

THE ROOMMATE

By

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FADE IN:INT. CAR DRIVING DOWN A HIGHWAY. DAY

A lone car drives down a highway in the country. LEAH'S MOTHER, an attractive woman, mid to late 40s, drives the car.

LEAH, 21, sits in the passenger seat leaning on the passenger side door. She stares blankly out the window with a bored expression on her face. Her long brown hair is messy and covers most of her face. She has no make-up on and wears old clothes from a thrift store.

LEAH'S MOTHER

Sooo..huuuunn...are you excited or what?

The car is silent for a few moments.

LEAH'S MOTHER

You should be happy, Leah. College is one of the best times of your life. So many new experiences, new faces; you just have to go into it with an open mind and see what it has to offer.

Leah shrugs.

Leah's mother looks back at her daughter with a sudden worried expression.

LEAH'S MOTHER

He would be so proud of you...You know that?

LEAH

(quickly cuts off her mother)
I don't want to talk about him.

The car is silent for a few moments.

Leah's mother gently brushes her daughter's long, messy hair to the side of her face revealing the worried expression on Leah's face.

LEAH'S MOTHER

Everything will be different now. I promise. You have nothing to worry about.

Leah quickly knocks her mother's hand away and looks at her angrily.

(CONTINUED)

LEAH

How can you say that?! How do you know I have nothing to worry about? How can you promise that everything will be different when you have no idea?! You have no idea what I'm going through!

LEAH'S MOTHER

I may not understand what you are going through, hun. But I am trying my best to understand and do what I think is best for you. You can't keep blocking out the world. I'm sorry I wasn't there when you needed me most, but I'm here now. And all I want is to see my daughter happy again.

LEAH

I'm sorry, mom. I don't mean to lash out. I just...

(pause)

...I just wish things could go back to normal.

Leah's mother looks at her daughter with a worried expression.

LEAH'S MOTHER

I do too, hun.

INT. CAR DRIVING AROUND ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS. DAY.

Leah's mother drives up to the gates of the college's main entrance. The scenery is covered with trees and other foliage. The ground is covered with Autumn colored leaves.

The car pulls up to one of the college dormitories with students scattered around the parking lot and entrance.

EXT. DORM PARKING LOT. DAY.

Leah's has an excited expression on her face as she smiles and looks around at all the people.

Leah and Leah's mother each grab one of Leah's many boxes and walk up the steps of the dorm into the dorm room lobby.

INT. DORM LOBBY. DAY.

Leah looks around the dorm lobby, then notices a small group of students looking at her. She quickly turns away and looks down. Her long brown hair falls back in front of her face as she quickly scurries up the nearest staircase.

INT. LEAH'S DORM ROOM. DAY.

Leah unlocks her dorm room door and walks inside.

She looks around the empty room in silence, then notices a second bed across the room with bags and boxes on top of it.

She looks at the items and the bed curiously.

EMILY
(off camera)

Hi!

LEAH

Oh shit!

Leah, startled, drops her box onto the ground.

Leah turns to see Emily, an attractive 18-year-old girl with blond hair. She has big eyes and long hair in a ponytail. She wears a bright red T-shirt and jean shorts.

EMILY
Oh my god! I'm so sorry! I didn't
mean to scare you. Hi! I'm Emily.

Leah's mother walks into the dorm room, then freezes.

Emily turns to face Leah's mother.

EMILY
Hi. I'm Emily.

Leah's mother quickly changes her expression and smiles.

LEAH'S MOTHER
Hi, Emily. Nice to meet you. This
is my daughter Leah and I'm her
mother.

Leah notices her mother's glare, swallows and walks over to Emily.

(CONTINUED)

LEAH

Hi um, Emily. I'm Leah.

EMILY

Nice to meet you both!

LEAH'S MOTHER

(whispering to Leah)

I promise. Everything will be fine.
Just stay positive. You'll be
alright.

Leah's mother turns to face Emily.

It was very nice to meet you,
Emily.

EMILY

Likewise!

