

PAY ATTENTION

Written by

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INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON

The ringing of a bell cues the appearance of AMY (19) Her mouth stretches with a big yawn and her eyes blink a few times sluggishly. She checks her phone. Its opened to a message from a contact labeled "Debbie." The message says "1 pm for lunch sounds great <3" Amy looks up and scans the area.

DEBBIE (19) is sitting at a table towards the back, tapping her foot impatiently, eyes frantically darting around the room. She spots Amy towards the front of the shop grabbing her sandwich. She waves at her. Amy notices almost right away, walks over, and takes a seat across from her.

DEBBIE

Hey Amy!

AMY

Hey Debbie.

Amy's internal voice groans

AMY (V.O.)

Uuuugghh I knew this was a bad idea. I've got so much work I should be doing right now.

DEBBIE

It's been a hot second.

AMY

Yeah, homework's really been ramping up. I wish we were in more of the same classes this semester.

DEBBIE

It's ok!! I've really appreciated even just these cute lunches we've been able to have together.

AMY

Of course. So how've things been?

There's an awkward pause. Debbie's facade is beginning to break, appearing a bit more unnerved. Amy doesn't seem to notice this and is instead zoning out.

AMY (V.O.)

Ok. If this goes for an hour I can make it back to my dorm and have 4 hours before dinner to finish my Stat and Bio assignments.

Debbie takes a deep breath.

DEBBIE

Ok, we're friends right? Like, we trust each other a lot?

AMY (V.O.)

Oh shit she's talking again.

AMY

Yes of course. I love you girl.

Debbie sighs.

AMY (V.O.)

Ok, seems like she has something really important to say, I've gotta keep eye contact.

DEBBIE

So it started with John and I getting into a fight. You know how he was, called my skirt ugly-

Debbie's voice fades to an indistinguishable mumble as Amy zones in on her eyes.

AMY (V.O.)

If I break eye contact it'll make it seem like I'm not paying enough attention.

Debbie's voice fades back in

DEBBIE

This time around I was at my limit. We got into this really big argument, like full on screaming-

Debbie's voice fades out again.

AMY (V.O.)

But if I hold eye contact for too long she might get uncomfortable! Let me look off here for a second and nod.

Debbie's voice fades back in.

DEBBIE

When he grabbed my arm it was like something finally snapped. I grabbed the knife nearby and stabbed him in the shoulder.

AMY (V.O.)
Just keep nodding...just keep
nodding.

DEBBIE
There was blood, so much blood

Debbie pauses for a moment, then starts to smile

DEBBIE (CONT'D)
But when I think about it...The
look on his face- the horror at his
own fragility...It felt good...So
good... So I just kept going-

AMY (V.O.)
Shit, she looks so excited! If she
realizes I haven't actually been
listening it's gonna be so awkward.
We're supposed to be catching up
right now!

DEBBIE
And I stabbed him at least 10 more
times. Probably more than that.

AMY (V.O.)
Come on you've gotta say something!
Think! Think!

AMY
You slayed!

DEBBIE
...Yeah... I guess I did! Thanks
girl. I just really needed to get
that off my chest.
I've gotta get going. I'm thinking
I can drive the car out to
Sheephole Valley and bury him
there.

Debbie walks around the table to give Amy a hug.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)
Again, thank you so much for
supporting me. Love you so much
girlie! I'll see you later!

The ringing of a bell indicates Debbie leaving the cafe.

AMY
Wait what.