

THE RAREST THING
EP.22 - HERO

Written by

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INT. JASMINE'S RENTAL APARTMENT - DAY

We slow pan across the living room of the small studio apartment that Jasmine is renting now. The apartment is sparsely furnished, and there are unpacked BOXES around the place ad hoc.

JASMINE is sitting on the couch, looking through a TRAVEL MAGAZINE. We see her circling articles and places she's interested in.

After a few beats, we hear a knock at the door. Jasmine looks up and frowns. She's not expecting anyone.

She stands and walks over to the door. She opens it, revealing ASH standing there.

ASHLEY
(hopefully)
Hey.

Jasmine's first instinct is rage... but she forces calm on herself... takes a deep breath. After a beat:

JASMINE
(neutrally)
Hey.

ASHLEY
I know that I'm the last person you want to see, so I won't stay long. But I had to come... because I need to say goodbye.

Jasmine is surprised but she tries to hide it.

JASMINE
Goodbye?

Ashley nods. After a beat of silence, she steps aside from the door and reluctantly waves Ashley in.

Ashley nods appreciatively, and walks in. She looks around at the apartment.

ASHLEY
This place is cute.

Jasmine closes the door, and then turns to face Ashley, crossing her arms defensively. Ash sighs.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
I've made a decision. I'm moving interstate.

Jasmine's curiosity is piqued, much to her own irritation. After a beat, she sighs.

JASMINE
 Okay, I'll bite.
 (beat)
 Why?

Ashley shrugs.

ASHLEY
 Seems like the only thing to do, to
 be honest.

Jasmine stares coldly at her.

JASMINE
 What about... him?

Ashley looks momentarily confused.

ASHLEY
 Him?
 (beat)
 You mean Log--

Jasmine raises an irritated finger silencing her.

JASMINE
 He who shall not be named.

Ashley laughs a little, and then shakes her head.

ASHLEY
 I'm not seeing him, Jazzy.

Jasmine looks slightly relieved, although she tries to hide it.

JASMINE
 (coldly)
 None of my business if you were.
 (couple of beats)
 So... you said you were here to say
 goodbye.

Ash sighs and nods.

ASHLEY
 Yes...

She reaches into her handbag and pulls out a GIFT. It is wrapped in paper with a bow. It is flat and rectangular.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
...And to give you this.

She hands it to Jasmine. Jasmine takes it and looks at it with a frown.

After a few beats of silence, Ashley sighs.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
You don't have to open it now.
(beat)
I'm going to go.

Jasmine looks at her... she wants to say something, but wants to be strong as well.

JASMINE
Okay.

Ashley grunts a sad little laugh.

ASHLEY
Goodbye, Jazzy.

She turns and begins walking to the door. After a few steps, she stops and turns back to Jasmine.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
You know... I get that you want to blame me for everything. And the thing with Logan? That's fair enough. I fucked up. I was the worst possible friend. And I will always regret that.
(beat)
But the whole thing with you going to jail... I know you blame me for that as well. But that's not fair.

Jasmine just stares at her silently. She's conflicted.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
You wanted to be the savior... the good guy. You wanted to play the hero. I NEVER asked that of you. I never expected it. And now... after it's all turned to shit, you've decided that the hero isn't actually the role for you at all. You want to be the martyr.
(beat)
Hero... martyr... be whatever you want, Jaz. Just own your shit.

She turns and walks towards the door. As she reaches it.

JASMINE

You're right.

Ashley stops and turns around in surprise.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

I've been quick to blame people for everything that's happened to me over the last few months. I've blamed you, I've blamed Logan. But this was always more than just the two of you... it all had as much to do with me as it did with you. And him.

(beat)

You and I can never be friends again, Ash. But I don't blame you alone for that. I blame myself equally. And I'm sorry. I just... hope we can both move on and find happiness.

Ashley grunts an incredulous laugh and shakes her head.

ASHLEY

Sweetie... sometimes I just want to punch you in your stupid, Pollyanna face.

She turns and exits.

Jasmine watches the empty doorway in silence. After a few beats, she begins opening the gift that Ashley gave her.

It is revealed to be a FRAMED PHOTO of her, and Ashley when they were much younger... when Ashley was still "Ashton".

Jasmine looks at it quietly for a few moments, and then walks over to the GARBAGE BIN and throws it in.