

LULU & FLIPPY

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ACT 1

1 EXT. POOL - DAY (SCENE 1) 1

CLOSE UP

A child girl's hands playing with, "Lulu", a toy beluga whale. The hands are making Lulu fly around in the air. Don't see the child, but hear childish "pshhew" noises.

ZOOM OUT

Zoom out to see another pair of child hands, these ones tenderly playing with a toy octopus, "Flippy."

The camera pans up into the air

2 EXT. OCEAN - EARLY MORNING (SCENE 2) 2

The camera comes back out the water, but now we're in the ocean.

Long shot. We see Lulu and Flippy atop the water, waves crashing over them. Music tenses.

Over BLACK,

Super: "Lulu & Flippy"

3 INT. EMPTY ROOM - TIME UNCLEAR (SCENE 3) 3

Close up of MAYA's face. Water dripping on her face. She opens her eyes and GASPS. She is a young woman, about 18, wearing a black, flowing dress, laying on the cold floor. The lights of the room are FLICKERING, she is barely perceptible. She looks around the room anxiously. It is empty and small; other than a single door, a couple of assorted boxes, and a set of car keys hanging at a hinge by the door, there is nothing else in the room.

MAYA

(loudly)

Hello?

Maya gets up and looks into the boxes. Stuffed animals after stuffed animals galore, plus a birthday hat. She sifts through and finds a miniature range rover toy. She picks it up, and suddenly room violently SHAKES, and Maya tumbles to the floor and lets out a YELP.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Help!

Faintly, "Baby Beluga" plays from outside the door.

Maya gets back up, leaving the toy car behind, and rushes to the doorway, pulling it open and exiting into the blinding light.

FADE TO WHITE:

4

EXT. CHILD'S PARK - DAY

4

Start on Lulu.

The "Baby Beluga" hum begins to fade out, replaced with noises of children playing.

Zoom out and we see Child Maya, (8-10 years old), sitting with her knees up, playing with her doll by herself, making swimming motions with it. She's sitting beside a jungle gym.

On the ground beside Maya, a birthday party hat. Noises of rowdy kids in the background, as one might expect at the park. Gives off the notion that Maya is a quirky, loner child, doesn't really have friends, she's just hanging by herself at the park on her birthday.

CHILD AIDEN (O.S.)

Baby beluga in the deep blue sea...

Maya cowers a little, pulling Lulu closer to her, and looks up to see CHILD AIDEN (8-10 years old), holding a plush octopus toy, waving it out as though extending a hand as an introduction.

CHILD AIDEN (CONT'D)

I like your beluga!

Child Aiden plops down next to Maya, and Maya shuffles a little away from them, clearly ambivalent about this encounter.

MAYA clutches her beluga toy and shies away.

AIDEN remains enthusiastic despite MAYA's resistance.

CHILD AIDEN (CONT'D)

(Pointing to the octopus toy)
This is Flippy.

Aiden pokes Flippy in Maya's face.

Maya's face loosens a little as she looks at the octopus toy, but she still hasn't said a word.

CHILD AIDEN (CONT'D)
I call her that cuz -

Child Aiden flips Flippy inside out.

CHILD AIDEN (CONT'D)
(as if presenting a magic
trick)
Ta-da!

CHILD MAYA
Her name's Lulu.

Child Aiden jokingly shakes Lulu's "hand."

CHILD AIDEN
Nice to meet you Lulu, that's a
pretty name.

Maya blushes.

Aiden looks Maya over, as if she's analyzing her, and notices the birthday hat. She grabs it and holds it up, inspecting it.

CHILD AIDEN (CONT'D)
(incredulous)
Is it your birthday?!

Maya shrugs, a nonchalant yes, she's clearly not all that enthusiastic about her birthday.

CHILD AIDEN (CONT'D)
(super enthusiastic)
Happy birthday!

Child Aiden gives Maya a friendly pat on the shoulder, and Maya is clearly a little uncomfortable with the contact, an unfamiliar feeling. Aiden still holds onto the hat.

CHILD AIDEN (CONT'D)
Why aren't you wearing your hat?

CHILD MAYA
I dunno, it looks silly.

CHILD AIDEN
Are you kidding me? These hats are
like a get out of jail free card!
Put these on, and you get to boss
the adults around.

