

NO CONTACT

Written by

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NOTE: THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. THE PEOPLE AND PLACES ARE NOT REAL. IT IS RATHER A COLLECTION OF THE MANY PEOPLE I'VE LOVED, WISHED TO LOVE, AND ABSOLUTELY, MADLY HATED.

FADE IN:

1

INT. DIVE BAR - 2024 - EVENING

1

A series of close up shots: hands reach for each other, feet under a table, a hand pours water, a girl tucks hair behind her ear, a guy fidgets with his fingers, a hand holding keys turns a door handle, hands shoot at pool, two hands reach towards each other...

FADE TO WHITE:

DING, DING.

FADE IN:

Front door opens, a **bell** swings.

WAITER (O.S.)
Same thing?

Alone at a booth in a long skirt, nice top and stylish shoes is LIZZY (26). Lizzy glances at her **watch**: it's 7:15pm.

WAITER(20s) with slicked back hair, black and white attires stands above her waiting.

She downs the last sip of her IPA. Looks up.

LIZZY
Yes, thank you.

The waiter leaves, Lizzy is left alone... waiting, fidgeting.

Around the room Lizzy glances.

Tables are filled with couples lit by candlelight, it's all quite romantic. SIGH.

Behind the bar, the BARTENDER shakes a drink. The HOSTS prep at the door. [**Production Note: Front door.**]

DING. DING.

Her head whips back, is it who she hopes?

A couple hand in hand, with rings on their fingers walk to the **hostess stand**.

WAITER
Congratulations! Follow me.

The couple giddily walks past Lizzy. She reaches into her **purse**, pulls out her **phone** until -

DING. DING.

Lizzy looks back, her eyes grow wide.

2

INT. DIVE BAR - 2018 - NIGHT

2

A group of COLLEGE SOCCER PLAYERS stumble into the bar. Some are already drunk, all loud. They push through the bar.

Lizzy (21), unbothered reads **The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath** alone at a table in her flare jeans and tank top.

She glances over her book, behind her, in annoyance to see NICO (21) in soccer practice sweats, wave to the BARTENDER (20s). Nico goes to the bar, grabs **three beer pitchers**.

Lizzy turns back to her book as Nico walks pass her.

Nico reaches the back pool table, he sets the pitchers down.

GUYS

YEAH!!!

Lizzy rolls her eyes.

3

INT. DIVE BAR - 2018 - LATER

3

Lizzy is consumed by her book.

The bar is louder. Pitchers half empty. The guys play on both pool tables. Nico at the closer one. **Nico attempts a shot for the 8 ball**, misses. His pool partner RYAN (21) blonde, tall-

RYAN

Come on!

Nico shakes his head, leans the POOL STICK on the table. He goes to move when - SLAP. The stick crashes to the ground. Almost hitting Lizzy's table.

She doesn't flinch.

Nico runs over, picks it up.

NICO

So sorry about that!

She doesn't acknowledge him, he waits for a second, then gives up. He returns to pool. Ryan slaps him on the back.

RYAN

You're supposed to be good at this!

Everyone laughs. Nico can't help but look back at Lizzy.

Lizzy turns a page.

4

INT. DIVE BAR - 2018 - LATER

4

Pitchers empty, the boys stand around the booth in the back talking. Nico can't help but look across the room at Lizzy.

RYAN

This guy [Nico] scored the winning goal from halfway across the field. He's an animal.

Nico isn't listening. Ryan notices, he gives Nico a push.

NICO

It was a lucky shot.

He checks Nico's POV.

RYAN

Really man? That girl? When was the last time you picked up a book?

NICO

What are you talking about?

RYAN

Pretty strange if you ask me. Who reads at a bar?

Nico walks to the bar. Passing Lizzy. Ryan follows.

NICO

2 pints.

RYAN

Hey, thanks man.

NICO

It's not for you.

Ryan plays off his disappointment.

RYAN

Readers are crazy bro, they have all these weird little fantasies in their head. I don't trust em.

Nico ignores Ryan, he stares at Lizzy.

She turns the page and gasps. Something just happened.

