

WHERE LIFE TAKES ME

Written by

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CUT TO BLACK.

INT. INSIDE KALEB'S HEAD

KALEB Olstead, a starting middle school student is relieving the previous night's events.

MR.OLSTEAD

You should go into computer science, hell, any of them STEM majors. That's where the real money's at.

MR. OLSTEAD winks at his son. MRS. OLSTEAD looks at his father in disgust and looks back at Kaleb with sympathy.

MRS. OLSTEAD

Honey, don't listen to your father. You do whatever you want to do. It's your life and I'll support you in whatever you chose.

CUT TO:

INT. SWEET VENO MIDDLE SCHOOL - COLLEGE PREP CLASS

Kaleb's long time best friend, JASON, is talking to Kaleb about their projects.

JASON

Dude, you should totally join the military with me! You'll be able to do all kinds of special ops stuff, gets high security clearance shit, it's just like being a spy but like...fighting for America and America only, ya know?

Kaleb looks at Jason with weak smile.

KALEB

Yeah...sounds...cool.

JASON

You bet your ass it does! Come on, don't want to be like your old man?

Silence.

The bells rings and their teacher dismisses them.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWEET VENIO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - EVENING

An announcer is on stage calling out names.

ANNOUCNER

Kaleb Olstead, Magna CumLaude.

Cheers from the crowd erupt. Yet Kaleb doesn't move.

ANNOUCNER (CONT'D)

Kaleb Olstead, Magna CumLaude.
Please come to the stage.

Kaleb breaks out of his daydream and briskly walks towards the stage.

Kaleb grabs the diploma and shakes the Principal's hand.

PRINCIPAL

Good job! Congratulations.

Kaleb and the Principal shake hands and look towards the photographer.

After the photo is taken, Kaleb heads back to his seat getting high fives and cheers from the other male classmates.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWEET VENIO HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT

Kaleb's extended family come around to greet him and congratulate him.

Kaleb's phone rings.

KALEB

Sorry...uh Mom, can I take this?

MRS. OLSTEAD

Sure, honey! I'll keep the family busy.

Kaleb takes the call in secluded area by a tree.

KALEB

(on the phone)

Hello?

STRANGER
Hello Kaleb.

KALEB
Uh, hi. Who is this?

STRANGER
Oh yes! My apologies, my name is
Mr. Read. I work with W.L
Industries, I assume you've
received my letter in the mail?

KALEB
Yes. But I never responded to—

MR. READ
(cuts him off)
Never you mind that, you're the
perfect candidate for this program!
I shall speak to your parents in
the coming days. I look forward to
your arrival.

KALEB
But sir I—

Mr. Read hangs up the phone, and Kaleb returns slowly and
puzzled to his family.

MRS. OLSTEAD
Who was that Kaleb?

KALEB
No one. No one important.

Mrs. Olstead doesn't push any further and the night closes.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. THE OLSTEAD RESIDENCE - MORNING

Kaleb rises out of bed and walks downstairs only to meet 3
people at the table.

MRS. OLSTEAD
Good morning sweetie!

Mr. Olstead is focussed on his newspaper and coffee and
simply nods to Kaleb.

MRS. OLSTEAD (CONT'D)

Mr. Read was just telling how you got into this amazing program! How come you never told us about it?

KALEB

(nervously)

Uh...ha ha, never got the chance to. You know, busy with school and all that.

MRS. OLSTEAD

Oh well that's alright. Good thing we saved some money so you could go on wonderful adventures like this one!

Mrs. Olstead beams at Kaleb. Mr. Read smiles charmingly as well.

MR. READ

Yes, my boy in two days time you shall be packing your bags and coming with me for 3 months.

KALEB

3 months? Mom, wait. Have you ever considered that I don't want to go to this...this..."amazing adventure"?

MRS. OLSTEAD

Well, honey...your father and I talked about it and we realized that you lacked on giving a decision on what you wanted to after high school. You didn't want to college like me—

MR. OLSTEAD

(cuts off, grumbling)

You didn't want to join the corps like I did.

Mrs. Olstead nudges Mr. Olstead.

MRS. OLSTEAD

So, because you lacked, we've decided that this would be best for. 3 months and maybe you'll come back with something or someone that gives a drive like no other.