Maya smiles a little, and gestures towards the hat.

CHILD MAYA
Keep it.

CHILD AIDEN
(really excited)
Really?!

CHILD MAYA
It's all yours.

Child Aiden excitedly puts the hat on, and suddenly hugs Child Maya. Child Maya's face is uncomfortable, but not angry; she isn't returning the hug, but get the sense that deep down she appreciates it.

CHILD AIDEN
Thank you so much!

Child Aiden releases Child Maya from the hug.

CHILD AIDEN (CONT'D)
Now they'll bring out a sundae for
me at CPK!

Child Maya giggles a little. Child Aiden perks up from the ground.

CHILD AIDEN (CONT'D)
Let's go play.

CHILD MAYA
I dunno-

CHILD AIDEN
(interrupting)
C'mon, you oughta have some fun on
your birthday!

Child Aiden extends their hand out to Child Maya.

CHILD AIDEN (CONT'D)
I'm Aiden by the way.

A long beat as Child Maya stares at the outstretched hand hesitantly.

Child Maya looks at Child Aiden, not fully convinced, and Child Aiden stares back at her eagerly - *how could you deny that smile?*

At last, she puts her palm into Child Aiden's hand. Child Aiden helps lift Child Maya up.

CHILD MAYA
(after putting hand in
Child Aiden's)
Maya.

5 EXT. CHILD'S PARK - LATER 5

Child Aiden and Child Maya going down the slides, laughing, Child Aiden still wearing the birthday hat.

6 EXT. CHILD'S PARK - LATER 6

Child Maya is making her way across the monkey bars with all her strength and might. Child Aiden is cheering her on. Child Maya struggles with the very last bar, but hearing Child Aiden's encouragement empowers her to grasp it.

CHILD AIDEN
Wooo!

7 EXT. CHILD'S PARK - LATER 7

Child Aiden waves goodbye in the distance, Child Maya waves back, and Child Aiden turns away.

Child Maya's face, close up. Slowly, a full-blown smile develops, the happiest we've ever seen and will ever see her.

CUT TO:

8 INT. STAIRWAY - TIME UNCLEAR 8

Start on Maya's (18-year old, black dress) face, beginning with the full smile that slowly degrades into a frowned look of panic; the inverse of the prior shot. Simultaneously, the noises of children playing in the park fades out.

Maya looks around, she's in a stairway. She looks down and sees she has Lulu with her now.

She rests against the hallway wall to catch her breath. A FOOTSTEP.

Maya peers up the stairs and vaguely sees CHILD AIDEN. She rubs her eyes and takes a second to realize.

MAYA

Aiden?!

Child Aiden begins to sing Baby Beluga, but doesn't acknowledge Maya.

Child Aiden rounds the stairway and disappears off frame, her singing fading out.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Stop!

Maya lays chase up the stairs.

She makes it upstairs to a new door on its way shut. SHUT She enters in.

CUT TO WHITE.

ACT TWO

9

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

9

Fade back in from white. School bell RING. Noises of students bustling. Maya has her backpack on, her locker opened in front of her, Lulu is inside, she's fiddling with her locker.

She glares to the side to see a guy and a girl looking at her and whispering something, maybe talking shit.

Maya looks into her locker stressfully, grabs a pencil box out and shuts it.

Aiden standing right there, holding a little gift wrapping.

AIDEN
Happy birthday!

She embraces Maya quickly, and then holds out the gift to her.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
I know you're not big on birthdays.

MAYA
You didn't have t-

AIDEN
Take it.

Maya rolls her eyes and opens the little baggy that hold the beluga necklace. She smiles, begrudgingly.

The two of them laugh.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
I got a targeted ad on instagram
and had to get it.

MAYA
It's-

AIDEN
Beautiful, I know.

MAYA
I was gonna say corny.

Aiden and Maya laugh, and Maya puts the necklace on.

MAYA (CONT'D)
Thanks Aiden, seriously.

Maya smiles at Aiden.

AIDEN
So... how 'bout we get out of this
wretched place and hit up our
favorite spot?

MAYA
(incredulous)
Right now?

AIDEN
Envision this: you, me, the beach,
shining sun, nothing but us, the
endless water, and a joint packed
with the finest weed.

