

One Day I Woke Up

Written By

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FADE IN:

EXT. A BAR - BACK PORCH - NIGHT

The scene opens with a woman looking to be in her mid-twenties leaning against the railing of a back porch overlooking a lake, smoking a cigarette. The porch is icy and covered in snow. Another woman opens the sliding glass door and walks out.

RAE

Hey, what are you doing out here?

VANESSA

Smoking a cigarette.

Rae walks up and settles in next to Vanessa.

RAE

Well, I can see that. I mean, WHY are you out here smoking a cigarette?

VANESSA

Because I wanted to.

RAE

Ah. So that's how it is today?

VANESSA

Yeah.

Rae takes the cigarette out of Vanessa's hand and takes a drag. They sit in silence for a minute. Not the awkward kind. After passing the cigarette back and forth for a bit, Vanessa speaks up.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

I just don't get why he'd bring her here out of all places. Doesn't he know how fucked up that is? Like I support him for years and he throws it back in my face like this. It's just so frustrating.

RAE

He knows. It's on purpose.

Vanessa lowers her head.

VANESSA

Yeah.

RAE
C'mon, he was a bum anyway. Nothing
to miss.

Vanessa shakes her head and pushes away from the railing.

VANESSA
It's not about that.

She pauses.

VANESSA (CONT'D)
I didn't care that he was a bum. It
was always about who I perceived him
to be. I felt loved by him, I trusted
him, because I thought I could. Then
he-

Vanessa cuts herself off and goes silent.

RAE
I know. I'm sorry.

VANESSA
Don't be. My fault. I should've left
him sooner. You know how it is though.
You spend so long supporting and
defending this person, it feels like
you can't stop.

RAE
Sunk-cost fallacy.

VANESSA
Exactly! I just wanted things to work
out so badly, for it all to not have
been a waste of my time. So I
pretended things could be okay, that
things would get better.

Rae takes one last drag then puts the cig out. She turns to
Vanessa.

RAE
Maybe this is insensitive, but I wish
people would stop thinking of love as
something that could be a waste, even
if it doesn't work out.

She walks down the porch steps heading towards the lake,
beckoning Vanessa to follow; she does.

RAE (CONT'D)

One time there was this girl. I was so utterly in love with her I'm almost certain she could've killed someone with her bare hands, and I would've watched in awe.

Vanessa laughs.

RAE (CONT'D)

You think I'm joking, but I swear there was nothing I wouldn't have done for her. I was mesmerized. She would make my bed just the way I like it, with the soft side up and the tag at the bottom. She would peel my oranges because I hated the way they felt and how the smell would stick. She would always keep a hand warmer on her in the winter because I would always insist I didn't need gloves, but of course I did.

VANESSA

You were always stubborn.

RAE

Yeah.

They reach the lake and stop, just taking in the scene. Their icy breath being the only thing they could hear.

VANESSA

So what happened? It sounds like she was awfully sweet.

RAE

One day I woke up. I thought about our future, and I couldn't see it.

As sweet as she was, there were things she could never fully let go of, and I couldn't live like that anymore. She couldn't grow, and that's all I was doing.

It really wasn't anything she did; I had just changed. Sometimes love doesn't fall apart because of some evil thing or tragic event. Things just happen.

VANESSA

That's a different scenario though. My ex did do something awful. It's different.

RAE

Is it? Why'd you break up with him? Because it wasn't when you found out.

Vanessa goes quiet for a moment, thinking.

VANESSA

One day I just woke up, and I couldn't handle the weight of it anymore. I couldn't see a future.

RAE

Exactly.

VANESSA

It's still different.

RAE

Maybe. Maybe not. You learned your limit. I think learning is loving and learning is never a waste, so how can loving be?

The question hangs there.

CUT TO BLACK