The bartender returns, sliding two pints over.

NICO

Thanks man.

He pulls away from the bar.

RYAN

It's your funeral.

Nico ignores him. He walks towards Lizzy. He makes it to the table and... freezes. She doesn't notice him. He clears his throat.

Lizzy's eyes look up.

DING DING.

5

INT. DIVE BAR - 2024 - EVENING

5

Eyes wide, Lizzy stuffs the phone back into her **purse**. She looks down at the menu, pretending to read it.

NICO (O.S.)

Hi!

She looks up. There is NICO (26), wearing a refined outfit with shorter, styled hair.

NICO (CONT'D)

Have you been here long?

LIZZY

No! No, just a few minutes.

He takes off his jacket, wraps it on his chair.

NICO

Okay good. There was traffic on...
um-

He sits. Lizzy watches every move he makes.

NICO (CONT'D)

Sorry, I can't believe you're here.
You look... Great.

LIZZY
I can't believe it either, and you
do too.

NICO
And you're visiting for how long?

LIZZY
Just for the day.

NICO
Oh.

She reaches for the **water pitcher** in the middle.

LIZZY
Water?

Nico nods 'yes'. She pours while -

LIZZY (CONT'D)
It's good to see you. It's been
what, a year?

NICO
Yeah. I -

WAITER
Second round for you, and for you?

The waiter drops another beer in front of her.

NICO
I'm okay.

Lizzy shrinks, her confidence gone. She's embarrassed.

NICO (CONT'D)
Actually, yeah same thing.

LIZZY
And can we order food?

Waiter gets a pad ready. Nico looks down at the menu. Lizzy
smirks.

LIZZY (CONT'D)
Two burgers with the chef's sauce
and fries please.

The waiter nods.

NICO

Can I change one of those to a chicken caesar salad? Thank you.

Waiter grabs menus, leaves. Lizzy tilts her head.

NICO (CONT'D)

What?

LIZZY

Nothing. You just used to hate salads.

NICO

That was before... I've been trying to eat healthier.

LIZZY

Right.

Beat. He feels bad.

NICO

How's the city and work?

LIZZY

It's going good, keeps me busy.

She sips her drink.

NICO

You sacrificed a lot to get it, you deserve it.

LIZZY

Yeah. Are you still working with-

NICO

Yeah, just got promoted actually.

LIZZY

Wow. That's great.

Beat.

LIZZY (CONT'D)

Do you still come around her a lot?

NICO

Not really no. It's not the same.

LIZZY
I almost didn't even get a table, I
didn't realize you needed a
reservation here.

NICO
Yeah, new owners.

LIZZY
Oh.

The waiter returns with Nico's beer, they exit, leaving our
couple to sip awkwardly. DING, DING.

6

INT. DIVE BAR - 2018 - NIGHT

6

Nico stands awkwardly above Lizzy's table, at a loss for
words. Lizzy looks up.

NICO
What are you reading?

Lizzy stares at him.

NICO (CONT'D)
Sorry for interrupting, I just
wanted to apologize for earlier,
the pool stick and the noise.

LIZZY
No need.

NICO
Well, this beer is to make up for
it.

LIZZY
I don't like beer.

NICO
Ok, what about a burger?

LIZZY
The kitchen is closed.

NICO
I'll figure it out.

LIZZY
(sighs)
Fine. I am hungry.

NICO
Great! I'm Nico by the way.

LIZZY
Lizzy.

He gets up, moves to the bar, we see him talk to the bartender.

Lizzy stuffs her book into her tote. She fluffs her hair, checks her teeth.

NICO
So Lizzy, you like books.

He slides back into his chair.

LIZZY
Clearly.

NICO
And you like to read them at busy, college bars?

LIZZY
I like the atmosphere, usually.

NICO
Our bad, our bad.

LIZZY
I'm guessing you don't read?

NICO
No I do, just haven't read in a while. My mom's an author and sort of forced me to read a lot growing up.

LIZZY
So what do you like?

NICO
You know sports, and I like movies.

LIZZY
So many screens.