Kaleb sighs heavily.

KALEB
Mom...I really don't-

MRS. OLSTEAD
You have no choice.

Kaleb groans.

KALEB
This shits sucks major ass.

Kaleb walks back up the stairs grumbly.

MRS. OLSTEAD
(yelling)
Kaleb! What about breakfast?

KALEB
Fuck breakfast!

FADE OUT.

INT. KALEB'S ROOM - EVENING

As a few days have passed, tonight is the last night Kaleb has with his family. The going away festivities are over and Kaleb is packing all his stuff.

Kaleb's phone rings and he answers it.

KALEB
(on the phone)
Hello?

JASON
(on the phone)
DUDE! Why didn't you tell you were leaving tomorrow?

KALEB
Well one, I didn't want to go-

JASON
(cuts off)
Damn...that takes a damper on our summer plans...I was tryna get you laid before boot camp starts.

KALEB
Wait what?

JASON

Yeah! I was gonna host some parties, grab few girls from high school have a lil' fair well reunion... shits was going to be fire!

KALEB

Well, I could always—

JASON

(cuts off)

But no, you had to go an get accepted into this once in a lifetime opportunity. Therefore no fun for the Jasmister and Kaleb the closeted freak. Ugh.

KALEB

JASON! Listen, I didn't want to go.

JASON

Huh? Why the fuck not?

KALEB

I don't know...spending time with some unknown old dude doesn't sound like my ideal way to spend my summer.

JASON

Yeah...but what else do you got?

KALEB

YOU LITERALLY JUST TOLD ME ABOUT GETTING LAID AT YOUR PARTY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

JASON

Well, yeah but that'll only last what...a week or two? Then what? After that, I'm shipping out, everyone else who isn't shipping out is heading to college and you'll be known as one of the losers stuck at home. And I'm not friends with fucking losers.

Silences comes from Kaleb end of the phone.

JASON (CONT'D)

I know you're silent because I'm probably speaking the truth.

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

Actually I know I'm speaking the truth. Listen, Kaleb, from amigo to amigo, you should take it. Maybe you'll meet some hottie there and that'll spark ya to do somethin'.

KALEB

Highly doubt it.

JASON

There's the doubt, your honor. Welp, there's no choice now you're gone tomorrow and I better hear from you once Boot camp is over.

KALEB

Okay I will—

JASON

My number isn't going to fucking change so I better get a call.

KALEB

I will ca—

JASON

I mean it 'stead.

KALEB

(jokingly)

Okay, I will call you. Jeez, acting like a needy girlfriend

JASON

(jokingly girl voice)

I just want what's best for baby
(fakes kissing noises)

KALEB

(laughing)

Ewww, you're mad weird bro.

JASON

I know, but you love me. If you didn't I would've beat your ass in middle school.

KALEB

And we'd still be friends.

JASON

Damn, what a beautiful abusive friendship we have.

KALEB
Yup. Alright, I better finish
packing.

JASON
Yes sir Mr. Leave your best friend.
I will let you leave.

KALEB
Bye Jason.

JASON
Bye Kaleb the freak.

KALEB
Hey I am not a-

Jason cuts Kaleb off by hanging up.

Kaleb returns to folding his clothes and placing them in his
suitcase.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE OLSTEAD RESIDENCE - MORNING

Mr. and Mrs. Olstead are wishing Kaleb good bye as he loads
his bag into Mr. Read's car.

MRS. OLSTEAD
Good luck sweetie, I'm gonna miss
you.

MR. OLSTEAD
You better do us proud wherever
you're going.

KALEB
Wait, do any of you know where I'm
going?

Mr. and Mrs. Olstead shake their heads.

MRS. OLSTEAD
Mr. Read told us he's taking you
and other kids whp joined the
program to many different places.
And it's basically your choice to
pick a place and thrive.

Kaleb looks to Mr. Read, Mr. Read tips his hat.

KALEB

Oh brother.

MR. READ

Well now Kaleb, we better get going. Don't want you to be late for the program's new member ceremony.

Kaleb sighs and sluggishly enters Mr. Read's old fashion car.

