

IN THE MOUTH OF THE WOLF

Written by

Natalie Turturro

Nmturtur@syr.edu

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASSROOM - DAY

In the front of the room, PROFESSOR TRIST, 40s, writes on the chalkboard, her back to the class.

Students lounge on desks and we hear the buzz of college students' Monday afternoon chatter. The room begins to fill and the students sit in their seats, taking out their notebooks.

In the back of the classroom, there are lab stations with scientific equipment. Each station is very organized.

It seems like everyone is exchanging gossip about the previous weekend except for KYRA, 20, whose eyes are glossed over and lifeless. She tucks her hands into the sleeves of her oversized black sweater.

Her gaze travels across the room to DYLAN, 20, an average looking student who is wearing a sweatshirt adorned with greek letters. He is laughing while talking to a few other boys.

Professor Trist finishes writing the instructions for a chemistry lab on the board, and turns to address the class. The room falls silent as she begins to talk.

PROFESSOR TRIST

All right everyone, today we will be creating potassium cyanide. Follow the instructions on the board and report your results to me as you finish. Your groups today are: Kaitlyn and Bradley, Daniel and Vince, Maria and Paul, Georgia and Danielle, Lucia and Haley, and Kyra and Dylan.

Kyra locks eyes with Dylan. She clenches her jaw.

PROFESSOR TRIST

Remember that this substance is fatal if it is ingested, so please, be careful.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASSROOM - LATER

Dylan and Kyra work on the chemical composition. Kyra buries her nose in her chemistry book while stroking one of her two french braids. Dylan messes around with the different chemicals.

DYLAN

Okay, so now we need the potassium.

Kyra looks over to the potassium and picks it up. She hesitates, holding the vial in her hand.

DYLAN

Kyra?

She finally looks up at him.

DYLAN

Give me the potassium.

She hands him the packet. She stares at him in silence as he mixes the chemicals together in a beaker. He swirls the chemicals around slowly.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Dylan swirls a drink in a red solo cup, and looks up at someone near the camera who is not seen.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASSROOM - DAY

Kyra looks up at Dylan anxiously.

DYLAN

I need that Erlenmeyer flask of water.

Kyra takes a breath and quickly takes the flask off of the lab table. She goes to hand it to Dylan, but she drops it milliseconds before he is able to grasp onto it.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASSROOM - LATER

As the students exit the classroom, Kyra faces Professor Trist at her desk.

PROFESSOR TRIST

I'm sorry, Kyra. I am going to have to fail you for this lab exercise. You are expected to be more careful at this level.

KYRA

It's okay. I understand. I really didn't mean to.

PROFESSOR TRIST

Well, look, if you come by my office hours, I will give you the keys to the lab and you can make it up then. Hopefully that way you can earn a better grade.

KYRA

Okay, yeah. Sure.

PROFESSOR TRIST

Kyra?

KYRA

Yeah?

PROFESSOR TRIST

Are you okay? You seem off.

KYRA

(beat)

Yeah. I'm fine.

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

We pan from STEPHANIE, 19, who is fast asleep on her side of the room in her bed to Kyra, who stares at herself in the mirror.

It is pitch black except for a the soft glow of light from the lamp on Kyra's night stand. Kyra breathes deeply, and looks at the clock. It reads: "2:43 AM."

She opens a pack of sleeping pills. She takes a pill, and then slowly gets into her bed.

She pulls the covers over her and lays still, staring off into the distance. She squeezes her eyes shut.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Extreme close-up of vodka being poured into a red solo cup.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. DINING HALL - DAY

Kyra walks around the dining hall with Stephanie. Stephanie leads Kyra as they search for a place to sit.

Dylan sits at one of the tables. Kyra locks eyes with him as she and her roommate walk past his table.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Kyra sits at a table, reading a chemistry book and taking notes. She is immersed in her school work until Dylan and his friends walk past her. He is laughing.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Dylan laughs with his friends while drinking.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Kyra stares at Dylan from a distance. Her breathing begins to get heavier.

Once he is out of sight, she shakes her head and looks down at her phone. She connects earbuds and puts them in her ears. She turns on the song "Run to the Hills" by Iron Maiden and sets the sound to max volume.

We can hear the ppmph ppmph ppmhp of the music through her earbuds, but not clearly. It sounds like her ears are going to be blown out from the intensity of the music.

Kyra looks back down at her schoolwork and starts writing.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kyra walks with Stephanie back to their room. They stop at their door, and Stephanie begins to unlock it.

Down the hall, Dylan exits the bathroom, freshly showered with a towel around him, and a toothbrush in his mouth.

He waves to Stephanie.

DYLAN

Hey Steph!

STEPHANIE

Oh hey Dylan!

Dylan exits down the hall. Kyra looks disturbed. Stephanie looks at her closely.

STEPHANIE

You okay?

KYRA

What? Oh, yeah. I'm good.

EXT. QUAD - DAY

Kyra walks at a brisk pace, firmly grasping her backpack. She looks down at her watch and then back up.