Leah's mother exits the dorm room.

Leah pauses for a moment glaring at Emily with a confused expression on her face before following her mother out of the dorm room.

INT. LEAH'S DORM ROOM. NIGHT.

It is now much later in the afternoon. Leah's mother has left and Leah is unpacking her things from boxes.

Emily has showered and changed into a nice dress. She is currently looking at herself in a mirror.

Leah begins putting up paintings on a wall on her side of the room. Many of the paintings depict the night sky and various paintings of beautiful flames and bonfires. One depicts a campfire at a camp site with a family roasting marshmallows.

Emily notices Leah hanging up her paintings in the reflection of the mirror.

EMILY

Did you paint all of those?

LEAH

Yeah.

Emily approaches the painting of the family roasting marshmallows.

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

Are you the little girl?

LEAH

No.

Leah sits on her bed, opens up one of her mystery novels, and buries her face behind it.

Emily notices that Leah forgot to put up one of the paintings. The painting is a portrait of a man in his mid-40s.

EMILY

I think you forgot this one.

LEAH

NO!

Leah leaps out of her bed and dashes across the room. She snatches the painting out of Emily's hands violently.

LEAH

Leave...my stuff...alone.

EMILY

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to offend you.

Leah doesn't respond and buries her face in her book.

Emily finishes brushing her hair and leaves the room.

Leah falls asleep only to be stirred awake a few moments later sweating.

She opens her eyes to see flames all around her.

She looks across the room and sees the charred remains of Emily's body crumble to ash.

Leah screams.

Leah jumps out of bed quickly and looks around the room to see that all the flames have disappeared.

Panicked, panting and covered in sweat Leah looks over at Emily sleeping soundly in her bed.

Leah breathes deeply then climbs back into bed to sleep once more.

CUT TO

INT. LEAH'S DORM ROOM. DAY.

Leah sleeps late and wakes up alone in the dorm room.

She quickly grabs her phone and calls her mother.

LEAH'S MOTHER

Hello?

LEAH

(crying)

Mom! It happened again! It fucking happened again!

LEAH'S MOTHER

Leah, sweetie. Calm down everything will be alright.

LEAH

No it won't be alright! It will never be alright! I didn't want to come here! Why did you make me come here?!

LEAH'S MOTHER

Leah. You need to try to get a handle on this or you'll never lead a normal life.

LEAH

You don't think I've tried?! You act as if this is all my fault!

LEAH'S MOTHER

Leah, please. Listen to me--

LEAH

(cutting her mother off)

--I never asked to be like this! You have no fucking clue what I'm going through and you're blaming it all on me?! It's not my fault!!

Leah hangs up the phone angrily.

She looks at the portrait of the man and begins to cry.

INT. LEAH'S DORM ROOM. NIGHT.

Leah sits on her bed with her head buried in another mystery novel.

Emily walks into the room.

EMILY
Hey, Leah. Let's go.

LEAH
(annoyed)
Where are we going?

EMILY
To get ice cream. Let's go.

Leah stubbornly gets up.

LEAH
Why?

EMILY
Because that's what roommates do.

Emily grabs Leah's hand and pulls her off the bed.

Leah groans as Emily pushes out of the dorm room.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF A FOOTBALL STADIUM. NIGHT.

Emily and Leah arrive to a football stadium in Emily's car.

There are hundreds of students scattered about the stadium entrance wearing blue and white clothing and face paint.

Leah quickly jumps out of the car and confronts Emily.

LEAH
Why are we here?!

EMILY
Relax. I thought it'd be good for you to get out of that room and socialize. You know, meet some people.

LEAH
I don't want to meet people! Take me back now!

A tall young man, 20, approaches wearing a blue and white t-shirt with a falcon on the front.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS
Hey, babe!

CHRIS walks up to Emily and gives her a kiss.

EMILY
Oh, hey!

CHRIS
Who's your friend?

Leah cowers and turns away causing her long hair to fall back in front of her face.

EMILY
This is Leah.

Leah quickly turns back around to face Emily and CHRIS.

