DREAM LIFE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Hunched over on a small couch in a living room sits FINN, a 24 year old man. Sitting to his right with way more confidence is his best friend MIKE, also 24 years old.

MIKE
How are you Finn?

FINN
She has a new boyfriend.

MIKE
No, what's new with you? You doing anything to keep yourself busy?

Finn shakes his head as he grabs his phone and taps on the screen.

MIKE (CONT'D)
That's the millionth time you've done that.

FINN
I'm just checking in case Katie-

MIKE
(grabbing Finn's phone)
Give me that.

Mike places Finn's phone away from him.

Beat.

FINN
I miss her. Everything was perfect.

MIKE
Was it perfect?

They share a look. Mike knows Finn is lying to himself. It wasn't all perfect.

FINN
I'm not feeling any better Mike.

MIKE
You're not giving yourself a chance to do better. All of this isn't just gonna go away, and waiting around for her isn't helping.

Finn doesn't say anything, instead he changes the topic.

FINN
I've been having trouble sleeping.

MIKE
(trying to sound helpful)
Well... try going to sleep earlier. Don't drink caffeine before going to bed... or alcohol.

Finn looks away. There is a feeling of shame in him.

MIKE (CONT'D)
And if you're still having trouble, then maybe look into some sort of... medicine? I used to eat gummies that would help me sleep. Those things tasted so fucking good. One time I finished an entire bottle in one sitting and didn't wake up til the next day.

FINN
Right. I'll look into it.

MIKE
By the way, I met this really cool dude at that party you didn't want to go to with me, and it turned out he was a therapist. Which made a lot of sense to be honest cause he was giving me a LOT of advice throughout the night... anyways, I told him about your situation and he agreed to meet with you!

Finn looks at Mike, horrified.

FINN
What?! Why would you do th-

MIKE
This can be good for you. You don't talk to me about how you feel, or anyone else.

FINN
I don't know Mike, I didn't think I had to sit down and deal with my feelings, or even talk to someone about them. I thought maybe things could just get easier with time.

MIKE
It’s not that easy. You need this man.

FINN
(hesitates)
Fine.

MIKE
Okay good. Don’t get mad... but I already told him you would go cause I genuinely think you desperately need this. He said he can see you Friday at three, is that okay?

Finn just nods.

MIKE (CONT’D)
You know, amongst all the life advice he gave me, he told me a really wise quote that I think you should hear.

Mike sits up straight and shifts his body towards Finn.

MIKE (CONT’D)
You can’t turn back the clock, but you can wind it up again.

No response.

MIKE (CONT’D)
That’s some poetic shit isn’t it?

Still no response.

Mike places his arm over Finn and brings him close to give him a noogie, in an attempt to try and cheer him up.

MIKE (CONT’D)
You’ll be okay man.

INT. FINN’S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - LATER

Finn goes on his computer and starts typing.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN: “**sleeping aids**”.

He scrolls past different posts, but one title stands out to him.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN: “**HELP! ANYONE ELSE TAKE THESE WEIRD SLEEPING PILLS?**”.

Finn clicks on the post and reads closely.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN: **“A friend recommended me these, no other sleeping pills have put me to sleep so fucking fast! But now I have these very real dreams every time I take one. Apparently that’s the whole catch about these, you dream whatever you want, how the FUCK is this possible?!?!”.**

Not convinced but still curious, Finn scrolls down to the comments.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN: **“For those of you asking, DM for link”.**

After giving it some thought, Finn clicks on the profile attached to the comment reply.

CUT TO:

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - THE NEXT NIGHT

A pill bottle now rests on Finn’s night stand.

He examines it and cracks the lid open.

Tilting the bottle over, he lets a pill roll onto his hand.

After a moment of hesitating whether or not to take the pill, he tosses it into his mouth and takes a sip from a water bottle.

He lays down on his bed and slowly... begins to fall asleep.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - DAY - DREAM

Finn stands in the middle of a field that seems endless.

Curious, he looks around to his left, then to his right.

He kneels down to touch the grass, and feels it brush through his fingers.

As he turns around, he notices a person standing on a hill.

He hesitates to go towards them, but in the end, gives in.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS - DREAM

As he gets closer, he realizes it’s a girl, and she looks sort of <u>familiar</u>.

FINN
(with hope)
Katie?!

The girl speaks with a soft angelic voice, but it also sounds robotic, not ‘real’.

DREAM GIRL
I’m not Katie.

FINN
(confused)
You look like Katie.

DREAM GIRL
You don’t want Katie.

FINN
I do.

They both sit, synchronized.

DREAM GIRL
You want something that makes you happy, being with Katie didn’t.

FINN
It did.

DREAM GIRL
She wasn’t good to you, and she left you.

Beat.

DREAM GIRL (CONT’D)
You don’t need therapy. You want the pain to go away, and now you can have that... here. You can have whatever you want.

FINN
I don’t want to feel so alone anymore.

Dream Girl grabs Finn’s hand and they both stand up.

