

JUST A GHOUL

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EXT. PARKING LOT - DUSK

Parking lot full of crushed bugs. A lollipop melts in the dying sun. A cockroach crawls across the pavement. Notices it. Driven. Marches toward it. It extends a mandible as it approaches the glistening, sticky surface.

A CAR TIRE crushes it. CRUNCH. Up to a man, BILLY, in the car. He reads his phone aloud.

BILLY

Maura. 29. Went to Auburn. Has a lasagna named Lucy. Favorite food is cat... wait, switch that.

(pause)

Can you do this? Yeah you can do goshin' do this this. Right?

He looks his mirror for reassurance. Finds none. He gets out.

A COCKROACH GHOST scurries from under the tire to the pop.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A SERVER approaches Billy, alone at the table.

BILLY

Sorry! Still waiting.

The Server shuffles away. The restaurant is all guys alone at tables, each delivering "Sorry-still-waiting" as she passes.

Billy opens Tinder on his phone and texts "Running late?".

EXT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Billy walks out. The 'OPEN' sign turns off. His face screws up. He looks about to explode. Right before he pops, he pulls a bag of TRISCUITS out and puts one in front of his face.

BILLY

Of course you got stood up. You've met you. You're an ugly, needy, frail, lazy, idiot knucklehead...

He eats it angrily. His face normalizes.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATER

Billy sound asleep, floor littered with simple dog paintings.

BAM! BAM! He darts up.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He walks down the hallway and opens the front door. Nothing. Billy looks outside. No one. He closes the door. BAM! BAM! Re-opens it. Nothing.

VOICE (O.S.)

Billy.

BILLY

Hello?

VOICE (O.S.)

Billy Billy billy billy billy...

Billy turns at each new direction of the voice. No one.

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

Billy...

Right BEHIND him. Floating down from the ceiling is a blood-soaked, glowing, windshield-wiper-jutting-through-her-sternum GHOST GIRL. Billy falls to the ground, backing into a corner.

BILLY

Holy shucks it's-- it's--

GHOST

It's Maura... from Tinder. Hi!

She extends her bloodied hand out.

MAURA

Sorry I missed our date. I have a
an excuse.

EXT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - STOOP - LATER

Maura sit on the steps of his apartment building. Billy brings out two beers, setting one in front of Maura.

MAURA

Do you have a chardonnay?

BILLY

Um...

MAURA

Kidding. I'm being a nightmare. I can't even hold this.

Maura tries to hold the beer, her hand passing through it.

MAURA (CONT'D)

Jesus, is this your house? Now I'm really pissed I missed our date.

BILLY

My grandmother left it to me when she-- wait, can you see her?

She sees a GRANDMA giving the 'SHUT UP' swiping hand motion. Maura shrugs 'no'.

BILLY (CONT'D)

So how did it, um, happen?

MAURA

My Uber crashed on the way to our date. Two stars, right?

BILLY

Two?

MAURA

He had gum.

BILLY

How did you heckin' find me?

MAURA

Oh I died a few blocks away. You said you lived by the bar so I just checked all the houses until I found yours.

Billy notices all the lights in other houses are on: people in the windows hugging, crying.

MAURA (CONT'D)

I know we never met but I needed a familiar face. Even a familiar bio. When you die there's no welcome party of dead friends and grandparents and pets holding signs with your name. There's no hostess. No syllabus. You just wake up alone next to your horrifically mangled body... but y'know, I'm still here.

BILLY
To still being here.

She tries for the bottle again. It scooches a little.

MAURA
Oh I moved it!

She tries for it again, too hard. It smashes to the ground.

MAURA (CONT'D)
(refreshed)
Aaaah.

BILLY
I'll get you another.

Billy goes inside.
An exact duplicate of Maura, POISONMAURA, appears beside her.

POISONMAURA
Embarrassed much?

MAURA
Oh my God. Who are you? You're me.
Why are you me? Stop it.

