

"A CALL THROUGH TIME"

WRITTEN BY

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AUTHOR'S DRAFT
May 13 2022

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FADE IN:

1 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

MAIA, 25, sits at the foot of her bed. Both of her hands rest on her lap, tightly clutching something.

Across from the bed is a dresser decorated with various picture frames. Her gaze is fixed on one of those frames, which holds a recent picture of herself with an older man, 50. She maintains a thoughtful expression.

LIAM, 28, buttons up his shirt. He wraps his tie around collar and begins to tie it.

Liam's mouth moves, but only a distant and muffled voice is heard. Maia remains focused on the picture.

Liam walks into their attached bathroom, straightening his tie in the mirror. The muffled voice continues.

He walks into the room again.

LIAM
(very muffled)
Maia?

Liam grabs his briefcase and walks towards the door. Maia is unfazed.

LIAM (cont'd)
(less muffled)
Maia?

Maia continues staring straight ahead. Liam stops in the open doorway and stares at her.

LIAM (cont'd)
(louder)
Maia?!

Maia finally looks away from the picture and up at Liam.

MAIA
Yeah?

LIAM
Are you okay?

Maia nods.

LIAM (cont'd)
Are you sure?

Maia nods. Liam looks unconvinced.

LIAM (cont'd)
Well... I have to go to work now.
(hopeful)
Unless you want me to stay?

Maia's gaze returns to the picture. Liam glances at the picture, then sadly back at Maia.

Maia does not make eye contact as she responds.

MAIA
(monotonously)
I'll be fine. Have a nice day at work.

LIAM
Okay... I'll see you tonight.

Liam places his hand on Maia's and squeezes it.

LIAM (cont'd)
Goodbye, Love.

Liam kisses Maia's forehead and walks back over to the door. He waits, looking at Maia. She remains silent.

Liam begins walking out the door, with one hesitant look back at Maia.

Liam gently closes the door behind him.

Just before the door shuts-

MAIA
(softly)
Goodbye.

Maia continues staring at the picture, glancing down at her clutched hands. She snuffles.

Liam speaks with MARIE in the hallway on the other side of the door.

MARIE (O.S.)
(concerned)
How is she?

LIAM (O.S.)
I don't know.

Maia looks towards the door with increasing guilt.

LIAM (O.S.) (cont'd)
I don't know how to help her. She
won't talk to me. Does she need
space, or-

MARIE (O.S.)
She lost her father, I lost my
husband. I think we all just need a
bit of time.

LIAM (O.S.)
Not a very Happy Birthday for her, is
it?

MARIE (O.S.)
Peter was always the one to make the
day so special...

The voices fade. Footsteps are heard descending the
staircase. Maia takes a deep breath.

With a worried expression, Maia opens her clutched hand to
reveal a pregnancy test. It reads POSITIVE.

Maia glances up at the picture once again before pulling out
her phone.

She stares at the phone contact on her screen featuring a
different picture of the same man. That contact is labeled
DAD.

Maia hits the dial button and brings the phone to her ear.
She takes a deep breath.

The phone RINGS multiple times. It goes to voicemail.

PETER (O.S.)
Hello! You've reached Peter. Sorry
for not picking up, I might be
working, or with family, or ignoring
you. Please leave a message, I might
call you back.

BEEP. Maia holds in tears.

MAIA
Hi, it's me. I-I don't really know
what I'm doing. I just really miss
you, Dad. I need you.
(off pregnancy test)
I don't know how to be a mom. I don't
know if I can be.
(MORE)

MAIA (cont'd)
You were supposed to be here for
this. You were supposed to be here
for everything.

Maia looks down at the engagement ring on her finger,
fidgeting with it.

MAIA (cont'd)
I can't believe you won't be there to
walk me down the isle. Or for our
dance. I-I already picked the song. I
can't believe you're never going to
meet your grandchild.

Maia's voice falters. She takes a shaky breath.

MAIA (cont'd)
(hysterical)
I don't know what I'm doing, you're
usually always there, I... I just
miss you.
(lowering her voice)
Liam and Mom are trying to help,
but... I feel bad. I don't know what
to say, how to let them in. I wish
you were here, Dad. I love you.

Maia hangs up the phone, placing it beside her. Tears stream
down her face.

Maia muffles a sob as she cries into her palms. She sits
there in silence, holding her head in her hands-

Her phone RINGS. The screen indicates an incoming call from
"DAD."

Maia picks up her phone, shock and confusion masking her
face.

She hesitantly brings her finger to the green button. Her
finger hovers there. She takes a deep breath.

Maia accepts the call and slowly brings the phone to her
ear.

MAIA
(unsteady)
Hello?

MAN (O.S.)
Hello? You, uh, you left me a
message?

MAIA
(confused)
I... I'm sorry I thought I was
calling someone else. Have a nice
day.

Maia takes the phone away from her ear, about to hang up.

MAN (O.S.)
(faint)
Wait!

Maia brings the phone back up to her ear.

MAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
Are you okay?

Maia sighs.

MAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
It's just... I listened to your
message and it sounds like you're
going through a lot.

MAIA
Oh... You heard that, huh?

MAN (O.S.)
(protracted)
Yeah.

MAIA
I'm sorry.

MAN (O.S.)
Don't be, it's okay to be upset. I'm
sorry about your father.

