

ACE

Written by

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EXT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Snow falls on the sidewalk. The only light comes from the complex's glass double doors.

ACE, 23, leans against his car and watches the door. He exhales, his breath visible. He looks down at his phone. He looks up as the door opens.

SCOTT, 24, exits. He hugs Ace.

ACE

Took you long enough. You know how cold it is?

SCOTT

Do you know how hard it is for me to dress for a date? We can't all always look as good as you.

ACE

We've gone to this diner for years, before we were together--

SCOTT

But this time I actually have to work to keep you impressed.

Ace walks around and gets into the driver's side. Scott gets in the passenger's seat.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

They buckle their seatbelts. Ace looks at Scott.

ACE

We're finally on a first date. What do we say if we see someone--

SCOTT

The truth.

Ace starts the car. He drives off.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Besides, doesn't everyone love us?

ACE

That's pretty conceited.

SCOTT

Maybe they already know about us.

Ace takes one hand off the wheel to push Scott's shoulder.

ACE
Not helping.

Ace pulls into a parking lot and parks. He unbuckles himself.

ACE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I know tonight is long
overdue and I want to enjoy it.

Scott unbuckles himself and opens his door.

SCOTT
It'll be a night to remember.

ACE
Better be for a good reason.

The two exit the car. Scott walks around to take Ace's hand.

SCOTT
It will be.

ACE
I trust you.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The parking lot is well lit. The colorful lights of the diner
act like a centerpiece.

Scott leads Ace to the door, up the steps, and inside.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

When the door is opened, a bell rings above them.

Scott looks to the HOSTESS and raises two fingers. The
Hostess leads them to a table.

SCOTT
Thank you.

The Hostess leaves two menus. Scott sits with his back to the
door. Ace sits opposite him, facing the door.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
What are you thinking?

ACE
Getting used to us dating.

Scott looks at Ace and lets out a small laugh.

SCOTT
I meant about what to eat, Ace.

Ace covers his mouth to hide an embarrassed laugh. As he opens his mouth to answer, the diner's bell rings again.

JACOB, 26, enters and leans in to talk to the host. He looks around and sees Ace and Scott.

Ace's eyes widen when he sees Jacob. He turns to Scott.

ACE
We need to leave.

Scott turns around, nods, and starts to get up.

JACOB
My two favorite people, having
dinner without their third?

Jacob walks to the table, goes to Ace's side, and puts a hand on his shoulder. Ace tenses and can't get words out.

SCOTT
Actually, we were just leaving.

Jacob motions to the menus.

JACOB
Looks like you just got here to me.

Ace pushes Jacob's hand off of him and moves next to Scott.

ACE
Scott's not feeling well. So if
you'll excuse us.

Ace grabs Scott's wrist and pulls him towards the door.

JACOB
I interrupted something, didn't I?

Jacob follows them to the door.

Ace tightens his grip on Scott's wrist and takes a step back.

SCOTT
I think you need to back off, Jake.

Jacob laughs and crosses his arms.

JACOB
You're kidding. From me to him?

ACE
We broke up six months ago.

JACOB
I've been waiting for you to come
to your senses.

Scott backs up and out the door. Jacob steps out to follow,
but Ace points to Jacob.

ACE
Stop.

Jacob puts his arms up and smiles.

JACOB
Fine. Feel better, Scottie.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Scott wraps an arm around Ace and leads him to the car. He
opens the passenger's door.

SCOTT
Let me drive. Take a minute.

Ace climbs into the seat.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Scott walks around and gets in.

ACE
How did he know we were there?

SCOTT
Bad timing, I'm sure. Where to?

Ace shrugs. Scott starts the car, pulls out of the parking
lot, and drives off.

Ace's phone rings. He tenses, looks at the ID, and exhales.

ACE
It's Nate. Should I answer?

SCOTT
Your call.

Ace accepts the call and puts it on speaker.

ACE
You're on with me and Scott.

NATE (V.O.)
Hey, you two. We've got an issue.

SCOTT
Can't be any worse than ours.

NATE (V.O.)
Jacob's on his way over. Said he's
got a secret about Ace.

Ace balls his hands into fists.

Scott looks at him.

SCOTT
We're on our way.

Ace ends the call, his hands shaking.

ACE
Not good. Do we have to?