POISONMAURA
We've never met, but we've spoken a million times. I was the voice in your head that questioned all your decisions. Remember that reality dating show you were on: "Which One's My Cousin?".

MAURA
Jesus Christ. Yes.

POISONMAURA
You made me after that. To stop stuff like that. I guess I live out here now.

MAURA
Whoa. So even ghosts have ghosts.

POISONMAURA
Why lie? You're dead. Be liberated. We didn't die in an Uber. We were turning around to see Crayg, which, don't doubt now. That was the right move.

MAURA

Really? Feels like we got karma'ed.

POISONMAURA

This doof was a date, which is a maybe. An ex texting? That's a yes. Looking out for you.

A CAT meows around the corner.

EXT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

MAURA

Lucy? My cat! You missed me already.

CAT

You need to go on the date.

MAURA

Um, Lucy?

CAMERA wraps around Maura's back. As it comes on the other side, a HUMAN IN A CAT SUIT appears alongside Lucy. As the cat moves so does NICOLE: they move in unison.

NICOLE

It's actually Nicole. Hi. I'm Lucy's 'body-mate'.

MAURA

You're possessing my cat?

NICOLE

It's cool! We all do it.

Maura looks around. A DEER crosses the street, a GHOST in a DEER SUIT next to it. An OWL in tree with an OWL GHOST. A RACCOON eats trash with its RACCOON GHOST.

MAURA

I don't want to date. I'm dead. And just fine being single.

NICOLE

Whatever you were doing when you died, you have to finish to move on. You were on your way to a date: it's your unfinished business. Mine was to visit Utah. Jeff's was to finish law school.

MAURA

Why don't you go to Utah? Why doesn't Jeff finish law school?

OWL GHOST

Who are you, my mom?

NICOLE

I was going to rip off my grandma for Ketamine. Jeff was going to start class action lawsuits.

OWL GHOST

Did you work with asbestos? You may be entitled to a cash settl--

NICOLE

We weren't like you. We weren't good people. If we finish our business we're probably going to Hell-or-whenever, and the Light can't find you if you possess something. But enough about our damnation! You can't flirt your way to Zion looking like that.

Nicole Lucy wave their hand/ paw over Maura. The blood disappears and the life returns to her face.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Bibbidi-bobbidi-bam.

Billy approaches with a new beer. Nicole/ Lucy scuttle away.

BILLY

Hey! You're like your profile.

MAURA

About that: ready to go on a date?

BILLY

You still want to go?

MAURA

It's kinda my unfinished business.

BILLY

Gee. I don't know. It's late. The bar is closed. I don't want to.

MAURA

Then, I'll haunt you. I'm a new ghost but I can learn some scary shit quick. Kids singing.

(MORE)

MAURA (CONT'D)

Blood showers. Couches talking,
where the cushions move like their
mouth, I don't know, you'll hate
it. And you *did* pick the place. If
we met in Silverlake I'd still be
alive.

Billy hangs his head.

MAURA (CONT'D)

I'm just a ghoul haunting a boy
asking him to show her a little
life.

BILLY

You worked on that.

Maura confidently but shakily brings the beer up. It passes
through her and smashes.

MAURA

Did I?

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Billy and Maura outside the restaurant, 'CLOSED' sign lighted. Maura floats through. The door pops open.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Maura enters through the door and tries to open the doorknob. Behind her a moustachioed OLD-TIMEY GHOST reads the paper.

OLD-TIMEY GHOST

If you're looking for Chez Vincent, it's now Gooseberry. If you're looking for Manchego, it's now Chez Vincent which is now Gooseberry. If you're looking for Jamba Juice it's now Manchego which is now--

MAURA

Excuse me, could I have a date here?

OLD-TIMEY GHOST

Jesum Crow, you're a dead one! Why dating the living, Sheba?

MAURA

My unfinished business is to go on a date with him here.

OLD-TIMEY GHOST

Consarnit we can help each other! In 1935 I was beaten to death before I could finish making two vermouth Bearcats. You help me finish that order and I dust outta here!

