

The grandfather clock reads 9:30pm. The room is festive under streamers wishing Sam luck at Penn State. The kids sign each other's yearbooks. Charlie sees Sam smile at old photos. He misses her already.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

At her going away party, I wanted her to know about that night we went through the tunnel. And how for the first time, I felt like I belonged somewhere.

CUT TO:**147 INT. SAM AND PATRICK'S KITCHEN LIVING ROOM - LATER****147**

10:28pm. Charlie doesn't know where the time keeps going. Sam opens goodbye presents from her friends.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

And tomorrow, she's leaving. So, I wanted to give her a part of me.

Charlie watches Sam pick up his present. She carefully peels the tape to reveal that Charlie gave her all of his books.

SAM

Are these all your books, Charlie?

She nods. They lock eyes and do not speak.

148 INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**148**

The pictures are down. The dressers empty. The suitcase is open on the bed. Charlie watches Sam fold clothes and put them in her suitcase. He has promised himself he will not cry. Even when she packs away his Beatles 45 of "Something."

Instead, he looks at her and tries to remember every detail. Her hair and brown eyes and sound of her voice.

SAM

Thanks for staying up with me.

CHARLIE

Sure. My brother said Penn State has a restaurant called Ye Olde College Diner. You have to get a grilled stickie on your first night. It's a tradition.

SAM

That sounds like fun.

CHARLIE

Yeah. Pretty soon, you'll have a whole new group of friends, and you won't even think about this place anymore.

SAM

Yes, I will.

Sam moves some suitcases over to the pile in the room. They stand next to each other. Close.

SAM (CONT'D)

I had lunch with Craig today.

CHARLIE

Yeah?

SAM

He said he was sorry, and that I was right to break up with him. But I'm driving away, and I just felt so small. Just asking myself why do I and everyone I love pick people who treat us like we're nothing?

CHARLIE

We accept the love we think we deserve.

He says it sober. Without judgement. Sam lets it sink in. Charlie walks over to the bed to do more packing. Then, she turns to him.

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SAM

Then, why didn't you ever ask me out?

Charlie didn't expect that. He is silent. Heart pounding.

CHARLIE

I, uh, I just didn't think you wanted that.

SAM

Well, what did you want?

CHARLIE

I just want you to be happy.

SAM

Don't you get it, Charlie? I can't feel that. It's really sweet and everything, but you can't just sit there and put everybody's lives ahead of yours and think that counts as love. I don't want to be somebody's crush. I want people to like the real me.

CHARLIE

I know who you are, Sam.

Sam waits. And Charlie finally speaks from the heart.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I know I'm quiet, and I know I should speak more, but if you knew the things that were in my head most of the time, you'd know what it really meant. How much we are alike. And how we've been through the same things. And you're not small. You're beautiful.

He can't contain himself anymore. He moves to her and kisses her. They stand. Move to the bed. Kissing. Charlie's heart pounds. They sit on the bed. Still kissing.

We see her fingertips. Her hand on Charlie's knee. When she touches him, Charlie pulls away from her. Shocked. Like he's seen a ghost. It hits Charlie like freezing water.

SAM

What's wrong, Charlie?

CHARLIE

Oh, ah... nothing.

Charlie shakes off whatever was bothering him and continues

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149 EXT. SAM AND PATRICK'S HOUSE - MORNING

149

It's like a dream for Charlie. He watches Sam hug Alice and Mary Elizabeth goodbye. But Charlie is somewhere else.

SAM

I'll call all the time.

MARY ELIZABETH

Promise.

SAM

And we'll all see each other in New York.

SAM'S MOM

Come on, Sam.

Charlie can't take it. He moves to the side of the truck and puts in the last suitcase. He looks over at Sam.