

MELNRAGE

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## 1. EXT.MELNRAGE BEACH (10PM) - PRESENT DAY

We approach a man sitting on the beach and making some notes in his diary. He is lost in thought and doesn't seem to hear or see anyone behind him. As we continue watching him from various angles he begins reading a note written by him five minutes ago. We hear only his voice.

MAX (V.O.)

I've always tried to be a good person-at least, that's what my father used to say. "You've never killed or harmed anyone. The rest of the sins? They're just part of life." But... does avoiding the worst really make you a good person?-

LUCIE silently approaches from behind and touches MAX's shoulder. Startled, he quickly tries to cover his notes.

LUCIE

(waving her phone)  
Hey! I called you ten times. Is your phone dead again?

MAX

Uhm, yeah.. Well no.. Sorry, I was just working on something and didn't hear it. Are we leaving?

LUCIE

Well, we were supposed to leave at 11pm, but our bus is stuck on the Estonian border AGAIN! I wonder what happened this time? We really should consider getting our own car-this is getting ridiculous! Jesus!

MAX

Don't worry, I will figure this out.. soon... Can you give me five more minutes maybe?

LUCIE

Sure, I will be at this place... How is it called? Ateik Ateik, yeah. They have the best onion rings ever! I'll save you some.

MAX (V.O.)

Of course she forgot that I hate onions.

2. EXT.MELNRAGE BEACH (12PM) - PRESENT DAY CONT.

MAX still sits on the beach, lost in thoughts of the past and uncertainties about the future. The beer LUCIE brought him remains untouched. Since his parents' death, he quit drinking, but LUCIE always forgets and tries to get him to relax.

MAX (V.O.)

Where was I? Right... being me.  
It's not as easy as it seems. Some days, I'm relieved you're not me- the person constantly battling his demons, slipping away from reality before you even notice. But, I wasn't always like this. Once, I was like three different people crammed into one. Extroverted, like I had a jet engine in my veins. But now... I'm just...quiet.

MAX takes one last look at the beach. A sad smile flickers across his face. He stands, gathering his things- an old jacket, brown Marshall headphones, his journal, and an untouched bottle of Corona. He walks away, leaving behind the beach and his thoughts...

THE CAMERA IS FOCUSED ON MAX OPENING THE CAFE DOOR AND CUT TO:

3. INT.ATEIK ATEIK (2003)

Young MAX enters Ateik Ateik. He is 17 years old now. He is looking for his friends in the crowd. Today is the Lithuanian Independence Day, so it's really hard to not get lost in the city today. MAX finally notices MARGO at the table right in front of the main entrance. He is secretly in love with her. Besides MARGO there also JUSTAS and AILIN. MAX is approaching the table with a smile.

JUSTAS (TO MAX)

What's up May May? Long time no see!

They exchange their secret handshake.

MARGO (TO MAX)

Should I say my favorite "Where have you been loka?"-

MAX (TO MARGO)

PLEASE, no. I'm fine... just needed to get out of town for a while.

AILIN, the one person who doesn't greet MAX, has her reasons. He broke up with her the day she was going to introduce him to her parents- over the text message.

MAX (TO AILIN)  
How are you?

AILIN, sipping her Coke, looks at him, clearly angry.

AILIN (TO MAX)  
How am I??? Can't you come up with  
a better question, you fucking  
idiot?

She throws her Coke in his face and storms out. JUSTAS tries  
not to laugh, while MARGO hands MAX some napkins.

MAX smiles at MARGO as he takes them.

MARGO  
I will talk to her

MARGO leaves the cafe.

4. EXT. ATEIK ATEIK BACK ENTRANCE

AILIN fumbles with her lighter, trying to light a cigarette.  
MARGO helps her with her own lighter.

AILIN  
You knew he would come didn't you?

MARGO  
Yes, but AILIN, you know that he is  
going through a lot right now and-

AILIN  
Do you know what it's like to look  
into your parents' eyes, full of  
guilt and resentment, with no words  
to explain that your fiancé is  
just... out of his mind?

