

something I cared about

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SCENE SIX - OUR HIGH SCHOOL BREAKUP by Jamie Knox

*(ALYX, 18 & DRU, 18 sits on a park bench. Throughout the scene DRU may get up and move around, but ALYX stays planted.)*

DRU  
It's not like I won't come visit you

ALYX  
I know. It's not that.

DRU  
I'm really proud of you...

ALYX  
I know

DRU  
I mean, even the fact that you heard so early...

ALYX  
Dru?

DRU  
Yeah?

ALYX  
Can we talk about something else?

DRU  
Yeah, okay, but, geez, I thought you'd be happy. This is...

ALYX  
What?

DRU  
I dunno

ALYX  
No, say it

DRU

...

ALYX

Say it...

DRU

I dunno. It's just, everyone's at Fudruckers and we're sitting here in silence.

ALYX

Well, maybe you should go then

DRU

No, it's not like that

ALYX

Okay

DRU

Alyx! You're just being kind of a downer

ALYX

So, go. I don't feel like hamburgers anyway

DRU

I mean, clearly that's not why people go to Fudruckers

ALYX

Well, whatever

DRU

You know what? You, whatever!

ALYX

Good one

DRU

You, good one!

ALYX

Okay, are we done here, cuz you're acting like a child?!

DRU

Well, it's a good thing I'm in high school because I AM a child

ALYX

Well, that explains a lot

DRU

Dude, what the fuck?!

ALYX

...

DRU

What? So you're better than me?

ALYX

What? I didn't say that at all

DRU

You kinda didn't have to...

ALYX

What are you talking about?

DRU

I don't know.

*(loud, exasperated grumble)*

ALYX

What? Fucking, go to Fudruckers then

DRU

It's just. Sorry, I didn't get into your fancy college!

ALYX

Didn't get in? You didn't even apply! You didn't even try!

DRU

So? I knew I wouldn't

ALYX

Dru, that's not true!

DRU

Yes it is

ALYX

Whatever. But you didn't apply anywhere. Not state, not community, not even technical college

DRU

I know!

ALYX

I mean, we kinda knew you weren't going with me, but you're not... You're not going anywhere

DRU

...

ALYX

And, I don't know. I'm just having a hard time dealing with that

DRU

Why?

ALYX

I don't know. I don't want to fight about it...that's why I told you to go

DRU

Just say it. Just spill it

ALYX

No matter what I say I'm going to sound like the asshole

DRU

Why can't you just be happy for yourself? It's a big deal you got into your dream school. Why do you have to be so dramatic about everything?

ALYX

I'm literally the vice president of the drama club

DRU

Only because you lost to Cammie Sluggs-face

ALYX

That is not her name

DRU

Well, that's her face

ALYX

What does that even mean?

DRU

*(beat)*

Seriously, though. Everyone's waiting for us so we can celebrate your big news and you're sitting like a grandpa on this park bench. Should I go and bring you back some buns so you can feed the pigeons?

*(beat)*

Alyx! You are blowing so hard right now

ALYX

Dru, what about you? I'm sad, cuz, what about you?

DRU

What? What about me? I'm fine. I'm gonna work at the shop and figure it out. Maybe I'll take a gap year and travel. We already talked about me. I don't have to be a fucking philosophy major and eat granola all day to be cool

ALYX

Be cool? This is your future?!

DRU

Why do you care? You're taken care of! You've got a free ride to fancy schmany pantsy university...

ALYX

It's not too late. You can still apply to local colleges and knock out your basics

DRU

Yeah

ALYX

Wanna do that? I'll come over on Saturday and help.

DRU  
I dunno, maybe

ALYX  
Why don't you care?!

DRU  
Jesus, just leave it alone already!

ALYX  
Dru! I care about you. This matters cuz I love you. You're my partner

DRU  
You sound like you're there already. Like you're fucking 25 and shit

ALYX  
You know what?! Just fucking go already. You're being such a loser right now I can't even stand you. Just go to Fudruckers

DRU  
I CAN'T

ALYX  
WHY NOT?

DRU  
BECAUSE IT'S FRIDAY

ALYX  
...ohhhh

DRU  
I just realized it too

ALYX  
Why did they think a hamburger place on a Friday during Lent would be a good idea?

DRU  
Because our friends are idiots.

ALYX

They should have been ironic and gone to Fridays

DRU

Right? At least we can use our fake IDs at Fridays

ALYX

What did you give up for Lent anyway?

