

Too Soon

written by

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INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY-MORNING

SARAH (18) stands at her locker frantically looking for her AP Chemistry book, while trying to balance a coffee cup in her left hand. Her boyfriend CONNOR (18) casually leans against neighboring lockers.

SARAH

Dang it, I can't find my chem book!
I'm gonna be late.

Connor peeks inside Sarah's disorganized locker. We see it laying underneath of her AP English book. He reaches in and pulls it out for Sarah.

CONNOR

Right in front of you, babe.
Another sleepless night?

Sarah grabs the book from Connor and hands him her coffee to hold. She struggles to cram the book inside her already full book bag.

SARAH

Yeah, I was working on my UVA app
and I just couldn't sleep. Thinking
about dad, the usual.

As Sarah takes her coffee cup back from Connor and turns to walk away, he pulls her in by the back of her oversized brown sweater. He delicately places his hand under her chin and straightens her tilted glasses.

CONNOR

I know it's been rough lately, but
don't forget I'm here for you.

SARAH

I know. I've gotta go but I'll see
you later, love.

Sarah tucks a loose strand of hair behind her ear and leans in to give Connor a kiss. She sticks her tongue out as she kisses him and quickly jogs away, giggling.

SARAH (CONT'D)

(Shouts over her shoulder)
Have a good day, Handsome. Love
you!

Sarah is already turning the corner before Connor can respond. He smiles as he shuts the locker door Sarah forgot to close. He walks away down the opposite hallway.

INT. CAFETERIA- AFTERNOON

Sarah lifts her head as Connor approaches the table she's at and sits down. She tilts her glasses down when she looks at Connor's lunch. Two cheeseburgers, cheese fries, yogurt, a banana, and a chocolate chip cookie occupy the whole tray.

SARAH

Well damn, someone's hungry

CONNOR

I'm a growing man, it takes a lot
to fill me up.

Sarah laughs as she uses the study guide in her hand to gesture to Connor's tray.

SARAH

I can see that.

Connor sees that the only thing sitting in front of Sarah is an apple and another large cup of coffee.

He sighs as he gets up and goes to get in the line again. returns with a salad and sits it down in front of Sarah.

CONNOR

Eat. You can't live off coffee
forever.

SARAH

I beg to differ, but thank you.

Connor sighs and begins to eat his lunch.

Sarah quickly takes a few bites of her salad then stands up and pushes her chair in.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I have to go talk to the guidance
counselor about my application,
I'll see you tonight.

She kisses Connor on the top of the head as she walks past him.

EXT. SARAH'S HOUSE-FRIDAY NIGHT

Connor walks up the front steps of Sarah's house and lets himself in the front door.

ITN. SARAH'S HOUSE- FRIDAY NIGHT

He enters the living room and we see Sarah's mom, GINA (40s) vacuuming the carpet.

CONNOR
Hey, Miss Gina

GINA
Oh, hey Connor. Sorry I'm just trying to get a little cleaning done. Sarah's upstairs, she should be down in a minute.

Connor sits down on the couch and looks around the living room while he waits. We see family photos of Sarah and both her parents. On the bookshelf in the corner is a folded up flag with various celebratory medals encased in a shadowbox.

INT. LIVING ROOM

When he walks in the house he sees that the area rug is rolled up off to the side and the vacuum is sitting out.

CONNOR
Ah, I forgot it's cleaning day.

Gina plops down on the couch with a sigh and leans back for a quick break.

GINA
You know it, every Saturday. Sarah's supposed to be helping but she's been holed up in her room all morning trying to finish up that UVA application.

CONNOR
Sounds about right.

Gina gets up from the couch and walks back over to the vacuum.

GINA
She's in her room if you wanna head on up and get her, I know today is a special day for y'all.

Connor smiles and begins to walk up the stairs.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM-AFTERNOON

Connor gently pushes the door open and peaks his head in.

CONNOR

Knock, knock.

Connor sees Sarah sitting at her desk typing on her computer. Sarah turns around in her desk at the sound of his voice with a surprised and guilty look on her face.

SARAH

Oh my god, it's Saturday. I forgot,
we had a date. Twenty minutes and
I'll be done, promise.

Connor walks over to Sarah's bed and begins to pull her white comforter into place. He looks around the room and sees clothes, books and trash all over the place. While she works on her application Connor starts to pick up her room.

Connor looks over at Sarah and catches her staring at the framed picture of her and her father she has sitting on her desk. He walks over and rubs her shoulders from behind.

CONNOR

What are you thinking about, babe?

Connor's touch jolts Sarah out of her thoughts. She leans her head back on him and takes a deep breath. She continues to stare at the picture of her dad.

SARAH

I just want to make him proud. UVA
was our dream my whole life and I
feel like if I don't go there I'm
letting him down.

CONNOR

Your dad adored you, you could
never let him down.

Connor kisses the top of Sarah's head then walks away to sit on her bed.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM-THIRTY MINUTES LATER

SARAH

"Just clicked submit. God, that
felt good."

CONNOR

Atta girl. Now get ready, you have a hot date.

Sarah slaps Connor on the knee as she walks by and they both laugh at his fake arrogance. She opens her closet door and pulls out her favorite burgundy dress. She holds it against herself and looks to Connor for a yay or nay. He smiles and nods his head yes.

As she undresses she catches a glimpse of herself in the mirror. Connor sees her cringe at what she thinks is fat. He walks over to her and grabs her from behind and makes eye contact with her through the mirror.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

You, my love, are absolutely perfect.