MAYA
And we just cut class?

AIDEN
C'mon Maya, how many chances do you
get to celebrate your 18th
birthday?

MAYA
I dunno, sounds like a bad idea.

CUT TO:

10	EXT. CAR - DAY	10
	Maya and Aiden in the car, Aiden sticking their hand on the window making waves, their hair blowing in the wind. Maya laughing. Some royalty-free song playing.	
11	EXT. BEACH - DAY	11
	Maya and Aiden running to and from the shore as water crashes and retreats, like they're still children.	
12	EXT. BEACH - LATER	12
	Maya and Aiden throwing sand in the air, being playful with each other.	

13 EXT. BEACH - SUNSET

13

Maya has a joint in her mouth, and Aiden lights it up. They're laying on the sand next to each other. It's breezy and chilly; Maya and Aiden are wearing hoodies.

AIDEN

No better feeling than the ocean breeze.

MAYA

No arguments there.

A long beat of silence, *the ocean*.

Aiden shifts to their side, looks at Maya's face, and leans up.

AIDEN

I wish we could just drift away....
Follow the current.

Maya nods.

MAYA

(gestures to ocean)
Pretty sure we'd drown.

Aiden chuckles. Maya passes her the joint and she takes it.

AIDEN

Oh, you gotta buy a lottery ticket
on the way home.

MAYA

The joys of being 18!

Aiden takes a pull, passes the joint to Maya. As Maya takes a pull, Aiden lets out a cloud of smoke. Alongside this, Aiden starts lightly coughing. Aiden's cough gets progressively worse.

MAYA (CONT'D)

(giggling)
Aren't you supposed to be a stoner?

Aiden starts coughing more and more severely. Maya, now concerned, sits upright and looks at Aiden.

MAYA (CONT'D)

You good?

Aiden looks away from Maya, coughing harder and harder into their shoulder.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Aiden?

Aiden coughs up blood, first into their shoulder, and then onto the sand below, their hand further smearing it into the sand.

MAYA (CONT'D)

(freaking)

Aiden?!

AIDEN

(weakly)

I'm good - I'm good.

MAYA

But-

Aiden gathers themselves, then stands up, further smearing the blood in the sand in the process.

Aiden offers a hand out to Maya.

AIDEN

C'mon, let's get outta here before your parents find out we ditched.

Maya takes Aiden's hand, gets up, and they walk away. As they disappear into the distance, the blood on the sand is highlighted.

As she's walking up the sand, Maya notices a doorway on the beach.

14

INT. HALLWAY - TIME UNCLEAR

14

Suddenly, Maya emerges, and slams the door shut behind her, gusts of wind and the sound of the beach until the door is shut. Her outfit flickers from the one she wore at the beach to the black dress. She's in a white, long hallway.

Maya is panting, catches her breath, and looks around anxiously.

MAYA

Aiden?

Nothing.

She tries a door, it won't budge. She tries another, still nothing, frantically making her way down the hall. Ominous music plays.

She gets to, not a door, but literal pitch blackness. A beat of Maya looking in hesitantly, before stepping in and being enveloped in the darkness.

FADE TO BLACK:

15 EXT. THE PARK - DAY (SCENE 11)

15

First, Maya walking home with her backpack on. Then, Aiden beside her, they're laughing about something.

Aiden looks a bit more shriveled, sickly, and their movements carry less energy than before.

For Maya, this is an especially perky day, her movements carry gusto and she is behaving playfully.

MAYA

I still cannot believe you told Ms. Lebowski that maybe she'd find better luck in her love life if she gave up on humans and moved on to orangutans.

AIDEN

What can I say,-
(coughs)
I'm a beacon of truth. So worth getting booted from class.

From a tree above, a branch/ pinecone falls behind them- the two are slightly startled, scream playfully and run forward.

The camera watches Aiden first as they quietly laugh and run. Their heavy breathing shows that running may be too labor intensive for them.

Maya runs quickly, laughing with Aiden so she thinks.

MAYA

(playfully)
Fucking trees acting up!

CLUNK Noise. Maya turns around to notice Aiden sprawled on the floor

MAYA (CONT'D)

(laughing)
Get up drama queen!

Aiden remains still on the floor

MAYA (CONT'D)

Aiden?

