

ROMAN' S MORNING

FADE IN:

INT. ROMAN'S BEDROOM - ROMAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

An older teenager, ROMAN, wakes in his bedroom filled with posters of artists and idols.

He wipes the sleep out of his eyes before covering his face and releasing a heavy sigh. ROMAN lifts and throws his hand to the other side of the bed and grins feeling over his arm's smooth skin. A perfect canvas. ROMAN looks over at the nightstand and grabs a red pen before drawing a smiley face on his arm. He then notices the window is open, so he goes to close it. He strolls on over to his walk-in closet after.

ROMAN

Alright, Roman. What are we going with today?

Roman pulls out two drastically different outfits. He sits on a chair in front of the choices and taps his feet against the ground.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Fuck, am I really doing this? If not now know when I guess.

He picks the more daring outfit and begins to put it on.

INT. HALLWAY - ROMAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

MACIE knocks on Roman's bedroom door.

MACIE

Is everything good in there?

ROMAN

Fuc- Yeah just one sec!

Macie just grins as she checks her watch and patiently waits. She looks downward and then pauses before noticing something on the baseboard.

MACIE

Huh, well that probably needs to be fixed. How did it even-

Roman bursts the door open and hits her over.

ROMAN

Oh my god, I'm so sorry! Girl why were you on your knees this early anyways though?

MACIE

I guess cause I didn't think I'd be getting a concussion this early. Shit I need my pills...

ROMAN

Okay sorry, but blame Kent for putting the door on backwards.

MACIE

Girl, right? Too much straight energy there.

ROMAN

Right? Mom was so close too.

A door opens and KENT comes out still putting on his shirt.

KENT

Who was close to what?

ROMAN

Me last night with Ty-

KENT

Oh, my god! Really dude?

Kent goes back into his room and shuts the door.

KENT (CONT'D)

Please leave me out of the dick talk.

A woman's voice is heard shouting from downstairs.

MOM

Hey Roman! Can you come down here?

Roman and Macie look at each other suspiciously. They both head downstairs slowly and creep to the kitchen.

INT. THE KITCHEN - ROMAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

ROMAN

Hey mom what's the-

Roman is struck at what he sees. TY is shirtless at the kitchen table while Mom stands against the kitchen counter with her arms crossed. TY stares straight ahead with his scarred arms on his legs.

MOM

Roman, I was just curious why this boy was like Spiderman against the side of our house just now coming from your window?

TY looks over to Roman with red eyes and tears coming from his face. He mouths I'm sorry to Roman. There is a stillness in the air.

MOM (CONT'D)

Well? Is someone going to explain?

ROMAN

Mom, I'm...

TY looks over to ROMAN and tries to shake his head no.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

I- I have to get through this. I wasn't going to tell you this today, Mom I'm sorry I don't know when, but I'm gay.

MOM

Well duh! Did you think I didn't get a clue or two watching all those painstaking off-Broadway productions in my living room that you put on?

ROMAN

Well then why are you mad?

MOM

Why didn't you tell me you had a boyfriend? And tell me you used a condom. You did use one, right?

MACIE

Oh my god, Mom!

Macie goes over and starts getting herself something to drink from the fridge.

MOM

What too far again?

ROMAN

Yes! You really don't care I'm gay though?

MOM turns around and begins making breakfast.

MOM

Roman, why would I care? You're my kid after all. Besides, you saw how I was with your sister. Moment of vulnerability here, I was a little hurt you didn't feel like you could tell me sooner, but at least here we are today.

TY immediately gets up and runs over to Roman. TY grips Roman's wrists and Roman motions to him yes with his head. Roman looks around quickly and gets a jacket off the coat rack next to them and hands it to TY who keeps his arms concealed while putting it on. Kent walks into the kitchen.

MACIE

Mom knows he's gay.

KENT

Oh cool.

MOM

Oh, so even he knew before me?

KENT

Who's the shirtless guy in here?
Oh, and dude I think you had something on your arm before you put on my jacket?

TY

I-

ROMAN

Nah, he didn't.

KENT

Oh, my bad then, bro.

Kent starts to pour himself some juice.

TY

It's fine.

MACIE

This is Roman's boyfriend...

Macie watches to see when Kent starts to drink his drink.

MACIE (CONT'D)

Ty.

Kent almost chokes on his drink before lifting it up to Ty and then goes to sit at the table.

