

WHEN I DREAM (Short Film)

by

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**EXT. UNKNOWN - EVENING (COLOR)**

We begin with a male teenager with brown hair looking around, on a sidewalk.

Enter AARON BLACKWELL.

Aaron pauses, as he notices something.

AARON  
(whispering)  
Liz.

We see what he's looking at. A female teenager, with red hair, wearing a red jacket, a red shirt, black pants, red shoes, and a red bracelet, in the distance.

Enter LIZ PALMER.

She signals for him to walk over to her.

He looks a little shocked, and points to himself, with his eyebrows raised.

She nods her head, smiling, and once again signals for him to walk over to her.

He smiles, and starts to walk toward her.

He feels a pain in his leg, causing him to limp. He's confused by this, but quickly ignores it.

When he gets close enough, he stops in front of her. The two stare at each other.

LIZ  
Hi.

AARON  
Wow, I uh, never expected this to actually happen...

Liz smiles.

LIZ  
Really?

AARON  
Did you?

LIZ  
Kinda.

She starts to hold his hand.

AARON  
Changed your hair?

LIZ  
Yep.

Aaron looks at her outfit.

AARON  
So much red.

LIZ  
Yeah, well... it's the color of  
love, right?

He lets out a light laugh.

AARON  
Yes, it is.

The two continue to stare at each other.

LIZ  
What do you wanna do?

Aaron sighs.

AARON  
I don't know. Was kinda hoping you  
had an idea.

Liz leans in closer to Aaron, still holding his hand. She's  
about to put her lips on his, and then -

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM - MORNING (BLACK AND WHITE)**

Aaron is sleeping in his bed, smiling.

It's dead silent. We can't hear a thing.

After a few seconds, his eyes slowly open.

Now we can hear birds chirping outside, and an alarm going  
off.

His smile fades, and he groans in frustration.

AARON  
Of course...

He grabs a laptop by his bed.

He opens it. On the screen there's a group of documents each titled -

*SHIT THAT HAPPENS WHEN I DREAM*

There appears to be a document for each category. The categories include *Nightmare*, *Lucid*, *Badass*, *Sad*, *Liz*, and *Other*.

He clicks on the Liz category, and types. We can't see what he's typing.

At the end of the paragraph, he puts -

UNFINISHED

He closes the laptop, and slowly breathes in and out. He gets up out of his bed, and starts to pace around his bedroom.

AARON (CONT'D)  
(whispering to himself)  
Today's the day... today's the  
day... I'm... I'm gonna do it...  
just talk to her... just, just  
gonna talk to her...

There's a knock at his bedroom door. This frightens Aaron, and causes him to fall down.

AARON (CONT'D)  
What is it!?

VOICE AT DOOR  
Are you good?

AARON  
Yeah just... just give me a  
second!

VOICE AT DOOR  
Hurry up. We gotta go.

AARON  
Okay, okay!

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - DAY (BLACK AND WHITE)

Aaron is walking through a school hallway, surrounded by other walking students.

He's able to see Liz, with jet black hair this time. She's the only thing that appears in color.

He starts to get nervous. Then we see two hands quickly hit his shoulders.

FEMALE VOICE

Boo!

AARON

SHIT!

This causes all the students to look at him.

He looks back at all of them.

The girl that scared Aaron starts to walk with him.

Enter AVERY SNOW.

AARON (CONT'D)

Why would you do that? I'm already super fucking nervous.

AVERY

You gonna ask her today?

AARON

Yes.

AVERY

You said that yesterday.

AARON

I know.

AVERY

And the day before.

AARON

I know.

AVERY

And for the past two months.

AARON

I'm going to. Relax.

AVERY

I'm the one who needs to relax?

AARON

Yeah. I told you, I'm gonna do it.

AVERY  
How do you know?

AARON  
My dreams. I've said this before,  
they always come true in some way,  
shape, or form. Every time.

AVERY  
Right, like the time you dreamed  
about a football stadium full of  
french fries, and the next day you  
saw a fry on the ground at the  
football field.

AARON  
Yes, exactly.

AVERY  
Uh-huh. Well good luck, Aaron.  
Just relax, it's only a girl.  
She's just like you or me.

AARON  
Yeah, thanks.

She walks off in a different direction.

AARON (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
Relax...

CUT TO:

**INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (BLACK AND WHITE)**

Aaron walks into the classroom.

He puts his backpack by his desk, and sits down. Near the  
desk is a male student, on his phone.

Enter CHARLIE WEST.

CHARLIE  
You going tonight?

AARON  
Yeah. Bought a tux yesterday. They  
asked me to be the pianist.