NICO
Well the whole point of a good movie is to make you forget you're looking at a screen.

LIZZY
Mhm. Escapism.

NICO
Exactly. Don't you ever wish you
could just escape into the books
you read? Maybe run around in
there.

Lizzy giggles. Her demeanor loosens, her body is less rigid
and tight.

LIZZY
When I read, sometimes I completely
forget where I am. This one time I
was reading on a public beach and I
burst into tears when the sister
died.

NICO
That's cute.

Lizzy blushes.

LIZZY
It was not cute.

NICO
Nothing's wrong with crying.

LIZZY
Fine. Do you cry at movies?

NICO
I have yes. Just once.

LIZZY
Ok, what movie?

NICO
The Godfather.

LIZZY
Never seen it.

NICO
WHAT?!

LIZZY
Don't go mansplaining about how
it's some cinematic masterpiece
that I need to watch. Its
overrated.

NICO
Ok, ok.

Beat.

NICO (CONT'D)
But that one scene where Michael
runs to the hospital and-

WAITER (O.S.)
Two burgers and fries.

The waiter sets two meals down.

LIZZY
(To Nico)
Perfect timing.

NICO
Yeah, yeah.

LIZZY
Thank you. Thanks. NICO (CONT'D)

NICO (CONT'D)
I think its time you try the beer.

LIZZY
Fine, only because I'm thirsty.

She takes a small sip, swishes it around.

LIZZY (CONT'D)
It's not... terrible.

NICO
See!

LIZZY
A bit warm though.

They laugh. Nico dives into a massive bite. She eats a fry,
then another, one at a time. Lizzy sips at her beer. He's
half done.

LIZZY (CONT'D)
God. You eat fast.

Mid-bite and cheese hanging out his mouth-

NICO
And?

LIZZY
It's not good for you.

NICO
That's just the wellness industry
talking.

LIZZY
True, but maybe they have a point.

NICO
Just try the burger first.

Nico gives her a punishing look. She takes a bite, washes it
down with beer. He waits.

LIZZY
Mm. Okay that's actually pretty
good.

NICO
Okay so, it can't be that bad for
you if you enjoy it.

LIZZY
Not every thing I enjoy is good for
me.

NICO
Well if it briefly made you happy,
it did something right and this
burger is making me very happy,
here try mine.

She reaches over, grabs the burger, takes a bite, hands it
back. She nods her head, 'okay, okay'. He points out sauce on
her cheek, hands her a napkin. Their hands brush.

LIZZY
Thanks.

NICO
A secret sauce, the chef only gives
it to his favorite customers.

LIZZY
Impressive.

He takes a large bite.

A group of voices grow louder. Nico's friends grab his
shoulders or pat his back on their way out. Ryan lingers.

RYAN

Come on lover boy, pre-game time.

Lizzy sits up straighter, looks away, ready for rejection.

NICO

Uh - I'm gonna stay here. I'll catch up with you guys later.

RYAN

Dude, this is gonna be the party of the year. You can't miss it. Carrie will be there with her hot friends.

(to Lizzy)

No offense.

NICO

There'll be more parties. I'll see you later man.

RYAN

Alright fine. Have fun you two.

He winks at Lizzy, exits. Lizzy laughs. Nico shakes his head.

NICO

Sorry about him.

LIZZY

He seems... fun. Is he your roommate?

NICO

Yeah and my best friend.

LIZZY

How'd you meet?

Nico starts to eat again. Lizzy joins.

NICO

At orientation actually, the dorm room over threw a party and I guess I didn't lock my door because Ryan stumbled in wasted singing and fell asleep on our floor.

LIZZY

You just let a stranger sleep in your room?

NICO

Sure why not.

LIZZY
That's insane.

NICO
Oh definitely, but since then we've
been inseparable.

LIZZY
Guys just can't be alone can they.

NICO
What?! We like having fun! He's
like a brother.

LIZZY
Well, I grew up with three younger
siblings so I really, really like
my alone time.

NICO
Ah, I wouldn't know. Only child.

LIZZY
Now everything makes sense.

