

INTO ME YOU SEE

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INT. BAR - EVENING

EZRA (early 20s) sits at the bar in a warmly lit pub next to his boyfriend, LUCA (early 20s). They sit along from three friends, whom Ezra is engaged in a boisterous conversation with. Each person has a drink: Ezra a glass of white wine and Luca a pint of beer.

Luca watches Ezra as he talks, following the movements of his lips and the gestures of his hands. Luca's eyes reflect his deep love of and admiration for Ezra. He smiles as Ezra laughs at a joke and his eyes flick over to Luca.

EZRA

You OK?

LUCA

I love you.

Ezra smiles and gently places a hand on Luca's, interlocking their fingers.

EZRA

I love you too.

The eye-contact lingers for a second, before Ezra turns back to face the group, releasing his hand and rejoining the conversation. Luca, again, watches Ezra's hands.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BAR - EVENING

We still focus on Ezra's hands as they wave goodbye to their friends, as he and Luca stand outside the pub.

EZRA

Ready?

Luca nods and holds his hand out to Ezra, who takes it. He pulls Ezra in and kisses him on the cheek. Ezra feigns shock and pulls his hand away from Luca to cover his cheek.

EZRA (CONT'D)

(Jokingly)

What the fuck!

LUCA

Sorry, I had to!

EZRA

How dare you!

Luca laughs and starts down the street.

EZRA (CONT'D)
Come back dickhead!

Ezra runs after him, laughing. He follows as Luca turns down an alleyway off the main street. Luca stands in the centre of the alleyway, catching his breath.

EZRA (CONT'D)
What's this?

Luca takes Ezra's hand and assertively pushes him up against the brick wall, pressing their bodies together. Passionately, Luca kisses Ezra, resting one hand on the wall next to Ezra's head, and the other on his waist.

Slowly, Luca's kisses travel down to Ezra's neck, revealing his blank expression.

Ezra's empty eyes stare at nothing and his body is rigid under Luca's touch.

INTERCUTTING BEGINS

We intercut between the alleyway and a nightmarish vision. Ezra stands alone in an empty room with dark walls, bathed in a strong red light. Grizzles, charred hands grope and scratch his body as he stands motionless.

The hands scrape Ezra's clothes and skin in synchrony with Luca's tender but firm touch.

One hand finds its way under Ezra's t-shirt and scratches his back, drawing blood. He jerks at the sudden pain.

INTERCUTTING ENDS

Finally, Ezra snaps and pushes Luca off, breathing heavily. Luca wipes his mouth and collects himself.

LUCA
Whoa, what hap- are you OK? Did I bite you?

Ezra says nothing and his eyes bore into Luca's hands. Studying Ezra's face, Luca understands what's happened.

LUCA (CONT'D)
Fuck. I thought... you know... you were fine, 'cause...

Luca takes a step towards Ezra and raises his hand slightly, Ezra flinches and backs into the wall. Luca's hand pauses and retreats back to his side. He sighs.

LUCA (CONT'D)

Ezra please, I... I misread. I'm sorry.

Ezra's eyes break away from Luca's hands and meet his face. He takes a second, breaths, and gently smiles.

EZRA

It's OK. I just... I just wasn't ready.

INT. LUCA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Luca lifts the record player's needle and gently places it on the spinning record. An airy tune plays from its speakers.

Ezra lounges on Luca's ottoman and Luca joins him, lifting Ezra's legs to lay his feet on his lap. On the coffee table sits an empty bottle of wine and two half-empty glasses. Ezra listens intently as Luca reads *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin.

Ezra watches Luca's eyes study the page, and his lips shaping the words.

LUCA

(Reading)

...and we kissed, as it were, by accident. Then, for the first time in my life, I was really aware of another person's body, of another person's smell.

Ezra's eyes flick to Luca's hands on the back of the book, taking in the slightest twitch of his fingers.

