

CHASING EMOTIONS

Written by

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EXT. CAMERON ART MUSEUM: BATHROOM AREA - NIGHT

Onealia walks out and Zack is right behind her. He sees her walking in the PARKING LOT towards her car. He yells out. Onealia looks back but continues walking at her pace. Zack jog and finally catches up to her before she enters her CAR.

ZACK

You're just gonna ignore me?

ONEALIA

What do you want from me that you don't already have? You took everything from me.

ZACK

I'm sorry.

ONEALIA

Sorry doesn't cut it.

ZACK

Look! I wish I could do something about it. I was messed up that night.

ONEALIA

You already did enough.

ZACK

Why don't you pull the knife out of my back and stab me a couple more times.

ONEALIA

Don't make me look like the bad person here.

ZACK

You are though!

ONEALIA

How?

ZACK

I'm trying to make it right and all you keep doing is resisting me.

ONEALIA

You're full of yourself. You know that.

ZACK

I may be full of myself but you're completely empty and heartless.

(Hold up his hand)

Whatever! I don't care anymore.

Zack goes to turns to walk away.

ONEALIA

Wait! You and I both know you don't mean that.

Zack stops in his track, turns, and steps towards her.

ZACK

You're right! I don't mean that. Because I do love you with all my heart but you rather see me on my knees begging for you love than actual loving me back. Have a good night O.

Zack turns and walks back inside.

INT. CAROLINA BEACH: SARA'S BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

MUSIC CUE: "YONAS - ROLLER COASTER FT. OCD"

Zack turns his head to the PICTURE of his dad and his aunt hugging in one photo from earlier. He slowly turns his head and throws the TENNIS BALL against the wall and catches it. He gets frustrated and throws the ball to the side and knocks the PICTURE into the LAUNDRY BASKET. He sits at the KITCHEN TABLE with a piece of PAPER writing a letter to his mom as the music plays softly in the background.

ZACK (V.O.)

Dear mom, it seems like everything is falling apart around me. So I guess it's best for me to come back home. But this time, I'm starting from scratch. I'm gonna change a few things about my lifestyle. I promise this time! I'm gonna make you proud like all the other moms in the neighborhood. One of those moms that can say...that's my boy with a smile on her face. I'm tired of running away from my problems.

(MORE)

ZACK (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Facing them head on can be challenging but I'm tired of carrying all this weight on my shoulders. I wanted to start by saying I'm sorry for those rough nights I put you through. I was too worried about life passing me by. But, in the end, I found out I was just standing still while the world passed me by. Enough about that. I had an amazing summer this year and met some incredible people. I even met a special girl worth introducing to the family, but it doesn't matter now. We're over. It's over.

(Taps the pad)

Oh and I looked into that private school we talked about before I went away. I guess I'll give the whole college thing a try. And you were right about Joe, I only saw him once during my time on the east coast. That man sure loves his job. I also met Aunt Sara for the first time in a long time but she's too busy helping people pop pills. As she says at the dinner table. I know I'm not perfect but I'm a man. I hope you understand! See you soon...Love Zachary.

He folds the PAPER and puts it in an ENVELOPE. Zack licks the ends and puts a POSTAGE STAMP on it. He gets up. He grabs his BACKPACK, KEYS, and heads for the DOOR.

INT. SARA'S BEACH HOUSE: ZACK'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zack packs his LUGGAGE for the next morning. He looks at Onealia's WINDOW through his WINDOW and looks back down at the suitcase. Zack continues putting his things inside. He grabs a PICTURE of him and his mom smiling. He gently places it in the bag and zips it up. He puts it on the ground and then sits down on the bed. Sara knocks on the DOOR and then enters without an answer. She walks in and looks at the SUITCASE on the floor.

SARA

What's all this? You leaving me?

ZACK

Y-e-a-h! Time to head back home.

SARA
(Sits on bed)
You home sick?

ZACK
Summer is almost over and college
is about to start.

SARA
I would hate to see you leave.

ZACK
Dad made you out to be this really
strict person but you're pretty
cool Aunt Sara.