NICO
What does that mean!

LIZZY
Nothing, I can just tell.

Lizzy giggles. Under the table their feet brush each other.

Bartender brings two more beers to the table, Lizzy cheers.

BARTENDER
On the house.

He leaves, Nico lifts the glass, they cheers.

7

INT. DIVE BAR - 2024 - EVENING

7

Nico's pushes around his half-eaten salad. Lizzy takes the
last sip of her pint.

LIZZY
So, how are your parents?

NICO
Good. Dad is off on a retreat,
working, so mom's in her little
dungeon writing. She started a new
one.

LIZZY

I can't wait to read it.

NICO

You were her biggest fan.

LIZZY

Still am. She's incredible.

NICO

Yeah she's really into this one,
but won't tell me much.

LIZZY

Really? She use to always show you
her work first.

NICO

Yeah I don't know. I snuck a few
pages and I got the feeling it was
a story from her life, like her
life before the family. May I?

He reaches over to her fries to break up the depth-

LIZZY

Go ahead. And they're all good.
Harper is a psych major, Max is
failing english but he's a senior
so almost out and Sky is in soccer.
Forward, like you.

NICO

Is she really? Huh.

LIZZY

Don't look so smug.

NICO

I told you she was good!

Lizzy rolls her eyes.

NICO (CONT'D)

I would have visited, but I thought
it might be weird. I miss them.

LIZZY

They understand.

Nico nods.

LIZZY (CONT'D)

I'll be right back.

NICO

Okay.

Lizzy gets up, she walks to bathroom.

Nico pulls out his phone, a message from CARRIE says: How's the movie? It better be bad, I want to go next time!

DING, DING.

A man with a cap, jeans and boots walks to the bar.

RYAN

Pickup for Ryan.

Nico recognizes a voice, he turns.

NICO

Ryan?

Reveal: Ryan, older with scruff. Nico stands, they bear hug.

RYAN

No way! I haven't seen you out like this in a while.

NICO

Just came for dinner.

RYAN

Oh yeah? That's cool.

Lizzy returns to the table.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Liz!!

He hugs her too, she laughs it off.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Now what are you doing here?

LIZZY

Just visiting, catching up with old friends.

RYAN

Oh, I see. Wow look at you two. Doesn't this guy look all buff now? He's been sober for what a few months and he looks like this?

Lizzy freezes.

NICO

Yeah okay man. Miss you too.

RYAN

I know this one doesn't go out much anymore, but maybe you can convince him to come to Jack's house tomorrow. All the guys will be there, they'd love to see you.

LIZZY

I'm just here for the day.

Bell rings. A waiter sets a to-go meal on the bar.

RYAN

Damn, well you know, I always thought you two would end up together.

Ryan grabs his food. He pats Nico back on his way out.

LIZZY

Well, he hasn't change a bit.

NICO

Nope.

LIZZY

Why haven't you seen him lately?

He sighs. They both sit back down.

NICO

I don't know, we just started to go down different paths. I stopped wanting to party every night and he still does, clearly.

LIZZY

That's just who he is.

NICO

Yeah.

Nico finishes his beer. DING, DING.

Lizzy picks at her leftover fries, her burger is half finished, their third beers are empty. Nico's plate is clean.

Behind them staff sweeps, the bartender stacks chairs.

They both laugh not because anything was funny, but because they are tipsy, Lizzy more so.

NICO

Wow, you eat soooo slow.

LIZZY

I like to savor it unlike some people.

NICO

I can't help it. I love food. Ugh and it's so much better when someone else cooks it!

Lizzy bites.

LIZZY

"I'm not sure why it is, but I love food more than just about anything else," Sylvia says that.

NICO

Who?

Lizzy grabs her tote and yanks out *The Bell Jar*, taps it.

NICO (CONT'D)

Ah Sylvia.

Bartender walks over.

BARTENDER

Sorry guys, it's time.

LIZZY

But the secret sauce!

NICO

The sauce will be here tomorrow, I promise.

They hop up. Almost out the back door Lizzy turns back and-

LIZZY

Goodbye sauce!

