

stuck

by

Kaiden Hancock

FADE IN:

INT. DORM ROOM - EARLY MORNING

On a computer screen, a video of a highschool graduation is playing. The group of friends in the video are happy and celebrating, but the video is interrupted by an alarm ringing. The video pauses as the ringing continues. A young woman, SARA, reaches over to turn the alarm off, and slowly makes her way out of bed.

As she goes through the motions of getting ready for the day, she pauses to look at a picture on her desk. It is the same people from the earlier video, but younger. She moves away from the desk, and out of her room.

She opens her door to leave, only to be stopped by a group of people laughing as they walk by. She quietly follows behind them.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

Sara is sitting in a class room, the chairs next to her are empty, but there are other students in the classroom. She is scrolling on her computer, a news article open. The headline reads 'Medical Student Finds Cure to Cancer, Leads Medical Field in New Directions!'. Below the headline is a photo of one of the people from the earlier video. She closes the article and opens Instagram, the first story she opens shows somebody who just got engaged.

She closes her computer and sighs as the professor walks into the classroom.

PROFESSOR

Okay, hope you all have those essays ready.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM BUILDING COMMON ROOM - LATER

Sara is sitting at one of the tables, homework spread around her. As she is working, somebody comes up to her. She glances up, a slightly excited look on her face, it's rare for people to approach her.

PERSON 1

Hey.

SARA

Hi.

PERSON 1

Mind if we use this chair, we're a couple short, and it didn't seem like you were using it.

SARA

(dejected)

Oh, uh yeah sure.

PERSON 1

(grabbing the chair and walking away)

Thanks.

SARA

No problem.

Sara watches the person walk away and join two other people who are laughing and smiling. Sara looks back down, returning to her work, alone. After a beat, she packs her stuff up and leaves the room. The trio can be seen grabbing the chair she was using and pulling it to their table as she leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK BENCH - LATE AFTERNOON

Sara is sitting on a bench, as people walk past her. After a beat, she sighs and grabs her phone. She scrolls through her contacts before landing on one. She hits call and brings the phone to her ear. It rings for a beat before the voicemail message is faintly heard.

SARA

(slowly, stuttering as if embarrassed)

Hey, uh, sorry I guess you're busy. Um, just-just wanted to talk for a bit if you were free. You can call back if you want.

(pause)

I mi-

Her message is cut off by the tone of the voicemail ending.

She sighs, and glances to her phone as the call ends. She puts her head in her hands as she sits for moment longer, people speeding past her as she remains in place.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Sara is sitting at her desk, staring out of the window. She reaches for her phone, and unlocks it, opening the messages app. She scrolls through her messages for a bit until she finds an old group chat called 'The Gang'. She hesitates for a beat before she opens the chat, the last message was from a while ago.

Again, she hesitates, her thumbs hovering over the keyboard. When she finally begins to type, her message reads simply: 'miss you guys'. She closes the app and opens Instagram, before searching for her one of her friends accounts. The friends story has a group picture of unfamiliar captioned 'Me & The Gang Last Night'.

Sara quickly closes the app and turns her phone off, setting it down on the desk with a thud. She puts her head in her hands, before pushing her chair away from her desk and standing. She turns around, and makes her way out of the door, the sound of it shutting echoing through the room.

After a beat, her phone, which she left on the desk, lights up with notifications. The notifications are multiple texts from the group chat, all saying something along the lines of 'miss you too!', 'can't wait to see you guys at break', and other similar messages. As the phone turns off again,

FADE TO BLACK.