SARA
See I'm not so bad.

Snuffles runs in and jumps up on the bed. Sara lets Snuffles
into her lap and holds him.

ZACK
Even got use to Snuffles.

SARA
(Pet his head)
He's just a little curious.

ZACK
Can I ask you a serious question?

SARA
Sure! Go right ahead.

Zack gazes out his bedroom window into Onealia's bedroom.

SARA (CONT'D)
What is it?

ZACK
Nothing.

SARA
You can't keeping things bottled up
forever. Get it off your chest.

ZACK
Seriously, it's nothing.

SARA
Alright! You need money for your
plane ticket?

ZACK
No, already have it taken care of.

EXT. CAROLINA BEACH: SARA'S BEACH HOUSE - DAY

The same TAXI DRIVER in the beginning pulls up in front of the HOUSE and blows the HORN. Onealia peaks out the WINDOW as the taxi driver pops the TRUNK. Sara helps Zack bring his suitcase down to the taxi waiting outside. The taxi driver waves at Zack as he walks up. The driver takes the bag from Sara as Zack puts his BACKPACK in the trunk. The taxi driver puts the SUITCASE in the trunk as Sara gives Zack a big hug before he leaves. At this point, Onealia steps out on the PORCH and stands there with her arms folded as she watches everything unfolded in front of her eyes. Zack enters the taxi without noticing her. He stares out the WINDOW and waves goodbye to his aunt. She waves back as the taxi drives off. Zack continues to look out the passenger window as he drives off. Onealia finally goes inside and sits down in her living room for a second. She looks at the RING and kisses it.

EXT. WILMINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

The taxi driver pulls up at the AIRPORT. Calvin sits up and walks towards Zack as he grabs the bag from the taxi driver.

CALVIN
So you're just gonna take off.

ZACK
Not good at goodbyes.

Matt and Codi pulls up.

MATT
Your Facebook status was right.

ZACK
You guys came to send me off too.

MATT
Send you off? I'm here to persuade you to stay country club.

ZACK
I have other plans.

CODI
Like what?

ZACK
Sometimes you gotta to pick up what you have left and move forward.

CALVIN
(Looks at watch)
Sorry to cut this short but I have
to head back to work. Goodbye man.

Calvin give Zack a brotherly hug. Matt shakes Calvin's hand
before he leaves. Calvin nods, walks away and gets in his
TRUCK.

MATT
(Shakes his hands)
Well safe travels my friend.

Zack watches Matt and Codi get back in the TRUCK. Zack
finally grabs the handles on his SUITCASE and head inside.
Onealia watches from a distance in the PARKING LOT.

EXT. CALIFORNIA PRIVATE COLLEGE - DAY

Zack stands in PRIVATE SCHOOL ATTIRE with his BACKPACK. He
walks through the BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS holding the straps on his
backpack until he gets to the CENTRAL BUILDING. He looks at
everyone walking around him and doesn't bother to ask for
help. He pulls a PAPERS out of his pocket and looks down.

ZACK
I think this is it.

REBECCA walks up and taps his shoulder but goes around the
other side. Zack looks and sees no one. He turns to his other
shoulder and sees Rebecca standing there with a SMILE.

REBECCA
You new here?

ZACK
You can say that?

REBECCA
Let me see that.
(Reads his paper)
Oh, we have Biology together.

ZACK
I hate science.

REBECCA
It's not so bad. Stop being such a
baby. Plus, Mr. Trent is one of the
coolest teachers on campus.

ZACK
Well I don't know where I'm going.

REBECCA
Name's Rebecca by the way!

ZACK
Zachary but everyone calls me Zack.

REBECCA
Follow me Zack!

ZACK
Thanks for doing this.

REBECCA
No problem! You surf?

ZACK
I used to...how you know?

REBECCA
The sticker on your backpack.

ZACK
Oh yeah! Surf Life.

REBECCA
Nice! You and my boyfriend will get
along perfectly then.

ZACK
Boyfriend!

