

Passing Time

Written by

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INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

MYLA, a girl in her mid 20s wearing simple but nice looking clothes, sits at a table looking towards the door. She's fidgeting with her phone in her hand. She gets very still when the door opens. CHARLIE walks in, a girl in mid 20s wearing glasses and a fancy dress, walks in. She stops just past the entrance and looks around before spotting Myla. She smiles as she walks towards her; Myla smiles back.

CHARLIE

I overdressed.

MYLA

You look amazing. I don't have many fancy clothes.

Charlie sits down.

CHARLIE

You look beautiful.

Myla fails to stifle a smile.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

How's your day been.

MYLA

Really boring. I basically just sat around, waiting to come here. How was yours?

CHARLIE

I just worked all day.

They both pick up a menu.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

They are both eating fancy looking small tacos. Charlie has a glass of wine and Myla has water.

CHARLIE

My mom's tacos were always just okay. These are slightly better than hers.

MYLA

My mom would lose it if anyone talked about her food that way.

CHARLIE

Sounds intense.

MYLA

Oh yeah. She takes no one's shit.

CHARLIE

Mine's just difficult. She likes to make problems and then just stops talking as if the other person is wrong. So, I stopped talking to her, too.

MYLA

My mom can be pretty hard to deal with. She was okay when I came out, but when I was diagnosed she got controlling, so I don't really talk to her anymore.

CHARLIE

Well, she cares about you.

MYLA

She thinks I'm still just this innocent little lady she raised.

CHARLIE

(sarcastically)

Oh yeah, so innocent.

Charlie smirks at Myla. Myla squints, sarcastically offended, at Charlie.

MYLA

You're sounding very judgy.

CHARLIE

I mean, you are the one looking for a fuck buddy.

MYLA

(sarcastically)

For your information, I was **secretly** looking for someone to fall madly in love with me, but now you're not allowed to.

CHARLIE

(sarcastically offended)

I'm not allowed?

MYLA

Nope, you're not allowed to fall in love with me. Your loss.

CHARLIE

Fuck, that probably means I can't marry you either. I could've gotten all you're stuff.

MYLA

We can get married, just as long as we don't love each other.

CHARLIE

Just like my parents.

MYLA

Besides, I could always write you  
out of the will just to spite you.

CHARLIE

Not if you suddenly have a tragic  
accident right after the wedding.

They both laugh. They smile at each other in silence.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I kind of want to ask you  
something, but don't feel pressured  
to answer.

MYLA

I don't mind talking about it.

CHARLIE

(hesitantly)

Do you know how long you have?

MYLA

I know it's not very long, but I  
didn't want to put a number to it.

Myla looks at Charlie with concern in her eye.

MYLA (CONT'D)

Are you okay with that?

Charlie gives a slight, fake smile.

CHARLIE

Yeah, it's just not something I'm  
used to.

MYLA

I've gotten comfortable talking  
about it.

Myla takes Charlie's hand.

MYLA (CONT'D)

But, I wanna talk about you, too.

INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT

Charlie and Myla are in bed, naked. Charlie lays in Myla's  
arm, facing her and running her hand up her chest. Myla  
strokes Charlie's hair.

MYLA

How'd you do that?

CHARLIE

Do what?

MYLA

Get me to sleep with you.

Charlie smiles with her mouth agape and lifts her head to face Myla. Myla fails to suppress a laugh.

MYLA (CONT'D)

(giggling)

It's a simple question.

Charlie sits up and throws her pillow at Myla's face. Myla starts laughing and pulls the pillow out of the way as Charlie gets on top of her.

CHARLIE

Excuse me, you were real quick to start putting fingers in places.

MYLA

I was a pure and simple young lady before you corrupted me.

Charlie starts tickling Myla and Myla fails to push her hands away while laughing.

CHARLIE

"Pure and simple" -- you were literally unzipping my dress in the car!

Myla pushes Charlie off of her and rolls on top of her.

INT. CHARLIE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Charlie sits on the couch with Myla laying on her lap, both wearing pajamas, watching a movie. Myla's leg is shaking

Charlie looks at Myla.

CHARLIE

What are you thinking about?

MYLA

Nothing.

Charlie pauses the movie; Myla sighs and smiles, side eyeing Charlie.

MYLA (CONT'D)

I tried reaching out to my mom, because I want to have an actual conversation about what happens next, but it's just more of the same.

CHARLIE

She has to understand eventually.

MYLA

I hope she does. She still thinks I can get treatment, but we're well past that.

CHARLIE

She sounds like she has a good heart.

