

ULTERIOR

Written by

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EXT. INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

Background noise of college students talking, wind blowing, lawn-mowers, trees rustling, etc. can be heard as we see a bird's-eye view of campus, the welcome sign, students walking with backpacks, a college town, students walking out of a coffee shop, etc. We then see a MISSING notice crinkled on the ground with a photo of a beautiful, blonde girl. It blows away.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

INT. CHRISTIAN AND JANE'S APT - DAY

TITLE: 8 YEARS LATER

A computer screen with a group picture of happy students on the campus is displayed on Facebook. One is the girl from the MISSING poster. The next picture is the girl and another girl their arms around each other.

The other girl, JANE PURDY, sits at a counter clicking through the photos with a glass of wine, head in engagement-ring hand. She is 29 and cute like you would imagine the captain of your high school cheer-leading squad to look in 10 years.

Jane stops on a picture of the blonde girl looking over her shoulder and smiling back at the camera. Just as she leans in, her fiance CHRIS HANSEN walks in. He is also 29 and looks like a handsome lawyer.

Jane changes the picture on the laptop quickly and Chris kisses her.

He looks down at her computer.

CHRIS

Reminiscing before we see the old crew, I see.

JANE

Yeah, a little. Seems like we graduated yesterday doesn't it?

Chris laughs and closes Jane's computer.

CHRIS

Ha, if that was true we wouldn't be on our way to Olivia's wedding.

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

In fact, you probably wouldn't believe me if I told you in 8 years Liv would be settling down.

JANE

So true, though.

CHRIS

Speaking of, the car will be here in a minute. You ready?

Chris playfully spins her around and starts rolling their suitcases toward the door. MUSIC FADES IN-FELIX CARTAL "YOUNG LOVE"

JANE

God, this is wild.

EXT. MONTAGE: CAB DRIVING THROUGH NEW YORK CITY, CAB PULLING UP TO JFK, PLANE TAKING OFF, PLANE LANDING IN CHICAGO MIDWAY

INT. CAB EN ROUTE TO DINNER PARTY AT TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL - SUNSET

MUSIC FADES OUT Jane is applying lipstick and Chris is leaning back, looking out the window at the skyline.

JANE

What are you thinking about?

Chris turns toward Jane and leans in to kiss her, but she pushes him back laughing.

CHRIS

I'm thinking about what happened to everyone. You know, after. We all stayed friends, but kind of came into our own. Party-girl-Olivia is running an event planning company and actually successful AND getting fucking married. Aaron got his shit together and took over for his dad's company. Kat's also doing great--not surprising, but her suburban life seems flawless. And Jesse's firm is competing with mine--shocking.

JANE

Don't do that. You're both doing well.

(MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

I don't want there to be animosity.
You guys... you were best friends.

CHRIS

Before.

JANE

But, what...

CHRIS

When's the last time we all saw
each other? At once? Probably
graduation. We saw Kat and her
husband on that Hampton's trip back
in May. Olivia took us to that
gallery opening and Aaron was
there, last year? Remember that?

JANE

Yeah.

CHRIS

Babe it'll be fine. This will be
great.

Jane started to say something else but stopped and just
looked up and Chris.

JANE

Great.

INT. TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL LOBBY

Jane and Chris are being handed their keys.

MANAGER

Ms. Purdy, Mr. Hanson, suite 412.
If you would like to be escorted to
the penthouse when you are ready, I
can send someone for you?

CHRIS

No thanks, we'll get there.

MANAGER

Sure. Ms. Weldon did specifically
request your presence as soon as
possible when you arrived.

Chris and Olivia turned to each other with knowing smirks.

CHRIS

Huh. Thanks.

MANAGER

Enjoy the wedding. Seems like the event of the year.

INT. AS ELEVATOR OPENS AND THE STEP INSIDE

MUSIC SLOWLY FADES BACK

JANE

"Requests our presence."

CHRIS

"Her majesty, The Blackout Queen."

Chris reaches down and grabs Jane's hand as the door closes.

INT. PENTHOUSE TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

When the elevator opens again, they emerge holding hands but now dressed up. Chris is in a black suit with a black tie and Jane wears a copper-tone evening gown. The enormous pent house is crawling with servers carrying ornate platters of hors d'oeuvres.

As they step out of the elevator Chris whispers under his breath.

CHRIS

Told you he was loaded.

AARON WHITE, tall, blonde very dapper, sitting at the indoor bar surrounded by women smiling and looking like he was telling a great story, stops and looks up.