Lizzy and Nico stumble out. We hear the sounds of a college town. People smoke on the patio. Lizzy shivers.

NICO
If I had a jacket this is the
moment I'd give you one.

Lizzy playfully pushes him.

NICO (CONT'D)
Where do you live?

LIZZY
Creep.

NICO
No not like that - I meant -

LIZZY
Just a few blocks over.

NICO
Can I walk you home?

LIZZY
What a gentleman.

NICO
Yeah okay. Let me get my bike.

He grabs it off the wall, unlocks it. They walk past the bar.
[Production note: match bar scene, move to beer pong house].

NICO (CONT'D)
Do you bike?

LIZZY
No.

NICO
Really?

LIZZY
I like going slow. Let's me think.

They pass a house with a GROUP playing beer pong. SCORE!

LIZZY (CONT'D)
You want to hear a secret?

NICO
Tell me.

LIZZY
Sometimes when I'm walking and
bored, I look into people's
windows.

NICO

You creep!

They laugh.

LIZZY

I am not! It's cool to see other people's lives completely unrelated to mine.

NICO

It's like you get a taste of another life, but you never get to really live it. Sort of frustrating honestly.

LIZZY

Yeah it is, isn't it. It's not the real thing.

NICO

Never is, just a glimpse. Like movies!

Lizzy side eyes him.

NICO (CONT'D)

Or books!

Beat. **[Production note: match beer pong, to house party location].**

They walk beside house party. Music blasts. People everywhere.

NICO (CONT'D)

Ok. What do you think you'd see in my window?

LIZZY

Probably, hm, stacked empty pizza boxes, beer cans, and a big screen tv. Oh, and no books.

Nico laughs.

NICO

No books, your right, but we do watch a bunch of hidden gems.

LIZZY

The Godfather is not a hidden gem.

NICO
FINE! What do you think I would see
in your window?

A drunk couple stumbles out almost knocking into Lizzy when-
Nico pulls Lizzy out of the way, almost tripping over his
bike. He lets go of her quickly. She rubs her arm.

LIZZY
Definitely not this.

NICO
Looks like fun, although probably
not your style.

She shakes her head. The busy town fades away. They come up
on an apartment building. **[Production note: match house
party, to apartment building].**

LIZZY
This is me.

Nico nods while looking around.

NICO
Nice place.

Nico looks around more inquisitively, studying it.

LIZZY
What?!

NICO
No lights on, it's quiet, very
mysterious Lizzy.

She rolls her eyes.

LIZZY
Or just lonely!

NICO
Are you?

She shrugs.

LIZZY
Like I said, I like my alone time.

Nico sets his bike to the side. They walk to the steps. Lizzy
leans on the staircase railing. Nico does the same.

NICO
This was fun.

LIZZY
Yeah, I guess it was fun.

NICO
Oh come on, you had fun. You even
like beer now.

She laughs, her hair lands in her face. Nico leans up,
reaches to her, he pushes it aside gently tracing her cheek.

Their hands touch, he gently intertwines their fingers. They
pull in close, mere inches between their faces... lips.

LIZZY
I think I need some water...and
sleep.

NICO
Me too, we should say goodnight
then?

Lizzy nods, Nico backs up.

He moves to his bike.

NICO (CONT'D)
See you around then?

LIZZY
Yeah, why not?

She ascends the steps.

He pulls out his bike, hops on and takes a deep breath of the
fresh night air. He feels good.

She smiles as she turns her keys in the door knob, enters.

10

EXT. STREET 2024 - NIGHT

10

Lizzy and Nico step out, his jacket is in hand. [**Production
Note: the front side**].

NICO
Well, I drove.

LIZZY
Same here.

NICO

I don't have anywhere to go after
this, do you, uh, want to walk
around a bit?

She nods, 'yes'. He sets his jacket onto her shoulders. They walk.

[Production Note: match outside bar to House show].

They come up on a house show, it's jazz. They pause.

LIZZY

Wow.

NICO

This is pretty cool huh.

LIZZY

Yeah, if this was the kind of
parties we had back then maybe I
would have gotten out more.