DRU

Mountain Dew

ALYX

I think we're breaking up

DRU

Because of the Mountain Dew? Mountain Dew's awesome!

ALYX

I just...I mean, I think we're moving in two different directions.

DRU

Yeah. Should we wait until the end of the school year?

ALYX

I just can't...we've been talking about colleges for years. Why would you just not even apply. I mean, what kind of person just doesn't even try?

DRU

Me, I guess. A person like me.

*(DRU exits)*

ALYX

Yeah, I guess so.

SCENE 5 – THE DOLL by Jason A. Phillips with help from Daphne  
*(ALYX, a child somewhere between 10 and 13 stands in a grove with a doll sadly.)*

ALYX

I'm really sorry about this. Mom says I have to give up something for Lent. I tried to give up the sweater Grandma gave me for Christmas, but Mom said it had to be something I cared about or it didn't count. I don't know how she knew I didn't like that sweater but she did...so this is it. I'll miss you...good



luck out here on your own.

*(ALYX throws the doll over her shoulder and begins to trudge away painfully slowly. DRU pops out from behind a tree, throws the doll at ALYX and ducks out of sight. ALYX turns around quickly and see the doll)*

Hey! I told you to stay here. I can't take you with me. You know I'll miss you too. But you've got to stay here...maybe someone else will find you and take you home.

*(ALYX tosses the doll again and walks away. DRU pops back out and throws it back and ducks out of sight. ALYX turns again)*

Callie! You have to stay, why are you doing this to me...Mom will be so mad if I bring you back. Stay here, stop trying to follow me!

*(ALYX tosses the doll a little harder this time and walks away faster. DRU pops out, grabs the doll again and tosses it. This time ALYX turns fast enough to catch DRU. ALYX grabs the doll and throws it at DRU this time.)*

Hey! What are you doing? Leave her alone. She needs to stay here!

DRU

You just seem so sad. I just thought...Why don't you just keep her under your bed for Lent? Bring back out when it's over.

ALYX

Why are you spying on me! Rude!

DRU

I was just playing hide and seek

ALYX

With yourself?

DRU

We just moved here so yeah...with myself. Gah, judgey much?

ALYX

Sorry

DRU

It's ok. So really, why can't you hide the doll under your bed?

ALYX

Because Mom says that's cheating. You have to really give it up otherwise God won't see how hard you're trying. What are you really doing out here anyway? Everyone knows you can't play hide and seek alone. You just seem creepy if you do.

DRU

I was bored. So bored. Boooooooored! My Dad said I needed to stop complaining and do something about it. I grabbed my iPad but he told me I needed to come outside and blow the stink off me.

ALYX

Gross!

DRU

My Dad can be gross. He says the dumbest stuff...I'm Dru. We just moved here.

ALYX

I'm Alyx. I live over there (*She points kindly of vaguely*)

DRU

Cool. We moved into the gross yellow house.

ALYX

Oh...the dog pee house.

DRU

Yup. The dog pee house with my gross Dad.

ALYX

It's not that gross...thanks for trying to give my doll back

DRU

It's cool.

ALYX

It makes me like you.

DRU

Yeah?

ALYX

Uh huh. Maybe like...like you like you.

DRU  
Uh...well I...don't know...what to say.

ALYX  
Do you like me?

DRU  
We just met

ALYX  
And?

DRU  
Maybe I like you

ALYX  
Really? Like like?

DRU  
Yeah. Maybe...I tried to save your doll didn't I?

ALYX  
So...what do we do now?

DRU  
Do you want to like...go to the movies or something?

ALYX  
My parents might say no

DRU  
...well we could just hang out then

ALYX  
Oh...ok

DRU  
We could meet here tomorrow at like...what works for you

ALYX  
Oh idk (*spoken as the letter I, D, K*)

DRU  
2?

ALYX

Ok...see you then

DRU

Ok...bye

*(ALYX walks out of the scene. DRU slowly walks the opposite direction, checking on ALYX walking away. DRU walks a few more steps, then runs back in picks up the doll and holds it gently brushing off any dirt.)*

SCENE 4 - BEER GARDEN by Travis Lowe

*(An outdoor beer garden with a few tables. As always, it is March, but this is 2020 and COVID-19 is still infecting the populace. DRU and NICO, in their midtwenties, sit at one of the tables, masks at the ready, enduring the cold. They have a couple of empty glasses in front of them and are engaged in animatedly friendly conversation. As the scene begins, ALYX, masked, dressed as a server, is facing away from the table mixing two fresh drinks.)*

NICO

I don't get it. So, the impurities make the salt pink, right?