His parents wave him good bye and they drive out of sight.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. READ'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Kaleb is waking up from a nap as Mr. Read is reading a newspaper.

KALEB

(panicking)

Aren't you supposed to be, you know, driving the car? Why and how are reading the newspaper?

Mr. Read chuckles.

MR. READ

Oh you have a lot to learn, my boy. Bufford has this all taken care of. Besides, we're almost there.

Kaleb looks at his windows to see a barren sandy plain. Bewildered, he looks back at the elderly man, a mix of anger and confused.

KALEB

Where are you taking us?

MR. READ

A place that will be a stepping stone in into where life leads you.

Bufford the car stops at a gate.

MR. READ (CONT'D)

Ah, we've arrived.

Mr. Read clears his throat.

MR. READ (CONT'D)
Under the Hawaiian Sun and Northern
Light's Moon.

The gate begins to open. As they drive through, the once barren plain becomes not so barren. There's buildings, dorms, shops, among other things that basically turn this into a mini town.

KALEB
Alright. Where the hell are we, old man.

MR. READ
This, Kaleb, is Rains County.

KALEB
How come, 1, I have never heard of it, 2, it not on any map?

MR. READ
That's because it's hidden. Not everyone is meant to see Rains County and you'll soon see the reason for that.

Bufford the car drives them to a roundabout outside a brick dormitory. While old-looking, it looks like it has be restored to its beautiful rich burgundy color.

They park outside the front entrance.

MR. READ (CONT'D)
Ah, we've arrived at your longing quarters, Kinsmen's way. Let's grab your bags and—

Mr. Read is cut off by a boy about Kaleb's age rushing outside. Tall and lanky, he zooms out the front entrance's wide doors to greet Mr. Read.

MR. READ (CONT'D)
(chuckles)
Why hello there, HURLY.

HURLY
Hello Mr. Read! Pleasure to see you back, sir.

MR. READ
Ah yes, it is good to be home. Now, you must show this lad his new home.

HURLY
Oh yes, sir!

He grabs one of Kaleb's bag in one hand and reaches for Kaleb's hands in the other.

HURLY (CONT'D)
(eagerly)
'ello there! Name's Hurly, what's yours?

KALEB
(hesistantly)
Um...Kaleb. Kaleb Olstead.

HURLY
Well Kaleb you're gonna have pleasantly lots of fun here in Rains County. Pleasant fun!

Hurly seems to bound joyfully up the steps and Kaleb tries to keep up and Mr. Read lags behind slowly.

They go each floor of the nicely decorated dormitory.

KALEB
(out of breath)
How... come... you... guys...
don't... have... ele... vators?

HURLY
Because it's no fun Kaleb!

Hurly giggles.

MR. READ
He's right. Stairs help with exercise which is beneficial to everyone of all ages.

Kaleb looks behind and sees Mr. Read taking his time up the stairs, not struggling at all.

Eventually, they reach to the seventh floor, room 12.

Hurly busted the door wide open.

HURLY
Welcome to your room!

Hurly beams.

MR. READ

Ah, it seems like your roommate isn't here yet. We'll probably meet him at the welcome ceremony.

KALEB

You keep mentioning this damn welcome ceremony, what the hell is about?

Mr. Read chuckles and Hurley looks at him.

MR. READ

Dear me, my age really does show.

HURLY

No it doesn't Mr. Read, you're as young as I am!

Mr. Read ruffles Hurly's hair. Hurly giggles and smiles.

MR. READ

Thank you, my dear boy. You should go get cleaned up for the ceremony. Off you go now.

Hurly nods and bows politely to Mr. Read.

HURLY

See you later, Kaleb.

Hurly races out of the room.

Kaleb looks around the spacious room. It has two full size beds, desks, two small closets, lamps, and dressers.

The side of the room that's closest to the bathroom is already decorated. It has two guitars next to the bed.

Vinyl records on the wall and the sheets are decorated with a cassette tapes and music notes on the comforter.

On the other side, there's a door to the bathroom.

MR. READ

Not a bad room, eh?

Mr. Read smiles at Kaleb. Kaleb shrugs it off.

KALEB

I guess so.

MR. READ

I should explain the ceremony now,
shouldn't I?

