

Pool Noodle

written by

Sydney Auriemma

672 Brashy St. Woodstock GA, 30188
(404)405502
sydsyd1125@gmail.com

INT. LYDIA'S BEDROOM- DAY- SUMMER

A teenage girl, LYDIA (17) sits in front of her bureau, staring at herself in the mirror and wiping tears with the corner of a folded tissue. Her makeup is a mess.

LYDIA (V.O)
I can't believe I let myself get
treated so badly.

She pulls up her phone from her lap and stares at an image of her and a teenage boy, the two are in their prom attire. She sobs even harder at the sight of the photo.

She switches to another tab she had open. A text thread that reads "I never loved you anyways. Bye." And bites her nails, anxious.

MOM
Lydia, come out here and find your
brother's swimsuit.

Lydia throws her phone across the room and goes out to face her family.

INT. KITCHEN- DAY

Lydia's MOM (45), DAD (47), and her little brother, CHARLIE (5), all rush around the kitchen and living room. While her parents do chores, Charlie carefully checks under the couch cushions for his swim suit. Lydia carries over the laundry basket and dumps it on the ground, frustrated.

CHARLIE
I swear I just had it. Please don't
be mad at me.

Lydia sighs, staring down at the laundry.

LYDIA
It's okay, bud.

Lydia peaks underneath the couch and pulls out the damned swimsuit.

LYDIA (CONT'D)
Here, I got it.

Her mother looks up from making sandwiches and smiles weakly. She takes a breath.

MOM

Good, now would you mind bringing Charlie to the pool today? He's been wanting to go since school let out for Summer.

CHARLIE

Pool! Pool! Let's go pool!

Lydia looks up from the ground in disbelief. She cannot believe her mother's insensitivity.

LYDIA

Mom, you know Johnny is a lifeguard, there's no way I'm going.

LYDIA (V.O) (CONT'D)

I never want to see that asshole's face again.

Lydia starts to panic and grab her hair with her hands. She begins to cry again, and she becomes frustrated.

MOM

Sweetheart, I'm not hearing any of this. You are taking your brother to the pool, end of story. I asked nicely.

LYDIA

Ugh, Mom!

A beat.

INT. LIVING ROOM- DAY

Lydia leans her back against the couch and rests her head on her knees. She tries her best to hold back a meltdown.

Charlie travels to the center of the room, where everyone can see him, and throws a full-on tantrum. He lays upon his knees and bangs his fists on the ground, the blue swim trunks clutched in one of them.

CHARLIE

I just wanna go please, I just wanna go! Please momma please. Tell Lydia to take us!

MOM

I'm not part of this conversation.

Lydia looks over to Charlie with sad eyes.

LYDIA
I just can't Charlie, okay? I'm
sorry, I just- I can't.

Charlie comes up to her slowly with his hands behind his back. Lydia lifts her head begrudgingly. Her parents pay no attention to the tantrum. Charlie and Lydia make eye contact.

CHARLIE
Please, Lydia? Please.

He put his arms on her shoulders lovingly, but forcefully.

LYDIA
God. Fine. Go grab my keys.

EXT. DRIVEWAY- DAY

Charlie and Lydia, swim-suited up, head to the family-shared minivan.

Lydia opens up the back right door and places Charlie into his car seat. She buckles him up as Charlie sits there, very thrilled for the trip.

LYDIA
Ready to go, dude?

CHARLIE
Yay! Let's go!

INT. MINIVAN- DAY

Lydia checks all the mirrors and slowly backs out of the driveway.

Charlie makes a questioning face at Lydia.

CHARLIE
Who is Johnny?

LYDIA
He is a guy. A dumb guy Charlie.

Charlie looks down, still confused at the situation.

CHARLIE
What did he do, sis?

LYDIA
He hurt me Charlie, but- he just
didn't know what he was doing.

Lydia looks to the side, anxious about her unexpected visit
to the pool, and Johnny.

CHARLIE
Just play with me, sissy. Don't
worry about that "dumb" guy.

Lydia stays silent. She's lost in memories.

A beat.

LYDIA
You're too young to understand a
breakup.

CHARLIE
Hmph.

Charlie crosses his arms and stares out the window.

Lydia pulls into a parking spot at the aquatic center.

LYDIA
Okay, Charlie, we made it.

CHARLIE
Yay! Pool!

INT. INDOOR POOL LOBBY- DAY

Charlie and Lydia walk into the center, towels in hand.
Charlie carries his FLOATIES.

They walk up to the front desk.

LYDIA
Two day passes, please.

CLERK
Okay, that'll be 10 dollars.

Charlie is zoned out of their conversation. He puts himself
against the window, eyeing the pool. His cheeks, forehead,
and sticky hands cover the glass view into the aquatic
center.

CHARLIE (UNDER BREATH)
Pool.

INT. INDOOR POOL- DAY

The two walk into the pool, taking in the scenery.

The pool is massive, and people walk and run around, having a great time. It is loud and a little chaotic.

LYDIA

Just be cool. Just be cool.

CHARLIE

What? What are you saying?

LYDIA

I'm not talking to you, Charlie.
Just bug off would you?

Charlie crosses his arms again, upset.

CHARLIE

You're mean.

The two walk around the perimeter of the room and find two reclining beach chairs at the back of the center. So far that you can hardly see the pool.

LYDIA

Leave your clothes and towel here
and I'll watch them.

