

Fate in the Hands of an Uber Driver

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FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Music is thumping from a house party in the background of two intoxicated girls walking down a driveway struggling to stand straight and to stop laughing about the night's events.

The two girls are LOGAN, 18, the slender tall best friend of AVA, 18, a petite girl with a smile that stretches from ear to ear.

LOGAN

I just called an Uber Pool because it's cheaper and YOLO. Maybe we'll meet a cute boy.

AVA

(laughs halfheartedly)

Shut up you know I'm a sucker for those.

Ava's tone shifts and she gets quieter.

AVA

(sighs)

I'm a sucker for anything that'll get my mind off of Ty.

Logan looks at AVA with saddened eyes.

LOGAN

(beat)

You wouldn't ever consider getting back together with him would you?

AVA

I mean, realistically, how could we? We haven't even spoken since the break up.

(beat)

But... you know.

Ava looks down at the ground.

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN

Ava. You were so hurt and so alone
after everything went down-

AVA

I know I know... it's just hard.

LOGAN

Yeah... I know.

Logan rubs Ava's back to comfort her. Silence emerges.

EXT. DOWN THE DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

A small Sudan, with no one in the backseat, pulls up in front of the driveway with a sticker on the windshield indicating it's an Uber. Logan breaks the silence.

LOGAN

There it is! No cute boy though,
bummer.

Logan looks at Ava hoping this cheers her up a little. It does. Ava smirks. The two walk towards the Uber and get inside.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Ava and Logan are sitting in the backseat of the Uber.

UBER DRIVER

So your first drop off point is 9
Clover Lane, correct?

LOGAN

Yes! That's me, and then my friend
Ava is a different stop.

INT./EXT. OUTSIDE LOGAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Logan looks out the window and hugs Ava goodbye as the car comes to a stop.

AVA

Love you.

LOGAN

Love you too. Remember, you've been so much better off without him these past couple of months. Text me when you get home safe?

AVA

Will do.

Logan exits the car and Ava is still sitting in the backseat on her phone scrolling through her Instagram feed.

UBER DRIVER

I'm sorry to do this to you miss, but I got called for one more stop before your house. I promise it'll be quick.

AVA

No worries!

Ava smiles to herself remembering the conversation her and Logan had previously. The uber starts driving and Ava continues scrolling through her feed.

INT./EXT. CAR STOPPED OUTSIDE HOUSE - NIGHT

The car comes to a stop outside of a different house party. A boy walks towards the car, arm over a girl, and opens the back door of the Uber.

TYLER, 19, is wearing a shirt stained of alcohol and a face full of dimples. He's loudly screaming goodbye to all his friends, and the girl. He kisses the girl goodbye.

TYLER

What a night! Catch you later.

It isn't until now that Ava looks up to the familiar voice.

It isn't until now that Tyler looks inside the car.

TYLER

Ava???

Ava faces an opposite direction as Tyler.

AVA
(whisper)
You've got to be fucking kidding
me...

AVA (CONT.)
(normal volume)
Oh! Ty???

TYLER
What are you doing here?

AVA
It's an Uber Pool...

TYLER
Oh yeah, yeah... right, right...

Awkward silence emerges between them.

INT./EXT. CAR DRIVING - NIGHT

The Uber driver starts talking to Ava.

UBER DRIVER
Since he lives closer, I'm going to
drop him off first, and then I
promise we'll get you home!

AVA
(sarcastically)
Great.

Ava reaches for her phone and starts texting Logan about who
just got in the Uber with her. The messages keep popping up
on the screen of her phone continuously.

AVA (TEXT)
SOS!!!! EMERGENCY!!!!

LOGAN (TEXT)
Are you OK??? Is the Uber Driver
hitting on you???

AVA (TEXT)
No!!! Worse!!!

LOGAN (TEXT)

Just tell me Ava!

AVA (TEXT)

Tyler fucking Wood is in the Uber
with me RIGHT NOW.

AVA (TEXT)

FUCK YOU FOR GETTING AN UBER POOL.