DREAM GIRL
You don’t have to.

FINN
Are you real? Is <u>this</u> real?

DREAM GIRL
Does this feel real to you?

FINN
It does. You feel real.

DREAM GIRL
What do you want?

Finn looks out at the grand sky, and back at Dream Girl.

They smile at each other, as if they were sharing the same thoughts.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - LATER - DREAM

Finn and Dream Girl run through the field, holding hands.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY - DREAM

Sitting besides each other, Finn and Dream Girl watch a movie.

RING... RING...

Ringing begins to echo in the back.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY - DREAM

Under the stars, the two use up the empty parking lot to share a dance.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - MORNING

Finn’s room remains intact.

He lays on his bed not moving at all, like a corpse.

The sun is now out, it’s a new day.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY - DREAM

Game cards are spread out on a table.

Finn places his last card, winning the game.

They share a laugh.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY - DREAM

With his arm around Dream Girl, Finn pulls her closer. She gives in and places her head on his shoulder.

RING... RING...

INT. LOUNGE - DAY - DREAM

Dream Girl strums a ukulele, singing along to the words of a song.

He watches, admiring her.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

The moon is back, and Finn is in the same position, still asleep.

INT. FINN’S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - DAY

He is still not up.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Still asleep.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - SUNSET - DREAM

Finn and Dream Girl sit on the field again.

RING... RING...

The ringing is back, this time louder.

RING... RING...

The ringing catches Finn’s attention. He starts to look around.

Trying to ignore it, he looks back at Dream Girl but she’s gone.

RING... RING...

CUT TO:

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Finn wakes up on his couch in the living room. He rubs his eyes struggling to wake up.

He looks around, confused, and also notices his front door open.

RING... RING...

As the ringing goes on, it catches Finn’s attention again.

He slowly stands up, grabbing the wall so he doesn’t fall over.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Finn walks over to his desk and grabs his phone.

The ringing stops.

He holds his phone close to his face to read the time.

ON PHONE SCREEN: **“Friday, April 8” “3:36 PM”.**

Under the time there are a bunch of missed calls.

ON PHONE SCREEN: **“6 MISSED CALLS: MIKE” “2 MISSED CALLS: MR. CLIFFORD”**

Still half asleep, Finn presses MR. CLIFFORD’S name to call him back.

FINN
Hi, Mr. Clifford-

MR. CLIFFORD (V.O.)
WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME AFTER THREE DAYS FINN?!

FINN
I’m sorry, something came up I was trying-

MR. CLIFFORD (V.O.)
DON’T BOTHER, YOU’RE ALREADY FIRED.

FINN
Wait sir-

The call ends.

FINN (CONT'D)
(under breath)
Fuck. FUCK.

Finn paces around his room, still pulling himself together.

RING... RING...

He looks back at his phone.

ON PHONE SCREEN: **"INCOMING CALL: MIKE".**

Finn picks up the call.

MIKE (V.O.)
You finally pick up!

FINN
Mike, why are you calling me?

MIKE (V.O.)
I wanted to make sure you were okay, I haven't heard from you in three days man! I didn't think anything of it cause you've been doing that since the break up, sometimes you just go missing and not call or text me at all but you have your therapy meeting today and I didn't hear from you. I don't want you to miss it-

FINN
(frustrated)
Mike... I'm not going.

Beat.

MIKE (V.O.)
Why not?

FINN
I've been taking this medication I found. I feel a lot better.

MIKE (V.O.)
What do you mean... What new medication?

FINN
It makes me feel good, I haven't had to deal with this whole Katie thing... I honestly forgot about it. Im in a better place.

MIKE (V.O.)
That's... good? I still think it'd be good for you if you talked to somebody about it-

FINN
I'm telling you I don't need it. I just need to be alone, and not have anyone bother me. I can't wake up otherwise I have to do it all over again. So please... don't call me.

MIKE (V.O.)
Wait Finn-

Finn hangs up the call, and walks towards the living room again.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Slowly walking towards his front door, he notices a piece of paper on the floor.

He picks it up and reads it.

ON PIECE OF PAPER: **"ME AND MY TWO FRIENDS DRAGGED U BACK TO UR APARTMENT AGAIN. LAY OFF THE BEER DUDE UR GETTING HEAVY AF. - TOM APT B5".**

Finn doesn't know how to react, he just simply closes his door and locks it.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - LATER

Finn is anxious, his leg shakes intensely.

He stares at the pill bottle and at his phone, both next to each other.

After thinking it through, he puts the pill bottle away in his desk drawer and opens his phone up to a voicemail from Mike.

MIKE (V.O.)
Hey Finn. I don’t know what’s going on, I just want to make sure you’re okay. I’m here for you man.

Finn goes to text Mike, but he gets a sense of temptation from the drawer.

He looks at his phone.

ON PHONE SCREEN: “**Friday, April 4**” “**4:13 PM**”.

He looks at the drawer.

The sun shines through the window. It still isn’t night time.

