

The Journal

By

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INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A teenage girl named TATUM sits at her desk fiercely writing in what appears to be a diary. The room is illuminated by just her desk lamp. She looks up as her mother LAURA enters.

LAURA

Honey are you almost ready for bed?

TATUM

Mom I'm sixteen years old I don't need a bedtime I thought we have been over this.

LAURA sees the diary and rolls her eyes visually upset

LAURA

Well I thought we agreed you would come to family dinner tonight and that did not happen either.

TATUM

I'm busy mom, I have a lot to do.

LAURA

Writing in that fantasy world of yours is not what I call busy sweetie.

Tatum turns away from her mother and picks up her pen and continues to write as Laura waits a moment solemnly then closes the door and exits.

TATUM flips the page as she continues to write

TATUM (V.O)

... I don't think it will ever get old walking down the hallway and knowing that everyone wants to be me.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY (FANTASY SEQUENCE)

GIRLS POV

Girl walking down the hallway, passing people as their eyes follow the girl down the hallway with wide eyes and fascination.

(CONTINUED)

TATUM (V.O) CONT'D
...I see them all stare out of
envy. I dropped my pen off the desk
and three people got up to pick it
up for me.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM (FANTASY SEQUENCE)

GIRL POV

A pen rolls off the desk and falls to the floor, three people
all dive for the pen on the ground as the girl sits and
watches. A red headed boy with thick black glasses gets to
the pen first, clenches it tightly in his hands, pushes his
glasses to his face, straightens out his button down shirt
and hands the pen back with a look of victory.

TATUM (V.O) CONT'D
...I know it sounds like I'm
bragging but it was just an
observation.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM- NIGHTTIME

Tatum smirks as she writes the word bragging in fancy
cursive and adds a small smiley face to the end of her
sentence.

TATUM (V.O) CONT'D
...Oh and god I almost forgot to
mention, RYAN handed me his number
on a napkin at lunch today! I know
it was super old school the way he
went about it but I see it as
chivalry not being dead right?

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA- DAYTIME

GIRL POV

A suave looking brunette boy, RYAN, walks towards the girl.
His strides make it seem as though he is floating across
the cafeteria. He calmly addresses the girl and pulls a
piece of paper out of his pocket hands it to the girl, winks
and floats away.

(CONTINUED)

TATUM (V.O) CONT'D
... Anyways I guess I should go to
bed because if I stay up any later
my mom could get upset, haha who am
I kidding she does not care what
time I go to bed! Well until
tomorrow.

TATUM closes her journal and shuts off her desk light.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAYTIME

BELL RINGS

Tatum walks down a crowded hallway unacknowledged by anyone.
Her shoes that are a size too big make contact with the
ground throwing her body forward and her notebooks flying.

People stare at her and as she begins to pick up all her
belongings a extra pair of hands come into the picture, she
looks up slowly to see it is Ryan.

With a coy smile he hands Tatum her notebooks with what
could have been a wink or a twitch it happened so fast.

RYAN
Here ya go Tatum.

TATUM (V.O)
He knows my name....!?!

Tatum's cheeks blush as she stares deep into Ryan's eyes
saying nothing.

RYAN
Ah you okay?

As he begins to wave his hand back and forth in front of her
face.

Tatum's eyes refocus as she shakes her head

TATUM
Sorry, yeah I'm fine...thank you

Tatum grabs the notebooks from Ryan's hands and they both
stand up to head into class hesitantly facing each other
awkwardly.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Tatum takes her seat in the very back of the class. She pulls out her notebook and opens it up showing all doodles and scribbles accompanied by no notes. She picks up her pen and begins to draw the outline of a skull but is interrupted by her teachers loud clearing of his throat.

MR. CLEARWATER

Class I would like to welcome a new student today. Her name is Peyton and she just moved here from California so please make her feel welcome these next couple weeks as she adjusts to the New England weather..

He pauses waiting to hear a laugh from the classroom but the students all have their eyes locked on this new classmate. The silence is broken as Peyton's pen falls from her hand and hits the ground. Tatum looks up to see PEYTON, she is tall, slender, with wavy brown hair that falls perfectly. A similar looking red head leaps out of his chair grabbing the pen before the other students who had made a move, pushing his thick black glasses to his face and nervously hands the pen back to Peyton.

PEYTON

Oh, thank you!

Peyton walks towards the back of the classroom, takes a seat next to Tatum. Tatum stares her up and down her mouth open.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - DAYTIME

Tatum sits at a table alone flipping through a book pretending to read.

Observing everyone as they walk in, Peyton enters from a distance, a group of girls swarm her insisting that she sit with them.

Ryan enters, a group of guys walk towards him pointing towards Peyton nudging his side and making gestures.

Peyton begins to pull out her lunch and place it on the table pretending to listen to the girls she is sitting with. She feels a tap on her shoulder and turns to see Ryan.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN
Hey

PEYTON
ah hi?

RYAN
I wanted to come over and introduce myself, I'm Ryan.

PEYTON
Peyton. Nice to meet you

RYAN
Sorry, I know you're new here but just wanted to let you know that if you need someone to show you around feel free to give me a call.

