

THE SUMMER THAT CAUGHT FIRE

Written by

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OVER BLACK

VOICE (V.O.)

The Summer that caught fire. It was a hot summer. Full of passion. Full of exploration. A summer that would ignite flames and end in disaster.

EXT. ATLANTA PORCH - NIGHT

Crickets CHIRPS fill the warm September night. BOY and GIRL, mid 20s, uncomfortably sit on the steps. Girl's eyes silently swell with tears. She stares into the sky. Boy watches her.

VOICE (V.O.)

I'd always tried to protect myself from pain. I avoided circumstances that left me feeling...well this. It was hard to come to terms with the fact I had never loved before. But this was the moment I knew why. I went into my summer, hoping to have new experiences. Discover a different side of me. And in the process I tripped with out the memory of falling. Landing here. I asked myself...how? I didn't recognize the person I'd become. But unlike most it wasn't someone I hated. I liked this me. I didn't want to let it go. But just like that, it had.

Boy gets up and walks to the edge of the yard. He turns to her. She opens her mouth, about to say something. It's too late. He fades away.

SUPER: "Summer of '22"

BLACK OUT

VOICE (V.O.)

The last two years had been strange to say the least. I had just fought through the covid trenches.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

A monitor BEEPS rapidly. Girl is dressed in scrubs. Yelling-

GIRL

I need KFC stat!

A chicken leg pops into Girl's hand. Shook, she looks to the camera.

VOICE (V.O.)
That's not exactly what I meant.

RING

House light flash-

INT. HOSPITAL SET - CONTINUOUS

Dozen's of CREW, with headsets, stare straight ahead.

BOOMING VOICE (O.S.)
That's a wrap!

Girl stands against a fake wall. She wears a mask and holds a hand sanitizer bottle.

GIRL
Hand Sani?

Passing by is a MAN in all black with a gut and greasy long hair.

MAN
Covid isn't real!

He spits on the ground in front of her. Unfazed, she looks to the camera.

VOICE (V.O.)
A whole nother battle field. Things couldn't get worse from here. I had finally made it to the last stop on the deranged train...or so I thought.

EXT. ATLANTA PORCH - DAY

Girl lounges in a hammock on the porch. She journals.

VOICE (V.O.)
I was excited for what was to come. I believed I was right where I was suppose to be. Out with the bad in with the good. I manifested the shit out '22. The universe had other plans

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Girl lies in bed with a blotchy nose. Kleenexes surround her. She watches *Stranger Things* on her lap top. Suddenly, her door knob begins to turn, as does her head. A GRUNGY MAN stands in the doorway.

GIRL
Who the fuck are you?

The Grungy Man swings a silver revolver around his index finger and does a dance.

GIRL (CONT'D)
Can I help you?

GRUNGY MAN
Ah. (Megan Thee Stallion)

He takes off running.

VOICE (V.O.)
I had always feared being murdered.

EXT. ATLANTA PORCH - DAY

Girl opens Amazon box after Amazon box.

VOICE (V.O.)
I didn't give up. I needed multiple signs.

Aligned on the porch steps: Pepper Spray, A Taser, Wasp Spray, and a knife.

VOICE (V.O.)
It was the summer I learned to trust my instincts but never trust anyone else.

EXT. ATLANTA HOME - WINDOW - NIGHT

Music thumps from inside. The window slides open. A leg flies out. The body attached to it tumbles out and on to the ground. A SLOPPY GIRL pops up and readjusts her skirt.

VOICE
And this bitch. What a delusional fucking cu-

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Thumbs pressed against her temples, Girl waits. A door opens next to her.

NURSE

We're ready for you.

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE - DAY

Girl sits across from a DOCTOR, mid 50s, white man.

DOCTOR

It is hard to say with you being so young, but this might be our last option.

GIRL

Ya. Ya. I'm ready.

DOCTOR

Are you sure? There's no going back after this.

Girl lingers on this. Then-

GIRL

Mhm. Yep.

Girl's eyes fall on a 3D Spine Model sitting across from her.

VOICE (V.O.)

Your spine is made up of 24 small bones also known as vertebrae. They are stacked on top of each other to create the spinal column. Between each vertebra is a soft, gel-like cushion called a disc that helps absorb pressure and keeps the bones from rubbing against each other.

The 3D Model begins to light up, flashing red.

VOICE (V.O.)

It's hard to control how outside forces will affect you. You can't stop the hurt. You can try to prevent it but at some point it becomes inevitable. And sometimes all you can do is ride it out and pray you make it to the last stop.

CUT TO:

INT. DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Girl sways in the crowd.

Her spine now absorbs the flashing red light.

A HAND wraps around her waist. Following up the arm, the CHEST meets Girls. Both chests begin beating red. They dance together.

BOY
I really like you.

Boy holds Girl. His lips are at her ear.

BOY (CONT'D)
Like, I really really do.

Girl blushes.

She breaks his gaze, hiding her face in his neck.

He brushes her hair behind her shoulder.

She pulls back, taking him in. Screaming over the music-

BOY (CONT'D)
What?

A smile creeps on her face. She shakes her head. He smirks and kisses her.

INT. BEDROOM - UNDER SHEET - NIGHT

The red light flickers outside the sheet.

The girl lies nervously, heart BEATING.

The boy slides into her view, above her. They lock eyes. The boy leans into the girls neck. Breathing her in, she moans.

Suddenly, objects pelt into the sheet outside. A knife rips through the sheet. The girl SCREAMS.

FLASH TO WHITE.

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE - DAY

Doctor holds a clip board.

Girl sits on a hospital table, legs dangling.

SLOW MOTION:

DOCTOR

Pills.

Girl squeezes her eyes, trying to wake herself into conciseness.

GIRL

Huh?

Doctor moves his hand to his mouth, motioning-

DOCTOR

Pills.

Pills fall from above. First, one by one. Then, by the thousands.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Girl sinks into the grass. The pills turn to rain. Drops pour down, washing over her. She breaks into laughter.

OVER BLACK

VOICE (V.O.)

Just like that...I felt nothing. It was as if it never happened.

INT. HOSPITAL - RECOVERY ROOM - DAY

ON GIRL

Her eyes flicker open.

She looks down, her arm and hands are hooked up to IVs. Her eyes welt. She cries, hyperventilating. The nurse tries to calm her.

VOICE (V.O.)

But was it the feeling of everything that unveiled true humanity.

She BREATHEs in. She BREATHEs out. The tears stop. She stares blankly ahead.

BLACK OUT