That doesn’t matter now, Finn opens the drawer and takes the pill bottle out.

Finn grabs a pill and throws it into his mouth, followed with another sip of water.

He lays down and closes his eyes again.

EXT. FIELD - SUNSET - DREAM

This time the surroundings look... distorted.

Finn and Dream Girl walk at a slow pace across the field.

MIKE (V.O.)
Finn, I tried going to your apartment but you weren’t opening the door. Please man, I want to make sure you’re okay.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Finn wakes up, with Mike’s voice echoing in the back of his head.

He pops another pill with anger, and pulls his bed sheets over his head.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT - DREAM

In the same parking lot they were sharing a dance in, the couple now just sits on a curb.

MIKE (V.O.)
Your landlord won't let me back in, she got tired of me knocking on your door. I'm sorry if you felt forced to go to therapy, I won't do that shit again. Just PLEASE talk to me.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Finn wakes up again, in the corner of his living room.

After realizing that he's back in the real world, he stomps back to his room.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Finn locks his door, goes to grab his phone and shuts it off.

He throws it into his desk drawer, takes another pill, with no sip of water this time and puts on headphones as he lays back on his bed.

MIKE (V.O.)
Talk to me Finn.

EXT. FIELD - SUNSET - DREAM

Everything moves slow.

The colors seem out of place. Everything seems to be falling apart.

Finn looks at Dream Girl who sits next to him.

MIKE (V.O.)
Talk to me.

DREAM GIRL
Talk to me.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - DAY

He wakes up in his living room.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

He locks his bedroom door.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY - NIGHT

He wakes up in a hallway.

INT. FINN'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - DAY

He locks his room again.

Finn tosses the empty bottle away and opens up a new one, spilling all of the pills onto the night stand.

He takes another pill.

One pill after another, and another, and another.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - SUNSET - DREAM

Dream Girl stands on the same hill from the first dream.

Finn waddles over to her.

She looks at Finn, with no expression on her face.

DREAM GIRL
Is this what you wanted?.

FINN
I didn’t want to feel so bad anymore. It worked.

Finn crumbles to the floor, she sits down beside him.

DREAM GIRL
You know this isn’t real.

FINN
You’re the realest thing about all of this.

DREAM GIRL
I can be whoever you want me to be. Say whatever you want me to say. I’m not real. I’m just a dream.

FINN
What you’re saying now... I don’t want to hear that.

DREAM GIRL
I’m not saying that, you are.

Beat.

DREAM GIRL (CONT'D)
You know this is bad for you. Do you want to lose Mike too?

FINN
This is the only thing that made me feel better.

DREAM GIRL
Life isn't always going to be what you dreamed it would be. That's the realest thing about all of this.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE OF FINN'S APARTMENT - DAY

The road looks endless.

Finn is sleepwalking towards the road.

No cars are driving by... for now.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS - DREAM

Finn is standing up and starting to mimic his walk from the real world.

DREAM GIRL (V.O.)
You need to wake up.

He picks up the pace and starts jogging across the field.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE OF FINN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Even though he's moving faster in the dream, Finn is still walking very slow in real time. He's going step-by-step.

There's birds chirping.

A car can be heard in the back, getting closer to Finn.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS - DREAM

The sun sets. Finn takes it all in, he closes his eyes, and begins to run. He's not stopping. He wants to escape this fantasy before it's too la-

HOOOOOOOONKKKKK!!!

CUT TO BLACK.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

Mike stands beside Finn, looking out at the sky.

MIKE
How was therapy?

FINN
It was good.

Mike looks at Finn for reassurance.

MIKE
You sure?

FINN
I'm sure, I promise.

MIKE
Good.

FINN
Thank you Mike, for being there for me. If it wasn't for you...

Beat.

MIKE
You're lucky I was the one driving that car.

FINN
(laughing)
Yeah, I am.

Finn puts his arms around Mike and gives him a noogie. It's his turn.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Finn sits on one side of a bench at a bus stop.

A girl approaches the bench, but hesitates to sit.

ASHLEY (O.S.)
Sorry, can I sit here?

FINN
(caught off guard)
Oh um... yea of course.

ASHLEY (O.S.)
Thank you.

She sits on the other side of the bench.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
It's nice out today.

They look at each other, but Finn can't find the words to respond.

He takes a moment to himself, drowning in his own thoughts, but builds up the courage to say something.

FINN
Not too cold, but not too hot.

ASHLEY
(excited)
Right?! Not too cloudy but not too sunny.

FINN
(laughing)
Exactly.

ASHLEY
(laughing)
Yea. I'm Ashley by the way.

FINN
I'm Finn, nice to meet you.

Finn and ASHLEY both smile at each other and to themselves.

ASHLEY
It really is a lovely day.

FINN
It's perfect.

They're enjoying each other's presence, though not much is being said. It's a gloomy day but it feels just right, and the wind blows the weight off of Finn's shoulders.

This feels good, and this is real.

CUT TO BLACK.