

DINNER

Written by

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OVER BLACK.

DIEGO (V.O.)
Just take a deep breath and
concentrate. It'll fill itself in.

FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The mix of orange and white light seeps into the corridor,
casting the hall in darkness.

LILY, (20s) a walking embodiment of guilt with the baggy eyes
to match, stands in the shadows of the hall. She takes a deep
breath and looks forward.

RING. She perks up at the noise and looks towards the end of
the hall.

RING. She starts walking down the hall into the...

KITCHEN

The kitchen is warmly lit, with florescent lights bordering
the countertops. There are children's drawings on the fridge
and vintage liquor posters around the walls.

Lily walks through the kitchen out of frame. We hear the door
open.

JANET (O.S.) GRACE
Hello! Sorry, we're late! The Mommy!
traffic was absolutely
horrible.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Lily sits at the table glancing from space to her glass of
wine, her is shaking her leg uncontrollably.

JANET (50s), exuding a warmth reserved only for myths, stands
at the stove preparing a homemade pasta. GRACE (14), spunky
and lively, sits in front of her mother drawing in a
sketchbook.

Lily shifts her gaze from the wine to Grace.

LILY
What are you drawing baby?

GRACE

Grandma and I saw this really bad crash on the way over here. I saw this woman in a stretcher.

Lily, shifts in her seat.

LILY

That's awful honey. I'm sorry you saw that.

Grace nods as Lily turns to Janet. She turns from her to Grace and back. She gives a melancholic smile.

LILY (CONT'D)

It's been so long, I can't believe you sound the same.

JANET

What are you talking about? I saw you yesterday.

Lily stares at her and laughs a little.

LILY

Oh. Yeah, you're right. Sorry, I - I don't know what I was thinking.

JANET

It's all that work you do. You really need to unwind... In any case, I wanted to ask if you had anything planned for Christmas

LILY

I haven't even thought about it, sorry. What are the plans?

Janet looks at her perplexed for a moment before ignoring it.

JANET

Well, I was thinking that you could spend it with your sister and I. It would be nice.

Lily looks at her a bit surprised.

LILY

(hesitant)

Yeah, that sounds perfect. Grace could finally see snow.

GRACE

Yes! We can go sledding and everything. Every year, I always see my friend's pictures all over Instagram.

Lily smiles and Janet looks slightly annoyed.

JANET

I swear, all you do is stare at someone else's life on that thing.

Grace rolls her eyes and returns to her iPad. Janet finally plates the pasta and moves to sit down at the table.

Lily tries to grab the fork but her hand goes through it with glitch-y static. She shakes her head disappointed.

JANET (CONT'D)

Either way it'd be nice. Lily, you haven't touched your wine.

Taken aback, Lily looks at the wine and back to Janet.

LILY

Oh. Yeah, I'm trying to stick to water tonight.

JANET

(passive-judging)
One drink won't kill anyone.

Lily's brow furrows and she sits back. Janet and Grace look at her curiously. Lily avoids eye contact before looking straight at Janet. She takes her in for a moment.

Janet looks at her daughter tenderly, but her eyes seem to be unnaturally dilated. Leaving almost no room for her iris.

LILY

Hey do you remember when we went up to LA, and on the way up there we stopped at the beach? Grace ran from the car straight into the water....I ran after her, but I tripped on seaweed and broke my nose. Mom you were laughing so hard that you literally peed yourself.

Lily turns to Grace. Tears form in her eyes.

LILY (CONT'D)

I just can't believe you can actually be this close to the real thing.

GRACE

What real thing?

Janet's expression changes from loving to scornful as a giant orange triangle appears next to her head.

Lily spots it and her expression grows worried.

LILY

I love you guys so much.

Lily puts her hand right in front of her face and pushes up.

INT. TESTING ROOM - DAY

Lily finishes pulling off a VR headset. She is sitting alone in an all white room. Towards the top of the far wall, there is an observation deck with silhouetted figures. Under it, the wall reads: "LOVED ONES: RECONNECTION - BETA TEST"

She is visibly crying and holding a VR headset in one hand. Lily wipes her tears and takes a deep breath.

DIEGO (O.S.)

Ms. Watanabe. Take whatever time you need but we still have time in the session and we need to see what's wrong with the AI.

Lily, holding in tears, holds up a thumbs up.

INT. OBSERVATION DECK - CONTINUOUS

DIEGO (32), sporting a 5 o'clock shadow that screams "I haven't slept in a week", sits at a control panel of a large room filled with work stations.

Men and women sit at the stations facing a large window looking over Lily. The light blue lighting of the room highlights the brightness of the screens as the people type away.