DRU

And that's why it's healthier for you.

NICO

Because of impurities.

DRU

Yeah, like how a mutt is healthier than a pure-breed. Purity is bad.

NICO

I've always thought that.

DRU

And the anti-caking agents -

NICO

Now, Dru, you are *not* going to convince me cake is bad.

DRU

No, cake is good. Pink salt has no anti-caking agents. So, in a way, cake is healthy.

NICO

And you learned this from a sherpa.

DRU

Ex-sherpa. Quit after too many hikers went missing.

NICO

Like our server, jeeze.

NICO

DRU

*(motioning to ALYX)*

no, don't

Excuse me.

*(ALYX turns and approaches with the drinks. NICO and DRU mask up.)*

DRU

please

NICO

Have you seen our server?

ALYX

*(laying the drinks on the table)*

Sorry, I've got your drinks. Cody's cut for the night, but I'll take care of you. My name's -

DRU

Oh my god, Alyx! It's you! You know, I thought I saw you over there when we came in.

NICO

Yeah, you said, "That's Alyx."

DRU

I mean, I thought it might be -

NICO

"That's Alyx," you said

DRU  
But, like, with the mask -

NICO  
And then you said, "God, I hope Alyx doesn't come over here."

ALYX  
You did?

DRU  
I didn't.

NICO  
You did. You said, "I hope Alyx doesn't come over here. Alyx hates me." You kept using the name Alyx, like you're afraid to use pronouns.

DRU  
You can never be too careful.

ALYX  
Why would I hate you?

DRU  
I mean, well, you stopped texting me - after the, uh -

ALYX  
After you stopped texting me.

DRU  
*(flustered)*  
Well! With the pictures you were posting, I mean -

ALYX  
Pictures?

DRU  
Yeah, your Insta was just - busy. You seemed busy.

ALYX  
You mean with Harper.

DRU  
Oh, is that their name - ?

ALYX  
Was.

DRU

*(as if Harper died)*

Oh god. I'm sorry.

ALYX

No, I mean, it's just over. I mean Harper's still - uh - Jeeze, Dru. God, it's really good to see you again. it's been a minute, huh?

DRU

Yeah, wow. A minute - minutes -

ALYX

Who's this?

DRU

A friend

NICO

I'm Nico.

DRU

Yeah, Nico. Just a friend - Roommate.

ALYX

Hi.

NICO

Hello - Alyx.

DRU

So. - you said it's over. With uh -

ALYX

That? Yeah. Over.

DRU

I mean, but is anything really over, though?

ALYX

Yes.

DRU

But I mean like -

ALYX

You mean like with *us*?

*(There is a moment. Hope, judgement, fishing, longing. NICO breaks the tension.)*

NICO

*(to ALYX)*

So why did you two break up?

DRU

Oh, well, I took that gap year, and Alyx was always strict about-

NICO

*(still to ALYX)*

I mean with Harper.

DRU

Oh.

ALYX

I couldn't stand the music.

DRU

Oh come on, Alyx. You love all music. even Tay Tay.

ALYX

It was very niche.

NICO

Niches can be cool, though. Like -

ALYX

You say that. But when when a person blasts nothing but nineties dance mixes of Grateful Dead songs out of every orifice of their Chevy Sonic whenever you go bowling, then -

DRU

Ew.

NICO

Yeah, [ew] bowling.

*(to DRU)*

How do you know Alyx again?

DRU



It's not what you think. There's a lawn bowling joint out on 191.

NICO

Sounds fancy.

ALYX

It's not.

DRU

Bowling and Beers.

ALYX

It's like an outdoor dive bar.

DRU

and somehow just as sticky. Bet they're still open during COVID, though.

ALYX

Right, you just got back.

DRU

Just showing Nico around.

ALYX

Yeah, changed owners, but still open I think.

NICO

So, is this like bocci or something?

ALYX

No.

NICO

Maybe we should all go sometime.

DRU

Um, yeah,

(to ALYX)

I mean, if you want to.

ALYX

Can't. I gave it up for Lent.

DRU

Bowling? You gave up Beers and Bowling for Lent?

ALYX

Not the beers, just the bowling.

NICO

So we can still go and drink.

