...FUCKING STOP IT, OK?! I DIDN'T FUCKING MEAN TO-

June gets choked on her response and runs to the balcony like she's going to throw up. Crying, she presses against the railing with her head out and feels the fresh air blow through her. She breathes in and out, trying to calm down.

We see flashbacks again. We see the hurt in both of their eyes as they scream and cry at each other. June throws a glass and it smashes against a wall, making Charlie duck in fear. She runs to the bathroom and slams the door. Charlie runs after her, banging on the door to open up. They both fall asleep on other sides of the door, waiting for each other.

8

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

8

The sun shines in. June is awake watching Charlie sleep. Her skin is so soft, alive, tangible. Her breath blowing in and out, her chest rising and falling. She is now everything June is not, alive. June has a fleeting moment of melancholic envy, or maybe attraction, but she quickly compartmentalizes it and gets out of bed.

9

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

9

June walks into the kitchen to see Charlie making breakfast. It's a familiar sight, it feels warm, you can tell it smells like bacon and coffee.

JUNE

Morning.

CHARLIE

Oh my god, deja vu. How did you sleep?

JUNE

Like... dead.

CHARLIE

Oh a June joke, did that take you all night?

They laugh a little.

JUNE

Just like old times, huh?

CHARLIE

Yeah... minus your organs.

Charlie pokes June's stomach and her finger goes through her. This feels weird to both of them, they look at each other in a way that says "What the fuck was that. This is not normal, but oh well". Charlie breaks the awkward moment.

CHARLIE(CONT'D)

So um...still like your eggs the same?

JUNE (DISTRACTED)

I can't um...eat.

CHARLIE

...Right...

10

INT. APARTMENT MONTAGE 2 - DAY

10

- The two sit on opposite sides of the dining room. Charlie eats, June watches.
- The two sit, as Charlie reads, June looks over her shoulder reading. Charlie goes to turn the page, but June stops her as she hasn't finished reading.
- They play scrabble across the table from each other.
- They lounge like couch potatoes watching TV
- Charlie tries to paint, but ends up frozen staring at the canvas. June lays around like a bored cat. Charlie watches her and starts to paint.

INTER-CUT:

- They smoke weed on balcony, Charlie blows smoke into June's mouth.

CHARLIE

Do you remember the night we met?

JUNE

Why?

CHARLIE

I love that memory, we were so good then.

JUNE

Yeah cause we didn't actually know each other. That's the hard part.

CHARLIE

The more I knew you the more I loved you, June.

(Beat)

June is taken aback.

CHARLIE

That was the hard part.

- There is a inter cut flashback to the night Charlie and June met. The same apartment, but it's a party. They see each other from across the room. They end the night dancing in each others arms.
- They drunkenly try to dance with each other, although they can't touch, their hands moving through each other. They hold themselves in the air, slowly swaying.

- Charlie rolls over in bed and puts her arm over June, letting it fall through her. June sees it and smiles.

11

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

11

They are in the kitchen laughing when the doorbell rings. They both look confused and a little scared. Charlie gets up to answer it. When she opens it, a teenage girl, a little younger than June is standing in the doorway. She looks tired, like she hasn't slept in months.

ANNIE

Hey Charlie.

CHARLIE

(taken back)

Annie? What uh - what are you doing here?

ANNIE

Can we talk?

CHARLIE

Of course! Come in please.

Charlie shoots June a look. June sees Annie and is frozen in place, faced with her greatest regret for the first time.

12

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

12

The three of them sit around the living room table. Annie not seeing June sitting between them. June looks at her sister and tries to touch her but can't.

CHARLIE

How are you? Can I get you anything? Tea? Coffee?

ANNIE

No, I can't stay long. I just needed to come talk to you.

CHARLIE

Oh. Right. About June?

ANNIE

(confused)

What? How do you...? You couldn't know that.

CHARLIE

What?

ANNIE

What?

(beat)

How do you know that, Charlie? Who told you that?

CHARLIE

Why wouldn't I?

ANNIE

Charlie. Who told you?

CHARLIE

Uh... I - I saw it on the news.

ANNIE

It wasn't on the news.

CHARLIE

It must've been David then, he offered condolences.

ANNIE

No one was supposed to tell you. She made us promise.

CHARLIE

(glances at June)

What are you talking about, Annie?

ANNIE

(choked up)

In the letter... listen I'm sorry we didn't tell you sooner, she just really loved you. I think she didn't want to hurt you anymore. Listen I can't be here. I just needed you to know.

Annie gets up to leave.

CHARLIE

I'm so sorry Annie. I'm sorry I didn't help more. I'm sorry she-

ANNIE

Don't do that. She didn't do anything wrong. It wasn't her in the end. Some people just can't fight forever. Don't take it personally, she didn't want you to, I'll call if anything changes.

Charlie is confused by this comment, but she just hugs Annie and she leaves. Charlie closes the door frozen, tears stream down her face. It's silent. Charlie faces the front door, confronted with the truth for the first time.

Charlie turns to look at June on the couch, but June isn't there. From June's perspective, she can see Charlie still, she hasn't moved off the couch. But they can't see each other anymore.

JUNE

Charlie, I can explain. I knew you would blame yourself-

CHARLIE

(panic building)

June? JUNE!? Fuck. FUCK. JUNE!?

JUNE

Charlie? I'm here. I'm right here. Can't you see me?

They are both panicking, Charlie runs through the halls looking for June, and June tries to get Charlie to see her. They run through the apartment. Charlie finally breaks down on the floor, thinking she is alone again, having lost June forever.

June goes to her and hugs her, but Charlie can't feel it. June is beginning to disappear. She notices and starts to cry. She doesn't want to die anymore. She hugs Charlie tightly on the floor until she fades away from her. Charlie is left alone on the floor, wailing.

13

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

13

Charlie lays awake and alone in bed, staring at the spot her ex-girlfriend laid in so many times the sheets are formed to her. She picks up her phone to see the time, she has 10 missed calls from Annie. She panics and calls her back. We don't hear what Annie says but we see Charlie's reaction. Her eyes dart in panicked confusion, cogs turn in her head, she's putting puzzle pieces together.

CHARLIE

WHAT?!

INT. APT STAIRWELL - DAY

Charlie races down the stairs of the apartment building.

14

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY

14

Charlie pedals a city bike like her life depends on it. Pushing through the pain, tears, and shock.

15

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

15

Charlie runs up the stairs and down the halls of a hospital, checking each room number until finally arriving at a door frame and enters to see a crowd standing around a hospital bed, June's family.

16

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

16

Charlie enters the hospital room. The crowd parts, each face more confused to see Charlie standing there, until finally June is revealed. In the flesh, sweaty and gray from comatose, she sits right up when she meets Charlies eyes. Both of their stomachs sink and then soar. Both of their faces dissolve into a broken mush of tears.

Charlie runs over and hugs her tightly, feeling all over actually feeling her for the first time instead of the ghostly hollow thing from the in between.

Fade to black