

UNREQUITED

Written by

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EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY

A beat up jeep overlook's the city. It is foggy.

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I/E. JEEP - DAY - CONTINUOUS

JEREMY, 19, scrawny and scraggly, sits in his run down jeep. His sweaty hands fidgets with a ring box. He strokes his patchy beard. Jeremy looks in his rearview mirror.

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\*

JEREMY

(to self in mirror)

I love you. I want to spend the rest of my life--

\*

\*

Jeremy takes a deep breath.

\*

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Marry me.

\*

\*

AARON (O.S.)

I do.

\*

JEREMY

What?!

Jeremy looks to his right, through the open passenger window. AARON, 20, leans into the window, purses his lips, and glares into Jeremy's eyes.

\*

\*

Jeremy's face turns red with embarrassment.

\*

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Cut it out. You fucking, dick-wad.

\*

Aaron turns his gaze to the ring box.

AARON

Julie's a lucky girl.

\*

Aaron opens the CREAKY jeep and climbs in. The door CREAKS and SLAMS.

JEREMY

Yeah. Julie.

\*

\*

AARON

So this is why you wanted to meet in the woods.

JEREMY

You know everything gets back to that woman. I don't want Julie finding out.

AARON

You sure you don't mean your mother?

Jeremy shoots Aaron a solemn look.

JEREMY

I just--

AARON

Want to be sure.

Jeremy looks out his window.

AARON (CONT'D)

Julie loves you. No one is going to get in the way of that.

Jeremy looks in his side mirror.

AARON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

No one.

Jeremy looks at Aaron. He places his hand on Aaron's shoulder. Aaron peers through the woods. Two birds perch on a tree branch with twigs in their mouths.

JEREMY (O.S.)

I never thought I would ever be considering settling down.

The two birds fly off. Aaron looks at Jeremy's hand. Jeremy grips Aaron's shoulder.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

I don't know what I'd do without you, Aaron. You did--

\*

AARON

You don't have to say it. Friends and whatnot. Hair braiding and sleep overs.

JEREMY

Glitter and ponies.

Aaron pulls out cigarette.

\*

AARON  
You got a lighter?

\*  
\*

JEREMY  
In the glove compartment.

\*  
\*

Aaron laughs. He opens the glove compartment and grabs the lighter.

\*  
\*

SLOW MOTION

A beaded, blue bracelet falls to the floor. Aaron watches the bracelet fall. It bounces. The bracelet is still. Aaron inhales.

\*  
\*  
\*

END SLOW MOTION

Aaron picks up the bracelet. He puts the lighter on the dashboard. He glares at the beads with the letters "A" and "J" interchanged between blue and red beads.

\*  
\*  
\*

Aaron keeps his gaze on the bracelet.

AARON  
When did you...

Jeremy looks at the ring box. Beat. He closes the ring box.

JEREMY  
Ninth grade.

AARON  
You said you were--

JEREMY  
I know what I said!

AARON  
Then, why do you still have it?

\*  
\*

Jeremy looks at Aaron's reflection in the passenger side mirror. Aaron looks at Jeremy.

\*

AARON (CONT'D)  
You should have--

\*

JEREMY  
I couldn't.

Aaron gets out of the jeep. Jeremy follows.

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Aaron goes to throw the bracelet in the forest of trees.  
Jeremy grabs Aaron's wrist. The two friends meet each other's eyes.

Beat.

AARON  
Are you going to propose?

Beat.

Jeremy releases Aaron's arm. Aaron throws the bracelet into the woods. Aaron turns to Jeremy. Jeremy begins to sob. \*

AARON (CONT'D)  
Damn it, Jeremy! \*

JEREMY  
I'm sorry. \*

Aaron fights back tears. \*

JEREMY (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry.

Jeremy sits on the ground and cries silently. Aaron sits beside Jeremy. Aaron gazes in the direction of the now thrown away bracelet.

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY - LATER \*

Further in the forest, the bracelet flies through the air. It lands on a tree branch and SNAPS. The beads fly through the forest.

One of the beads hits the birds nest and CRACKS the twigs holding the nest together. The nest collapses and the birds fly away. \*

FADE TO BLACK.