

BREAKS

Written by

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SUMMER BREAK

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A High School party is in full swing. But this isn't any old kickback. These kids just graduated, based on the excessive amount of cheesy decorations and last-minute-hook-ups.

And- oh yeah- someone just turned on *Graduation (Friends Forever)* by Vitamin C. The crowd goes wild. They've been waiting for this day since they heard the song last, while holding crumpled certificates for finishing the 8th grade.

But they belt the lyrics louder than ever, because this time it really means something: Freedom.

They gather at the center of the room, putting their arms around each other, screaming:

As we go on, we remember all the times we had together. And as our lives change, come whatever, we will still be friends forever.

A muffled "Marimba" can be heard through the chaos.

TAVI HALLERAN, a girl, breaks off from the huddle. Dodging flailing limbs, she pulls her phone out of her pocket. Dad.

Panic mounts on her face. She ignores the call as her eyes start to scan the room. She gives up and crafts a text to BECCA: **Where are you? We gotta go!!**

She plops herself down on a nearby couch, tapping her leg anxiously.

ADAM NORTON, a boy, sits next to her.

ADAM

Hey.

TAVI

Hey.

The song and the screaming continues.

ADAM

Did you go to Harvard-Westlake?

TAVI

Yeah.

ADAM

Nice.

She's not eager to engage.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I didn't. Just graduated from
Campbell Hall.

TAVI

Why are you here? Not in a rude way-
just like, why?

ADAM

Jake's a family friend. Also I
think he invited me by accident.

TAVI

I didn't even know the guy throwing
this party is named Jake.

ADAM

Why are you here? Like- here on
this couch and not in the orgy of
emotions.

TAVI

I'm just not really on their level
right now.

ADAM

Yeah. You're surprisingly coherent.

TAVI

I'm finishing a round of
antibiotics so...

ADAM

Ah that sucks.

TAVI

For real. You?

ADAM

DD-ing.

TAVI

Nice.

Another call comes through on Tavi's phone. Dad again.
Ignored again.

ADAM

Uh-oh. You in trouble?

TAVI

I was supposed to be home like an hour ago.

ADAM

Well, what are you still doing here Young Lady?

TAVI

I don't know. I was gonna go back with my friend but she like vanished off the face of the earth.

ADAM

Who's your friend?

TAVI

Becca Dell.

ADAM

Did you try calling her?

TAVI

Yeah but she's not-

Adam shoots out of his seat and starts to yell:

ADAM

BECCA! BECCA! BECCA!!!

He pauses a moment. A few people turn their heads to stare at him, but he doesn't seem to mind. He sits back down.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Sorry. She didn't answer. Should I call again and leave a message?

He goes to stand up again. Tavi pulls him back down, giggling.

TAVI

Oh my God, stop. That was seriously such a dad joke.

ADAM

But My kid is way too young to understand my humor so I have to use it on someone.

TAVI

Oh yeah? How old is your kid?

ADAM

She just turned negative 12. It's such a great age. I'm really proud.

TAVI

Aw. Do you have pictures?

ADAM

No- she's shy. But just imagine the prettiest little sperm in the whole world.

TAVI

I'd really rather not.

ADAM

Yeah- actually don't - that's-

TAVI

But now I am. Yup. There it is.

ADAM

I'm really sorry.

TAVI

It's wearing a dress and everything.

ADAM

I'm less sorry.

Another call from Dad.

TAVI

Ughhhh. I really gotta go-

ADAM

I was about to head out soon, anyway. Do you want me to give you a ride?

TAVI

I should wait for Becca.

ADAM

Becca sounds like the kind of girl who can find her own way home.

TAVI

Based on what?

ADAM

Her name. First and last.

TAVI

Also- I like- don't really know you-

He opens Facebook on his phone and hands it to her.

ADAM

Here. Add yourself.

She types in her name.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Okay, Tavi Halleran. Wow! We have 130 mutual friends, so you know I'm not a total rando.

TAVI

True.

ADAM

And if I kill you, I'll lose that many friends *at least*. So it wouldn't even be worth it.

TAVI

I don't know- it's probably out of your way-

ADAM

I like driving. Come on.

He makes a beeline for the door. She looks at her phone: **Friend Request from Adam Norton**. She accepts it and follows after him.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Adam walks away from the house and across the street toward his car. Tavi calls after him.

TAVI

Hey, wait! Aren't you supposed to drive other people, too?

ADAM

What?

TAVI

You said you were DD-ing.

ADAM

Oh. Yeah, no. Uber kinda killed the Designated Driver thing.

TAVI
Then- wait- what?

ADAM
DD sounds better than huge pussy.

