

NOTHING

Written by

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1. INT. GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

1.

AUGUST, 20, and MEL, 19, are sitting on a window seat cushion. Muffled brassy music from a party is heard and low warm lights leak from the sidewalk. Their knees are knocked together and their bodies are leaning towards each other. August is wearing ripped jeans and a white shirt.

August is holding Mel's face while kissing. Mel is still. Both have their eyes closed.

Mel breaks the kiss, opens his eyes and uprights his body. He needs to breathe. August follows and fixes his gaze on Mel.

AUGUST

So... what did you feel?

The sidewalk lights reflect off Mel's body. He is the brightest thing in the room.

The music fades out.

MEL

Nothing.

DAYDREAM

2. INT. MEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

2.

Mel is lying on his bed wearing the same clothes as at the party. He is facing up with eyes wide open. His cell phone is on his nightstand. The screen lights up and a chime is heard. It is 4:30 am, and a message notification from AUGUST comes in.

3. INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

3.

August walks through the door of a cozy, dimly lit coffee shop. A bell rings as he enters. The sound catches the attention of Mel who is seated nearby, sipping on a cup of tea.

There is a coat rack near the door. August unbuttons his gray cardigan and hangs it on the rack. His white shirt and ripped jeans freeze Mel's gaze.

August stops to glance around. Mel waves his hand so August seats in front of him.

MEL

nervous

Hi.

AUGUST

Hey.

MEL
I hmm- I didn't think you would
come.

AUGUST
Well, to be honest. I didn't think
you would call.

MEL
I'm sorry I ran away yesterday.

August nods and hints a smile.

MEL (CONT'D)
I couldn't sleep last night and it
was not okay. I got anxious and
confused and---

Mel is running on his words. August interrupts him.

AUGUST
calmly
Hey, breathe. I understand. It's
all good. No hard feelings. I know
you're straight.

Mel breathes deeply and continues steadily.

MEL
What I wanted to say it's that I
know it was just a kiss and it
shouldn't be that big of a deal...
but it was for me.

Mel looks down and August takes his drooping hand by the side
of the table. He looks back up. August is smiling at him.

4. EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

4.

The pair walks holding hands. August holds an ice cream cone
in his other one.

AUGUST
So your full name is Melhem?

MEL
nodding
Correct.

AUGUST
Mel-hem. And you had never kissed a
guy before? Interesting.

August stops stealthily. Mel takes a few more steps before
noticing and turning back.

MEL
laughing
What?

AUGUST
Hem, would you like to kiss one?
Again?

He takes a determined step forward. Mel nods and laughs nervously. He closes his eyes while August leans forward.

5. EXT. PATIO - DAY

5.

A group of five friends are sitting in sectionals behind a sliding glass door. Mel and August enter through the door as the friends turn their backs and cheer.

MEL
Hi, everyone. This is August...

Mel points at his partner.

MEL (CONT'D)
My boyfriend.

Everyone comes running to greet them, hug Mel and handshake August. The friends start to overwhelm the couple with trite questions, but they do not mind and just laugh it off.

The excited voices fade out.

6. INT. CAR - DAY

6.

Mel is driving, tapping the steering wheel with excitement to the rhythm of the music. August is riding shotgun, smiling at his boyfriend. His white shirt and ripped jeans are intact.

The car stops parallel to a sidewalk.

MEL
We're here.

August takes a look to the right, a sign on the window sill of a building reads: "**Adoption**". He looks back at Mel.

AUGUST
Hem, are you sure you wanna do
this?

MEL
determined
More than anything.

Mel kisses August and pats his chest.

7. INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - DAY

7.

The couple is standing in front of the kennels. There are about 20 dogs inside crates. Barking, whimpering and groaning sounds quickly fade in.

Next to them is the ADOPTION COUNSELOR, 35, revising a spreadsheet.

AUGUST

What about this little guy chewing the bowl.

August points at MAX, a golden retriever *pup* in a crate playing with its metallic bowl. Taped to it is a laminated numerical code that the Adoption Counselor looks up on her spreadsheet.

