

Deafening Silence

By

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INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The modern-looking classroom is brightly lit from the large windows on the one wall. There are computers that line up against each wall, with three large tables pushed together to form a larger table in the center of the room.

Eight students are sitting around the table and listening to their professor speak. The professor is speaking passionately about his lesson. Some are eager to listen to what he has to say, while others are simply waiting to get out of the class and get on with their day.

One student looks about the class to see if anyone is even paying attention, and notices Caleb to be spacing out.

PROFESSOR

Alright class, that will be it for today. See you next week!

The students begin to leave. Caleb still sits in his seat, looking to be daydreaming. The student approaches Caleb.

STUDENT

Hey Caleb, you doing alright? You seem a little out of it.

Caleb wipes his face, seeming a little flustered.

CALEB

Yeah, yeah, I'm fine. I'm just tired is all.

Caleb stands up from his seat and begins to walk away and puts on his headphones.

The student watches him walk away with a face of worry for him, but she feels that there is nothing she can do for him.

EXT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Caleb approaches the small coffee shop outside the classroom to get a drink. There is one girl in front of him, who was in his last class. After the girl gets her coffee, she turns around only to accidentally spill it onto Caleb.

GIRL

Oh my god! I am so sorry Caleb!

The girl hurries to grab some napkins and gives them to Caleb. Caleb is wincing in pain.

GIRL

Are you alright? I'm so sorry.

Caleb is trying to hold back the pain he is in, appearing to be fine.

CALEB

Yeah, yeah, I'm fine. Don't worry about it.

The girl feels guilty and stands there as he buys his drink and leaves. He bid her a goodbye as he does.

INT. FLAT - DAY

Caleb enters the flat, headphones on and listening to music. Caleb goes to the kitchen, looking for food. The kitchen is empty apart from the food in the cabinets and fridge, along with plates and silverware drying on the rack. As he checks the cabinets, Caleb only shakes his head and closes the cabinet door.

He proceeds to the lounge and jumps to and on the couch lying down. After some time, he begins to doze off. His phone dies in his hand.

INT. FLAT - NIGHT

FLASHBACK

Jon approaches the flat door. Caleb opens.

JON

Hey! You ready to go?

Caleb nods

CALEB

Yeah let's go.

Jon pumps his fist into the air.

JON

This night is gonna be great!

FLASHBACK END

INT. FLAT - DAY

Caleb snaps out of his daze. Shaking his head, he begins to sit up on the couch. Caleb sits pondering, when, from the corner of his eye, he hallucinates his friend, Jon.

Jon is sitting on the couch next to Caleb. He has not paid notice to Caleb, and is scrolling through his phone. Caleb blinks his eyes in disbelief and, opening his eyes again, Jon is no longer there.

Caleb rushes over to the restroom. He turns on the sink to wash his face. After washing his face, he stares into the mirror, heavily breathing, wondering what is happening to him.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Caleb begins recording audio on his phone, pacing back and forth in his bedroom. His voice sounds distressed.

CALEB (V.O.)
I don't know how much longer I can
take this. It's starting to get to me.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

FLASHBACK

The bar is a small, but comfortable, area. There are only a handful of tables with just as many people sitting at them.

Caleb and Jon are sitting in a booth together across from the bartender. Both of them have a tall pint in front of them, but Jon has a few more empty glasses that Caleb does.

Jon and Caleb have a good time, laughing and talking among themselves.

FLASHBACK END

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT.)
I can't sleep; I can't eat. This is
all my fault. I can't believe I let
this happen.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

FLASHBACK

Jon has his arm wrapped around Caleb. He circles his finger

in the air, looking at the bartender.

JON
Hey! Let's get another round over
here!

FLASHBACK END

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT.)
I didn't think he was that drunk! I
was his friend and I should have been
there with him.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

FLASHBACK

Caleb and Jon exit the bar. As Caleb begins to walk in one direction, Jon stops him. They stand under the light of a street lamp.

JON
Hey, Nate hit me up and asked if we
want to meet them.

CALEB
I don't know. It's already pretty
late, and I'm getting tired.

JON
Alright, you can go home. I'm still
gonna meet them, though.

CALEB
You sure? You've had a number of
drinks.

JON
Nah, man. I'm good. I feel fine.

CALEB
Alright, I'll see you tomorrow, then.

JON
See yah!

Caleb and Jon walk into separate directions into the dark.

FLASHBACK END

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT.)
But no, I left him. I left him alone
and now he's gone. I don't know what to
do with myself. I just don't know. It
should've been me. I should've been
the one found dead, not Jon.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

FLASHBACK

Caleb enters the classroom to notice all of the other students gathered around a single computer. As he approaches them, he sees that they are looking at a news article online. It reads "College student, 20, found dead on campus after night of binge drinking." Realizing what had happened, Caleb has a sick feeling in his stomach, and a look of horror on his face.

FLASHBACK END

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT.)
If I had any chance to switch
positions with him I'd do it in a
heartbeat.

Caleb pauses

CALEB (V.O.) (CONT.)
Ah crap, it's getting pretty late.
Might as well see if I can get some
sleep tonight.