Ryan pulls out a piece of paper from his pocket handing it to Peyton. She opens the paper to reveal a phone number, her cheeks blush

PEYTON
Oh haha well thank you, I'll be sure to do that

Ryan smirks as he walks away, the girls at the table whisper under their breath as Peyton continues taking out her lunch avoiding all eye contact with the many eyes upon her

Tatum witnessing the entire interaction, is left with her mouth wide open.

FADE OUT.

INT. BEDROOM- LATE AFTERNOON

Tatum bursts through the door of her bedroom, ripping open her journal and rereads word for word from her last entry.

Whispering under her breath she reads some of the words aloud

TATUM
...pen...got up to pick it up for me...Ryan handed me his number...

Tatum looks up from the journal staring blankly from her hands to her pen.

(CONTINUED)

TATUM

What the hell is going on...

Tapping her fingers she picks up her pen again and begins to write

TATUM (V.O)

I arrived to school today to find Ryan waiting by the entrance. I got nervous because I knew he was staring at me.

Tatums knuckles are white as the pen digs into the page of her journal. Her writing gets faster and faster. Her words hard to make out.

TATUM (V.O) CONT'D

...I kept eye contact to prove I wasn't afraid and smirked. It was funny his face immediatley blushed. He said he had hoped he would run into me as he held the door for me. Again such a gentlemen. Now that I know he likes me I can't wait to see what he does next!

INSERT - JOURNAL

Black cursive writing messily scrawled across the bottom of the page: "Well until tomorrow..."

BACK TO SCENE

She throws her pen down on her desk, sits back crossing her arms and slyly smiles

LAURA (O.S)

TATUMMM time for dinner!

Tatum sighs, closing her journal she gets up from her chair and exits the bed room

DISOLVE TO:

Tatum sitting on a bench outside the entrance of the school, looks down at her watch it reads 7:01 AM

TATUMS FOOT

Her black converse sneakers strike the ground repeatedly

Creak of the school (O.S)

(CONTINUED)

SCHOOL ENTRANCE

Tatum looks up to see Ryan exiting the school, stopping and waiting

Car door slams (O.S)

TATUMS POV - PEYTON'S CAR

Peyton waves back at the car pulling away, turns around and looks ahead to see Ryan, her face blushes but she smirks and continues to walk to the entrance.

RYAN

Hey, I was hoping I would run into you.

Opening the door Peyton laughs nervously and continues to walk into school.

MED. SHOT - TATUM

Eyes widened, Tatum frantically reaches into her backpack, pulls out her journal and opens it.

INSERT - JOURNAL

"He said he hoped he would run into me..."

BACK TO SCENE

Tatum visually upset begins tearing pages from her journal.

Suddenly there is a loud scream from inside the building.

Tatum stands up and looks towards the school, leaving her backpack and remainder of her journal on the bench as she heads towards the entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL LOBBY - DAY

Tatum enters through the doors to see a crowd of people huddled together.

TRACKING SHOT

Mr. Clearwater comes out his classroom breaking apart the crowd

As people part ways Peyton is seen unconscious on the ground

(CONTINUED)

Ambulances sirens sound off screen

MR. CLEARWATER
Alright people nothing to see here,
please head to class immediately!

Tatum's body frozen in place is jostled by other kids running
off to class

Shaking her head she turns back towards the doors and runs
out.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

CLOSE UP ON CRUMPLED PAPERS

Tatum grabs the papers and journal, shoving them into her
backpack and heads back towards the school entrance.

WIDE SHOT - SCHOOL ENTRANCE

EMT's rush past Tatum, stretcher and all.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Tatum sits down, glancing at the empty seat to her right.

Mr. Clearwater enters as the classroom falls silent.

MR. CLEARWATER
I just want to let you all know
Peyton will be okay, I know we are
all a little shaken, but let's try
to stay focused today because we
still have a lot to cover.

Two students sitting in front of Tatum lean towards
each other whispering.

STUDENT #1
You heard what it is right?

STUDENT #2
No, what?!

(CONTINUED)

STUDENT #1

She has leukemia... that's why she moved here.

STUDENT #2

Oh my god, that's terrible.

STUDENT #1

Yeah my mom told me last night, apparently Peyton's mom joined her book club and melted to everyone about it, apparently she was getting better...until today.

TATUM'S HANDS

Tatum's hands tremble uncontrollably as she attempts to uncrumple the pages.

Grabbing tape from her bag she begins to piece back together the journal page by page.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tatum is sitting at her desk once again she picks up her pen and begins to write.

TATUM (V.O)

Today I woke up in the hospital but today is the last day I will wake up in the hospital. The doctors finally gave me the news I had been waiting to hear for seven years. I am cancer free.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE:

ONE WEEK LATER

Peyton enters the classroom and takes a seat next to Tatum. Appearing cheerful and lively she turns to Tatum

PEYTON

Today is just a great day isn't it?

Tatum smiles

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

10.

TATUM
Yeah it really is.

FADE OUT.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Tatum places the pen down and pulls out a brand new journal. She flips open the first crisp blank page and begins to write.

TATUM (V.O)
Dear Journal, today marks a new chapter in my life. My name is Tatum and from now on I will be telling you the real story of my life.

FADE OUT:

THE END.