MAURA

Nobody's ordered that since 1935?

OLD-TIMEY GHOST

Nobody gets the chance. This is LA. Restaurants open and close a lot. A month ago all I could make you was a Razzmatazz.

CUT TO --

Billy and Maura sit at the table.

BILLY

Just say it?

Maura nods.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Two vermouth Bearcats please.

Two cocktails float through the bar and land on the table.

BEAM OF LIGHT
YOU DID IT.

OLD-TIMEY GHOST
I'm coming Clementine!

A beam of light opens behind Old-Timey Ghost and he disappears.

BILLY
Did something cool happen?

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

MAURA
So! Whatcha up to this weekend?

BILLY
I was gonna see a concert. You?

MAURA
Probably just getting buried.

BILLY
Right. You have any siblings?

MAURA
C'mon. I know I'm dead, but it's still a date. You gotta do better than that.

BILLY
Sorry, it's been a while. What did you do for work?

MAURA
Maybe you recognize me.

Maura shows off her wrist.

MAURA (CONT'D)
This baby moved A LOT of Timex/
bracelets/ bengals.

BILLY

Gee whiz! I'm on a date with a model? Anything I would have seen you in?

MAURA

Probably! I was very, very big in the *novelty* modeling industry. Custom scent pepper spray. Anniversary gloves. Hanukkah lingerie. It's why I got into modeling.

BILLY

It is?

MAURA

Totally, totally almost why. Well what do you do?

BILLY

I'm an artist.

MAURA

No shit, what do you art?

BILLY

I used to design murals and installations, even led an airline campaign. Now I paint dogs.

MAURA

Just... dogs?

BILLY

Yeah. Dogs. People like dogs. Who doesn't like dogs?

MAURA

I'm more of a cat person.

Date silence. Oh God. So uncomfortable.

BILLY

What if you died making a stew?

MAURA

Mmmm?

BILLY

You said the waiter had to make these drinks to move on, so if you were making a stew, you would have to finish the stew?

MAURA

How would I die making stew?

BILLY

The Crock pot wiring could start a fire. Expired bouillon. Or heart disease... over time.

OK weirdo. More uncomfortable date silence.

BILLY (CONT'D)

So how long until...?

MAURA

I don't know.

BILLY

Any regrets in life?

MAURA

Excuse me.

INT. RESTAURANT - BATHROOM

Maura flicks the light on after multiple attempts. She gets the faucet on and attempts to splash water on her face. Hands pass through the water. Sighs heavily.

POISONMAURA appears.

POISONMAURA

Ah the men's bathroom. Like we're back at Coachella 2016.

MAURA

With that chainsmoker.

POISONMAURA

Who said he was in The Chainsmokers. Was a good night.

MAURA

So how much small talk and fiesta mix until I can pass on?

POISONMAURA

I thought we were having fun?

The Mauras stick their heads through the wall. Watch Billy scolding a Triscuit.

BILLY
Siblings? You doggone amateur!

They withdraw into the bathroom.

MAURA
Uh yeah. We wanna move on.

POISONMAURA
But to where? Think about it. What were you ACTUALLY doing when you died?

MAURA
Ditching this lame date to meet my ex boy fr-- ohhhhh.

POISONMAURA
You remember why you made me? Risk management. I keep you safe from all the rejections, heartaches... and mistakes. This is THE one. We think moving on will be Coachella. But what if it's Fyre Fest?

Look of fear on Maura's face.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Billy waiting. Looks at his watch. He flashes back to EARLIER in the night when he was waiting at the same table.

BILLY
What am I doing?

Maura comes back.

BILLY (CONT'D)
It's getting kinda late. You must be itching to pass on.

MAURA
No, no let's talk more. You hear that Billie Eilish? Who ordered more Lorde, right?

BILLY
Look, I'm not sure we're a match.