TAVI
(laughing)
Seriously??

ADAM
In the good old days, someone who didn't want to get fucked up had a place in this world. But now I'm totally obsolete.

TAVI
- And at such a young age.

ADAM
I guess I still say it out of habit. I'm sorry.

TAVI
If you're looking to change it up, the antibiotic thing works like a charm.

ADAM
No way! You're a huge pussy too?

TAVI
These people think I have like chronic Strep.

ADAM
That's genius!

He opens his car door. She goes around and climbs into the passenger seat to find-

INT./EXT CAR - NIGHT

Adam taking off his shoes.

TAVI
What are you doing?

ADAM
This is how I drive. Only the shoes come off, don't worry.

She just stares at him.

ADAM (CONT'D)

What?? It's more comfortable!

TAVI

Are you sure you're not just wearing the wrong size shoes...?

ADAM

I like to grip the pedals. It feels like I have more control.

TAVI

But what if you get into a accident? What if the windshield breaks and you have to escape from the car because the engine is going to explode but you can't walk because there is glass everywhere so you die in a fiery blaze?

ADAM

Jesus.

TAVI

It could happen.

ADAM

You know, I never thought about it like that. But I'll take the risk.

TAVI

What about *Die Hard*, Adam?

ADAM

I haven't seen *Die Hard*.

TAVI

You haven't seen *Die Hard*?? What is your problem?

ADAM

... Are we still talking about the shoe thing?

TAVI

You'd know if you'd seen *Die Hard*.

ADAM

I'll get on that. But in the meantime-

He pulls off his second shoe and starts to drive away.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Where to?

TAVI

The Valley.

ADAM

The Valley, huh? And how many times a week would you say you eat at Panda Express?

TAVI

Ha ha.

ADAM

I mean- that is you guys' idea of fine dining, right?

TAVI

It's a nice place to live.

ADAM

If you like your chicken a fluorescent orange. Music?

TAVI

Sure.

He reaches for his phone.

TAVI (CONT'D)

One sec, actually. I should call my Dad.

ADAM

Do your thing.

She does. It rings through. No answer.

TAVI

Weird. He's not picking up.

ADAM

He probably fell asleep.

TAVI

Or he's on the other line with the police.

ADAM

Either way, it buys us a little time. Right?

TAVI
For what?

ADAM
I'm hungry. Are you hungry?

TAVI
I don't know.

ADAM
Call again. If he doesn't answer,
then I think you're hungry.

EXT. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PANCAKES - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Tavi stands outside Adam's door, watching him put his shoes back on. Waiting. And waiting some more.

TAVI
Seriously??

ADAM
Don't rush me.

TAVI
At least buy slip-ons!

ADAM
Never.

TAVI
Don't you dare double knot.

ADAM
Fine. Let's go.

He gets up and they head toward the door.

INT. IHOP - NIGHT

They sit down at a table in the practically abandoned restaurant. Tavi starts looking over the menu.

TAVI
So many choices...

A WAITRESS approaches. She turns to Tavi.

WAITRESS
What can I get you?

Suddenly Tavi looks panicked.

TAVI

Um. I haven't really- I- What do you recommend?

WAITRESS

The pancakes.

TAVI

Okay. Which ones? Because there's- a lot.

WAITRESS

What do you like in your pancakes?

TAVI

Uh- What do you like?

WAITRESS

Why? You gonna share them with me?

Tavi gets more flustered, continues to stare at the menu.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

The blueberry ones are good.

TAVI

Great! I'll have that.

WAITRESS

How many do you want?

TAVI

Um- how many would you say a person my size normally gets?

The waitress rolls her eyes.

WAITRESS

I'll bring you the short stack. Anything to drink?

Tavi quickly turns the menu over.

TAVI

I didn't even see- I-

WAITRESS

I'm sorry I asked.

She turns to Adam.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

And you?

ADAM

Can I get the cinnamon roll french toast with an over-medium egg and a coffee. Thanks.

He hands over their menus. The waitress walks away. Adam starts to laugh uncontrollably.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Oh my God. What the hell was that?

TAVI

Big menus stress me out.

ADAM

Does that happen every time?

TAVI

Normally I would have just waited for you to order and gotten the same thing. But she looked at me first and - I don't know - I just freaked out.

ADAM

Why?? There are literally no stakes here! We're at iHop!

TAVI

Like logically I get that. But then my mind goes all Civil War on itself.

ADAM

What do you do when you eat alone?

TAVI

I don't eat alone.

ADAM

Okay. Well, what's your favorite food?

TAVI

I don't know.

ADAM

Come on!

He grabs a KETCHUP BOTTLE off the table and points it at her.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Gun to your head.

