

BLACK...

A piano key is heard. It becomes a soft melody, being played and heard in the background. It is gentle and peaceful.

Suddenly, a bad note is heard and the peaceful melody is broken.

1. INT. BAND ROOM- DAY

A teenage boy AARON is seen on a piano clutching his hands and calming himself through breathing. He is wearing a blue collared shirt with long pants.

Aaron is all alone in the room as we see more of it. The room looks akin to a band room, filled with musical instruments like a guitar and a drum set. The sounds of rain can be heard. He sighs and tries to compose himself.

He resumes playing on the piano and the same melody is heard. All seems well. This time, another bad note is played. Aaron loses it and in frustration bangs the piano keys. He takes the score sheet he is looking at and walks towards a waste bin in the corner of the room.

He is about to tear the piece of paper. But, he hesitates and is unable to do it. He looks at it for a while in silence. Nothing can be heard except for the sound of rain in the background.

He slumps against the wall, looking lost, glancing at the paper in his trembling hands. The door opens and his friend JARRAD steps in. He is wearing a flannel over his shirt and long pants. He sees Aaron.

JARRAD

HEY AAR-

He stops himself and doesn't say anything after that. There is an air of silence as the sounds of rain get louder. He walks over to the guitar and sits on a nearby chair close to his friend. He begins tuning and strumming some chords.

Aaron looks like he is about to say something but no words are spoken. He looks towards the floor. Jarrad sees him in his current state and begins strumming a melody very similar to the one played on the piano. Only this time, he strums past the part Aaron was failing at before he arrived. Aaron speaks up.

AARON

Jarrad I need you to tell me something.

He stops and looks at Aaron. Aaron is still looking down, avoiding eye contact.

AARON

If you had a choice, would you not do what you want now to live a life where others are happy instead? Where you are doing what they want in the future because it is the right thing?

Jarrad is silent as he strums a few notes on his guitar. He looks back at Aaron.

JARRAD

You know the answer.

He looks back towards his guitar. Aaron looks at Jarrad with confusion. He questions Jarrad again this time a bit more serious.

AARON

Okay, now's not the time for you to be a dick. Could you just tell me what I should do?

Jarrad this time does not look at Aaron. He is still focused with what he is doing.

JARRAD

I already did. You just have to look harder.

At this point, Aaron's frustration reaches an all time high. He throws the paper on the floor and walks over to Jarrad. He snatches the guitar and is fuming right now.

AARON

Could you please be straight forward for once and not joke around? Sometimes I wonder if you take anything seriously!

Aaron then prepares to do something drastic as he holds the guitar above his head. He is about to smash the guitar on the ground. Jarrad then speaks.

JARRAD

I understand what you are feeling
Aaron.

Aaron looks at Jarrad in disbelief while slightly lowering the guitar. He shakes his head.

AARON

You're lying. No one understands how I
feel.

Jarrad walks up to Aaron and pulls out a guitar pick from his pocket. He hands it to Aaron, before continuing to speak.

JARRAD

What you are holding there is
something my father gave to me. Before
he left.

Jarrad looks at the floor, his hands fidgeting.

JARRAD

I despised him but I learnt 5 years
later that its better to forgive. Even
though I know what I am going through
isn't the same as yours, I know that
you are so much stronger than me.

Jarrad looks up at Aaron and holds his shoulder. The rain sounds softer.

JARRAD

If you have believe in yourself, you
have all the answers. No matter what,
just so you know, I am always here for
you.

The sounds of rain stop. Jarrad lets go of Aaron's shoulder, all is silent. He takes the guitar and puts it back. He prepares to open the door. But, not before looking back and smiling, says.

JARRAD

See you later...

The door is closed and Aaron is all alone again. Birds are chirping now. Aaron leaves the score sheet on the floor. He gets up slowly and walks over to the piano. His hands are on the piano keys. His hand goes into his pocket and unfolds a piece of paper. It's an acceptance letter to an overseas university. Aaron looks at it before looking at the score

sheet on the floor.