Diego takes leans back in his chair and takes a sip of his coffee. He puts it back and looks over to a programmer seated next to him.

DIEGO

Did you see the indicator?

The programmer nods.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

(to himself)

I don't know why they keep going AWOL. Maybe we're not pushing her subconscious enough.

(to programmer)

Boost it up a bit, maybe that'll fix our "Westworld" issue.

The programmer starts typing away. Diego looks at Lily and presses down on his console.

INT. TESTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lily is taking a sip of water breathing heavily next to her wooden stool; the VR helmet sitting atop it.

DIEGO (O.S.)

Lily, hop back in. We recalibrate the AI so they shouldn't be that pushy.

Lily throws the deck another thumbs up. She takes a deep breath and sits on the stool. She closes her eyes and puts on the helmet.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lily opens her eyes and she is sitting back at the kitchen table, her mother and daughter seated in front of her. The room is exactly as she left it.

LILY

Sorry, where were we?

JANET

We were talking about our vacation up to LA. I still think the best part of that had to be the gelato place Grace found.

GRACE

Oh my god. I never thought I would like anything called caramel goat cheese but that was amazing.

Lily looks at Janet with a mix of fear and astonishment.

LILY

How - How did you know that?

Janet looks at her, perplexed.

JANET

'Cause I went on the trip. What do you mean?

Lily looks from her to Grace which is looking back at Lily a little scared.

LILY

Grace, baby, what did we do for your fifth birthday?

GRACE

We had that fashion show party remember. Taylor showed up late and then got a bloody nose so it became a whole thing. We ended up just getting ice cream from yogurt land.

Lily straightens up.

LILY

How the hell do you know that.

The orange triangle appears over Janet again. She looks at Lily frustrated to say the least.

JANET

What do you mean?

LILY

Because... Because none of this is real! We sold this house three years ago! And you - you're gone! I can barely do anything here apart from move and sit! Look!

She moves to the table and tries to grab the fork of her dish. As she grasps its handle. Her eyes bulge. Terrified she moves back, knocking the chair to the ground, she scrambles away from them breathing heavily.

JANET

We're right here Lily. You just need to sit back down, take a sip and relax.

Lily looks at Janet and starts shaking her head.

LILY

No. I can't.

GRACE
Mom are you okay?

Lily looks at Grace, she starts tearing up.

LILY
No, you're not here right now.

GRACE
Mom, I'm right here.

Grace gets up and goes to Lily, hugging her. Lily feels the embrace. She's in shock. She breaks down and hugs as tight as she can.

Janet sits at the table, confused. She looks at her daughter and then to her wine. Janet starts breathing heavier. She looks away and glances at Graces' sketchbook. She's drawing an image of a car crash. Her orange icon turns red. She looks at Lily and stands.

JANET
Oh my god. Lily. What the hell did you do?

Lily looks to Janet. Janet is standing holding the wine.

LILY
Mom..... I am so sorry.

Janet looks to her with eyes that could scare a bull. Lily stands and approaches Janet. She flinches back, almost scared she was going be hurt.

JANET
Don't you dare touch me....
Tell her what happened.

She motions to Grace, who is still sitting on the ground.

GRACE
What is it?

Lily turns to Grace and back to Janet. Janet hands Lily the glass of wine. She hold it, staring at the glass. She touches the edge of the glass, the cup sings.

She looks back up.

LILY
Mom don't make me -

Janet gives her a look. Lily nods. She turns to Grace.

GRACE
What happened?

LILY
About three months ago we were at
your Aunts for new years.

She looks down and back up, holding back tears. She gets on her knees to be level with Grace.

LILY (CONT'D)
I had a bit too much to drink. And
even though everyone told me not
to, I - We were driving, and I
couldn't keep my eyes open. I just
didn't see the stop sign.

Grace nods. She hugs her mom. Lily starts crying again.

Janet takes the wine back. She downs it and sits back at the table, teary eyed and furious.

Lily lets Grace go and puts her hands over her face. She pushes up.

INT. TESTING ROOM - DAY

Lily takes it off as Diego comes running in from hidden doors under the observation deck. He gingerly walks over to her.

He gets to her and puts his hand on her shoulder. She pushes him off and moves away. She shakes her head.

LILY
(sobbing)
I didn't mean to. He came out of
nowhere. I'm so sorry.

Diego looks up to the observation deck. He motions to them to shut it down. They nod. He turns back to Lily.

She takes a moment to collect her self and looks up. She takes a deep breath and smiles lightly.

She looks back down and closes her eyes taking another deep breath. She nods and Diego who is sitting across from her frozen in panic.

She gives him a thumbs up as she lets out a small chuckle.

CUT TO: BLACK.