LEAH
I'm her roommate. Not her friend.
And I want to leave now!

CHRIS
Whoa. Calm down, Leah. Why don't
you stay for the game? It shouldn't
be that much longer. It's supposed
to be a lot of fun.

LEAH
I'm sorry. I just...I can't. Leave
me alone!

Leah snatches Emily's keys out of her hand and jumps back into the car.

She quickly starts the car, shifts the car into reverse and backs up out of the parking spot.

The car pulls back very quickly and hits CHRIS smashing him into a stone wall.

The car violently jerks to a stop as Emily and Leah scream.

CUT TO

INT. LEAH'S DORM ROOM. NIGHT.

Leah opens her eyes to see Emily on top of her trying to hold her still.

Leah quickly pushes Emily off and realizes that she is back in her dorm room.

(CONTINUED)

Leah stares at Emily with a frightened look on her face.

EMILY
What the hell was that?!

LEAH
What?

EMILY
You were screaming and convulsing!
Are you okay?!

LEAH
Yeah...I'm fine.

EMILY
You didn't seem fine a minute ago.
What's wrong with you?

LEAH
(infuriated)
Nothing is wrong with me! Leave me
alone and go back to sleep!

Leah quickly pulls a blanket over her body.

Emily goes back to bed.

CUT TO

INT. LEAH'S DORM ROOM. DAY.

Leah sits up in her bed with her head buried in one of her
mystery novels.

Emily is putting on make-up in her mirror. Emily pauses as
she stares at Leah's reflection in the mirror.

EMILY
Leah.

Leah doesn't respond.

Emily turns to face Leah.

EMILY
I'm sorry for tricking you last
night. It wasn't right for me to
lie to you. I was only trying to
help.

Leah puts her book down and sits up.

(CONTINUED)

LEAH

Of course you were. Because I'm the freak who has problems. I'm the charity case that people try to lend a helping hand to.

(mocking voice)

'Oh Leah I understand how you're feeling. It will be alright. I know it will. I can help you. Don't worry.'

(normal voice)

All of you don't have a fucking clue! You pretend to know how I'm feeling! Pretend you understand! But you don't! And you never will! Just leave..me..alone!

Emily stumbles backwards and bumps into Leah's portrait of the man hanging on the wall.

The portrait of the man falls from its spot on the wall and the picture frame shatters.

Emily looks up at Leah shocked.

EMILY

Oh my god! I'm so sorry!

LEAH

Get. Out. Now!

Emily rushes out the door.

Leah cries and dives into bed, crying herself to sleep.

INT. LEAH'S DORM ROOM. NIGHT.

Leah wakes up sweating in the middle of the night.

The room is dark except for the moonlight shining through the window.

Emily is asleep in her bed.

Leah walks over to the sink and splashes water on her face.

She looks in the reflection and sees a light coming from her desk.

She walks over to her desk and sees that the portrait of the man is on fire.

Leah grabs the portrait quickly and drops it.

(CONTINUED)

She screams as she looks at the burns on her hand.

The fire catches onto her blanket and soon the entire room is engulfed in flames.

Leah quickly rushes out the door.

She stops momentarily then runs back to open the door.

The door is locked.

Leah screams as she bangs at the door.

LEAH

Emily! Emily, wake up! Emily, wake up! No! No no no! Emily! Please!!

CUT TO

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY. NIGHT.

Leah is seen convulsing as nurses try to hold her arms and legs.

She lies on a stretcher being rushed down various hallways in a hospital surrounded by five nurses as she violently thrashes her arms and legs.

NURSE

Leah! Leah! Calm down!

Leah is panting and sweating as she seizes.

She opens her eyes and screams.

Leah continues to scream and cry as she thrashes violently.

She catches a glimpse of her hands and sees that they are burnt badly.

She screams as she thrashes her arms.

LEAH

No!

(crying)

No! This can't be happening! Not again! She said that everything will be alright! Why isn't everything alright?! Tell me! Why?!!

FADE TO BLACK.