They move closer to the band and watch. Within the music,
they look at each other never meeting eye contact. The song
ends, everyone claps. Nico nudges his head.

NICO

Shall we?

They walk on. Lizzy looks more inquisitive. **[Production Note:
match cut house show to corner street].**

LIZZY

I thought about calling you before,
you know.

NICO

Really?

LIZZY

Really.

NICO

And why didn't you?

LIZZY

I didn't think you wanted that.

NICO

Would it have changed anything?

LIZZY

What do you mean?

NICO
Sometimes people talk, but they
don't mean anything, it's just
words to hear themselves speak.

LIZZY
I think I just wanted to talk to
you. You get so used to telling one
person everything about your life
and then it just disappears.

NICO
Yeah. I wanted to talk to you too,
trust me. I-

11 INT. NICO'S CAR - EARLIER THAT DAY - 2024 - NIGHT 11

[**Production note: Parked parallel to front of Bar**]. The
passenger seat is filled with books. Nico turns off the
radio. His body shakes.

His phone RINGS, he lifts it to see CALL FROM: CARRIE. He
silences it. He pounds on the steering wheel.

He exits the car, moving to the bar front door.

12 EXT. STREET - 2024 - CONTINUOUS 12

LIZZY
It was all my fault I-

NICO
I'm sorry for everything, I
just -

They both shyly stop.

NICO (CONT'D)
I guess it doesn't matter whose
fault it was anymore. I'm just glad
you're here now.

They hold eye contact.

13 INT. DIVE BAR BATHROOM - EARLIER THAT DAY - 2024 - NIGHT 13

Lizzy's hands turn the sink. We hear her sobs.

KNOCK KNOCK.

LIZZY
Just a minute.

She leans into the mirror to fix her makeup, snuffles.

She opens the door, in the distance is Nico and Ryan.

14

EXT. STREET - 2024 - CONTINUOUS

14

[**Production note: match cut, move to Lizzy's House**]. We come up on a quaint house. The lights are on.

NICO

It's getting late, we should probably head back.

Lizzy slows her walk.

LIZZY

Right.

She stops by the mail box. He walks ahead, turns around.

NICO

What's wrong?

LIZZY

I haven't picked up a book since we broke-up Nico. I can't read anymore, something must be wrong with me.

NICO

Nothings wrong with you.

LIZZY

And- there's more. I - uh, I live here.

She signals to the house.

NICO

Wait what?

LIZZY

As of last week. I live here.

NICO

But, you moved to the city, I thought that's where you wanted to be? I thought you wanted to be an editor?

LIZZY

How could I if I can't even read anymore? I'm sorry this is all coming out like this. Meanwhile you are happy and perfect and -

She's crying. Nico steps close.

NICO
Are you kidding?

LIZZY
What?

Wipes away her tears.

NICO
I've been a mess.

LIZZY
But-

NICO
I only got a promotion because all
I could do for months was focus on
work. I've been a mess.

LIZZY
Oh.

Nico shakes his head.

NICO
Is that all?

LIZZY
Well, I start graduate school next
week.

NICO
Seriously? Congrats. It seems like
you got it all figured out.

Lizzy shrugs. They fall into silence. She leads him to the door. She unlocks it. She walks in, turns around in the frame.

Nico stays put. There is a question in the air between them.

NICO (CONT'D)
So you're here now, for good?

Lizzy nods *yes*.

NICO (CONT'D)
Ok. Goodnight, Lizzy.

LIZZY
Goodnight.

Lizzy and Nico make eye contact, they hold it.

He turns to leave -

LIZZY (CONT'D)

Wait.

She removes the jacket, she hands it to him, their hands brush.

A series of close up shots: hands reach for each other, feet brush under a table, hands pour water, a girl tucks her hair behind her ear, a guy's hand taps his leg, a hand fits keys into a lock, hands move a beer to lips, hands slap a book down next to another pair, hands pass a jacket.

He slips it on, he turns away slightly.

She reaches out her hand. It inches for his and-

FADE TO BLACK.