

LOVE, DEATH & MARY

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. WHITE SANDS DESERT - NIGHT

Blaze all around -- the campfire, the tension, her voice.

LUKE (18), quiet, hopeless, sits on the sand, a look of love, mesmerised by the SINGING.

MARY (17), beautiful, vibrant. She sings, and even the cackle of the firewood hushes to listen.

RACHEL (18), the kind of rare pretty blouse you find in a thrift store, records the scene on her PHONE. Her eyes are on Luke.

Mary sits crosslegged across from them. She looks at Luke out of the corner of her eye; sparks.

EXT. WHITE SANDS DESERT - NIGHT

Mary and Luke ride a made up SLED down a sandy hill, but fall midway and stumble upon each other.

They laugh uncontrollably, laying side by side on the sand.

Luke turns to face her. His eyes trace her arm down to her hand. He grasps it.

A look of promise between them.

EXT. WHITE SANDS DESERT - DAY

The zipper of the entrance to the TENT slides open to reveal Luke, who exits, stretching, blinded by the rising sun.

He walks across a sand dune, turning his head to search for the group.

LUKE
Mary? Rachel?

Silence.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Mary!?

His pace quickens; concern.

He reaches the top of a dune, and looks around at the desolate miles of sand around him.

At the foot of the dune, he sees her, and runs.

Mary lays on her back, her eyes vacant, face covered in sand, the wind blowing her hair violently. She does not blink.

LUKE (CONT'D)
No, no, no... Mary, no...

Luke kneels by her side and tries to find a pulse. He presses his ear to her chest. Nothing.

He HOWLS.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. LUKE'S DORM ROOM - DAY

KNOCK, KNOCK.

Luke opens the door from the inside. .

He lets the door swing.

Rachel lets herself in. She stands in the only space in the room not covered in clothes, takeout trash, and used tissues.

Luke does not look her in the eye.

RACHEL
We missed you there.

Silence.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
It's not your fault.

He turns his back to her.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
I was there, too, y'know? There's nothing anyone could've done.

He turns his head back to her.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - DAY

Grey. Luke stares at the abyss. It's too cloudy to see much.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Flashes of memories. Luke and Mary's lockers, side by side. They laugh. Their fingers touch on the locks. They look into each other's eyes, lost, as if everyone has disappeared-

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Luke faces his COMPUTER.

COMPUTER

Welcome to your Personalised
Digital Voice Assistant.

(beat)

Would you like to select a voice
from our presets or upload your
own?

LUKE

Upload my own.

COMPUTER

Please state the name you would
like to call your P.D.V.A.

LUKE

Mary.

COMPUTER

Please play your desired voice now.

Luke plays a VIDEO of Mary laughing and fooling around. At the sound of her voice, Luke closes his eyes.

COMPUTER (CONT'D)

Thank you. Loading...

Deep breath.

GHOST MARY (O.S.)

Hello?

Luke opens his eyes. Hope.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

LUKE (V.O.)

Tell me about White Sands.

GHOST MARY (V.O.)

Imagine a place as pure as any remote beach you've ever been on with white sand that you can't even tell if you're in a desert or on a beach. The moon, you just can't believe it, because it's so beautiful, it seems surreal. There's a nice breeze and so many things that are just so wonderful!

- Luke wakes up looking depressed.
- Luke walks to class downtrodden.
- Luke gets a TEXT from Mary; grins.

LUKE (V.O.)

(laughs)

What is today gonna be like?

GHOST MARY (V.O.)

It's gonna start out as beautiful as ever. Sunshine and flowers and everything's gonna be blooming, and then in the middle of the day it's gonna rain, rain, rain, and it's going to be so beautiful.

- Luke eats lunch alone, one hand with a fork, the other with his PHONE; laughs.
- Luke studies in the library, containing a laugh, taking his HEADSET off momentarily.

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Luke is out on a run with his HEADSET on. He jogs right past Rachel.

RACHEL

Luke!?

He stops, and turns to see her.

LUKE

Hey, Rach! Nice outfit.

Rachel is taken aback by the contrast.

RACHEL

You're looking... great.

LUKE
(laughs)
We should catch up soon.

He tries to walk away.

RACHEL
Tonight. Movies.

LUKE
I have exams.

RACHEL
Me too. See you there!

INT. LUKE'S DORM ROOM - LATER

Luke sits on the bedside. He takes out his PHONE.

LUKE
Mary, what's playing at the Guild
tonight?

Silence.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Mary?

Nothing. Luke is confused.

EXT. ART HOUSE - EVENING

Rachel stands alone near the movie posters. Luke walks up next to her.