CHARLIE  
Are you going with a certain  
someone?

Aaron sighs.

AARON  
No.

CHARLIE  
Interesting. Do you know why?

AARON  
Yeah, I do.

CHARLIE  
I bet it's probably cause you  
didn't ask-

AARON  
Yes I know.

We hear the classroom door open. Aaron and Charlie look in the door's direction.

In walks Liz, still appearing in color.

CHARLIE  
Hey, speak of the dev-

Aaron lets out a painfully obvious fake sneeze, and everyone looks in his direction.

Short moment of silence.

STUDENT IN BACKGROUND  
Bless you.

AARON  
Thanks.

Everyone else in the classroom goes back to what they were previously doing, and Liz walks over to her desk, which is beside Aaron's.

She sits down. Aaron is trying not to look at her.

AARON (CONT'D)  
Afternoon, Liz.

Liz looks a little confused.

LIZ  
Afternoon.

The bell rings, and the teacher walks into the classroom.

TEACHER  
You'll need a pencil.

Aaron reaches into his pocket for a pencil. He is unable to find one.

AARON  
Shit...

Aaron looks at Liz, and takes a deep breath.

He opens his mouth ready to ask her for a pencil.

Then, the student to his left taps Aaron's shoulder.

STUDENT  
I got you, bro.

The student pulls a pencil out of his pocket, and gives it to Aaron.

Aaron tries to not look angry, and slowly takes the pencil from the student's hand.

CUT TO:

**INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY (BLACK AND WHITE)**

Aaron walks out of the classroom. He turns around to see Liz talking to the teacher.

He waits beside the doorway. The janitor is mopping the floor.

JANITOR  
You gonna ask her?

AARON  
Uh, yeah.

JANITOR  
No you're not.

Aaron looks a little confused.

Then Liz, walks out of the classroom and past Aaron and the janitor, not paying any attention to them.

Aaron looks frozen. She continues to walk away.

Then Aaron starts to walk toward her, and freezes again.

She then walks off, out of sight.

AARON  
Shit.



He looks at the janitor, who is looking at Aaron with an "I told you so" look.

Aaron sighs, and walks toward the exit.

CUT TO:

**INT. TOWN - DAY (BLACK AND WHITE)**

Aaron is walking on a sidewalk, presumably to his house, looking rather upset.

All of a sudden he's hit in the face and knocked down by a teenager, who then runs off.

Aaron is lying on the ground, with his hand on his eye. He sighs.

AARON  
God, what the-

CUT TO:

**INT. HOUSE - DAY (BLACK AND WHITE)**

Aaron is looking in the mirror at his black eye, with a male young adult, presumably his brother.

AARON  
-FUCK!

BROTHER  
I don't think you should go.

AARON  
What? No, I have to go. She's gonna be there.

BROTHER  
Sorry. I take that back. I know you shouldn't go.

AARON  
I'm going.

BROTHER  
Fine.

The brother starts to walk off.

BROTHER (CONT'D)  
Humiliate yourself in front of  
everyone at your school because of  
some crush. I can't stop you.

AARON  
I can still drive your car there  
right?

BROTHER  
I don't give a shit.

AARON  
Thanks!

CUT TO:

**INT. HOUSE - DAY (BLACK AND WHITE)**

Aaron is quickly searching his bedroom.

AARON  
(to brother in other  
room)  
Hey!

BROTHER  
What!?

AARON  
Where's my pages!?

BROTHER  
Pages!?

AARON  
Yeah my piano pages!

BROTHER  
Why would I know!?

AARON  
I don't know! I just... I can't  
play without my pages!

BROTHER  
Then maybe you shouldn't go!

Aaron groans in frustration.

CUT TO:

**INT. HOUSE - EVENING (BLACK AND WHITE)**

Aaron is putting on his white tuxedo.

He is able to put it on just fine, and he smiles, as he looks at himself in the mirror.

Then, as he walks out of the bathroom, he accidentally walks into his brother, who spills soda all over his tuxedo.

AARON  
Holy shit, you cannot be SERIOUS!

Short moment of silence.

BROTHER  
Aaron.

AARON  
What?

BROTHER  
Don't go.

Aaron thinks for a second.

AARON  
Fuck you.

He walks away, toward the front door.

BROTHER  
Aaron!

**EXT. HOUSE'S DRIVEWAY - EVENING (BLACK AND WHITE)**

Aaron gets in the driver seat of a car. His brother is following him.

BROTHER  
Damn it, Aaron, come on.

Aaron starts the car, and pulls out of the driveway.