MAURA

I'll level with you. If this date ends, yes, I move on. But I'm not sure it'll be

(indicates up and down)

Heaven-or-somewhere else.

BILLY

I'm sorry, I don't think I was ready to date anyway.

Billy grabs his jacket and walks towards the door.

MAURA

Wait. Last Brownie points. Billy, I ditched you turning around for an ex. That's how I actually died. It was real nice to meet you.

She closes her eyes. Puts her arms out, groaning. Waits. This is taking a second

BILLY

I miss my ex too.

She opens her eyes. Billy is in front of her.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I can date a little longer.

MAURA

Thank you. You saved my afterlife.

BILLY

So we're always on a date? Seeing each other all the time but not in a relationship? How does that work?

MAURA

Aaah it works.

MONTAGE

11A - PICNIC - Billy reads from "36 Questions That Lead To Love".

BILLY

How about this: what, if anything,
is too serious to be joked about?

MAURA

Death. I'm fucking with you!

They laugh, pantomiming dying (noose, knife, decapitation). A dog walker views Billy laughing to 'himself'.

11B - PARK - Billy draws a DOG modeling for him. Maura notices the dog is looking right at her.

MAURA (CONT'D)

Can he see me?

She looks from left to right... at other dogs snarling.

MAURA (CONT'D)

Dogs can see me...and they hate me!

She flees to a tree, saddened. Notices in the grass in front of her a bat, squealing. Looks up... to a swarm of bats circling her, all glee-screaming.

MAURA (CONT'D)

Ok. Scary animals don't hate me.

11C - BILLY'S APARTMENT - Billy looks into a mirror.

BILLY

Maura. Maura. Maura.

Maura appears behind him.

MAURA

What?

BILLY

It worked. I conjured you!

Maura rolls her eyes and leaves.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Maura. Maura. Ma-

MAURA (O.S.)

Don't!

11D - PHOTO BOOTH - Billy and Maura pose three times. All cute. The photo prints: only Billy shows up in it.

11E - DAVE AND BUSTERS - Billy operates a CLAW GAME, aiming for a big BLUE BEAR. Misses his first claw. Then his second. Third.

BILLY

Pardon me.

Billy walks to a corner, takes out a Triscuit and berates it. He collects himself and walks back.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Skeeball?

MAURA

Fun date question: why do you yell at crackers?

BILLY

It's emotional regulation. I yell the negativity I'm feeling into the Triscuit. Eat it. Negativity gone.

MAURA

Is that healthy? The sodium alone.

BILLY

I have some intense feelings. If I don't put them somewhere, I put them in words. Loud words. Words that ended a relationship.

MAURA

Sounds like there's a story there.

BILLY

I never got a chance to fix it.

MAURA

So that's why you're all dog positive and swear like a dad?

Billy nods.

MAURA (CONT'D)

Ok. I'm that Triscuit. Let it out.

BILLY

Really?

MAURA

Nabisc-go for it.

BILLY

Who the eff wins that game? Bob The Builder? The claw so weak. Why does it hold light objects with the strength of buttcheeks?

Maura laughs.

BILLY (CONT'D)

You don't care if I'm miffed?

MAURA

Come on.

Maura and Billy by the Claw Game. Quick cuts of multiple PATRONS dropping the prize.

SERIES OF PATRONS

Goddammit! Sonofabitch! Why would it close then?! There was wind!

MAURA

You don't really have that long to be you. Really you. Take it from me. Be you as long as you can.

LATER

BILLY

C'mon you gosh darn-- damn. Damn. Damned to heck butt made-in-China-wishing-you-were-a-vending-machine-

Billy, in the zone, is punctuating every claw movement with a swear. Every previous participant is around the claw machine, cheering him on. The claw drops and loops around the bear.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Bitch aaaass!

The claw closes. Everyone holds their breath as the claw draws the bear up, out of the other puppets, until it gets to the top: bear still in the claw. Everyone cheers.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

They approach the front door. Billy gets his keys. He drops them trying to unlock the door.