MYLA

She does. I just need her to know that, when it's time, I want to be done. And I want to be able to talk to her again without bringing it up anymore.

CHARLIE

She just needs time. And if she doesn't let you go when you're ready, I'll just hit you with my car.

MYLA

Like Fast and Furious!

CHARLIE

You could've said anything else and I would've had so much more respect for you.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Charlie and Myla are sitting on the floor, putting things in boxes, wearing old, worn out clothes.

CHARLIE

Have you though any more about where you'll stay?

MYLA

I think I'll just keep living here. It'll just be empty.

CHARLIE

There's always my place.

MYLA

Your tiny ass apartment?

CHARLIE

So you'd rather sit on the floor all day, staring at the walls until it's time to lay down and sleep?

MYLA  
I'll still keep my bed here, we're  
still using it.

Charlie chuckles.

CHARLIE  
You think I'm going to be sleeping  
with someone who doesn't even have  
a microwave?

MYLA  
I mean, it's not like you're  
sleeping with anyone else.

CHARLIE  
(sarcastically offended)  
I take away my offer to stay with  
me.

MYLA  
Damn, missed out on living in a  
closet again.

CHARLIE  
It's cozy, and the only place I can  
find.

Myla slows what she's doing and takes a breath.

MYLA  
What about this place?

Charlie looks over at Myla and smiles. Myla looks away and  
smiles, embarrassed. Charlie scoots towards Myla.

CHARLIE  
Are you asking me to move in with  
you?

MYLA  
I mean, you want to move somewhere  
else, and we only need one bed  
anyway so it just works out.

Charlie smiles and shuffles close to Myla, staring at her.  
Myla struggles to hold back a smile.

MYLA (CONT'D)  
Don't.

CHARLIE  
(teasing)  
You want to move in together!

MYLA  
Stop.

CHARLIE  
You can admit it.

MYLA  
I will not.

CHARLIE  
You want me to live here, just say  
it.

MYLA  
Nooo.

CHARLIE  
Saaaay it.

Mayla silently looks at Charlie and turns away with a big smile.

MYLA  
Fine, yes, I want you to move in.

Charlie chuckles and puts her arms around Myla.

CHARLIE  
I would love to move in with you.

Charlie kisses Myla's cheek. Myla pushes Charlie away.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
We can still keep the bed here.  
It's better than mine, anyway.

MYLA  
Oh, I see, this was all just to get  
my bed.

INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is now adorned with things that were previously in Charlie's apartment.

Charlie sleeps in bed wearing pajamas. She reaches to the other side of the bed for Myla, but she's not there. Charlie lifts her head and slowly opens her eyes. She looks around the room.

CHARLIE  
(groggy)  
Myla?

She gets out of bed and rubs her arms from the cold.

She walks to:



INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Myla sits on the floor, wearing pajamas, crying. Her phone is propped up on the coffee table, recording a video of her. Charlie sees Myla and quickly walks over.

CHARLIE

What's going on? What happened?

Charlie kneels down next to her and hugs her tightly.

MYLA

Nothing.

CHARLIE

Why are you crying?

MYLA

It's stupid.

CHARLIE

No it's not; talk to me.

MYLA

I just wish I had more time. For you, for mom.

Charlie hugs her tighter with tears in her eyes.

CHARLIE

We still have time.

Myla buries her face into Charlie.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And I'll always be right here.  
Right where I want to be.

Myla hugs Charlie back, resting her head on her shoulder.

MYLA

I just wish I had more time with you.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Myla and Charlie sit at a bench, away from other people.

CHARLIE

Do you know what you're going to say?

MYLA

No fucking idea.

CHARLIE

Okay, you want to tell her to just drop the treatment thing so you can move on, right?

MYLA

Yes.

CHARLIE

So, just be like "Ayo, ma, drop the treatment stuff so I can hug you again and shit."

Myla laughs.

MYLA

She'd kill me herself.

CHARLIE

What's a better way to say it then?

Myla looks in the distance.

EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Myla is holding the phone, on speaker, with Charlie next to her listening. Amari, Myla's mother, is on the other end.

MYLA

I need to talk to you about something, and it's going to be hard, but I want it to be the last time we talk about it and move on.

AMARI

Okay, what's going on?

Myla looks at Charlie.

MYLA

I'm not getting treatment. And I need to talk to you about how I want everything handled, and I have someone I want you to meet.

Charlie looks at Myla surprised. Myla smiles, and Charlie shakes her head with a concerned look.

Myla looks at her confused.