His brother stares at Aaron driving off.

CUT TO:

**INT. CAR - NIGHT (BLACK AND WHITE)**

Aaron is driving, talking with Charlie over the phone.

AARON  
I'm just a few blocks away. Won't  
be long.

CHARLIE  
Are you sure you should come?

Aaron starts to look irritated and tired. His eyes look  
half closed.

AARON  
YES! I'm gonna be there!

He hangs up, and continues to drive.

After a few seconds, his eyes close completely.

CUT TO:

**EXT. UNKNOWN - EVENING (COLOR)**

We're where we were in the dream at the beginning. Liz  
about to kiss Aaron.

She hesitates.

LIZ  
N-no...

She backs away from Aaron's face.

AARON  
Wait, why not?

LIZ  
You're not on the right path yet.

AARON  
What does that me-

CUT TO:

**EXT. ROAD - NIGHT (BLACK AND WHITE)**

The car Aaron is driving crashes into a tree.

Aaron is awake again, and slowly gets out of the car. There  
is now blood all over his tuxedo.

He slowly gets out of the car. He's now having to limp.

He recognizes a large house nearby, presumably the one  
where the party is at.

Aaron then begins to limp toward the house.

CUT TO:

**EXT. MANSION - NIGHT (BLACK AND WHITE)**

Aaron is able to see Liz through a window. He's breathing quickly and heavily.

He goes to the front door, and walks in.

Everyone who sees him goes quiet, as they look shocked.

He goes toward Liz.

AARON  
(breathing heavily)  
Liz...

Liz turns to him, and looks shocked, as Aaron is still bruised and bloody.

LIZ  
Oh my god, wha-

AARON  
Liz, we gotta talk...

CHARLIE  
Aaron, what the hell happened?

She starts to back away from him, while he continues to limp toward her.

AARON  
God's sake, Liz, come on...

LIZ  
Just, uh-

CHARLIE  
Aaron!

She starts to look very nervous.

AARON  
I... I...

Aaron falls to the ground on his side. He continues to look at Liz.

Slowly, her color fades away.

Aaron struggles to keep his eyes open, and after a few seconds, his eyes close, and we fade into pitch blackness.

CUT TO:

**INT. HOSPITAL - DAY (BLACK AND WHITE)**

Aaron is sitting in a hospital bed, staring at the ceiling, thinking to himself.

He hears a knock, and turns his head to its direction.

A doctor is standing in the doorway.

DOCTOR  
You have a visitor.

The doctor walks off, and Avery walks into the room.

Aaron goes back to staring at the ceiling.

Avery walks over to a chair in the room, and sits down.

AVERY  
Hey there, Aaron.

He stays silent.

AVERY (CONT'D)  
I, uh, I'm sorry it didn't go so well.

Still silent.

AVERY (CONT'D)  
Well... I guess I'll stay here with you for little while. I've got nothing to do.

She leans back in the chair in an attempt to get comfortable.

AARON  
Congratulations.

AVERY  
Hm?

AARON  
You're my only visitor.

Avery sighs.

AVERY  
 Man, I'm sorry about Liz, Aaron. I  
 mean I'm sorry about all of this  
 but wow...

Aaron still doesn't look at her, still staring at the ceiling. He sighs.

AARON  
 Yeah, me too.

AVERY  
 You gonna be okay?

Aaron doesn't respond.

AVERY (CONT'D)  
 Oof. Guess I'll just keep quiet.  
 Sorry.

Avery begins to stare at the ceiling as well.

Short moment of the two being silent.

Aaron then turns his head, and looks at Avery's outfit.

AARON  
 So much red.

Avery looks back at Aaron.

AVERY  
 Yeah, well... it's the color of  
 love, right?

Aaron starts to think. Then, his eyes widen, as he has a realization.

He slowly turns his head to Avery, who now starts to appear in color.

We can now see that she has red hair, and is wearing a red jacket, a red shirt, black pants, red shoes, and a red bracelet.

AARON  
 Yeah... yeah, it is...

**Queue *Sober* by Childish Gambino.**

Avery slowly nods, and smiles at him.

Aaron smiles back.

CUT TO:

**EXT. HOSPITAL - EVENING (BLACK AND WHITE)**

Aaron and Avery are walking out of the hospital.

Aaron is wearing an arm cast and is still limping. Avery still appears in color. With the song still playing.

They're walking through the parking lot.

Aaron nearly falls to the ground, but Avery keeps him from falling.

Avery continues to hold Aaron's arm, as they walk.

Then, everything slowly starts to appear in color.

**CUT TO BLACK**