BILLY
Darn. No. Fuck. Fuuuuck.

MAURA
I like cussing Billy.

BILLY
I was kinda scared. To be this me again.

MAURA
We've been dating for a week with absolutely zero breaks, and tonight was the first night I actually liked you.

They attempt to kiss. Billy falls through.

BILLY
Well, good try.

Billy unlocks the door, head hung. He throws the bear on the couch. Maura looks at the bear.

MAURA (FLASHBACK O.S.)
You're possessing my cat?

NICOLE (FLASHBACK O.S.)
It's cool! We all do it.

Her eyebrows raise.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Billy flops on the bed, about to take off his shoes.

MAURA (O.S.)

Where were we?

In the DOORWAY stands the Teddy Bear. It crawls onto the bed and pins him down.

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

Am I hurting you?

Billy spins the bear over.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Billy and the Bear lay under the covers, Billy spitting some fuzz out of his mouth.

BILLY

Can I ask you something?

Maura rises out of the bear.

MAURA

Yes. Fine. I was made in China.

BILLY

If you could model anything, what would you model?

MAURA

A backpack.

BILLY

A backpack? Not, like, Fiji?

MAURA

When I was eight we moved. I was so worried about being cool, and the coolest girl at my old school, Missy Dehringer, had this Polly Pocket backpack I liked. I figured it worked for her? We were in line to pay. Then I saw another backpack. Hideous, forest green. But the tag had this model walking a high wire. It caught me. Not the high wire. That was confusing. But the model looked so BRAVE. It made me feel like I could do anything with this backpack. First day of new school: I walked up to a girl gang and met my best friend. I wasn't shy. I always thought it was cool modeling helped me like that.

BILLY

Did you ever get to model one?

MAURA

There was a Jansport gig, but I wasn't right for it. I did do a travel cup. It was spill-proof. So I helped someone. With spills.

EXT. BILLY'S APARTMENT ROOF - LATER

An OWL GHOST and an OWL in a tree. Maura and PoisonMaura watches it.

POISONMAURA

Could you do that?

MAURA

Good hours. Sleep all day. I'd finally have perfect eyeliner.

POISONMAURA

I was just protecting you. Can you imagine how bad it would have felt to audition for your dream job and not get it?

MAURA

Yeah. I know.

POISONMAURA

Y'know, eventually the Light is going to decide this date is over.

MAURA

Well what's your idea? Possess some opossum?

POISONMAURA

(motions inside)

What about an o-boy?

MAURA

No! I can't possess Billy. He has a life.

POISONMAURA

No he doesn't. He's a dog artist!

MAURA

He's a person.

Inside, Billy spills cereal all over his belly.

POISONMAURA

He's our spill-proof cup. It's not what we want, but it won't spill us into hell-or-wherever.

MAURA

There's got to be another way.

EXT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Billy wakes, walks to the window. On the lawn, Maura is practicing possessing a RAT. Dressed in RAT COSTUME, she and the Rat knock a Chinese food box from the trash.

Billy looks over her. Sees an LED billboard. His face lights up. Outside Maura eats rice in sync with the rat.

EXT. PARK LAKE - DAY

Billy and Maura in the middle of the lake, SWAN BOAT spinning. An opposing boat passes them, giving 'um?' looks.

BILLY

Do you have to wear the life vest?
People are staring.

MAURA

I don't know if I can swim! I could
fall and haunt the deep forever.
Safety rules are safety tools.

BILLY

Could you at least help pedal?

MAURA

It's taking all my energy to wear
the life vest.

BILLY

You had enough energy to possess
that rat.

MAURA

Oh, you saw that... just
practicing.

BILLY

Nice, nice, cool. Does that mean
you want to stick around?

MAURA

I don't know. We haven't had the
talk.

BILLY

You should meet my parents. They're always asking when I'm going to bring home a nice Jewish stuffed animal.