LUKE
Burning Bodhi looks cool.

Rachel jumps, then smiles in relief. She grabs his hand and leads him into the theatre.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - LATER

Luke and Rachel sit next to each other as the FILM plays. Luke's phone goes off.

RING RING

RACHEL
(hushed)
Shut up, Luke!

LUKE

Sorry!

Luke sees an incoming call from Ghost Mary. He mutes the call.

INT. BAR - LATER

Rachel takes Luke from their table as he sips a beer. He sets it next to his phone on the table. It RINGS again.

Luke and Rachel dance together. Rachel spins around and Luke laughs. The phone remains ignored.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Luke and Rachel dance on the sidewalk. Luke laughs as Rachel twirls. Happiness.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Luke and Rachel stare at the LIGHTS, laying side by side on the grass.

RACHEL

That was one too many.

LUKE

More like three.

Rachel laughs.

RACHEL

I wish I could see the world from out there. Imagine, Earth would be a speck of dust.

LUKE

There's so much to live right here.

Rachel looks at Luke and smiles. She holds his hand and Luke turns to face her. He hesitates for a moment... then smiles at her. They turn to face the urban stars once more.

INT. LUKE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Luke lays on his bed wide awake with a smile on his face. He turns to see his still glowing phone on his bedside table. It has a LOW BATTERY symbol. He sighs and turns away.

INT. LUKE'S DORM ROOM - MORNING

Luke opens his eyes and sees Rachel standing beside him. Startled, he covers up his bare chest. Rachel laughs.

RACHEL
Do you always leave the door
unlocked, you little drunk?

LUKE
God, Rachel, you could've knocked
or something.

Rachel continues to laugh, and starts to pull the covers from him.

RACHEL
Come on, grumpy. I sent you like
fifty-two texts.

Luke gasps and reaches for his phone accidentally knocking it down on the floor. Rachel reaches for it and picks it up.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
You're still drunk?

She plugs it into the wall outlet, and it lights up. She frowns.

LUKE
Rachel, wait!

RACHEL
What is this?

Rachel shows him the phone. He has a "Good Morning" MESSAGE from Ghost Mary with her PICTURE. Luke tries to take it from Rachel, but she turns away from him.

RING RING

Ghost Mary's name lights up on Luke's phone.

LUKE
Rachel, please, just give it here.

Rachel hesitates and answers cautiously.

RACHEL
Mary...?

GHOST MARY
Hello, Rachel.

Rachel SCREAMS and drops the phone.

LUKE

This might be hard to understand.

RACHEL

That's her voice, Luke! That's her!
What the hell's going on?

LUKE

Calm down. Let me explain.

RACHEL

How could you?

LUKE

I just... she's just my PDVA-

RACHEL

This is wrong...

LUKE

No, I just wanted to hear her voice
again.

RACHEL

(sarcastically)

That's not messed up at all!

LUKE

She doesn't have to be gone
completely. This way she's still
with me.

RACHEL

Good luck, Luke.

LUKE

Rach...

Rachel makes a move to leave and Luke puts an arm out gently
to stop her, she avoids it.

RACHEL

Goodbye.

Luke sighs as she exits the room. He looks at his phone
solemnly. Ghost Mary is still on the line. He hangs up on her
and runs his hands across his face.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Luke walks through the deserted lot. He sits down on the curb and takes his phone out of his pocket.

LUKE
Mary, do you love me?

GHOST MARY
I have the utmost appreciation for you.

LUKE
Mary, what happens when you die?

GHOST MARY
Here's what I found on the internet.

Luke sits there for a moment and laughs.

LUKE
How do I move on?

GHOST MARY
Where would you like to go?

Luke is pensive.

INT. RACHEL'S DORM ROOM - LATER

KNOCK, KNOCK

Rachel opens her door and Luke stands before her.

RACHEL
Go away, Luke.

She shuts the door in his face.

LUKE
Rach, please.

Luke takes out his wallet and finds a piece of PAPER. He searches his pockets for a pen.

A PEN rolls out from beneath the crack under the door. Luke smiles and picks it up. He begins to write on the paper: I DON'T KNOW HOW TO LET GO. He slides it under the door.

Rachel opens the door.

RACHEL
Neither do I.

They look at each other for a moment and they embrace. They hug each other tightly in the middle of the hallway.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Luke and Rachel stand side by side facing forward.

RACHEL
Ready?

Luke takes his phone from his pocket. It's RINGING with a call from Ghost Mary. He hesitates for a moment... then throws it as far away from them as he can.

They stand there looking into the distance.

Luke takes Rachel's hand.

FADE OUT.