

TRANCE

Written by

Will Bird

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Draft
#2

william.bird@edu.sait.ca

INT. LEO'S APARTMENT - MORNING

The dark bedroom has several movie posters on the wall. LEO (23) is half covered by his thick blanket, snoring softly, his short hair stuck up at all angles.

An ALARM BLARES from his phone on the table beside his bed. Leo slowly wakes and opens his eyes. He reaches over and blindly slaps his phone twice, turning the alarm off. After a moment, Leo heavily sighs and sits up, begrudgingly.

TRANCE

INT. LEO'S DINING ROOM - MORNING

Leo sits at his dining table and stares into the middle distance as he sips his coffee. He is wearing his pajamas. Leo brings a buttered bagel to his mouth and bites off a chunk as he stares at a dying potted plant in the corner of the dining room.

INT. LEO'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Leo takes a shower then brushes his teeth, wearing a towel around his waist. He opens a canister of hair gel, which he finds is empty. Leo sighs and walks out of the bathroom, tossing the canister into the garbage.

EXT. OUTSIDE LEO'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Leo walks down the sidewalk outside his apartment, wearing a baseball cap, thin jacket, jeans, and canvas shoes. He walks to a bus stop and takes his earbuds out of his pocket and puts them in his ears. Leo pulls out his phone and taps a few times.

CUE MUSIC: "Claire De Lune" By Charles Debussy.

INT. CITY BUS - MORNING

Leo sits on the bus, staring into the middle distance once again. After a moment, Leo looks to his left and notices SAMANTHA (24) in a seat across the bus. Samantha is wearing a leather jacket and a striped blouse with jeans. Samantha glances up at Leo. Leo quickly averts his eyes, pretending he was looking at an advertisement on the bus. Samantha looks down at her phone.

INT. UNIVERSITY - MORNING

The City bus pulls up to a bus stop. Leo steps out of the bus, followed by Samantha. They both continue to walk the same direction, through the university grounds, down a path through an area between two buildings. They eventually part at a small fork in the path.

INT. UNIVERSITY LECTURE HALL - NOON

Leo sits in a packed university lecture hall. The blackboard at the front of the lecture hall has several diagrams of chemical bonds and compounds. A pen in his hands, doodling in the margins of his notebook.

INT. CITY BUS - MORNING

Leo sits on the bus in the same spot, in a different outfit. Leo is listening to music and staring into the middle distance again. The bus pulls to a stop and Samantha gets on, then walks in and sits in the same seat she was in. Leo glances at her. Samantha pulls out her phone and looks at it. Leo pulls out his notebook and pen, and begins to draw a sunset. Leo pauses, then flips over to a new page and begins to sketch Samantha. He tries to capture her mannerisms. The bus approaches the University. Leo looks at the drawing and closes the notebook, then stands up.

EXT. UNIVERSITY BUS STOP - AFTERNOON

Leo and Samantha are standing separate, waiting for the bus. Leo looks down at his trembling hand and clenches his fist. Leo looks up at Samantha.

The music continues, their conversation is inaudible.

LEO
(Nervous)
Hello.

Samantha looks up at Leo and takes her earbuds out.

SAMANTHA
Pardon?

LEO
I noticed that we take the same bus
most days.

SAMANTHA
I noticed too.

Leo offers his hand to Samantha to shake.

LEO

I'm Leo.

Samantha shakes Leo's hand

SAMANTHA

Samantha. Sam.

Leo politely smiles, Samantha returns the gesture.

INT. CITY BUS - AFTERNOON

Leo and Samantha sit next to each other on the bus, speaking inaudibly. Leo laughs at a joke.

EXT. SCENIC OVERLOOK - EVENING

Leo and Samantha walk and talk down a path next to a river. They walk past a bench that overlooks the city's downtown skyline. The sunset scores the sky with blood red and tangerine orange lights. Samantha walks back to the bench and Samantha sits down, leaning back, looking at the sunset. Leo sits to Samantha's right.

Beat.

Leo pulls out his notebook and pen, he flips open the notebook. Samantha glances over as Leo flips through the pages. She notices the drawing of her on the bus. Leo reaches an empty page and begins to sketch the sunset and city skyline. Samantha looks at Leo, and Leo is entirely focused on his sketch. Samantha watches Leo draw. Leo puts down his pen and shakes his cramping hand. Leo goes to pick the pen up again. Samantha moves her left hand closer to Leo's right hand, but Leo picks up the pen again to quickly. Samantha slowly moves her hand back. Samantha fiddles with her hands and looks back at the sunset.

Beat.

Leo glances at Samantha. He reaches his hand out and holds Samantha's. Samantha looks up in surprise. Leo slightly smiles.

INT. CITY BUS - MORNING

Leo and Samantha sit next to each other on the bus, holding hands and talking.

EXT. UNIVERSITY - MORNING

Leo and Samantha walk up to the fork in the path, then separate their hands and part ways.

INT. LEO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Leo is sitting on his couch, watching TV.

A KNOCK on the door.

Leo stands up and answers the door. Samantha greets him with a hug, clutching a university acceptance letter, elated.

Leo hugs Samantha harder, picking her up and spinning her around, then they part. They look at each other and there's a moment of realization; they will be apart. A tinge of sadness crosses Leo's face. Leo hugs Samantha tighter.

Beat.

INT. AIRPORT - EARLY MORNING

Leo and Samantha walk to the airport security, hand in hand. Leo brings Samantha in for a hug. Samantha is crying. Leo hugs Samantha tighter.

The music continues, their conversation is inaudible.

LEO
Call me when you get there.

SAMANTHA
I will. I... you...

LEO
Me too.

Leo and Samantha kiss. Samantha breaks off the hug and enters the security checkpoint. Samantha looks back at Leo. Leo is smiling. Samantha wipes the tears from her eyes and smiles back. The security doors slide closed.

INT. CITY BUS - MORNING

Leo sits on the bus in his usual spot. A WOMAN gets on the bus and sits in the spot where Leo first saw Samantha, and Leo notices her. He sees Samantha. He blinks, then realizes it's the other Woman.

INT. SAMANTHA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Samantha types at a laptop in her pajamas, her small University dorm room has a Union Jack flag on one wall, a corkboard on the wall above her bed. Samantha stretches her arms and closes the laptop, then stands up and walks to her bed. She goes to lie down but looks at the corkboard. A few photographs of her with Leo and Leo's sketch of her from the bus are pinned on the board. She looks at the sketch and smiles, a tear in her eye.

INT. LEO'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Leo sits on his couch, eating a bowl of pasta. He glances to his right, Samantha is on a video call on Leo's laptop. It is night where she is. Samantha is reading a linguistics textbook and taking notes. Leo looks at her and smiles. Leo sets down his bowl of pasta and grabs his notebook and pen from the ottoman, flips it open, and begins to sketch Samantha again, copying her mannerisms. Leo sits back on his couch and sighs.

The music stops.

CUT TO BLACK

THE END