KAT HARRIS, dirty blonde very waspy looking, with her new husband sitting at a table in the corner with drinks, looks up.

JESSE WILLIAMS, black, handsome, suave looking, on the phone sipping champagne against a wall, looks up and mouths "gotta go" and hangs up.

Aaron, Kat with her husband, and Jesse start walking toward Chris and Jane and soon see each other.

JESSE

Chris.

JANE

Kat!

KAT

You guys!

CHRIS
Been a while.

AARON
Everyone's aged except me, weird.

Aaron smirks and throws his arms around Jane and Kat and the group greets each other warmly. Jesse and Chris's hand shake has sensible tension.

The elevator opens and Olivia makes an entrance in a deep purple gown with her husband on her arm. She is beautiful, dark brunette. Her husband looks to be in his fifties with grayed hair. But he wasn't bad looking. You could call him a silver fox. People actually applaud and the couple is instantly surrounded by people.

CHRIS
Just like Olivia to arrive late to her own party just to make an entrance.

Olivia comes out of no where.

OLIVIA
Excuse me, can I see your invitations?

AARON
Yeah, it's my name tatted on your ass.

OLIVIA
You rigged that bet and I got it removed like 5 years ago.

JANE
Liv! You look amazing!

They all hug Olivia and she squeals.

KAT
This is amazing. I can't believe this is just the rehearsal.

OLIVIA
I know it's crazy isn't it. A little over the top. Aden insisted. So I planned this with all my best people. You know what they say, if you want something done perfectly...

(MORE)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
 I wanted something a little more
 intimate, though, a little less
 lavish, you know?

Jane looks at her friends.

JANE
 No, she didn't.

OLIVIA
 No, I didn't.

A woman with a headset, most likely an employee of Olivia,
 walks to her side.

EMPLOYEE
 It's time.

A bell chimes and this seems be the signal for dinner to be
 served. They all follow Olivia as the rest of the guests make
 their way to the elegantly set tables on the balcony. MUSIC
 FADES IN LORDE-TEAM

MONTAGE OF LAUGHING, EATING, CHEFS SERVING STEAK AND DELICATE
 PLATTERS OF FOOD, TOASTS BEING MADE, OLIVIA KISSING HER
 FIANCÉE, CHAMPAGNE BEING POURED, THE BAND PLAYING.

Jane stands up, downs her champagne, and grabs Chris's hand
 to follow.

JANE
 Guys, come on follow me.

Jane grabs a bottle of champagne and starts toward the
 elevator.

The others smile as if this is something they have missed
 from her. Kat looks toward her husband who is engrossed in a
 conversation with another nerdy looking guy. She nudges him
 and he waves her on. She shrugs and joins her friends. They
 all get up and run after her to the elevator. On her way Jane
 grabs Olivia by her arm and pulls her out of a conversation
 with an older relative.

EXT. HOTEL ROOF-NIGHT

They all emerge out of the elevator talking and laughing.

Kat throws her arms around Chris and Aaron, obviously a
 little drunk.

KAT

Look how pretty guys!

They all stand for in silence looking out over the sparkling lights of the city.

Jane looks at her fiance and then around at her old friends and smiles. MUSIC FADES OUT

Jesse breaks the silence of the moment.

JESSE

Alright, I'm getting kind of cold
who wants to go back?

JANE

No! We toast!

She took the bottle from Olivia and popped the loosened cork with her teeth.

JANE (CONT'D)

To Liv!

CHRIS, AARON, KATE, JESSE

Liv!

Jane is about to take a swig from the bottle and pauses.

JANE

And to Lauren. God rest her soul.

They all stand solemnly. Liv grabs the bottle and drinks.

OLIVIA

To Lauren.

Olivia passes the bottle to Jesse. As he lifts it Chris swipes it from his hand and it shatters all over the ground.

JANE

Chris!

JESSE

What the hell?!

CHRIS

How dare you. You can stand here in
front of us all and drink to her
memory.

JANE

Chris, what are you talking about??

CHRIS

We never talk about it! After all these years for fuck's sake! It's all his fault. It's his fault she's gone.

AARON

Someone better explain right now.

CHRIS

Lauren was dealing. She was dealing for Jesse. He's the reason she's not here right now.

INT. DARK ROOM- FLASHBACK TO LAUREN PASSING A BAG OF COCAINE TO A BOY IN A DARK HOODIE AND SLIDING CASH INTO HER JEANS.