MAIA
(quietly)
Thank you.

MAN (O.S.)
Look, I don't know if I could be of
any help, but if you need someone to
talk to... I'm here.

Maia glances back to the picture of her father, then to the
door where Liam left from. She takes a deep breath in.

MAIA
(exhaling)
My dad...
(MORE)

MAIA (cont'd)
(hesitates)
He would always talk me through
everything. And now... I don't know.

MAN (O.S.)
Yeah, it can be tough. I lost my mom
some time ago.

MAIA
(sadly)
I'm sorry.

MAN (O.S.)
I'm better now. But it took time.

Maia takes a steady breath, calming down.

MAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
So... You have a baby on the way?

MAIA
(hesitantly)
Yeah.

MAN (O.S.)
I do, too. My first one, due any day
now.

MAIA
Are you- are you scared? Of being a
parent?

MAN (O.S.)
Of course I'm scared, how could I not
be? I can barely take care of a
plant.

Maia lets out a small laugh.

MAIA
My father was the same way.

MAN (O.S.)
But I also know she's going to be the
best thing that's ever happened to
me.

MAIA
(smiling)
She? So it's a girl, then? Do you
know what you're going to name her
yet?

MAN (O.S.)
Well, my wife is still wavering
between a few, but I'm partial to
Maia... It was my mother's name.

Maia's mouth agape, she gasped softly.

MAIA
(hesitantly)
Oh, wow, I can't believe I didn't
even ask you your own name yet.

MAN (O.S.)
Oh, right. I'm sorry. I'm Peter.

Tears form in Maia's eyes. A bittersweet smile creeps onto
her face.

Maia stares at the picture frame on the dresser in front of
her.

PETER (O.S.)
And yours?
(waits)
Hello?

WOMAN IN BACKGROUND (O.S.)
(faintly)
Peter!

PETER (O.S.)
I'll be off in a sec, Marie!

Maia's eyes go wide at the woman's name.

WOMAN IN BACKGROUND (O.S.)
(faintly)
No, Peter. Now!

PETER (O.S.)
I-
(to Maia)
One second...

PETER can be heard putting down the phone. Alarmed,
inaudible voices are heard in the background of the call.

Maia grips the phone tighter, pressing it closer to her face
and squinting her eyes as she strains to hear.

PETER (O.S.) (cont'd)
(frantically)
Oh my God! I have to go!

MAIA
(desperate)
Wait-

PETER (O.S.)
I'm sorry, my wife just went into labor!
(hurriedly)
Look, when my mom died, my wife helped me get through it. I know it can be hard, but, if you want my advice, I think you should open up to those who care about you. Your fiancée, your mom. Family... family is everything.
(sighs)
I wish the best of luck to you. Maybe talk again sometime? I'll always be here.

Maia opens her mouth to say something- BEEP.

MAIA
(whispering)
But I... Dad?

Tears stream down Maia's cheeks, a look of disbelief across her face.

The sound of footsteps ascending stairs is heard from the other side of the door.

LIAM (O.C.)
Yeah, Marie, I'll tell her!

Maia's head jolts towards the door as it opens.

LIAM
Maia, your mom-

Liam looks at Maia's wide-eyed expression and tear-stained face.

He rushes to her side, sitting beside her on the bed.

LIAM (cont'd)
Maia, are you okay? Please-

Maia, staring ahead in shock, presses the phone into Liam's chest until he takes it.

MAIA
Here.

Maia turns to Liam.

MAIA (cont'd)
(eagerly)
Call this number.

Liam looks down at the phone, which is open on the contact "DAD." He sadly takes the phone and looks up at Maia.

LIAM
Maia-

MAIA
(pleading)
Just call it. Please.

Liam hits the dial button and brings the phone to his ear, maintaining eye-contact with Maia, who looks desperate.

AUTOMATED VOICE MESSAGE
We are sorry. You have-

Maia stares expectantly. Liam places the call on speaker phone.

AUTOMATED VOICE MESSAGE (cont'd)
-reached a number that has been
disconnected or is no longer in
service.

MAIA
No...

AUTOMATED VOICE MESSAGE
If you feel you have reached this
recording in error, please check the
number and try your call again.

BEEP.

Maia's eyes drop to the floor and she slouches down. Liam places a hand on her back.

Maia begins to sob. Liam reaches for the tissues on the nightstand behind him.

He hands them to Maia.

MAIA
But, I-

LIAM
It's okay.

Maia leans into Liam. He wraps his arms around her.

MAIA
I just miss him. So much.

LIAM
I know. I'm so sorry.

MAIA
Liam...

Maia slowly pulls out the pregnancy test.

LIAM
Yeah?

Liam looks up, and is shocked by the test. Maia gives him a weak smile.

MAIA
I'm sorry for not telling you sooner,
I- I think I was scared.

LIAM smiles and takes her hands in his.

LIAM
(lovingly)
It's okay. Maia, you're going to be
an amazing mother.

MAIA
And I know you're going to be an
amazing father.

The door creaks open further as Marie leans in.

MAIA (cont'd)
Mom?

MARIE
I'm sorry to eavesdrop, but...

Marie approaches the couple and kneels before them.

MARIE (cont'd)
(smiling)
I couldn't agree more.

MAIA
I think... If it's a boy... I want to
name him Peter.

FADE OUT

THE END