REBECCA
Yeah! Nicolas but he goes by Nico.
Only dude with purple hair on
campus.

ZACK
Interesting.

REBECCA
You can meet him later. I'll
introduce you guys.

ZACK
Sounds fine by me.

INT. ZACK'S DORM ROOM - DAY

ZACK'S DORM ROOM is filled with POSTERS, SURF MEMORABILIA,
TEXT BOOKS, TWIN SIZE BED and a MINI FRIDGE. Zack sits at his
CROWDED COMPUTER DESK with PAPERS, one TEXT BOOK, and his
COMPUTER trying to send an email to Onealia.

He slowly types his email by tapping on the KEYS while reading it in his head. The WORDS popping up on the SCREEN.

ZACK (V.O)

Hey! O...n...e...a...l...i...a, I hope everything is going well for you. I want to apologize for being such an idiot and losing the best thing that ever happened to me. I practically cried my eyes out because I made the worst mistake of my life when I lost you. If I could go back in time to make it right...I would. I asked for someone worth chasing but instead I chased you away. Now, I sit here chasing my emotions. It's like I did all that moving around to find you, someone special and unique but I guess I have to live with the mistake I made. I hope you do respond but I can understand if you don't. I'm doing better and I'm actually in school now getting my degree. Aced my first test in Biology so I'm kinda of proud of that milestone. My mom and I have been developing our bond since I got back. She comes by and visits me from time to time on campus. You would have loved her. She reminds me of you now that I think of it.

Zack moves the MOUSE over the send button and hesitates for a moment until he gets a KNOCK at the door. He looks over his shoulder after minimizing the email screen. NICOLAS "NICO" HANSDALE is on the other side of the DOOR.

ZACK (CONT'D)

Come in!

HANSDALE

(Opens the door)

Hey ole buddy ole pal.

(Walks in)

Zack watches Hansdale plop back in his BED.

ZACK

Why you have your wet suit on?

HANSDALE

(Sits up)

Let's hit the surf dude.

Zack turns in his COMPUTER CHAIR.

ZACK
The waves any good today?

HANSDALE
They're always good when I go out
there Zack. Remember that.

ZACK
Alright! I'll get ready then.

Zack stands up and goes to his CLOSET.

HANSDALE
What you working on?

ZACK
(Pulls out wetsuit)
Just a little something. Nothing
big.

HANSDALE
Oh word!

ZACK
Give me a minute to change.
(Walks to bathroom)

HANSDALE
(Stands up)
Take your time dude.

Hansdale walks over to the COMPUTER and reads the BACKGROUND PICTURE on his desktop. He reads the caption written in the sand. "LIFE'S A BEACH". He pulls up the web browser and reads the email. He presses SEND and then minimizes the screen again. Zack yells from the bathroom.

ZACK
(Yells)
How long are we gonna stay out
there?

HANSDALE
Who knows!

ZACK
You have an extra board?

HANSDALE
I heard text books make great surf
boards.

ZACK
Ha-ha! Very funny!
(Closes text books)

HANSDALE
Of course!

ZACK
Where we going?

HANSDALE
It's a great spot. Trust me!

Zack and Hansdale leave the dorm with Zack's roommate still sleeping on the other bed. The roommate rolls over on his side and burst out a FART.

INT. UNCW LIBRARY: STUDY GROUP - DAY

Onealia sees a NOTIFICATION pop up on her COMPUTER in her little study group. She looks around in her group to make sure no one is looking before she opens the message. She opens it and reads it to herself. She starts typing.

ONEALIA (V.O.)
I'm going to be completely honest with you Zack...you took something from me that I'll never get back. I was vulnerable and I trusted you with my heart. I know it's not going to be the easiest thing for you to get over. But, you'll have to move forward from this point on. Instead of thinking about the cup half empty, think of it half full because now you'll be able to recognize your mistakes before they happen...HOPEFULLY! But I do accept your apology and that's good to hear about the changes you've made with your life. When you have some free time, come visit me. It won't be like the old days but we can still hang out as friends.
(Hits space)
Love, O.

She clicks SEND.