TAVI
Our mutual friends would not
approve.

He puts the bottle down.

ADAM
Fine. You're on death row because
you killed me. The executioner asks
what you want for your last meal.

TAVI
No way the executioner is also the
chef.

ADAM
Tavi. What do you get?

TAVI
Ummmm...

ADAM
You don't wanna die hungry.

TAVI
Fine- probably spaghetti and
meatballs.

ADAM
So that's your favorite food!

TAVI
No. I just like spaghetti and
meatballs.

ADAM
Then what is your favorite?!

TAVI
I don't know!

ADAM
So your first favorite food is "I
don't know" and your second
favorite food is spaghetti and
meatballs?

TAVI
Yeah.

ADAM
You're super fucking weird.

TAVI

Mhm.

She flashes him a grin. Adam smiles, shakes his head.

ADAM

That's okay. Weird is good.

The waitress comes back with their food. She puts it down in front of them and heads back to the kitchen.

TAVI

Damn.

ADAM

What?

TAVI

Yours looks so much better than mine.

ADAM

The power of decision-making.

TAVI

Can I have a bite?

ADAM

No. Then you'll never learn.

TAVI

I'm a lost cause. Gimme.

He slides a piece over to her plate.

ADAM

So where are you going to school?

TAVI

Wesleyan.

ADAM

Ooh good choice.

TAVI

Double-legacy. How about you?

ADAM

Michigan.

TAVI

Are you ready for the winter?

ADAM

Why is that always the first thing people ask me? Weather is not that interesting.

TAVI

Or maybe Michigan's just not that interesting.

ADAM

Shit. You're probably right.

TAVI

What are you gonna study?

ADAM

Comp-sci.

TAVI

So you're gonna be employed, unlike me! Congrats!

ADAM

What do you do?

TAVI

Photography.

ADAM

Why? And please don't say "I don't know." It's such a cop-out.

She thinks it over.

TAVI

I never liked the way I looked in pictures, so I started taking them.

ADAM

Come on.

TAVI

I'm serious! Moments were being ruined because I would worry about how the pictures were gonna end up everywhere. So I bought this big camera, and I became totally obsessed with it, and my friends liked the way I made them look, and now it's kinda my thing.

ADAM

But don't you want pictures of yourself? For memories and stuff?

TAVI

I still get the memories. Just from my point of view. Why comp-sci?

ADAM

I'm worried that robots are gonna take over and I want to learn how to dismantle them.

TAVI

I'm sticking with you.

ADAM

And yeah, I wanna be really rich.

TAVI

-So you can afford luxuries like cinnamon roll french toast.

ADAM

I have my priorities straight. Wanna head out?

TAVI

Yeah, I should get back.

ADAM

You should. One more stop though.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

As Adam drives, Tavi's phone dings.

TAVI

Oh look! Becca has reemerged.

ADAM

BECCA!!

TAVI

She left with a guy.

ADAM

A boyfriend guy?

TAVI

A long-term hook-up guy. Which I guess can be two different things?

ADAM

It's weird, right!? Like make up your mind. Do you want to be together or not?

TAVI
I don't get it.

ADAM
What about you?

TAVI
What about me?

ADAM
Do you have any boyfriend guys?

TAVI
I did. Up until like a week ago.
Not even.

ADAM
Oh. I'm sorry.

He's not.

ADAM (CONT'D)
What happened?

TAVI
Nothing crazy or dramatic or
anything. We were together for most
of senior year. But he's going on a
Euro Trip all summer and then we
both leave for school. It just made
sense to end it now.

ADAM
Very logical.

TAVI
I think so.

ADAM
You don't seem too upset about it.

TAVI
I mean it sucks. But he was my high
school boyfriend, you know?

ADAM
Yeah.

Adam turns off the main road-

TAVI
How far are we going exactly?

ADAM

Not too much longer. Wanna play a game?

TAVI

Sure.

ADAM

It's called "Best and Worst."

TAVI

How do you play?

ADAM

You say something that is the best and something that is the worst. Like- universally.

TAVI

Makes sense. You go first.

ADAM

Okay... Worst: When you drop your phone or your keys down this abyss and you know that you're gonna have to spend the next hour of your life trying to get it out.

He points to the crack between seat and console.

TAVI

Oo yeah. Good one.

ADAM

Best: When you find money on the ground and it's a lot but not enough that you feel like you morally need to figure out who dropped it. Now you go.

TAVI

Best: When you finally finish an essay and you get to quit out of the document and all the tabs you had open and never look at it ever again.

ADAM

That *is* the best.

TAVI

Worst... um....

ADAM
Tick-tock, tick-tock-

TAVI
This is a timed game?