LUCA (CONT'D)

I was very frightened, I am sure he was frightened too, and we shut our eyes. To remember it so...

Luca's words fade out but his lips continue to move. Ezra glances down at his own hands and then back up to Luca's face.

Luca flips the page and his eyes flick up to Ezra. Their eyes meet for a second before Luca's return to the page.

Ezra watches Luca's eyes, his nose, his lips. The sharp curve of his jaw. Ezra's eyes move down to his neck, noticing the way his Adam's apple moves up and down as he speaks. The soft skin on his neck. His collarbone. Back up to his lips.

Luca's voice fades back in.

LUCA (CONT'D)

...we gave each other joy that night. It seemed, then, that a lifetime would not be long enough for me to act with Joey the act of love.

Reaching the end of the paragraph, Luca looks up and sees Ezra watching his lips. He smiles. Ezra smile too. They meet eyes and hold eye-contact.

Ezra takes a breath and shuffles around, softly resting his head in Luca's lap, who looks down at him.

Luca tentatively touches his head, stroking his hair. Ezra smiles and nuzzles into Luca's hand.

Ezra reaches up and strokes the side of Luca's face. Their eyes meet, and Luca cautiously takes Ezra's hand off his cheek and kisses his palm. As Luca pulls away, Ezra sits up on his knees and kisses Luca. He smiles. Luka smiles too.

Ezra straddles Luca as they continue to kiss passionately. Luca slides his hand across Ezra's body to his back, pulling him closer. Ezra's back slightly arches at Luca's touch. He lifts his head, allowing Luca access to his neck. As if on command, Luca kisses his neck as Ezra smiles and exhales softly.

The pair lock eyes and Luca swings his legs round to the floor, lifting Ezra as he wraps his legs around Luca's waist. Ezra laughs.

INT. LUCA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Luca gently lays Ezra down on the bed.

He kisses Ezra, and smiles. Ezra shuffles his head out from under Luca.

EZRA

(Smiling)

What are you laughing at?

Luca doesn't reply but kisses Ezra again, this time, moving down his body, finishing at the top of his trousers. He looks up at Ezra, who nods hesitantly. Gently, Luca begins to undo the button on Ezra's trousers.

INTERCUTTING BEGINS

Suddenly, the vision reappears. The gnarly hands scratch down Ezra's torso, following the path of Luca's lips.

There seems to be more hands than before, as they continue to multiple, forcing Ezra all over his body and he stands motionless.

One hand scratches his face, as another reopens the wound on his back.

The hands don't stop: the blood stains his t-shirt and covers the hands as they begin to rip the fabric.

INTERCUTTING ENDS

Suddenly, the lightbulb pops and goes out. The room is flooded with a red light: the same as in the nightmare.

Ezra shoves Luca off and scuffles off the bed, pulling up his trousers and re-doing the button. He looks around in panic, and briefly glancing back at Luca, they lock eyes. After a beat, Ezra's scrambles out of the room.

INT. LUCA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Ezra stares blankly at himself in the mirror. He gently touches his back and winces, though, bringing his hand back around, he sees no blood.

After a second, Luca talks through the door.

LUCA (O.S.)

Ezra?

Ezra stares at his hand in silence.

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

Ezra? Please?

Nothing.

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

Ezra. I love you.

There is a pause.

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

Please let me love you.

EZRA
(Still looking at his
hands)
I can't.

Luca is silent.

Ezra turns and opens the door. The pair look at each other. After a beat, Ezra steps through the doorway. Luca gives him a hug, but Ezra doesn't stop. He stays frozen as Luca pulls away. Ezra looks at him.

EZRA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

Ezra steps towards Luca, and Luca takes a shaky breath as he stands to the side, clearing the way.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Ezra walks away from Luca's flat. He gets part way down the street before he turns back to the building. He sees Luca watching him from the living room window. The next window over - the bedroom - is still bathed in the red light.

Ezra turns and walks away.