

TAGPUAN

Written by

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FADE IN

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Hands clasped together, they separate.

ADAM (26) and BRYAN (25) sit on a bench, looking away from the other.

Bryan CHUCKLES and stares at his feet.

ADAM
Don't.

BRYAN
What -- ?

Adam turns to Bryan.

ADAM
Bry...

Adam unsticks himself from the bench. Bryan rushes to catch up.

BRYAN
You're cute when you don't know what to say.

Adam tightens his lips to suppress a smile.

BRYAN (cont'd)
You've been quiet all day.

ADAM
I couldn't sleep...

BRYAN
My cuddles aren't enough?

Adam grins.

ADAM
I just -- do you love me?

BRYAN
Of course.

Walking beat.

ADAM
That's the problem.

BRYAN
(grinning)
How is THAT a problem?

Adam shrugs and finds something in his pocket --

A BROKEN TOOTHPICK.

He eyes it long enough for Bryan to notice.

BRYAN
Let me see that.

Bryan gives it a once over and tosses.

Adam stops, shocked.

ADAM
There's a trash can up ahead!

BRYAN
It's just wood.

ADAM
Processed wood.

BRYAN
You've gotta let it go.

ADAM
I can't.

Bryan grabs Adam by the shoulders.

BRYAN
Just breathe --

Adam pushes Bryan away and steps aside, arms on his hips.

Bryan waits before hugging Adam from behind.

Adam calms down.

ADAM
You're so sweet to me...

Adam turns for the full hug.

Bryan runs a hand through Adam's hair --

ADAM
Please don't mess up my hair.

BRYAN
Just trying to help.

ADAM
I like it the way it is.

Bryan brushes down the hair.

BRYAN
Come on... let's keep walking.

They separate and continue.

ADAM
I had my first kiss here.

BRYAN
But not your last.

They laugh.

ADAM
After mom left, I'd come here all the time. It's always had a special place in my heart.

BRYAN
Mine too. Coincidence?

ADAM
Never.

BRYAN
That jacket still looks great on you.

ADAM
Flattery will get you nowhere.

They smile at each other.

ADAM (cont'd)
And your smile hasn't changed a bit --

BRYAN
Adam.

Adam's smile fades.

BRYAN (cont'd)
Why are we here?

They grab a railing.

ADAM
I just thought -- I thought this...

BRYAN
Would be the place to do it?

ADAM
Yeah.

BRYAN
It's OK.

ADAM
(choking up)
You're always telling me that, why
can't I say a thing to you?

BRYAN
(consoling)
Every time you do, you pull away.

ADAM
I don't... I can't help it! I'm so
afraid of hurting us.

BRYAN
You can't hurt me.

ADAM
But I already have.

Beat.

BRYAN
You're still my favorite person.

ADAM
And you're mine.

Adam grabs Bryan's hands and they stare into each others
eyes.

Adam kisses Bryan's cheek and they separate again.

BRYAN
What made you doubt us?

ADAM
Can I be... frank?

BRYAN
If I can be your monster.

Adam chuckles and wipes away a tear.

ADAM

When grandma passed, you did -- you do everything you can for me. And I love you for that, I do, but it's never what's right for me... just what you think I need.

BRYAN

Am I too much?

Adam confirms with his face. Bryan sighs.

BRYAN

That really hurts...

Adam grimaces.

BRYAN (cont'd)

But I'm glad you told me.

Bryan struggles to smile.

BRYAN

You're still too cute.

ADAM

Who got us those free drinks!?

BRYAN

Damn right I'm stunning - you're not too bad yourself.

ADAM

See, that's the kind of talk that got us into this mess.

They wrap their arms around each other and step in unison.

BRYAN

We'll fix this.

ADAM

If I was a better person, do you think we would've made it for the long haul?

Bryan shrugs.

BRYAN

It just wasn't meant to be --

ADAM
I should've done more.

BRYAN
No... I should've met you halfway.

Sad smiles and separate.

ADAM
Need help moving out?

BRYAN
Beer's on you.

ADAM
My choice?

BRYAN
Deal.

They shake on it. Adam takes off the jacket --

ADAM
I believe this belongs to you.

Hands it to Bryan.

BRYAN
Thanks.

ADAM
You think they'd bury us together?

BRYAN
They will.

ADAM
My dad always said we were soulmates
of a certain kind.

BRYAN
Plato couldn't have said it better.

They amble to an overlook and lean on the railing together.

CUT TO:

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Adam and Bryan hug it out on the same bench, joy written
across their faces.

BRYAN
(almost whispering)
Tagpuan.

They smile at each other, hop up, and clasp hands - Adam wearing the aforementioned JACKET.

FADE OUT