ADAM
Nooo. I'm just building the excitement.

TAVI
Okay- the worst is a boy who wears Axe body spray and is not going to a seventh grade dance.

ADAM
What- are you talking about me?

TAVI
Are you wearing Axe?

ADAM
No... but some could have maybe gotten on me?

TAVI
I'm not talking about you, Adam.

He stops the car at an outlook with a pretty spectacular VIEW OF L.A. He points out the window.

ADAM
Best.

TAVI
Wow.

The stare at the view a while longer.

TAVI (CONT'D)
Are you gonna miss it?

ADAM
Yeah. But I'm gonna end up back here, for sure.

TAVI
You think so?

ADAM
I know so. I love it here. I've lived in the same house since I was born. And its the best house ever.
(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

If my parents try to sell it, I will buy it back from them and raise my own kids in it and then grow old and die there.

TAVI

Sounds like a plan.

ADAM

How about you?

TAVI

I think I'll just kind of see where work and everything takes me.

ADAM

That's a shame. The Valley must have ruined L.A. for you.

TAVI

Haha! Maybe. It sure is good looking though.

ADAM

Seriously... Do you like lollipops?

TAVI

Hm?

ADAM

What's your second favorite kind of lollipop.

TAVI

Why do you torture me in this way?

ADAM

Because somehow no one else has and you're a grown-up now and should be able to answer easy questions.

TAVI

Okay- fine. My piano teacher used to give me those green-apple caramel ones when I did a scale all the way through without messing up. So I always feel accomplished when I eat them and-

She looks up at Adam, whose jaw is practically on the floor.

TAVI (CONT'D)

What?

ADAM
That is really crazy. Like really.

TAVI
Why is that crazy?

He reaches over and opens the center console. It's filled to the brim with GREEN-APPLE CARAMEL LOLLIPOPS.

TAVI (CONT'D)
WHAT?? How did you do that?

ADAM
I don't- I'm so shocked that you said that.

TAVI
Why do you have all these??

ADAM
It's kind of a long sto--

TAVI
Go, go!

ADAM
I went through a phase this year. Since I don't smoke or drink, I wanted to have a thing to do at parties. So I decided lollipops would be my thing. And these are *my* second favorite because the Sees Candy ones are an expensive habit. But then I started getting cavities and there was a whole intervention and everything. So now I just have a car full of lollipops- and then now this happened- so I guess the story just got longer-

TAVI
Is it really lame that I'm kinda shaking?

ADAM
I'm kinda shaking, too.

TAVI
I don't even know why. It's just a lollipop.

ADAM
I know.

EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Tavi and Adam are sitting next to each other on the hood of his car. They're each sucking on a green-apple caramel pop. Music from the car stereo can be heard in the background.

ADAM
I'm really glad I met you.

TAVI
Me too.

He takes the lollipop out of his mouth and leans in. She puts her candy back in her mouth before he reaches her

TAVI (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I literally just got out of a relationship-

ADAM
Yeah.

TAVI
And we're going to college soon so there's no point in making everything so- messy.

ADAM
Yeah.

He leans back.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

On the road again. Tavi points to house on the corner.

TAVI
That's me.

Adam pulls over.

ADAM
I hope your parents go easy on you in the morning.

TAVI
It's just my Dad living here now. But yeah- thanks.

ADAM
Divorced?

TAVI
Divorcing.

ADAM
I'm sorry. That sucks.

TAVI
Eh. I've been emotionally prepared for it since I was like 10. It's just like a logistical nightmare.

ADAM
Did you seriously just call your parents' divorce a logistical nightmare?

TAVI
I mean, it is.

ADAM
You know, you're the kind of realistic robot I'm worried about.

TAVI
Thanks for taking me here.

ADAM
Don't worry bout it.

TAVI
Is it a long drive home for you?

ADAM
Not too bad.

TAVI
Where do you live?

ADAM
Me and Jake are family friends because we're neighbors.

TAVI
Seriously?

He nods.

ADAM
My car was just parked outside my house.

With that- she leans in and give him a big hug.

TAVI
Good luck with everything.

ADAM
You too.

She gets out of the car.

INT. TAVI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

She creeps across the floor, guided by her iPhone flash light. She crawls into bed to go to sleep, but her eyes are wide as ever.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Adam drives along Sunset Boulevard at full speeding, hitting one green light after another.

INT. TAVI'S HOUSE - NEXT NIGHT

Tavi sits on the couch, munching on a bag of grapes, watching one of the Harry Potter movies for the millionth time. She's interrupted by a ding on her phone. It's a Facebook message from Adam: **Can you come outside?**