

Dream State

Written by Sophia Crum

INT. AUDREY'S BEDROOM - DAWN

It is the middle of winter. Blankets of white cover the ground and snowflakes are beginning to float down to meet them. The sun is just barely starting to cast its light across the bedroom floor and there is a discarded outfit from the previous night on the bed. AUDREY starts to stir under the covers. Yawning, she contorts herself into a stretch, throws her legs over the side of the bed, and slips her feet into her fluffy sandals.

Audrey stands up and passes by her desk. She looks down sadly at a folded up piece of paper and picks it up. She slowly unfolds it and reads the first couple lines: "Audrey, I'll always have a special place in my heart for you. Our relationship felt like it was the best thing that had ever happened to me, but lately, everything's felt wrong. I'm so sorry. -Andrew"

Audrey crumples the letter and throws it in the trash.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Audrey shuffles to the bathroom and looks in the mirror, where she sees the mess of hair atop her head, and blows a raspberry in frustration.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Her wavy hair is now neatly brushed. Hurriedly, she hops around her room in an attempt to put on a pair of skinny jeans.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

On her way to the kitchen, Audrey throws on a shirt and makes herself a bowl of cereal. Hunched and standing over the bowl on the kitchen counter, she slurps it quickly and runs back to her room to grab her coat.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Audrey walks at a quick pace towards the train station.

EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM - MORNING

She is the only one on the platform except for one figure in the distance. Audrey is clutching her coat and squints into the wind to look down the tracks for the next train. She shifts her body weight from one side to the other while she waits. When the train finally arrives, she steps right in

front of the doors before they open, and then swiftly slips inside.

INT. TRAIN CAR - MORNING

Audrey walks to a seat in one corner of the train car. She pulls out her phone and looks out the window as the train lurches forward. As her eyes stray, she spots another girl on the opposite side of the car sitting across the aisle. JULES sits enraptured by a book, oblivious of her surroundings. Her thick, curly hair is adorned with a few colorful clips. Jules tucks a piece of her hair behind her ear, exposing more of her face.

Flustered, Audrey shakes her head and looks down at her phone. After a moment, she sneaks another look at Jules. Jules crosses her legs. Feeling someone else's eyes on her, she glances sideways at Audrey. They make eye contact and Audrey turns her face away, pretending like she wasn't looking at anything in particular. Feeling silly, she gazes out the window again.

Then, as the train passes a rooftop, she spots a scene of her and Jules holding hands. Audrey reels around, straining to look back at the roof for as long as it's in sight. With widened eyes, she turns back in her seat in disbelief and puts her head in her hands. When she lifts her head back up, she sees another Audrey and Jules sitting across from her. Jules turns to drape her legs over Audrey's, rests her head on Audrey's shoulder, and closes her eyes. Audrey watches the buildings whiz past through the train window in front of her. She doesn't seem to notice the original Audrey.

Overwhelmed, Audrey lays her head back against the window and closes her eyes.

EXT. CHRISTMAS MARKET - NIGHT

It's Christmastime. Audrey is at an outdoor holiday market. She's in line just about to get her hot chocolate when she turns around and smiles at someone. Jules dodges the crowd as she makes her way to Audrey with a bag of candied pecans she just bought. Audrey turns to grab her drink from the EMPLOYEE, and Jules slips her arm in Audrey's. They walk together, arm in arm, pointing at the trinkets in the shops as they walk by.

Jules smiles and looks at Audrey. Finally noticing, Audrey glances back at her and they make eye contact. Audrey quickly turns away, chuckling shyly.

They arrive at the giant lit-up Christmas tree at the edge of the festival. They turn to look at each other face to face and Jules leans in for a kiss.

INT. BAKING CLASS - DAY

Jules and Audrey are in a couple's baking class. They are both staring towards the front of the room trying not to crack a smile while the TEACHER is talking. The minute he turns his back, the two break out into a flour fight. With flour on each of their hands, they flail their arms at each other's apron and try to muffle their giggles. Powder flies into the air. When the teacher turns back around to look at the two of them, they both smile pleasantly at him. Audrey turns to Jules and shushes her, embarrassed that they've been caught. Jules shrugs and returns back to kneading the dough in front of them.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Audrey and Jules sit in a dark movie theater. Jules leans on Audrey's shoulder, and Audrey turns to kiss her on the cheek. The reflection of the movie flashes across their faces and Jules reaches for their favorite movie snack: popcorn mixed with watermelon sourpatch.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - CONTINUOUS

Audrey and Jules walk out of the theater with Jules's arm around Audrey. The shopping mall that holds the theater is empty, save for the few people trickling out from the movie. Yellow, outdoor string lights line the rooftops above their heads and the night sky is completely clear. While Audrey gazes up at the stars, Jules takes her hand and they begin to slow dance. Audrey rests her head on Jules's shoulder.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Audrey and Jules walk down the street, both clutching their coats in the cold. They cross the street to an apartment complex. Audrey starts walking up the stairs to the front door and turns around to see that Jules is still on the sidewalk. She beckons to Jules to come with her inside. Jules smiles and joins Audrey up the stairs.

INT. AUDREY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Audrey changes into pajamas and discards the night's outfit onto the bed while Jules hops into Audrey's bed. Audrey joins her and turns off the light.

INT. AUDREY'S BEDROOM - DAWN

It's dawn and the sun is just barely starting to cast its light across the bedroom floor. One of Jules's legs is draped over Audrey's body and Audrey is sleeping with her mouth open. Audrey stirs under the covers, yawns, and contorts herself into a stretch. Jules shields her face from the morning light entering the room.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Audrey and Jules shuffle to the bathroom and start brushing their teeth.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Audrey and Jules leisurely get dressed for the day.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

They make an elaborate breakfast complete with french toast, eggs, bacon, and fresh berries.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Audrey and Jules walk arm in arm towards the train station.

EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM - MORNING

They stand huddled together on the train platform. They are the only ones on the platform except for one figure in the distance.

INT. TRAIN CAR - MORNING

Audrey and Jules enter the train car and take a seat on one side of the train. Jules turns to drape her legs over Audrey's, rests her head on Audrey's shoulder, and closes her eyes. Audrey watches the buildings whiz past through the train window in front of her.

INT. TRAIN CAR - MORNING

Audrey opens her eyes and the seats in front of her are now empty again.

Audrey's phone DINGS and she looks down to see a new message from Andrew. It reads: "Babe, I'm sorry about last night. I wasn't thinking straight. Can we talk tonight after you get off of work? Please?"

Audrey looks up at Jules and deletes Andrew's message. She takes a long inhale and rubs her thighs with her palms. She exhales quickly and stands up as if suddenly energized by her breath.

She walks across the train car and sits two seats down from Jules. Jules looks up at her and they smile at each other. Audrey waves and points at the book that Jules is reading and they begin to chat.

FADE TO BLACK