MAURA

I need a host! Don't body-shame me. I have no body.

BILLY

Sorry, bad joke. What do you want?

MAURA

I don't know! I miss having a body, even a body that eats trash. Are we living together because I'm haunting you or because you want to? What's our future? Do you want kids because I can't have them!

BILLY (CONT'D)

Ok.
Yeah.
Ok.
Look.
Ok.
...
Maura... Maura. Maura!

She disappears.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I didn't mean to ... Oh. Are you mad? Maura. Maura. Maura.

Maura reappears.

BILLY (CONT'D)

You're mad.

MAURA

Do you want me to stay?

BILLY

I-- uh-- y'know--

MAURA

No. I don't.

Billy hangs his head.

BILLY

I don't know.

MAURA

Maybe your girlfriend didn't leave because of your 'intense' feelings. Maybe because that's all you showed her. That was when you're supposed to tell me how you feel.

(MORE)

MAURA (CONT'D)
(Or do I have to be a freakin'
wheat thin?)
Maura. Maura. Maura.

She disappears. Billy alone on a paddle boat.

BILLY
She can do that?

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

Maura walks alone. A DOG and DOG GHOST pass, giving a 'Boo'
pronounced like "Yo".

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Billy arrives home.

BILLY
Maura?

No response. He sits on the bed.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - ROOF - NIGHT

Maura stares out at the night. PoisonMaura by her side.

MAURA
I could still be a ra--

The OWL/ OWL PERSON swoops down and picks up the rat. Maura
sighs and looks into Billy's window: OH FUCK. HE'S ON TINDER.

POISONMAURA
It's over.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING

Billy (from back) rises. Gets up, scratching self.

BILLY
Maura? I want to talk about
yesterday. Where are you?

MAURA (O.S.)
I'm here.

BILLY
Where?

Her voice forces Billy to the mirror: where Billy sees
Maura's face reflected back at him.

MAURA
In you.

Billy is now outside his body, next to MAURA-FACED-Billy.

BILLY
WHAT! Give me back!

MAURA
Sorry, I'm not going to hell
because you don't want to be rats
with benefits. God this feels so
good again. I want to run!

EXT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

MAURA-FACED-Billy runs out the front door, keeps running.

MAURA
The ground is so solid. Was it
always this solid? It's so solid.

Billy tears across the street.

MAURA (CONT'D)
The sidewalk is even more solid. It
never ends!

BILLY
Stop saying solid with my mouth! I
wasn't going to end the date.

MAURA
Please. I heard what you had to say
on the lake.

(MORE)

MAURA (CONT'D)
It's not like our only difference
is I'm a Libra and you're a-live.

BILLY
Wait! Turn here. I have something
to show you.

MAURA
Not how possession works.

Maura turns up the street in the opposite direction.

BILLY
Reach into my jacket!

She pulls out the bag of Triscuits.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Dump them out! That relationship I
couldn't fix: she died after she
broke up with me. I blamed my
temper, but I never told her how
much I loved her. I don't want to
do that again. I care about you and
if you feel anything too go up one
block.

EXT. CEMETERY - CONTINUOUS

Maura reaches the end of a neighborhood street: the entrance
to a cemetery. She walks through a field of headstones. She
passes two MOURNERS crying and laying flowers at a grave.

MAURA
What am I supposed to care abou-

She sees a BILLBOARD reading: "YOUR AMBITIONS DIE TOO. DON'T
TEXT AND DRIVE", next to a Tinder PHOTO of Maura.

MOURNER 1
She's so pretty. Not just her
hands. What a shame.

MOURNER 2
I'm going to hold off before I text
and drive. It can wait. Til after
culinary school.

Maura DEPARTS Billy's body. He falls to the ground.

BILLY
It's not a backpack, but billboards
are still an effective medium.

MAURA
That's me. Up there. Helping.

The BEAM OF LIGHT shines down.

BEAM OF LIGHT
YOU DID IT.