Aiden remains lifeless on the floor. The camera cuts to Maya as she realizes this is not a joke, and her gasps for breath transform into a look of panic.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Aiden!

A tree, Aiden and Maya out of sight.

MAYA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Someone call 911, please!

Sounds of sirens.

16

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY/NIGHT

16

The ringing sounds of sirens fade out.

Maya sits in the waiting room of a hospital, face buried in her hands, visibly concerned. Beside her, other people, some sleeping, some reading magazines, others looking distraught.

A clock torturously ticks on, every second passing is another moment of hell for Maya.

A doctor comes into the room, wearing medical garb, holding a clipboard. Maya immediately springs up and looks at the doctor. They walk up to her, looks at her sadly, and shakes their head somberly, no, Aiden didn't make it.

The doctor keeps talking to Aiden, but there's just a RINGING NOISE, no other sound penetrates.

DOCTOR

...cancer...

Maya's face is paralyzed; stunned; there are hundreds of emotions running through her mind. Fear, guilt, betrayal, above all else overwhelming pain. The enormity of what has just occurred has not settled. Though not crying, Maya's eyes speak a thousand words to the overwhelming grief she is experiencing, and her inability to comprehend how this could happen. She storms out of the room.

ACT 3

17 INT. HALLWAY - TIME UNCLEAR

17

Maya bursts into the hallway from a door, back in the black dress.

She is panting, completely distraught.

MAYA
(muttering)
No, no no no.

She looks down the hallway one way, then the other way, there's nobody, just door after door.

Maya takes a few steps, and then sinks to the ground against the wall.

She lets out a loud sob, and then curls up, crying into her arms, onto Lulu.

Beat after beat of Maya just sitting there, crying, mourning the loss of her best friend.

Light shines on Maya.

She looks up. The door right across her has opened up. In it, piercing white, nothing else to see.

MAYA (CONT'D)
(screaming at door)
No! I'm done with these stupid
fucking doors!

The door stays open, unresponsive.

The loud groan of a beluga whale.

LULU (O.S. AT FIRST, DEEP MALE VOICE)
Don't give up.

Maya screeches, and chucks Lulu at the wall. They "stare" at each other.

MAYA (TO HERSELF)
This isn't real, this isn't real.

Then, as if dragged by some invisible force, Lulu is pulled towards the door.

Maya tries grab onto Lulu, letting out a grunt, but Lulu escapes her reach, and is dragged across the floor into the doorway, disappearing. Maya gets up and chases after Lulu into the doorway.

18 EXT. MAYA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 18

From outside, see a figure (Maya), staring outside her window, expressionless. Pan to the left, following her as she passes through a wall into her bedroom, her outfit changes in this process. She takes a seat at her window.

19 INT. MAYA'S BEDROOM - TIME PASSES 19

Maya is seated by her beside window, blank; the pit has consumed her.

The camera rotates around her 360 degrees multiple times, as this happens, her outfits change, get dirtier, sounds from outside of kids playing, seasons pass. At one point, she's being hugged by her mother. Focus on Maya's lifeless face, her mother's face unseen. Intercut/overlayed with:

20 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 20

Maya sits slumped at a school desk, head in her arms.

21 INT. MAYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 21

Maya watching Rick and Morty in bed, expressionless.

22 INT. MAYA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 22

Maya scrolling through Instagram on her phone, seeing photos of other people her age, having fun with their friends. Looks up to Lulu.

23 INT. MAYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 23

The camera returns to center on Maya, now in her black dress, and hangs there for a beat. DING of a text. Maya looks down. It's midnight, her Dad has texted "*Happy birthday <3!*" (subtext - the parents have divorced). Maya just looks at the text for a beat, lifeless, and the phone times out. Doorbell RINGS.

24 INT. APARTMENT ENTRANCE - NIGHT 24

Maya opens the door and peers outside into the hallway.

She looks below, and sees a package, taped atop it an envelope with "MAYA" written on it.

She picks it up, and suddenly, there is a transition to a blank white room

CRAZY TRANSITION INTO BLANK ROOM AT SID

25 INT. WHITE ROOM - TIME UNCLEAR 25

Maya stands holding the package with Flippy, staring at it pensively.

Maya opens the letter up tenderly, and begins to read it.