SCOTT
Not if you're uncomfortable.

Scott reaches into the backseat with one hand, and feels
around for a water bottle. He hands it to Ace.

Ace drinks half of the bottle. He then looks over to Scott.

ACE
No matter what, we'll be alright.

Scott reaches down to take Ace's hand.

ACE (CONT'D)
We've been close for so long. That
won't change.

SCOTT
Nothing is going to come between
us, least of all Jacob.

Ace rests his head against Scott's shoulder, closes his eyes,
and takes a deep breath.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
So what's this little secret?

ACE
It'll be out in the open soon.

Scott parks the car on a well-lit street and nudges Ace.

EXT. NATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

NATE, 24, exits a house and walk to the car.

Ace and Scott exit the car and walk up to Nate.

NATE
Really quick. Jacob called and said
he spotted you two at the diner. I
didn't tell him anything.

ACE
What would you have to tell him?

Nate smiles.

NATE
You think I wouldn't know that my
best friends are dating?

Ace wraps an arm around Scott and shrugs.

NATE (CONT'D)
He said he had something to say
about Ace, from when you broke up.

Ace looks up to meet Scott's eyes.

ACE
How did he know?

SCOTT
About what, Ace?

Headlights cross the trio's faces. A run-down car stops in
the middle of the road. Jacob exits and walks to them.

JACOB
Gang's all here. Great! I don't
have to tell Scottie himself.

SCOTT
Stop calling me Scottie. And hurry
up, it's cold out here.

JACOB

Not as cold as what Ace was
planning to do after he left the
best thing to ever happen to him.

ACE

The best?

Ace lets go of Scott's arm. He pokes Jacob in the chest.

ACE (CONT'D)

You are not the best thing to ever
happen to me. You sit at home and
call yourself the next billionaire.

JACOB

Can't deny what I am, sweetie. Quit
trying to turn the tables.

ACE

Because you're absolutely perfect?

JACOB

Glad you finally understand.

Nate and Scott look at each other. Nate winces.

SCOTT

Get to the point, Jacob.

Ace looks to Scott and shakes his head. He turns to Jacob.

ACE

He called me a coward. I didn't
realize that he just wasn't the
one.

Scott steps forward to stand alongside Ace.

ACE (CONT'D)

I was even going to move. I put a
down payment on a house a few
hundred miles away.

SCOTT

If I had a power-hungry jerk as an
ex, I'd do the same.

Ace takes Scott's hand.

ACE

Anything else?

Jacob runs a hand through his hair and looks to Nate.

JACOB
That's got to sting. Your best
friend leaving you like that.

Nate looks at his house and shakes his head.

NATE
Get off my lawn.

Jacob looks to his car. Two other cars are blocked from going
down the street. He runs to move the car and drives off.

SCOTT
Well, that was easy.

ACE
Speak for yourself.

SCOTT
You handled it pretty well.

Ace shrugs, and looks down to his feet.

ACE
He wanted you guys to hate me.

SCOTT
I told you, nothing can pull me
away from this.

Scott squeezes Ace's hand.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
But, with the house you bought.
What made you stay?

ACE
I caught feelings for the right
person.

Ace rests his head against Scott's shoulder.

ACE (CONT'D)
Didn't think it'd be fair to not
give them a chance, just because I
wanted to stay away from an ex.

NATE
What happened to the house?

ACE
I kept it. Just in case.

Nate rubs the back of his own head and chuckles.

NATE

I think we could use a vacation.

Scott looks down to Ace with a smile.

SCOTT

I agree. But your house, your call.

Ace looks back into the now empty street and nods.

ACE

Can you be ready in the morning? I already have a bag in my car.

NATE

I call driver! I'll pick you guys up at nine!

Nate turns and runs into his house.

Scott takes Ace's other hand in his own.

SCOTT

You were amazing tonight.

ACE

Were we in the same place? I was falling apart in the car.

SCOTT

But look at you now. I'm really proud of you.

Ace leans up and kisses Scott.

ACE

Do you mind if I stay the night?

SCOTT

Bold. Yeah, no problem. Not like we can hide anything from Nate anyway.

Ace laughs and turns back from his car.

ACE

I don't think we need to, anyway. No more secrets, alright?

SCOTT

Alright, Ace. I've got you.

END