BILLY
No! I still don't know how many
siblings she has.

Maura sees Lucy and Nicole in the background.

NICOLE
Hiiiiiii.

MAURA
Hey!

BILLY
Who is it? An angel? A demon?

MAURA
A cat.

Maura walks towards Nicole, the light following.

MAURA (CONT'D)
What the hell? I thought I wouldn't
pass on until I finished the date.

NICOLE
So, actually, it's not so much
unfinished business as it is an
unfinished 'revelation'. Or post-
mortum self-care. Whatever.

MAURA
My God. My unfinished business
wasn't to date. It was for me to
see... how hot I always was.

BEAM OF LIGHT
NOOO.

MAURA
To learn... billboards are still an
affective medium.

BEAM OF LIGHT
NOOO.

Maura looks at the billboard.

MAURA

That I shouldn't have doubted
myself. I was enough.

BEAM OF LIGHT

YEEESSSSSS.

MAURA

So why did you tell me to date
Billy?

NICOLE

I kiiind of used you to give my ex
a rebound. Sorryyy.

MAURA

Wait, you're his ex? That ex? What?
Did Jeff even attend law school?

NICOLE

After I died, I was sure I was
still here because I hadn't told
him why I really ended us. But
Billy couldn't see me! I tried over
and over to make contact.

EXT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Billy sleeping. Nicole outside his window.

NICOLE

Be more forthcooooooming with your
emooooootions.

BILLY

Must be the wind.

EXT. CROSS STREET - CONTINUOUS

NICOLE

But he wasn't getting it. Then he could see you! I thought you were my chance to fix him by forcing you to date.

Now I know why he can't see me. It wasn't my unfinished business to change him. Only he can do that.

MAURA

Wow. Now you can move on too.

NICOLE

No, Utah was real. I'm off to scare my grandma into rehab.

Nicole runs away. Maura returns to Billy.

MAURA

I think Nicole forgives you.

BILLY

Oh my God. You saw her?

MAURA

Yeah. You have a type.

Maura is dragged backward by the Light. PoisonMaura appears.

POISONMAURA

Save us! Re-possess him!

MAURA

No.

BILLY

Yeah, no! Who are we talking to?

POISONMAURA

We're about to be sent to hell or eternal night or a party where you just know the host and they're really busy greeting everyone else. Get in him!

MAURA

I don't do anything. I want to backpack model, or date someone new, or pass on to the next realm of existence/ leave this real for another. No. No. No.

POISONMAURA

I spared you from all that pain and rejection--

MAURA

He didn't reject us! We took his body, and he put us on a billboard.

BILLY

That was before.

MAURA

Come on woman, believe in that. Believe in us.

PoisonMaura eyes the billboard. Back to Maura. She walks into the Light and is absorbed.

Billy moves into her beam of light. They kiss for real.

BILLY

I wish this wasn't it.

MAURA

Maybe it doesn't have to be.

BILLY

How?

Maura pantomimes hanging, shooting herself, taking pills.

MAURA

But no pressure.

BILLY

But you just gave me something to live for.

MAURA

AND something to die for.

Maura winks and fades into the light.

EXT. STREET - DAY

TITLE: TWO MONTHS LATER

A can of spray paint drops on the ground. Billy takes a step back, craning up. It's a cool mural that is not of dogs.

His phone dings. He takes it out to look at it: a new dating match!

BILLY

Hi there Stephanie.

A wind blows. A paint can dangling on top of the ladder swings... above Billy's head. He doesn't notice.

MAURA (O.S.)

Billy... Billy....

Billy kind of hears it. He takes a step forward to look up... right as the paint can smashes down where he was. He jumps back, and then looks towards the sky.

BILLY

Thanks.

He grabs two cans of paint and walks towards his car. The wind kicks back up rustling the ladder.

MAURA (O.S.)

Billy!

The wind pushes the ladder hard. Billy spins around just in time to see it land on top of him. Killing him instantly.

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

Yessssss.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.