CHARLIE

Aren't you coming with me?

Lydia looks around the room frantically. Then, she sees him. Johnny and his arrogant self sit upon the lifeguard's chair. To Lydia, he looks majestic.

LYDIA

Oh, now you decide to hit the gym.
Of course you do, ugh.

Charlie looks up to his sister, concerned.

CHARLIE

Are you okay, Lydia?

LYDIA

I'm fine Charlie, just go swim.
Maybe I'll come put my feet in, in
a few minutes.

Charlie slowly backs away, with his hands behind his back. His FLOATIES remain lying on his designated beach chair.

Charlie excitedly skips toward the pool.

CHARLIE
I'm at the pool. Yay!

At the outer edge of the pool, Charlie looks from side to side, seeking a playmate. Then, he looks back toward Lydia. He squints trying to see her, through the crowd of people.

He makes the motion of walking back, but ultimately decides not to, since Lydia didn't want him around.

A LITTLE GIRL (7) comes up to Charlie from inside the pool.

LITTLE GIRL
Hey, wanna play with me and my friend?

He looks out to see the friend lagging a few feet behind the one who spoke to him.

CHARLIE
Ok, sure.

LITTLE GIRL
Yay! We're playing mermaids.

Charlie is upset, he sighs and put his feet into the pool.

They attempt to play mermaids for a few minutes, but Charlie can't seem to keep up. He keeps needing to grab the side edge of the pool to keep himself up.

CHARLIE
I know something that would be a lot more fun than mermaids!

LITTLE GIRL (1)
What!?

LITTLE GIRL (2)
What!?

CHARLIE
Cannonballs! I learned how to do one before I could walk.

The girls look at each other and giggle, then look back at Charlie.

LITTLE GIRL (1)
Yeah, right. We're 7 so we're older than you.

LITTLE GIRL (2) (CONT'D)
Yeah, I bet we've been able to do it for longer!

Charlie nods them off and walks up the stairs within the pool to get up on the edge. He backs up a few feet, then takes a running jump into the pool.

The cannonball doesn't work out, Charlie ends up belly-flopping, and he is in no shape to handle the pain.

After a few seconds of Charlie being submerged, he doesn't come back up.

LITTLE GIRL (1) (CONT'D)
Hey! Little kid! Where did you go??

She peeps under the water with her goggles to try and find him. She sees Charlie struggle hard with managing the water.

LITTLE GIRL (1) (CONT'D)
Little kid! HEY, WE NEED HELP! I
don't think this kid can swim!

The little girl swims toward him and scoops him up in the water, but he is unconscious.

JOHNNY
Hey! Clear the pool, I'm coming.

Johnny dives swiftly into the pool, no problem.

The Little Girl hands Charlie off to Johnny and gets out of the pool.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
You're gonna be okay, buddy.

Lydia is disturbed by the commotion. She takes her ear buds out and stands up to see that it is Charlie who's in trouble.

LYDIA
Oh my god! Charlie!

She drops everything and rushes over to the pool.

Johnny carries Charlie out of the pool and lays him next on the flat, outer rim. Johnny then pulls himself out of the pool easily and cradles over Charlie, concerned deeply.

Johnny puts his hands on Charlie's chest and begins to push. Charlie doesn't seem to be responding.

LYDIA (CONT'D)
Oh, Charlie. How could I forget?

Lydia, standing a few feet back from them, falls to her knees in defeat. She smacks herself in the forehead a few times.

LYDIA (CONT'D)
I am the worst sister ever.

Johnny continues to try, but Charlie won't respond.

JOHNNY
He isn't coming back!

Lydia acknowledges that Johnny is doing the wrong thing. She decides to take over the situation. She can't stand by any longer.

She lifts herself off the ground and hurries right next to Charlie.

LYDIA
Move! You're doing it wrong.

Lydia, now hyped on adrenaline, grabs Charlie's nose to shut it, and gives cautioned breaths of life to Charlie.

After a few tense moments, Charlie eventually comes to, and spits out water to the side.

LYDIA (CONT'D)
Oh! Charlie!

The siblings hug. The rest of the crowd in the aquatic center cheers, but Lydia is not worried about them at all.

Charlie coughs and looks at Lydia's face

CHARLIE
Lydia?

LYDIA
Oh Charlie, thank god you're okay!

Johnny, not having the patience for their precious sibling moment, kneels down beside Lydia and speaks to her almost like he's whispering in her ear. Like flirting. It's gross.

JOHNNY
Hey Lydia, you look good. Hope you've been doing okay.

LYDIA
Before you start, don't. Okay?
Because of you Charlie could've died.

Lydia pauses after saying that, realizing the weight behind her words.

LYDIA (V.O.)
It could've been my
fault...

Lydia gives Johnny a dirty look, and flips her hair back. She grabs Charlie's hand and together they walk back to their chairs. They're done here.

JOHNNY
Wait! Can't we just talk?

Lydia looks back over her shoulder and smirks, then turns her head back and continues walking without a word.

INT. MINIVAN- SUNSET

LYDIA
Ice cream?

CHARLIE
Ice cream! Ice cream!

A beat.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I hope I never hurt you like Johnny
did, sis.

LYDIA
No Charlie, you never would.

Lydia reaches back and grabs Charlie's foot, lovingly. The two continue the drive down the road, into the sunset. Ice cream awaits.

THE END