AMARI

(stunned)

Uhh, who is it you want me to meet?

MYLA

(hesitant)

She's my -- I have a roommate, now.

Silence for a beat.

AMARI

Maybe she can help me talk some sense into you. I've been reading some more about all kinds of specialists...

MYLA

No, mom, please.

AMARI

No, I don't care that you've given up, I'm not going to. We're going to fight it.

MYLA

Mom, I can't talk about this right now.

AMARI

You called me to talk about it.

MYLA

I called you to tell you I'm not getting treatment. But if you want to talk about your specialists, then I'm going to hang up.

AMARI

(hesitant)

I just think if you read what I sent you...

Myla hangs up, takes a breath, and looks down.

CHARLIE

Maybe we could try another time.

MYLA

Why didn't you want me to tell her about you?

CHARLIE

I just wasn't expecting it. I haven't had great experiences telling people about who I'm dating, so I tend to avoid it.

MYLA

I get it, it's okay. I just wanted her to know about you.

CHARLIE

I know. I don't mind if you tell people about me. It's just, I need to prepare for, like, meeting new people and talking about us.

Charlie pauses.

Myla's phone rings again. Her mother is calling back. Myla silences the phone. Charlie lightly rubs her back.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Maybe your sister could talk to her.

MYLA  
No, she doesn't tell my mom who I date.

Charlie smiles; Myla giggles.

MYLA (CONT'D)  
She does know about you, though.

CHARLIE  
Maybe I could meet her eventually, then.

MYLA  
Good, because that's actually why we're here: here she comes!

Charlie looks around suddenly.

CHARLIE  
What?!

Myla laughs. Charlie looks at her, smiling, annoyed, and lightly pushes her off the bench.

EXT. RESTAURANT - MORNING

Charlie and Myla sit at a table, eating breakfast.

MYLA  
You know, our first date was almost a year ago now.

CHARLIE  
I know, it seems so quick.

MYLA  
I remember seeing you and thinking "This bitch is so pretty, I can't wait to see her naked"

CHARLIE  
I remember thinking there's no way I'd go home with you.

MYLA

And then you seduced me anyway.

Charlie chuckles.

CHARLIE

I absolutely was not the one who started that.

MYLA

You took initiative. I was worried you might suffocate.

CHARLIE

Well yeah, after it starts I'm going to go all out, but you were the one with your hand up my dress.

MYLA

(sarcastically)

I have no idea what you're talking about.

CHARLIE

You don't remember grabbing me after dinner and basically making out with me in the street?

MYLA

I remember I was trying to have a nice conversation and then suddenly you were telling me to fuck you.

CHARLIE

Yeah, we were going to have a nice conversation about our future wedding and then you put your tongue in my mouth.

MYLA

I mean, we could still do that.

CHARLIE

We do; you put your tongue in my mouth yesterday.

Myla looks at Charlie smiling expectantly. Charlie notices, looking confused.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What?

INT. CHEAP WEDDING CHAPEL - AFTERNOON

Charlie and Myla are in cheap rented wedding dresses, with their hair and makeup the same as it was at the restaurant. They kiss in front of a priest, smiling wide.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Charlie and Myla lay in bed, naked. They embrace each other.

MYLA

I think it was a nice day.

Charlie chuckles.

CHARLIE

I mean it could've been better.  
Breakfast and a wedding is nice,  
but I think we skipped a couple of  
steps.

MYLA

Yeah, you didn't even get me a  
ring.

CHARLIE

And you didn't really propose.

MYLA

I technically proposed while  
planning the whole wedding; I think  
that takes skill.

CHARLIE

How efficient. I love that about  
you.

Myla gets a big smile.

MYLA

(teasing)  
Yeah?

Charlie giggles, nervously.

CHARLIE

Love that **aspect** about you.

MYLA

Yeah, just the aspect.

Myla giggles.

CHARLIE

Just the aspect. I'm not going to  
be the first to break our promise.

MYLA

You plan on breaking it?

Charlie goes silent, smiling.

MYLA  
(mocking)  
You loooove me.

Charlie shakes her head, giggling.

CHARLIE  
No, go away.

MYLA  
You broke your promise and you  
loooooove me!

CHARLIE  
(laughing)  
I hate you, no.

Myla smiles at Charlie.

MYLA  
I hate you, too.

Myla kisses Charlie's head.

INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - MORNING

Charlie is wearing pajamas, making eggs on the stove. She scoops the eggs onto a serving tray next to her. There's toast on each plate and a folded letter between them.