Text from portions of the letter overlays Maya's face, as sporadic voiceovers convey the crucial parts.

AIDEN (V.O.)

If you're reading this, that means-

Maya's eyes make their way down the letter as her eyes convey so much pain, so much love, all in one.

AIDEN (V.O.)

I'm sorry I never told you.

Tears flowing down Maya's face.

AIDEN (V.O.)

I get the last laugh on Ms.
Lebowski, because now she'll never
get the satisfaction of failing me.

Maya lets out a pained laughter between the tears. Her gaze falls to the bottom of the letter.

AIDEN (V.O.)

Happy birthday, and love forever,
Aiden.

Maya clenches the letter to her heart, tears streaming. Maya then looks to the package, and delicately begins to open it up...

In it, sits Flippy.

Maya pulls out Flippy and embraces it. She seems to notice something off about Flippy, and flips (punny) Flippy inside out to see one last small card contained inside.

The card reads: "Ta-da!"

CHILD AIDEN (O.S., ECHO)

Ta-da!

Beat of Maya looking at the card, Flippy in hand. Suddenly, the DING of an elevator. Maya looks up and there is an elevator in front of her, slowly opening. The room SHAKES. The elevator opens to reveal Aiden inside, looking ghostly, mysterious. Maya looks shocked, and sprints in, dropping the package to the floor.

26 INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

26

Maya rushes into the elevator and embraces Aiden, the elevator shutting behind her. The elevator is dark, metallic, confined.

AIDEN

You didn't think I'd miss your birthday.

MAYA (CRYING INTO AIDEN)

I don't understand what's happening.

Aiden carefully takes a step back from Maya, and presses an upper button on the elevator.

AIDEN

You were on the way to our spot-

27 INT/EXT. MAYA'S RANGE ROVER - NIGHT - MOVING

27

Rain. Maya is driving, frantically, quickly, crying, she's straining to see. It's pitch black, think the Euphoria scene.

Flippy and the card from Aiden are on her dash. She looks down to her right to the passenger seat. Lulu sits there.

Maya looks back at the road, a bright light shines on her, HEADLIGHTS.

28 INT. ELEVATOR - TIME UNCLEAR

28

AIDEN

-but you were too distracted.

29 INT./EXT. MAYA'S RANGE ROVER - NIGHT - MOVING 29

Maya rapidly steers her wheel to the right.

CLUNK. Water submerges the car.

Elevator DING.

30 INT. ELEVATOR - TIME UNCLEAR 30

Water is building up on the floor of the elevator as it opens up.

AIDEN

(somberly, near whisper)

It's time for you to go.

Aiden takes a step back from Maya. The elevator opens up to a green screen that shows Maya's range rover in the ocean, Maya passed out in her seat in it.

MAYA

(crying)

No, I can't lose you, not again!

Water starts building up on the floor, their feet are getting wet.

Aiden shakes their head sadly, and caresses Maya's cheek, leaving their hand there. They look into each other's eyes, Maya crying, Aiden with a sad smile.

AIDEN

This isn't my stop.

A beat of Maya and Aiden looking at each other with so much pain.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

You know I'll always be with you.

(releases Maya's cheek)

Please, for me, go.

Maya looks from Aiden to the ocean at the elevator exit, then back to Aiden.

Aiden mouths "Go."

Maya takes a deep, pained breath and stares into the ocean.

31 INT/EXT. MAYA'S RANGE ROVER UNDERWATER - GREEN SCREEN 31

Maya's eyes open up, she's facing Lulu and Flippy. She's laying across her car, tattered and cut up. Maya lets out a bunch of loud, pained coughs, and then shuffles over to the driver side window, pressing her hands against the window to the all consuming water. Her face exhibits panic, yet also awe.

32 EXT. OCEAN (POOL) UNDERWATER - NIGHT 32

Maya swims up to the surface, elegantly, dramatically, you almost wouldn't know she's swimming for her life it's so beautiful and tranquil. *Maybe a dolphin is in the distance and maybe we can see car sinking below.*

33 EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - NIGHT 33

An extended beat of Lulu and Flippy atop the ocean water, drifting. Music is tensing. Then:

CUT TO BLACK.

MAYBE Maya gasps (thus indicating her survival).

THE END