Across the quad, Dylan plays hacky-sack with his friends.

She slows down as she looks over at him. She stops, visibly upset, and turns to walk the other way.

INT. COUNSELING CENTER - DAY

Kyra slowly walks into the lobby of the counseling center. She inches to the front desk where the SECRETARY, 50, is sitting.

SECRETARY

Can I help you?

Kyra continues staring in silence. She opens her mouth as if to speak.

SECRETARY

Would you like to make an appointment to speak with somebody?

Kyra looks around, as if trying to find the words to say.

KYRA

I...

She spots a pamphlet about relationship violence and sexual assault.

She quickly looks back up at the secretary.

KYRA

Appointment... yeah... I...

SECRETARY

Are you okay?

KYRA

Yeah, yeah. I'll make an appointment. Sure.

SECRETARY

Okay, well we are all booked for today, but I can maybe get you scheduled for Tuesday. What times are you available that day.

KYRA

Uhm, you know what, I...

SECRETARY

Yes?

Kyra's breathing gets heavier as she opens her mouth again, almost mouthing a word, yet no sound is emitted.

KYRA

I'm sorry. I can't.

Kyra backs away as she shakes her head, and turns to run away.

INT. PROFESSOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Professor Trist hands Kyra the key to the lab.

PROFESSOR TRIST

Here you go. Just bring back the final chemical composition to me once you are finished. Please, be careful this time.

KYRA

I got it. Thanks.

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASSROOM - DAY

Kyra unlocks the door to the chemistry lab, and walks in. She flicks the light switch and the lights buzz on. It seems very empty.

Kyra takes out everything she needs from inside of a cabinet, and organizes her work station.

Instead of putting the items she needs at the edge of the lab table, she pushes them towards the back. She then climbs on top of the table and sits on it.

She takes out her phone and begins to play heavy metal music, of which we can only hear the drum beat through her earbuds. She then proceeds to create the chemical composition while sitting on the table.

She takes a powder and dissolves it into a test tube of water. She then pours it into a beaker.

She adds a light blue liquid to the beaker and mixes it together.

She then puts this mixture over a flame. She uses a dropper and adds three drops of a liquid-gel substance to it.

Finally, she pours a white powder into the beaker. She mixes it and it turns solid, beginning to resemble sugar.

She pours some of the final substance into a vial and closes it.

She stares at it for a minute.

She quickly takes a second vial and pours the rest of the substance in.

She slips one vial in her bag, and holds the other in her hand as she exits the classroom.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

Kyra sits on top of a washing machine as she fills out a cross-word puzzle.

Stephanie takes her laundry out of the machine Kyra is sitting on. She begins folding it and placing it in her hamper.

KYRA

Five letter word for menacing?

STEPHANIE

Um... scary?

KYRA

S-C-A-R-Y. That was easy.

STEPHANIE

Yeah.

KYRA

When you want to say something, but you can't find the words to say. What do you call that?

STEPHANIE

I don't think there is actually a word for that. Is that actually a question on the crossword?

KYRA

Uh... well...

STEPHANIE

Is there something going on?

KYRA

No, no way. Look, see?

Kyra smiles and points to her face. Stephanie sighs and tugs on Kyra's two braids playfully. She throws them back at her.

STEPHANIE

I don't know, I just feel like there is something going on with you lately.

KYRA

I'm fine, I swear.

STEPHANIE

Then why have you been acting so weird lately?

KYRA

I--I don't know. Maybe it's just stress about all of my finals.

STEPHANIE

Okay, okay. Hey! I know what might get your mind off of schoolwork! So I was wondering if you wanted to go to that party on Saturday? Being that it's the last one and all..

KYRA

I don't know. I haven't really been in the partying mood lately.

STEPHANIE

Oh come on! It's our last chance this semester! You haven't gone out in like 3 weeks! It's time to get back out there.

KYRA

I mean... I have a bunch of homework and studying to do this weekend. It's probably better if I don't.

STEPHANIE

Please! You can't have that much to do. Cut loose a little!

KYRA

I don't know.

STEPHANIE

Come on, Kyra. I need someone to go with. Please!

Stephanie gives Kyra a sad puppy dog face. Kyra laughs.

KYRA

Fine! I'll go if it will make you happy.

STEPHANIE

Yes! Oh thank you, thank you! It's going to be so much fun. I promise.

KYRA

Okay, okay. I believe you.

Kyra's smile drops as Dylan walks in with his hamper of dirty laundry.

Nonchalantly in the background, he begins to put his laundry into a washer.

He pours laundry detergent into the cap of the bottle.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Dylan pours a drink.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

Kyra tenses every muscle in her body.

KYRA

I'll meet you in our room.

Kyra slams her crossword into Stephanie's hamper and runs off.

A look of concern spreads over Stephanie's face.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Kyra runs into a bathroom stall and slams the door shut. She sits on the toilet and breathes very heavily. She begins to hyperventilate.

She looks up and stares at the Relationship Violence and Sexual Abuse poster on the door.

Her breathing gets even heavier.