Sarah crinkles her nose in disagreement. Connor spins her around and kisses her on the nose. Sarah smiles then pushes away to finish getting dressed.

For the next thirty minutes Connor watches as she does her makeup and curls her hair. When she's finished Connor makes her spin around so he can admire her. She gives a shy smile as Connor stares at her. She playfully runs out of the room and goes downstairs.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Sarah and Connor walk into the kitchen and immediately cringe the overwhelming smell of Pine-Sol. Gina has moved on to the kitchen and is intensely scrubbing the floors with a mop.

SARAH

Geez Mom, did you use enough Pine-Sol?

GINA

You would think so. These floors are disgusting.

Connor looks at the wet, shiny floors.

CONNOR

They look pretty clean to me.

Gina points her finger at Connor and then looks to Sarah

GINA

And that right there is why you never let a man clean floors.

Connor puts his hands up in surrender.

CONNOR

Hey, I'm not gonna complain if Sarah doesn't let me clean the floors one day.

Sarah jokingly pokes Connor in the side.

SARAH

All right Mom, we're gonna head out. I love you.

GINA

I love you too, hon. Y'all have fun and be safe.

INT. HIGHWAY. NIGHT

Sarah and Connor are driving back to Sarah's house after their dinner date. Sarah rolls her window down and puts her hand out the window.

SARAH

That dinner was amazing. I haven't eaten that much in so long.

Connor turn his head to look at Sarah in the passenger seat.

CONNOR

You hardly ate anything what are you talking about?

Sarah sighs and gives him a fierce look and he knows that means not to push the topic.

Connor puts one hand on Sarah's thigh and keeps the other on the wheel. She unbuckles her seat belt and slides over to the middle seat of the truck. She grabs his neck, kissing him slowly. Connor briefly leans his head back in bliss.

EXT. HIGHWAY-LATER THAT NIGHT

We see blue and red police lights flashing as they pull off the road to the scene of an accident. A firetruck and ambulance arrive immediately after. There's a broken guardrail and a car upside down in a ditch on the side of the road.

As the EMERGENCY RESPONDERS approach the car they look inside to find only one passenger.

When they see the gaping hole in the windshield they split up and begin to look for the missing person.

Two EMTs and a firefighter stay with Connor to find a way remove him from the car. One person unbuckles his seat belt and the other two lift him out through the broken window. The EMT feels for a pulse and sighs out of relief when he finds one.

They carry Connor to the ambulance and immediately take him to the hospital while the other responders continue to look for Sarah.

EMERGENCY RESPONDER

I found her! Back here!

We see Sarah's mangled body and it is obvious that she is dead. The EMT feels for a pulse but finds nothing.

INT. HOSPITAL-TWO DAYS LATER

Connor's eyes slowly begin to open for the first time since the accident. He groans out of pain and looks around in confusion at all the medical equipment that surrounds him. He turns his head to see his parents and Gina sitting in chairs at his bedside.

As soon as his mother SUSAN, sees him move she rushes to his side and hugs him. Tears swell in her eyes that he is finally awake. Connor looks past his mother to Gina. He sees the pure agony written on her face and he suddenly remembers what happened.

Connor looks to his mother with pleading eyes that beg for his worst fear not to be true. She leans over to hug him, her tears assure that his worst nightmare is happening.

SUSAN

I'm so sorry honey, Sarah didn't make it.

Connor lets out an ear shattering sob and clings to his mother as tight as he can. Gina walks over and hugs him. They all cry in pure misery together.

INT. SARAH'S HOUSE-THREE MONTHS LATER

We see Gina sitting at the kitchen table drinking her morning coffee as she sorts through mail. Her hands suddenly stop sorting when she sees a letter addressed to Sarah. She looks in the upper right corner of the envelope to see where it was sent from. She smiles wide when she reads the return address.

Gina picks up her cellphone and scrolls down to Connors name in her contact list. The phone rings three times before she hears Connor's voice.

CONNOR

Hello?

GINA

Hey, Connor. I got Sarah's letter from UVA today.

We see Connor's mouth grow into a wide smile.

CONNOR

She got in didn't she?

GINA

Hell yeah she got in. God, I can just see her reaction right now.

They both grow silent at the painful realization that Sarah will never know that her dream came true.

GINA (CONT'D)

I knew you would want to know so I thought I'd give you a call. How are you doing?

CONNOR

I'm taking it day by day. Still feels like the world isn't right without her.

GINA

I feel like that too. You let me know if you need anything all right?

CONNOR

Yes ma'am, and you do the same. Bye Miss Gina, thank you for calling me.

GINA

Bye, Connor.

Gina hangs up the phone and stands to walk upstairs.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM-MOMENTS LATER

Gina walks in to Sarah's room. As she looks around we see that it is exactly the same as it was on the dreadful day three months ago.

Makeup is still laying on her desk and her closet door is still left open with her disorganized clothes spilling out.

Gina walks over to Sarah's desk and picks up the framed picture of Sarah and her father. She brings the picture into her chest and holds it tight. She sits it back in place where Sarah always had it.

Above the desk we see a bulletin board packed with pictures, ticket stubs, notes, and keepsakes from various times of Sarah's life. Gina opens the top drawer of the desk and takes out a push pin. She pins Sarah's acceptance letter in the center of the board and then steps back.

GINA

Congratulations baby girl, you did
it.

END.