MOM

My drill sergeant was named Ty. Yeah, you're not much like him. Oh no. I would've had to borrow Macie's pills for the flashbacks by now.

MACIE

I worry about you sometimes, Mom.

MOM

Save it for someone who needs it. Anyways, food will be ready soon.

KENT

Oh, well I have to leave right now to meet with John and the boys so I won't be able to eat it. Bye.

Kent grabs a backpack from the chair beside him and leaves the house.

MOM

Would've been nice to know. Anyone else leaving?

MACIE

Actually...

MOM

Come on now, you too?

MACIE

It's just I have to meet with Sasha
for this project we forgot to do. And-

MOM

It's fine, go on.

MACIE

Thanks Mom!

Macie leaves the house now as well.

TY

I'm gonna go find my shirt outside.

MOM

Alright, Roman you two leaving too?

ROMAN

I don't think so.

Ty leaves to go outside through the kitchen door. Mom looks back
from finishing breakfast to see the door's closed.

MOM

He's a skittish one, isn't he?

ROMAN

Mom?

MOM

What? He is!

ROMAN

He wasn't ready though. I was the only
one who knew he was...

MOM

Oh.

Roman begins to tap his feet on the ground.

ROMAN

Yeah. Now more people know. Oh god, he must be freaking out. His dad, oh no. I'm gonna go check on him to make sure he doesn't do anything harsh.

Roman gets up and opens the door and goes outside.

EXT. ROMAN'S BACKYARD - MORNING

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Ty, I'm so sorry. None of that went, well I didn't plan for it to go, you know what I mean.

Ty sits on the ground amongst the bright grass as he holds his shirt.

TY

It's getting hot again.

Roman goes to sit next to Ty on the ground.

ROMAN

Yeah, I- I guess it is.

TY

Wanna head to school?

ROMAN

(pauses) We could skip today?

TY

We could, but I have a paper due.

ROMAN

For English?

TY

Yeah.

ROMAN

Oh, do you want my help because I already finished mine-

TY

No, it's fine.

There is a stillness that rests in the air.

ROMAN

Well, I guess I'll go get my stuff
from my room. Meet me in the kitchen.

TY

That's fine.

Roman and Ty both walk back inside and after Ty goes to change he returns to the table to wait for Roman.

INT. ROMAN'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Mom is eating at the table looking at Ty.

MOM

You're not going to bring any trouble,
are you?

TY

No.

MOM

Good. I was in the army by the way.
Served two tours.

TY

Thank you for your service.

MOM

You don't have to do all that.

TY

Sorry.

MOM

Moment of vulnerability here, I've seen a
lot of stuff that would just tear me up
inside. War is ugly, and there are things
that were completely out of my control.
It would hurt me even more realizing there
was nothing I could do. You understanding
what I'm saying?

Ty begins to tear up and even wipes a tear or two.

MOM (CONT'D)

Then, there were the things that I could control. After all, that is why I joined the army. To try and help those things. Right now you are one of those things. The things that happened this morning, in my control. I didn't realize how you might have been affected, and I got tore up again seeing how you were. I had no idea until I saw you put on the jacket.

Ty is now starting to noticeably cry more but is still holding it back. Refraining from fully showing all of his character.

MOM (CONT'D)

Can I hug you? I understand if maybe you aren't comfortable-

Ty leans over and immediately begins to sob in Mom's arms. Roman begins to come down the stairs, but upon seeing them he waits at the end. He goes back to his room and puts his backpack back in his room and sets Ty's next to it.

TY

I-I'm sorry. It's just with my dad.

MOM

I know. I know.

EXT. LAKEFRONT - COUNTRY VILLA - NIGHT

Roman sits outside and watches the dark lake that bumps to the beats of his bare feet that pat the surface. It ripples angrily at his constant teasing while he never enters the waters. He keeps tapping, tapping until the anxiety that'll never leave goes away.

ROMAN

If only...

A deep voice calls from inside the Villa.

DAD

Roman, you coming back in for dinner?

ROMAN

Later.

DAD

Okay bud.

Roman looks down at his scarred wrists. He traces over each of the scars and stops tapping his wrists. A phone buzzes as Roman gets a text message. The camera shows the phone.

TY

Hey.

ROMAN

Hey.

TY

Are you okay?

ROMAN

I'll be fine.

Roman puts his phone away before looking back at the Villa.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Out of my control...

Roman gets up and puts his jacket on that lays next to him before heading back to the Villa.