

SKELETONS

Written by

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Address
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FADE IN:

Rapid cuts of news broadcasts about depression, suicide, and mental illnesses in teens and young adults.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

CLOSE on AARON (early 20s), dressed in a black suit, rummaging through a locker. He pushes everything into his backpack.

The hallway is empty except for Aaron. Silence.

He walks past a classroom. He peers through the door's window. Only half the seats are occupied. The remaining students are in a haze.

INT. CAR

Aaron stares out the window at the passing houses.

AARON'S POV

A large pile of toys, furniture, and clothes sit at the end of a driveway. A few houses down is another pile, this one with a bike. Then another.

INT. CHURCH

CLOSE on Aaron, staring forward.

A casket sits under the crucifix. A picture of LOU (early 20s) sits aside.

AARON'S POV

Crying mourners. A WOMAN (50s) stands at the podium. Her lips move but no sound can be heard.

EXT. CHURCH COURTYARD

Aaron sits on the bench. His tie has become undone. KAYLA (late teens, early 20s) sits down next to him.

AARON

I'm not supposed to be here.

KAYLA

What? Of course you're supposed to be here. You can't think like that.

AARON

No, I'm not supposed to be *here*. I'm not supposed to be sitting here in this suit listening to every great or funny or sad thing my best friend ever did. I wasn't supposed to be here last week either. Or two months before that. I'm 20. This suit is for graduations and parties and weddings. I'm not supposed to be here until I'm 70 or 80 and we've all lived our lives and it's the final celebration, not the first. It's a plague, dude, and if we don't take it seriously, it's gonna wipe us out.

KAYLA

Not me. I'm not going to let my 7th grade shit-show of a recital be my lasting mark on this world. No, I'm gonna be around for a while so they have a ton of shit-shows to pick from.

AARON

I can't believe they told that story. He woulda hated that.

KAYLA

I know, right? What about the time he fell into the pond trying to feed the ducks. You'd think he did that when he was little but that was last year!

AARON

Or when his glitter bomb malfunctioned and exploded all over Mr. Krusick's desk!

KAYLA

(laughing)

I hear he's still finding it!

They burst with laughter.

AARON

Did he tell you about the senior prank he was planning?

(MORE)

AARON (CONT'D)
Now that's a story worth telling.
He was going to be a legend!

Aaron starts to cry. He leans his head on Kayla's shoulder.

AARON (CONT'D)
I'm gonna miss him.

KAYLA
I know. Me too.

FADE OUT.