LOGAN (TEXT)

Oh shit. Are you OK??

AVA (TEXT)

I don't know what to do.

LOGAN (TEXT)

It's OK, the drive will be over in
15 minutes.

LOGAN (TEXT)

Stay strong <3

Ava looks up from her phone and locks it. She sees Tyler
staring right at her. He looks away when she notices him
staring.

Tyler and Ava start speaking at the same time and stop
abruptly when they realize the other is talking.

AVA

So...

TYLER

So...

Ava sheepishly looks down.

AVA

Sorry... what were you going to
say?

TYLER

Just, how are you? How have you
been? I feel like we haven't spoken
in months.

(CONTINUED)

AVA

That's because we actually haven't
spoken in months.

Tyler starts to look embarrassed. Awkward silence emerges
again.

TYLER

Yeah... I'm sorry about that.
That's my fault. But, what new with
you? You look good.

Ava is noticeably taken aback by his comment.

AVA

Thanks I guess.
(hesitates)
You do too.

Tyler smiles.

TYLER

Thanks.
(beat)
This is weird, isn't it?

Tyler smiles, Ava loosens up a bit.

AVA

(laughs)
Just a little.

TYLER

I mean what are the odds that we
end up in the same exact Uber Pool?

AVA

The world's a crazy place.

TYLER

(laughs)
Yeah, I guess it really is. Must be
fate.

Tyler says this jokingly but with a hint of seriousness as
he inches closer to Ava.

TYLER (CONT'D)

So, where are you coming back from?

AVA

This kid Andrew had a house party,
it was out of control.

TYLER

Oh shit, I heard about that. I was
about to go but me and the guys
decided to stay at another party. I
wish I went now.

Tyler catches himself coming off a little too strong and
rephrases what he said.

TYLER (CONT'D)

...because of how out of control it
was. Seems fun.

Ava blushes.

AVA

Yeah, you definitely should've
stopped by.

Ava and Tyler look into each other's eyes for a second too
long. Ava changes the subject.

AVA (CONT.)

So, how's your family doing?

TYLER

They're really good actually. We
went to Amsterdam over spring
break.

Ava starts to get really excited by what Tyler just said.

AVA

No way. You've always wanted to
visit there!

Ava catches herself.

AVA (CONT'D)

I mean, I remember you used to always talk about how you wanted to go there.

TYLER

Yeah I can't believe you remembered that.

AVA

I mean how could i not, you were obsessed.

TYLER

(scoffs)

I was not!

AVA

Were too!

The two of them laugh at one another.

TYLER

You know, it's really nice to see you and talk to you.

AVA

It's nice to talk to you too.

TYLER

No, but I mean, it's really really nice. Like I feel like you really understand me.

The mood shifts from joking to serious as Ava and Tyler are now looking into each other's eyes. Hand close together in the middle seat between them.

AVA

Always have, and always will Ty.

Tyler takes Ava's hand into his. Ava's phone lights up in her lap and it shows that she has a text from Logan.

LOGAN (TEXT)

How's it going?

Ava reaches for her phone (with the hand that's not holding

(CONTINUED)

Tyler's) and quickly responds.

AVA (TEXT)
It's actually really good.

LOGAN (TEXT)
No matter what you do, don't fall
back into his trap Ava.

Ava reads Logan's text and ignores it by locking her phone and not responding. She then looks at her and Tyler's hands and smiles.

TYLER
So, if you're not going anything
after this, would you want to come
over? Like old times?

AVA
(flirtatiously)
I'll have to think about it.

Ava laughs to herself as she remembers something.

AVA (CONT'D)
Do you remember the first time I
came over?

TYLER
Oh god, how could I forget?

AVA
I was so nervous that-

TYLER
You knocked over a glass of water
at dinner and then proceeded to
slip in the puddle of water when
trying to get a paper towel to
clean it up.

AVA
(laughs)
Yes!!!

TYLER

(laughs)

You swore to me you were never
coming over again

Ava laughs.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I'm glad you did though.