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Pop music blasts from Stephanie's pink poor quality laptop speakers.

Stephanie holds a shirt in front of her body while looking into her doorway mirror. There is an enormous stack of clothing behind her.

A few feet away, Kyra looks into her vanity mirror. She presses a red lipstick bullet against her lips. Her makeup is extremely overdone and extremely black. Her eyes resemble the potential offspring of Avril Lavigne and a raccoon. There are faint tear stains under the pounds of foundation on her face.

KYRA

It doesn't matter does it?

STEPHANIE

What doesn't matter?

KYRA

When it happens.

Stephanie takes her shirt off and puts on the new one.

She then turns to Kyra and approaches her. She takes out a blush and begins to apply it on Kyra's face.

STEPHANIE

Why do you say that?

KYRA

Because. Everybody does at some point. So it doesn't matter when.

STEPHANIE

I don't know about that. Only time can tell. And you know what they say?

KYRA

What's that?

Stephanie begins to unbraid Kyra's hair as she continues speaking. She fluffs it up and fixes it so that one side is pinned behind her ear. On the other side, some begins to fall in front of Kyra's face. Kyra quickly takes it and pushes it behind her ear.

STEPHANIE

Time makes everything better. So try not to worry about this. Okay? That's what tonight is all about, anyway. To forget.

KYRA

Forget. Right.

Kyra looks back at herself in the mirror. She bites her lip, looking uneasy.

EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT

Music blares from inside, and lights flash through the window.

Kyra leans over the balcony. She looks over the edge, and leans further over. Some of her hair falls in front of her face.

She feels her back pocket and takes out the vial of potassium cyanide. She stares at it longingly.

Suddenly, Stephanie comes outside.

Kyra quickly puts the potassium cyanide away, and attempts to act normally.

STEPHANIE

Kyra? What are you doing out here?

KYRA

Oh, hey.

STEPHANIE

Why don't you come back inside?
Aren't you having fun?

KYRA

I guess. Maybe I should just go
home.

STEPHANIE

No! Come on, lets go inside! I'll
buy you a drink, and we can dance
together! Plus, you gotta see what
this one girl in there is wearing.
It's hilarious!

KYRA

Okay, okay. You got me.

STEPHANIE

Let's go!

They walk inside of the house.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Stephanie and Kyra weave their way through a swarm of people,
and find themselves at the bar.

STEPHANIE

Let me get you a drink. What do you
want? Screwdriver? A shot?

KYRA

Uh, I'll take a shot. Why not?

STEPHANIE

I'm so proud of you!

She turns to the bartender.

STEPHANIE

Two shoots, please!

They clank their cups together and then take a large gulp.

KYRA

Wanna do another?

Stephanie's mouth drops open.

STEPHANIE

Hell yes!

She turns back to the bartender.

STEPHANIE

Two more shots, please!

They take the other shots.

KYRA

Another?

STEPHANIE

You sure you wanna go so fast?

KYRA

No, come on! I'm just letting loose, remember? Don't be a mom.

STEPHANIE

It's fine with me! It's good to see you finally relax!

KYRA

Yeah, I guess.

Kyra goes up to the bartender as Stephanie starts dancing.

KYRA

Just keep the shots coming.

Kyra takes two more before joining Stephanie.

STEPHANIE

It's my song! See, Kyra? Isn't this fun?

Kyra nods her head, and cracks a smile.

They continue dancing until a guy comes up behind Stephanie. He grabs her hips and pulls them into his from behind.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Dylan forcefully pulls Kyra's hips into his from behind.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Stephanie looks extremely happy, making a face at Kyra.

Kyra's smile drops for a second, and takes a deep breath. She looks back up at Stephanie and forces a smile.

Stephanie mouths to Kyra.

STEPHANIE

Is he cute?

Kyra looks up to the guy, but then notices Dylan a few feet behind him.

Stephanie taps Kyra to get her attention.

KYRA

Uh... yeah. Yeah.

Kyra returns her attention across the room.

KYRA

I'll be back, okay?

STEPHANIE

Okay. I'll be here.

Kyra begins walking toward Dylan. He hands one of his friends a drink.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Dylan hands Kyra a drink. She takes a sip.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Kyra keeps slowly walking towards him. Dylan pats his friend on the back.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Kyra drops her cup and begins to fall. She catches herself on a couch. Dylan helps her up, and brings her away.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Kyra keeps slowly walking toward Dylan.

She stares at him intensely and feels her back pocket.

He takes a sip from his drink.

Kyra approaches Dylan from behind. She reaches out her hand as if to tap him on the shoulder, but she retracts it suddenly.

Dylan notices her behind him and turns around to face her, but she has already started walking away. Dylan takes sip of his drink.

Kyra continues to walk away slowly. She takes a deep breath and squeezes her eyes shut. When she opens them, she appears calmer.

In the background, Dylan finishes the sip of his drink. He clenches his throat, bringing his hand up to his Adam's apple. He passes out.

Kyra continues walking away.

FADE TO BLACK.