Kaleb looks blankly at Mr. Read.

KALEB

Whatever you wanna do, old man. I
really could give a fuck at this
rate.

Kaleb slouches down in the chair underneath the desk. Mr.
Read rests gently on the bed closets to the bathroom door.

MR. READ

The welcome ceremony is a grand
dinner held at the main building,
N.R Building. It really isn't that
stressful and as Hurly makes it out
to be.

KALEB

If that's the case, then I don't
have to go.

MR. READ

Oh, but you must.

KALEB

And why do I have to if you just
said it's not a big deal.

MR. READ

Because if you don't, then you will
be ostracized and a outcast to the
whole county. You're going to the
need whole county in order to find
your purpose.

KALEB

(rolls eyes)

I don't get how a whole county
knowing I am is going to help me
find my purpose.

Mr. Read sighs.

MR. READ

You're very resistant, Kaleb.
That'll soon change in the coming
weeks.

Mr. Read smiles as he starts to stand up from the bed.

MR. READ (CONT'D)
Anyhow, even if you don't willing
come, I'm sure Hurly or whomst ever
your roommate is will surely bring
you along.

KALEB
And if they don't?

Mr. Read's face goes from smiling to dead serious.

MR. READ
(lacks emotion)
They will beaten and exiled.

Kaleb's eyes go wide and his face shows fear.

Mr. Read starts to laugh.

MR. READ (CONT'D)
Oh I'm just tickling your bones,
boy. Hehe, you take things so
seriously! See you at the dinner!

Mr. Read walks out of the room.

KALEB
(to himself)
What the actual fuck is going on
here?

A knock is at the door before Kaleb can continue his
thoughts.

KALEB (CONT'D)
Uh, come in?

A tall brown haired male comes in. He is wearing round shaped
glasses enters with timid steps.

STRANGER
Hello.

KALEB
Hey.

STRANGER
I guess we're roommates?

KALEB
Yup.

The brown hair male closes the door behind him gently. He
walks towards Kaleb and holds out his hand.

COLE
My name's Cole.

Kaleb reaches out to grab COLE's hand.

KALEB
Kaleb.

COLE
So...

Cole is at a lost for words. He looks down at the ground.

Kaleb looks at Cole in both confusion and concern.

KALEB
Are you good, dude?

Cole doesn't respond. Instead, he keeps his head lowered and walks towards one of his guitars by his desk. He sits on the bed and starts to play.

KALEB (CONT'D)
Dude. I asked you a question.
Hello?

Kaleb waves a hand at Cole's face. Cole is unfazed and continues to play.

KALEB (CONT'D)
(rolls eyes)
Whatever, man. Everyone hear is too
damn proper...
(mimics Hurly's voice)
Too preppy and upbeat sir...
(face turns dead pan and
drones)
Or don't talk at all.

Cole's strumming continues. Another knock is heard.

KALEB (CONT'D)
Come in, I guess.

Kaleb flops on the bed.

Hurly opens the door.

HURLY

Hello there again, Kaleb! I finished washing up and figured I'd help you unpacked your bags before the ceremony tonight!

Hurly turns towards Cole. His tone goes from hyperactive to calm.

HURLY (CONT'D)

(calmly)

Hello Cole. How are you feeling today?

Cole stops strumming.

COLE

(quietly under his breath)

It's better than yesterday. Not so quiet anymore.

Cole turns to Kaleb and smiles. Kaleb reacts with a grimace and looks away from Cole, blinking.

KALEB

(under his breath)

What in the actual fuck...

Kaleb reaches for his suitcase and starts to unzip it.

Hurly pats Cole's hair and smiles at him. He turns his attention towards Kaleb again and goes back to being the hyperactive person that Kaleb met not to long ago.

HURLY

So, what's first to unpack?
Clothes, stuffed toys, knick-knacks?

Kaleb hesitantly looks back at Hurly looming over his back.

KALEB

Uh...clothes.

HURLY

Aww c'mon! You don't have anything to remember home by or something to you occupied as the time goes by? Nothing you're interested in?

KALEB

Nope. Not really. I thought was the whole purpose of this stupid trip. To find my purpose.

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