JANE

I don't understand. Lauren partied but she didn't sell anything, she was my best friend. I would have known.

They all look to Jesse and as he is silent staring at the ground.

JANE (CONT'D)

Right, Jesse?

JESSE

It's true. She asked me and I let her. Just small amounts. She had dime bags.

OLIVIA

So what? Why are you talking about this now? We cried, we freaked out, we gave our statements, over and over. IT'S OVER. We moved on, we kept living. It was a tragedy and it wasn't any of our faults. We let it go. What does this have to do with anything?!

JESSE

Because she was good at it. She wanted more and I wouldn't give it to her. So she went above me.

INT. DARK ROOM- FLASHBACK TO LAUREN SITTING AT A TABLE IN A DARK ROOM WITH THREE GUYS THROUGH THICK SMOKE. (HIGH PITCHED WHITE NOISE THROUGHOUT)

JESSE (CONT'D)

She was a hot, white, rich girl and they liked her. She was caught up in the thrill and she was making so much money. She got in too deep.

AARON

Why didn't you tell anyone?

JESSE

I was going to. I found out that day and I confronted her first.

INT. BAR- FLASHBACK TO LAUREN AND JESSE FIGHTING. LAUREN SHOVS HIM HARD AND WALKS AWAY. (HIGH PITCHED WHITE NOISE THROUGHOUT)

JESSE (CONT'D)

I found out because I went to get more. I reached out to my hook-up and he said they needed me to take on more than I asked for. When I asked why he said "blondie fucked up and you're taking her drops." I don't know how she messed up or whether she owed someone money or stepped on some toes. No idea. She disappeared that night.

INT. BAR- FLASHBACK TO THEM ALL PARTYING, SMOKING, DRINKING. THEY ARE DOING SHOTS AND THEN A CLUB AND LAUREN LEAVES THROUGH THE BACK JESSE FOLLOWS HER. (HIGH PITCHED WHITE NOISE THROUGHOUT)

OLIVIA

This is crazy! So those guys killed her! You knew all these years!

JESSE

I don't know. They contacted me the next day and said they were moving on. Didn't need me to pick up the drop anymore. I never actually saw any of them or knew their names. And I was scared. I was a kid. But I was going to tell the police any way. Except.. the evidence was gone.

JANE

What do you mean?

JESSE

The coke. Everything was gone. There was no proof she was involved in anything. I went back to her room the next day after I found out she was gone. And none of it was there. I searched everything.

OLIVIA

What happened to it?

Kat looks up from the ground.

KAT

I took it. Later, I flushed it, I dumped some in the river.. I just got rid of it.

CHRIS

You knew?

KAT

I was scared, too. I destroyed evidence. I thought she would come back. I knew they were going to search her room after she went missing so I took it. Then I was in possession of it all.

CHRIS

You never said anything.

KAT

I was in over my head. And I waited too long to say anything.

JESSE

They threatened me. I got text the next day from a blocked number saying that if I went to the police they would kill me. So I kept my mouth shut and told Kat if she said anything I would be dead, too.

KAT

She was already gone. I didn't want anything else to happen.

JANE

You guys are the reason her parents don't know what happened to their child.

KAT

She was already dead! Would it be better for them to know she was a drug dealer? If she ever came back I would have told. But I wasn't going to ruin Jesse's life, too.

OLIVIA

I've heard enough. This is depressing and horrible.

Olivia takes Aaron and Jane's hands and starts to lead them toward the elevator but Chris reaches out and grabs Jane's arm. She jerks it away.

JANE

Two years we were together before Lauren went missing. So what were you doing in her room in the middle of the night?

CHRIS

Jane I...

JANE

My dead best friend.

She turns back to Aaron and Olivia.

JANE (CONT'D)

And none of you even flinched when Kat pointed that out.

Aaron and Olivia both stare at the ground and say nothing.

JANE (CONT'D)

Wow.

Jane backs into the elevator.

(MUSIC FADES IN THE KILLS-
THE FUTURE STARTS SLOW)

JANE (CONT'D)

Keep sipping champagne, yeah?

The doors close.

EXT. HOTEL- NIGHT

Rolling her suitcase out of the hotel. We see Jane's phone has pulled up the contact "LAUREN'S PARENTS" and hovers over the home number. She looks down at it as she hops in a cab.

JANE
Airport.

DRIVER
Alright, mam.

FADE TO BLACK--MUSIC CONTINUES THROUGH CREDITS

JANE
I heard it was a great wedding.