Charlie picks up the tray and walks to:

INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Myla lays in bed, very still, wearing pajamas.

Charlie walks in with the tray and sits next to Myla. She sets the tray on a nightstand and gently shakes Myla's arm.

CHARLIE  
(whispering)  
Hey, time to wake up.

Charlie shakes her again, harder.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
(louder)  
Hey, I want to see you. I want to  
tell you something.

Charlie's smile fades.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Myla?

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

Myla lays in the bed, wearing a medical gown, connected to tubes and wires. Charlie sits on a chair next to the bed, still in her pajamas, looking at Myla.

KAYLA, early 20s, Myla's sister, and AMARI, mid 50s, Myla's mother, walk in. They rush over to Myla on the bed. Charlie looks up at them and stands.

Kayla looks at Charlie and smiles slightly.

KAYLA

Hi

CHARLIE

Hi. I'm Charlie.

KAYLA

I'm Kayla. This is our mom, Amari.

DR. MARON walks in.

DR. MARON

How are we all doing? I'm Dr. Maron. Are you the family?

Charlie and Kayla look at the doctor.

KAYLA

I'm her sister, and this is our mom.

Dr. Maron looks at Charlie.

CHARLIE

(hesitantly)

I'm her...friend. Well, roommate, we live together.

DR. MARON

So you're the one who found her?

CHARLIE

Yeah, I did.

DR. MARON

It's a good thing you called when you did.

AMARI

What's going on with her?

DR. MARON

I'm assuming you all know about her condition?

Charlie and Kayla nod.



DR. MARON

This is something we knew would happen eventually. Basically what's happening is her brain is starting to shut down. We have her on life support on the off-chance that she could recover, but I'm sorry to say a decision will have to be made.

Amari looks at Dr. Maron.

AMARI

Decision?

DR. MARON

(solemnly)

On whether or not to pull the plug.

Silence for a beat.

DR. MARON (CONT'D)

I understand it's a tough choice to make. Please, take some time, think it over.

Dr. Maron exits. Charlie and Kayla look at each other, and at Amari; Amari only looks at Myla.

KAYLA

Mom?

AMARI

She can pull through.

KAYLA

Mom, I don't think...

AMARI

(tearing up)

She can. She'll wake up and we can keep fighting this.

KAYLA

She's been fighting it. That's why she's lasted this long.

Amari starts crying.

AMARI

She can fight longer. I didn't get to see her again. She's still fighting.

Kayla looks at Charlie. Both have tears in their eyes.

CHARLIE

That's not what she wants.

Amari looks up at Charlie, with anger in her eyes.

AMARI  
(breaking down crying)  
What do you know about what she  
wants? I'm her mother. I know  
what's best for her.

CHARLIE  
(choking up)  
She told me she doesn't want this.  
One of her biggest fears was ending  
up like this.

AMARI  
(in an attacking tone)  
She won't be like this. She'll pull  
through. And what are you even  
doing here, this is a family  
decision.

CHARLIE  
(confidently)  
I'm her wife.

Amari goes quiet and still, staring at Charlie.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
(holding back crying)  
We've been together for a year and  
got married last month. We promised  
not to love each other, but I do. I  
love her and I want her to wake up  
so I can tell her because I never  
got to tell her, but I know she  
never wanted this, so...

Charlie pauses, choking on her words.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
..we have to let her go.

Amari walks out of the room. Kayla looks at Charlie with  
tears in her eyes. Charlie is trying to look calm, but she's  
shaking and can't hold back her tears

KAYLA  
I'm sorry.

CHARLIE  
I'm sorry, too.

Kayla looks at Myla and squeezes her hand. She walks out of  
the room.

Charlie falls back in the chair and breaks down crying.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

Charlie lays on the couch in comfortable clothes, reading a book.

There's a knock at the door. Charlie gets up and walks to the door. She opens it to find Kayla standing there.

CHARLIE

Hi.

KAYLA

Hey, I was hoping you'd be here.

CHARLIE

What's up?

KAYLA

We were going through Myla's stuff and we weren't really sure what to do with her phone.

Kayla pulls Myla's phone out of her pocket.

KAYLA (CONT'D)

It's locked, but none of us know the password. Everyone else just wanted to bring it to a store to see what they could do, but I thought you might know it.

Charlie takes the phone. It unlocks with the face scan. Charlie smiles and opens the phone. Kayla smiles too.

KAYLA (CONT'D)

Look at that, I was right.

Charlie starts going through the phone, smiling.

KAYLA (CONT'D)

You should've been invited to the funeral.

