

Marked As Missing

Draft: 3

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WRIT-310

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - MORNING

Grey skies. Cold air.

The walkway is quiet. A few students pass in the distance, absorbed in their phones.

AUGUST (20, female), quiet but observant, crosses the walkway toward her classroom.

She spots her friend, LENA (20, female), distracted and scrolling on her phone walking towards her.

AUGUST
Morning Lena!

Lena walks right past her. No reaction.

August slows down.

Looks back.

Confused, she frowns.

INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

August slips into a seat at the back of the class.

The PROFESSOR (20s) calls out names from the front.

PROFESSOR
Adelaide... Chris... Rose...

With her head down, August listens for her name to be called.

PROFESSOR
Alright, let's begin.

August looks up and raises her hand.

AUGUST
You didn't say my name.

No response. No one turns.

No one acknowledges what she said, and the class begins.

She glances around the room. Still no reaction. It's almost as if she is invisible.

INT. HALLWAY - MID-DAY

August walks through the hallway. The air conditioner hums.

A bulletin board in the hallway catches her eye.

Pinned at eye level: a plain white flyer.

STUDENT SAFETY ALERT

AUGUST (V.O.)

Black SUV seen near East Lot.

Male white driver approaching students.

Last incident: October 13.

Report to Campus Security: 403-555-0199.

Her eyes scan the words, something about them feels... eerily familiar.

Her breath catches.

She reaches out and rips the flyer down, impulsive, like a reflex.

Underneath it: another identical copy.

Same text. Same details.

She freezes. She doesn't reach again.~

INT. CAMPUS COMMONS -MOMENTS LATER

August sits down at a table and opens her laptop.

She opens the student portal and types in her name.

A loading icon spins. Then, a popup blinks:

ACCESS DENIED.

USER NOT FOUND.

August tilts her head, eyes narrowing at the screen.

She tries to enter her information again. Same result.

She exhales slowly, confused and slightly shaking her head.
She closes the site and she packs up her things.

INT. LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

August's friend Lena works on her computer at a table.
August walks up hesitantly.

AUGUST
Hey Lena...

Lena doesn't look up.

AUGUST
LENA!!!

August then drops her phone flat on the desk in front of her.
It clatters on the table.

Nothing. Lena doesn't even flinch.

August leans in and waves her hand inches from Lena's face.

Lena just stares at her laptop unphased. Barely even
blinking.

So still and focused, like she's seeing right through her.

August's breath hitches.

She steps back, eyes locked on Lena like she's waiting for
her to snap out of it. But nothing changes.

INT. CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

August steps into the classroom, slow and full of dread.

She takes a seat and reaches out, resting her hand on the
desk.

A strange hum starts, faint and electric, like the room is
waking up.

The edges of the room start to distort, like a camera lens
slowly un-focusing.

Lights flicker. The air warps around her like heat waves on pavement.

She shakes her head and the room snaps back to normal.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

August rushes into the nearest bathroom, her thoughts racing.

She cups her hands under the faucet. Splash. Cold water hits her face.

She grips the sink, breathing hard.

She stares into the basin, shaking her head and trying to steady herself.

She trembles. Her breath quickens.

She repeats under her breath, barely audible.

AUGUST

It' just in my head. It's just in my head.

She looks up. The mirror reflects the room behind her. But not her. A scared look washes across her face.

She waves. No reflection. No proof she exists. Nothing.

She presses her palm to the glass. It's cold. Solid. But still, nothing. Just an empty reflection staring back at her.

She leans in, breath hitching, her eyes locked on the glass.

INT. HALLWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

August walks away swiftly with a look of disbelief on her face.

Fluorescent lights flicker above in the hallway.

She rushes past a bulletin board, but stops. A new flyer catches her eye. She stares.

Her photo. Her name.

MISSING: AUGUST WILLIAMS

LAST SEEN: October 13th

WITNESSES SAW HER STRUGGLING IN A
WHITE SUV WITH AN UNKNOWN MALE.

FOUL PLAY IS SUSPECTED

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION PLEASE
CALL (403)- 266- 1234

AUGUST (V.O.)
I'm already gone.

August stands frozen. Breath shallow.

Like she's seeing her own grave.

She can't move.

AUGUST (V.O.)
I wasn't missing. I was lost.

Caught between this world and whatever
comes next.

My ghost just hadn't figured that out
yet.

FADE OUT.

END.