ADOPTION COUNSELOR

Ah, Max. He's been here for four months. People wouldn't take him because they tend to grow too big.

The Adoption Counselor opens the crate and Mel picks up Max. The dog wags its tail. He smiles.

MEL

I think this is our guy.

8. EXT. FOREST - DAY

8.

Mel is lying on August. They are on a blanket while Max, now fully grown, plays with a stick.

On the blanket is a picnic basket, a bottle of red wine, a charcuterie board and a bowl full of kibble.

August looks at Mel as he throws the stick back into the woods.

AUGUST

Hem... I don't like taking turns taking care of Max. I feel like the poor guy thinks we're separated or something.

Mel sits up and looks back at his boyfriend. He sighs.

MEL

I could crash at your place until curfew and then take Max for the night and--

AUGUST

--See, that's what I mean. It'll be exhausting for the both of us and I cannot do that to you or Max.

Max comes back and drops the stick near Mel. He starts petting the dog.

MEL
to Max
So, what do we do?

AUGUST
I think it's better if we don't go
to my place anymore.

Mel stops petting Max.

MEL
What? Why?

August picks up the picnic basket.

AUGUST
Oh, don't be blue.

He takes out a set of keys, making them clink.

AUGUST (CONT'D)
Now we got ours.

August laughs as Mel rushes to hug him.

9. INT. MEL'S PARENTS' HOME - DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON 9.

The dining room is warm. Mel and August are seated at the ends of the dining table, and at the sides are each pair of parents. The plates on the table are full and MEL'S MOM, 54, is pouring the last of the six glasses of wine for her. Everyone is chattering.

Mel's mom places the bottle on the table. Raises her glass and everyone toasts.

10. INT. MEL'S PARENTS' HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT 10.

Everyone is chattering and finishing up with their food.

August nods to MEL'S DAD, 60, so he takes his wine glass and taps it with a knife. Everyone is silent.

August stands up and rolls up the sleeves of his white shirt. He pulls a blue velvet box from the pocket of his ripped jeans.

AUGUST
Hem, you have made these last four
years the best of my life.

Mel stands up. August looks at him.

AUGUST (CONT'D)

From the night we met I realized that you had come to brighten up my world. So, I was wondering if you would like to make my life even brighter. Will you marry me?

11. EXT. WEDDING VENUE - DAY

11.

August and Mel are standing in front of each other holding their hands. Behind them: a MARRIAGE OFFICIANT, 43, is dressed in a white suit with a green flower pinned on their pocket square.

Mel's tuxedo contrasts with his fiancé's white shirt and ripped jeans.

The voice of the marriage officiant fades in.

MARRIAGE OFFICIANT

... For richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do you part?

AUGUST

I do.

MEL

I do.

MARRIAGE OFFICIANT

By the power vested in me, I now pronounce you husband and husband. You may now kiss the groom.

The newlyweds lean to kiss each other. The guests applaud and Max barks.

12. INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAWN

12.

Max is barking. It is raining outside and still dark. Mel and August are sleeping.

The dog enters the bedroom and barks near them.

Mel grunts while blindly patting his husband, waking him up.

AUGUST

Yes... yes, got it.

August stands up and Mel curls up in his pillow.

MEL

sleepy
Thank you.

AUGUST
C'mon boy. We'll let Daddy sleep.

August gives Mel a peck while he closes his eyes.

END DAYDREAM

13. INT. GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

13.

Mel opens his eyes. August glances anxiously at him. Their knees are still knocked together. Music from the party fades in.

AUGUST
Mel, I'm sorry. Are you okay?

Mel raises his head again as he comes back into consciousness.

AUGUST (CONT'D)
I- I just wanted to know if you
felt anything.

Now Mel is staring at him too. August sighs and continues.

AUGUST (CONT'D)
I know you don't like guys that way
and--

Mel cups his face. August ceases running his mouth. Mel leans forward, their eyes shut and their faces get closer.

Mel wants to feel *nothing* again.

14. OVER BLACK.

14.

TITLE: NOTHING