CHARLIE

It's okay. I don't know any of you anyway.

KAYLA

Are you doing okay?

Charlie tears up.

CHARLIE

I don't know. I thought I would be, but it's hard.

Kayla nods.

CHARLIE  
What about you guys?

KAYLA  
Pretty much the same.

Kayla looks down. Charlie looks at her.

CHARLIE  
Do you want to come in, and go  
through your sister's phone with  
me?

Kayla looks at Charlie and smiles.

KAYLA  
Sure.

The two go into the apartment and sit on the couch. Charlie  
screen shares the phone to the TV.

She opens the pictures app and sees various albums. They go  
through the albums and scroll through the pictures. Kayla  
notices an album labeled "Vlog".

KAYLA (CONT'D)  
She had a vlog?

CHARLIE  
Not that I knew of.

Charlie opens the album and plays the first video.

-- Montage of videos --

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - MORNING

The apartment looks as it did before Charlie moved in.

Myla is sitting on the floor, wearing shorts and a t-shirt.

MYLA  
Hey, so I just got out of therapy.  
She suggested I try vlogging.  
Figured I'd give it a shot because  
why not. Not really sure what to  
say though so I guess that's it for  
now.

Video ends.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Myla is getting ready for her first date with Charlie,  
wearing what she wore to the restaurant.

MYLA

Okay, I matched with this super cute girl a few days ago, and we've been talking like all the time, and we're going out tonight. I told her about my whole situation and she seems to get it. Let's hope she fucks!

Video ends.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

It's right before Charlie finds Myla crying on the floor

Myla is sitting on the floor in front of the coffee table.

MYLA

(Tearful)

I've been having trouble sleeping lately. My mind starts to wander, which usually I can handle, but tonight I started thinking about everything I still want to do and about Charlie and things I want to do with her...

Myla tries to hold back tears. She can't

MYLA (CONT'D)

..and I started to spiral. I was really happy before and then I got my diagnosis and I thought I'd just be stuck in a pit of depression, but I wasn't. I pulled myself out of it and started dating again. And then I met Charlie, and she was so much more...

Myla cries harder.

Charlie enters from the bedroom.

CHARLIE

What's going on? What happened?

Charlie kneels down next to her and hugs her tightly.

MYLA

Nothing.

CHARLIE

Why are you crying?

MYLA

It's stupid.

Video ends.

INTERCUT - CHARLIE AND KAYLA IN THE LIVING ROOM

There are tears in Charlie's eyes. Kayla reaches over and squeezes her hand; there are tears in her eyes, too.

KAYLA  
Are you okay?

CHARLIE  
Yeah, I'm okay.

INT. CAR - DAY

It's before Myla's phone call with Amari.

Charlie is driving and Myla is in the passenger seat.

MYLA  
What are we doing today, Charles?

CHARLIE  
Going to the park.

MYLA  
And why's that?

CHARLIE  
You have not told me.

MYLA  
Bitch, it was your idea.

Charlie laughs.

CHARLIE  
Oh yeah.

MYLA  
She convinced me to call my mom and just work things out.

CHARLIE  
I'm still not sure why that means we have to go to the park.

MYLA  
Because, if we go to the park where it sounds like we're outside, I can just say I'm going somewhere and have to hang up.

CHARLIE  
Alternatively, I could drop you off to meet her somewhere.

MYLA

I can't believe you'd even suggest leaving me alone with her.

CHARLIE

I'll pose as a waiter. I'll get a mustache and everything.

MYLA

My emotional support waiter!

Video ends.

INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - MORNING

Mayla sits on her bed, alone, wearing pajamas.

MYLA

I think this will be the last video. I don't think I really need to do this anymore. So for this one, I'm going to talk directly to Charlie.

INTERCUT - CHARLIE AND KAYLA IN THE LIVING ROOM

Charlie smiles sadly.

MYLA

I can't thank you enough for everything you've done for me. You probably don't think you did much, but you made this past year the absolute best. I've never felt so close to anyone, and I don't think I've ever let anyone get so close to me.

Myla tears up, smiling.

MYLA (CONT'D)

And I need you to know I love you. I love you so much. I want you to know, but I can't just tell you I broke our promise because then you'll win.

Myla chuckles.

MYLA (CONT'D)

So I'll just love you quietly and hope that you can feel it. I'll make sure you feel it. I love you.

Video ends.

-- End of montage. --

Kayla and Charlie are both crying.

They hug each other tight.

CHARLIE

I wanted to tell her so bad.

KAYLA

She told me all about you. She  
knew.

The End.