Tyler moves his hand from Ava's hand and rests it on her bare thigh. He rubs his thumb against her skin.

INT./EXT. OUTSIDE TYLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Uber pulls up in front of a normal suburban house.

Tyler and Ava are incredibly fixated on each other and Tyler's thumb against Ava's leg. They don't even realize they're at Tyler's house.

UBER DRIVER

And we're here.

Ava and Tyler's bodies jerk as if they were brought back to reality.

UBER DRIVER

Let's get you home honey, what's
your address?

Ava and Tyler look at each other as Ava contemplates her answer.

AVA

(beat)

Actually, I think I'll get off
here.

UBER DRIVER

You sure?

Ava smirks.

AVA

Yes.

Tyler smiles.

(CONTINUED)

AVA (CONT'D)
Thanks for everything!

Ava and Tyler get out of the Uber and walk towards the door of Tyler's house.

INT. TYLER'S MUDROOM - NIGHT

Tyler opens the door for Ava, like a gentleman. However as she walks in first, Tyler sneakily takes a look at Ava's butt.

INT. TYLER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ava and Tyler enter the living room. Tyler leaves the lights off. Tyler rests his hand on the small of Ava's back as he leads her to the couch. Ava looks around the living room in the dark.

AVA
Nothing's changes around here.

TYLER
Nope, just as you left it.

Ava and Tyler sit on the couch, bodies touching. Tyler leans in as if he's going to kiss Ava. Ava looks away and changes the subject:

AVA
So, how have your grandparents been?

Tyler sits back into the couch defeatedly.

TYLER
They're good. You know, still old.

Ava positions her whole body to face Tyler.

AVA
Yeah, but like anything new? I miss your grandma's snickerdoodle cookies!

Tyler half-heartedly laughs.

TYLER

Yeah those are definitely some
quality cookies.

Tyler tries once again and leans in to kiss Ava. Ava looks
away from Tyler again.

AVA

Oh yes, nothing can beat them. How
about soccer? How's that going?

Tyler starts to look annoyed.

TYLER

It's fine. Everything's good.

Tyler puts his hand on Ava's leg and starts rubbing his
thumb gently against her thigh. He then proceeds to try to
kiss her for the third time. Ava finally gives in.

Ava and Tyler start kissing. Tyler starts to put his hand up
her shirt and Ava tries to wiggle his hand away. Tyler then
proceeds to try to unbutton Ava's pants. Ava pulls away.

AVA

Ty.

TYLER

What?

Tyler's eyes are fixated on Ava's mouth and he heads in to
kiss her more. Ava gives in and kisses him for a few
seconds, but Tyler tries to put his hand up her shirt again.
Ava pulls away again and shifts her body away from Tyler's.

TYLER

C'mon.

Tyler proceeds to grab Ava and tries to start kissing her
again. Ava gets up from the couch, but Tyler pulls her back
down to his level.

AVA

(shouts)

Ty stop!!!

Tyler pushes Ava away and furrows his eyebrows in anger.

TYLER

Shut the fuck up Ava, you'll wake up my parents. What's wrong with you? We used to do this all the time.

Ava's body limps sheepishly back into the couch.

AVA

I...I just don't want to do this, OK?

Tyler gets up and looks down at Ava angrily.

TYLER

Then why'd you even bother coming over?

Ava now starts to get angry.

AVA

To talk? Like normal people? I had this stupid idea that maybe, just maybe, you realized you were wrong to end things.

(scoffs)

Ha, wow. You know what, thank you Tyler. Thank you for this enlightening experience. Goodbye.

Tyler stands there in dismay with what Ava just said. Ava gets up and leaves his house.

EXT. TYLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ava is sitting on the curb of Tyler's driveway. She's alone, but happy. The Uber app is open on her phone and she puts in her address. The screen asks whether she wants a regular Uber or an Uber Pool. Ava's thumb hovers over which button to press. Ava proceeds to press regular uber.

FADE OUT.