MARGO  
I understand... I mean, I wish I  
could.

AILIN  
(covering her face with a hand)  
Please, don't. It's the worst.

After a minute of silence.

MARGO  
Remember how we burned Ms.  
Johnson's pants in chemistry class  
in 8th grade?

AILIN  
(laughing)

Of course! She could barely walk after that..

MARGO AND AILIN  
For a month!

They laugh together, softly. After a pause, MARGO continues.

MARGO  
Ailin, I know what you're going through is awful, and I wish I could take it away. But MAX is also my friend. We've known each other since kindergarten. He's going through a lot too. Losing your parents isn't something you just... get over.

AILIN realizes that MARGO might have feelings for MAX but says nothing. She simply smiles.

AILIN  
Yeah, you are right.

5. INT.ATEIK ATEIK (2003) CONT.

Meanwhile, MAX and JUSTAS continue their conversation.

JUSTAS  
Bro, that was intense. Did you forget to buy her flowers for Valentine's?

MAX wipping coke from his face.

MAX  
(sarcasticly)  
Funny.

JUSTAS' face turns serious as he puts a hand on MAX's shoulder.

JUSTAS  
(seriously)  
You aren't alone in this May May.

MAX  
(smiling softly)  
I know.

MARGO and AILIN return and take their seats.

JUSTAS  
I don't know about you, but I'm craving some good root beer and onion rings!

MAX

Sounds good, but I have got some stuff to finish before classes. See you later!

MAX is grabbing his beer and heads toward the main exit.

6. EXT. ATEIK ATEIK MAIN ENTRANCE - PRESENT DAY

We are now approaching MAX and LUCIE. They are just walking out of the cafe from the main entrance. LUCIE is holding the remaining beer with a take out onion rings.

LUCIE

I still don't understand how you haven't tried these onion rings. They're the best I've ever had- literally devoured them.

MAX

(smiling)  
I'm not a big fan of oily stuff. But I'm glad you're enjoying them.

LUCIE

It's a relief after that full-on conversation with the bus driver. Can you believe I managed a constructive dialogue with him, even though I don't speak Estonian?

MAX

And what did you say?

LUCIE

\*a funny phrase in estonian\*

MAX

Maybe it's a sign we should stay in Lithuania for a while. Since we've got time, do you mind going to a church with me? I used to go there when I was in college.

LUCIE

You know I'm not religious, but sure. I've got nothing else to do. Maybe it'll help with my master's thesis.

6A. EXT. OLD CHURCH'S MAIN ENTRANCE NOWADAYS

MAX with LUCIE on the background is standing right in front of the entrance. MAX is about to enter and...

## 6B. INT.OLD CHURCH - NIGHT (2003)

MAX, alone, enters the church. He walks past the first ten pews, then turns back, looking at the entrance with a sad expression. He remembers the old days when he and his father would come here every Friday. It was their "thing." He approaches the second pew, where the priest usually stands, but he has an uneasy feeling that someone is watching him.

MAX

Hello?

Silence. But there's someone standing near the entrance. It's hard to make out the person's features, but MAX knows this isn't someone who came to pray.

MAX

Can I help you? I am sorry if I somehow interrupted you. I... Knew that the church was closed but still entered. I'm sorry, I... Think I will go.

## 6C. SILENCE.

THE UNKNOWN

You should try to control your thoughts. Have you ever heard about the power of the mind?

MAX

Oh, I see. Did AILIN ask you to threaten me or something? Look, I'm sorry for what happened, but you have to understand-I was really stressed back then and couldn't handle it all.

WE HAVE A ROUND SHOT THAT TRANSITIONS US TO...

## 6D. INT.OLD CHURCH - PRESENT DAY

MAX (V.O.)

Yes, I remember it like it was yesterday. And little did I know, that man had nothing to do with AILIN...