ALYX

That place. I mean, I gave up that place.

NICO

For...?

ALYX

Reasons.

DRU

I thought we agreed it had to be something you cared about.  
Which reminds me-

*(DRU pulls Callie the doll out of their bag and  
plops her on the table)*

ALYX

Is that?

DRU

Callie, yeah.

ALYX

You kept her all these years?

DRU

And took a picture with her in every country I visited. They're  
all still on my phone if you  
want them.

NICO

What is this?

DRU

It's a doll Alyx had when we were kids.

NICO

Creepy.

DRU

When we met, he/she/they was/were- [throwing this doll away]

ALYX

*(snappily cutting DRU off)*

So what're you giving up this year, Dru?

NICO

Sex.

DRU

*(trying to laugh this off in embarrassment)*

no

NICO

You did. You joked you were going to give something up this year that you *didn't* care about at all, like ironically.

ALYX

*(amused)*

Did you.

DRU

i mean -

NICO

and that's when I said there wasn't anything in the world that you didn't care about, and you said "Well, there's sex."

DRU

*(trying to save)*

and then we laughed.

NICO

and we laughed, and then you said, "But no, seriously though, I'm giving up sex for Lent."

ALYX

uh huh.

DRU

I guess - I mean - i might have said that.

NICO

You did.

ALYX

What was it I was always strict about?

DRU

What?

ALYX

You said you took your gap year -

NICO

Years.

ALYX

Years.

NICO

With an acoustics consultant. *And* a Venetian glassblower. I'm just up to the part with the sherpa.

ALYX

And you said *I* seemed busy. Which I was. Because apparently I'm very strict about... what?

DRU

Nothing. uh Everything. I mean, not strict, but - regimented. But I - But I was talking about your going to college. Right away. You were very regimented about going off to college right away, and wouldn't take a gap year...

NICO

years

DRU

...with me, and well - I went to Europe and met an acoustics consultant in this church, and because I wasn't travelling with a, uh, bartender - i mean with you, or whatever you are now, I thought why not an acoustics c- I mean seriously, why are you a bartender now?! And what the hell are you doing back here?! You went to college! You graduated! You got a Masters in Creative Enterprises for god's sake!

ALYX

And this is a creative enterprise. This is my COVID beer garden.

DRU

You own a business??!!

ALYX

Businesses. A few. I just gave one up actually.

DRU

*(sheepishly under their breath)*

say it wasn't Beers and Bowling. say it wasn't Beers and Bowling, -

ALYX

It was Beers and Bowling.

NICO

I suppose an outdoor dive bar just isn't regimented enough. Not like a COVID beer garden.

*(ALYX hears this, takes it to heart, and makes a decision.)*

ALYX

No, Dru was right. That place was just something I didn't much care for.

DRU

We used to go there all the time.

ALYX

But I left, remember? I thought you just couldn't get your shit together, and so we just weren't meant to be. But I missed you, Dru. - So I took ownership of Beers and Bowling, the place we always used to go. But, no matter how many Disco Dead songs were blasted at me, I couldn't transform it. There was no recapturing that old joy, you know? Bowling and Beers was our place, and we were over. And I seriously just didn't care about it anymore, so I guess it was wrong to give it up for Lent.

*(ALYX clears the empty glasses and takes the doll.)*

I'll meet you there after eight.

*(ALYX exits back to the bar area, taking the empties and Callie*

*with them. DRU  
watches, longingly, as DRU and NICO lower their masks.)*

NICO

I don't know whether to vomit or applaud.

DRU

What?

NICO

Creeping Insta. You knew Alyx owned this place. This is some sly-ass treachery right here.

DRU

Look, Alyx isn't stupid; just sometimes needs a little plausible deniability to break out of the way things are supposed to go. We were *supposed* to break up years ago and that was that, but me *unknowingly* wandering back into her/his/their life is kismet right?

NICO

So this is some kinda game?

DRU

Just the sort of surprise diversion Alyx has always needed from me. I didn't realize that before. Not until it was too late. But now I'm back to fulfill a need.

NICO

For you or for Alyx?

*(DRU finishes their drink with a bang slamming the glass down on  
the table)*

DRU

Both.

NICO

*(impressed)*

And she/he/they thought you couldn't get your shit together. But where does that put the whole "giving up sex for Lent" thing?

DRU

I mean, if Alyx can go back on a resolution, then why can't I?

END OF SCENE