

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

MAE is waiting at the bus stop, headphones in. The world around her seems almost non-existent.

MAE (V.O.)

I once saw a movie called Past Lives.
In the movie, they talk about something
called in-yun or, more simply, the
concept of having met someone in a past
life.

She gets up and walks down the sidewalk.

MAE (V.O.)

I wonder, what is it about this life
that makes loving so hard?

"ACT I : THIS LIFE"

EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

MAE walks in to the bookstore. She looks around and skims through books.

MAE (V.O.)

Love is everywhere. In books. In
movies. In music. In life.

(beat)

And when it isn't about love.. it's
about the absence of it.

DING! The door opens. MAE looks up. JORDAN walks in.

MAE turns back to her books.

MAE (V.O.)

Does that make love inevitable?

She finds the book she was looking for, sits, leans back on the bookshelf and starts to read.

MAE (V.O.)

If love is so powerful, why is it taken
for granted?

CAMERA FOLLOWS JORDAN

JORDAN walks right past MAE's aisle and enters another.

JORDAN (V.O.)

Love is taken for granted because it's comfortable.

He stops and looks through books, just as MAE did.

He picks up a book and skims through it.

JORDAN (V.O.)

Comfort makes us careless. You don't guard what you think won't leave you.

He sets the book down and leaves the aisle he was in.

He now enters MAE's aisle, PRETENDING he doesn't see her, and PRETENDS to look for books.

MAE looks up at JORDAN.

JORDAN looks down at MAE.

JORDAN (V.O.)

There can't be love, without effort.

"ACT II : EFFORT"

JORDAN sits down beside MAE on the ground, a bit unsure what to say. He looks around aimlessly, until his gaze sets on her.

MAE, to his surprise, is still reading her book. It almost looks as if she is unaware of his presence.

A few moments pass.

JORDAN clears his throat. MAE looks up from her book and turns her head to him, unfazed.

JORDAN

Hi.

MAE

Hi?

An awkward pause occurs.

JORDAN

Oh, um. I'm sorry for bothering you, I just-

MAE
Just what?

JORDAN extends his hand.

JORDAN
I'm Jordan.

MAE looks at his hand, then up at him, not extending hers yet.

MAE
I know.

JORDAN
You know?

MAE
I know.

MAE extends her hand with a gentle smile.

MAE
I'm Mae.

They shake hands.

Another pause occurs. Not awkward this time.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

MAE and JORDAN walk side by side down the sidewalk. JORDAN is grinning from ear to ear, while MAE is quieter. She examines his face as if she is trying to study him.

MAE (V.O.)
Funny enough, I didn't really know who he was. I knew his name. I knew his face. What I didn't know was how little those things become when you fall in love with someone's soul.

MAE checks her phone, slows to a stop.

JORDAN quickly follows suit.

MAE

I uh.. I have to go now. I told my mom
I'd be back by 4.

JORDAN

What time is it now?

MAE

5:20.

JORDAN

Oh.

A short pause.

JORDAN blows out a small breath, almost a sigh.

JORDAN

I'll walk you home.

MAE starts walking, laughing under her breath.

JORDAN follows almost instantaneously.

MAE

(half-smiling)

My mom would kill me if she knew I
walked home with a boy.

JORDAN

She doesn't have to know. I could walk
part of the way.

(quieter)

I just wanna make sure you get home
safe.

MAE comes to a sudden stop.

JORDAN does too.

MAE

If you want to make sure I get home
safe, text me.

MAE starts walking again.

JORDAN walks behind her like a lost puppy.

JORDAN

I don't have your number.

MAE

Exactly.

JORDAN

Can I have your number?

MAE stops, turns, and holds out her hand for his phone. JORDAN hands it over immediately with no hesitation. She puts her number in his phone.

MAE

There you go.

She turns and starts walking off, but then--

JORDAN

Would you want to go out on a date with me? Tomorrow?

She stops abruptly.

Turns around.

A beat passes.

MAE

Sure.

She walks off.

INT. BROOKLYN PIZZA - DAY

JORDAN walks towards the booth with two slices of pizza. Sits down, but not across from her. Right beside her.

MAE

(sarcastic)

Excuse you?

JORDAN

What?

MAE

Aren't you supposed to sit on the opposite side?

JORDAN

No.

(beat)

This ain't no interview, I wanna be
next to you.

Mae tries hiding her smile.

They eat their pizza and talk.

MAE (V.O.)

I don't think it ever occurred to me
that I was falling in love. Not in this
moment, at least.

SHOT OF JORDAN SMILING.

MAE (V.O.)

All I knew was that I loved his smile.
And that I wanted to make sure it
stays.

SHOT OF MAE LOOKING AT HIM, LONGINGLY.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

SPLIT SCREEN OF JORDAN AND MAE WALKING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS.

JORDAN and MAE are walking home texting one another.

MAE (TEXT)

i had fun with you today 😊

JORDAN (TEXT)

i had more fun 😊

(another text)

i really like you mae

MAE stops walking.

SPLIT SCREEN TURNS FULL.

MAE (TEXT)

i like you too

ACT III : TOGETHER

INT. BOBA TEA SHOP - DAY

MAE is sitting down drinking at a boba tea shop.

MAE (V.O.)

They warned me but I didn't listen.

JORDAN appears in the frame, hands her boba, and sits down with his own.

They talk, laugh, and smile. The whole scene feels pure and light-hearted.

MAE

I didn't know love could feel like this at all.

(beat)

Especially when it gets bad.

EXT. SIDEWALK (OUTSIDE OF BOBA TEA SHOP) - DAY

Suddenly the mood from the previous scene shifts, and MAE and JORDAN are arguing.

MAE (V.O.)

Jordan and I had been together 3 months now. I love him, and he loves me.

(beat)

But.. love isn't enough to keep a relationship going.

MAE storms off, leaving Jordan there alone.

SPLIT SCREEN OF THEM WALKING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS. SAME SCENES JUST DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

INT. QUIK CHEK - DAY

MAE is scanning through the aisles, looking for a snack for Jordan.

Suddenly, Jordan appears in her aisle, holding out flowers for her.

She looks at him for a moment, face unreadable.

MAE (V.O.)

But, I think Jordan taught me more than
ever that love takes effort.

But then, she smiles, and holds up his favorite chips.

Jordan lets out a sigh of relief and slings his arm around her
shoulder as they walk out of Quik Chek.

They walk down the street.

Credits roll.

MAE (V.O.)

Okay stop playing though Jordan, what
movie do you want to see?!

JORDAN (V.O.)

Whatever you wanna watch.

MAE (V.O.)

If I knew what I wanted to watch, I
wouldn't be asking you idiot.

JORDAN (V.O.)

Uhhhh. Let's watch an action movie or
something.

MAE (V.O.)

Are you serious?

JORDAN (V.O.)

Yeah.

MAE (V.O.)

Yeah anyways so.

JORDAN (V.O.)

How are you gonna be picky when you
don't even know what you wanna watch?

MAE (V.O.)

Because I can.

JORDAN (V.O.)

You're annoying.

MAE

I am.

JORDAN (V.O.)

And picky.

MAE

And you love it.

JORDAN (V.O.)

I do.

THE END