

JARED
 (applauding)
 Hell, yeah! That's my boy!

Milo throws down the empty flask. It PINGS off the marble flooring.

JARED (CONT'D)
 (mumbled)
 You could've saved some for me
 though...

MILO
 (slurring)
 Let's go have some fun!

He rushes out of the bathroom. Jared picks up the empty flask and shakes it hopefully. He SIGHS, throws it over his shoulder, and follows Milo.

16 INT. AQUARIUM - DANCE FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

16

The aquarium is decorated with silver streamers, white flowers and a disco ball.

Live doves COO in cages throughout the room.

Sophie winds her hips to the music while Elise and Miley less confidently bop to POP MUSIC.

Sophie leans in to whisper to Miley. She points a long, red acrylic across the floor. A girl follows her disinterested date around like a lost puppy dog.

SOPHIE
 Look over there at poor Angelia. She's
 sooo obsessed with her date. When she
 introduced him, she said they've been
 family friends since pre-K. But I can
 just tell he's too cool for her. It
 will never happen.

MILEY
 (sighing)
 Yeah...

Miley continues to scan the ballroom.

Off in the back corner, Aaron slumps and slugs liquor out of a water bottle. A joint falls from his pants pocket. He scrambles to collect it.

Miley is clearly looking for someone specifically. Her eyes scan the room, back and forth.

The 1975's IT'S NOT LIVING (IF IT'S NOT WITH YOU) intro begins.

The dance floor CHEERS. Students break off into couples and giddily jive or swing dance together.

GIRLS

*And all I do is sit and think about
you
If I knew what you'd do
Collapse my veins, wearing beautiful
shoes
It's not living if it's not with you*

The men twirl their dates and reply:

BOYS

*All I do is sit and drink without you
If I choose then I lose
Distract my brain from the terrible
news

It's not living if it's not with you*

As the OUTRO hits, Miley's head sinks.

Suddenly, drunken, ecstatic Milo and Jared run over.

Milo lifts Miley's chin up. They dance to the beat with everyone else.

Jared lifts Elise and twirls her. Miley passionately sings to Milo.

MILEY

*It's not living if it's not with
you...*

ALL

*(It's not, it's not)
It's not living if it's not with you
(It's not living if it's not with you)
(It's not, it's not)
(It's not, it's not)
(It's not, it's not)
(It's not, it's not)
(It's not living if it's not with you)*

Everyone hits the final pose.

But Milo stumbles onto Miley, nearly knocking the couple over. His clumsiness sticks out like a sore thumb amidst the synced dancers. All eyes turn to him.

An awkward beat passes, and then the CHATTER of the dance floor whirls back up as the DJ switches songs.

MILEY
(whispering)
Milo?

Milo looks back at her with lazy eyes.

KAREN (O.S)
Are you serious?! You're actually
wasted right now?!

Instead of Miley, the frame reveals Karen YELLING at Aaron on the...

17 EXT. AQUARIUM BALCONY - OCCURRING OUTSIDE

17

Aaron's face slacks with the retardation of alcohol.

His sad eyes stare back at Karen who continues SCREAMING.

KAREN
What the hell is wrong with you? You
could get us suspended! What's going
on with you??

AARON
You tell me.

In retaliation, Aaron whips his joint out of his pocket and lights it. He begins smoking.

Shocked, Karen looks around for witnesses. She pushes him into the corner of the balcony, out of sight.

KAREN
(hysterical)
What the fuck!?! Aaron!

In response, Aaron smiles smugly back at her.

MILEY (O.S)
What is wrong with you?!

18 INT. AQUARIUM - DANCE FLOOR - INSIDE

18

Miley grabs Milo's shoulder to stabilize him. Milo's eyes trace the path from the hand gripping his shoulder to Miley's fearful face.

Milo opens his mouth to respond but his eye catches Sophie's. He winks at Sophie and moves to start dancing with her.

Sophie looks at Miley with panicked eyes.

SOPHIE

Heyyy, bud... I- I think you got the wrong girl?

Sophie shoves Miley in front of Milo. They begin dancing, but Milo feels up and down Miley's dress, trying to dig his hands in all her crevices.

He manages to unzip the back of her dress, the satin straps fall away from her shoulders.

CLOSE ON: The zipper breaks.

MILEY

(gasping)

Milo! I-- uh, don't- I think--

MILO

(whispering)

I want you.

Milo goes in for a kiss.

Overwhelmed, Miley bolts off the dance floor. She dashes through the room past tanks of sharks and sea life, holding her open dress up as best as possible.

19 EXT. AQUARIUM BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

19

Miley bursts through the glass doors. She looks around desperately and stumbles to a marble bench. She crashes onto it and slumps into her hands. Her shoulders shake as the SOBS begin.

Suddenly, she is pulled out of her own head at the sounds of an intense ARGUMENT.

AARON (O.S)

Don't fucking lie to me! I saw you guys!

KAREN (O.S)
 What?! You saw and you didn't tell me?
 You pervert!

AARON (O.S)
 Oh, so now I'm a pervert?

KAREN (O.S)
 You-- Ugh! I had no choice! I can see
 things Aaron! You don't love me
 anymore! All you love is your dope and
 that's it! We're over!

AARON (O.S)
 Oh! Fuck off, Karen!

Miley cowers as a SOBBING Karen dashes past her back into the ballroom.

Miley EXHALES and peers around the corner, curious. She watches Aaron, smoking. He's standing a bit too close to the edge. He swings one leg over the marble railing.

MILEY
 Wait! Don't!

Aaron jumps, stumbling backward. He places a hand over his heart when he sees Miley.

Vulnerable Miley grabs her dress to re-adjust and cover her bra.

AARON
 (panting)
 You scared me.

He continues, throwing both feet over the ledge and sitting comfortably on the rail. Miley approaches timidly.

MILEY
 Well, you scared me! It looked like
 you were about to... You know.
 (beat)
 What are you doing?

AARON
 Star-gazing. Wanna join?

He pats the rail next to him. She shakes her head but remains standing next to him.

He lights his joint and begins smoking.

MILEY'S POV: Aaron's eyes have massive purple bags underneath. His face is stained with tears.

MILEY
Are you alright?

AARON
(sighing)
I was hoping you didn't hear any of that.

MILEY
We don't have too talk about it, if you don't want--

Aaron studies Miley's face.

AARON'S POV: It's blotchy and mascara stained. His eyes trail to her hands where she is fumbling to hold up her ripped dress.

AARON
Looks like I should be asking you too... Are you alright?

MILEY
I've had better nights.

Aaron offers his joint. She grabs it and takes a hit. She starts COUGHING profusely.

AARON
(chuckling)
Sorry. I should have warned you, it's the strong stuff.

MILEY
Yeah. Thanks. It's-- I just don't normally smoke, but...

AARON
All good. Seems like we could both use it tonight. I just got cheated on and then dumped. How about you?

MILEY
Well... Compared to that... I'm just so-- UGH! I feel like a complete idiot see I, I've grown up with this guy.
(MORE)

MILEY (CONT'D)

And, I thought I- I really thought I loved him... But I thought that it was wrong because we were best friends. Still, I've dreamed of the night he'd finally tell me he wants to be with me... And, now, hearing him say it, it feels so wrong.

She SIGHS and starts CRYING.

MILEY (CONT'D)

God! I'm sorry. This is so embarrassing. You just got dumped-- and I'm the complete mess! It-- It just feels so nice to finally admit all that to someone.

Aaron reaches out and puts a reassuring hand on her shoulder.

AARON

(chuckling)

Hey, no worries. I'm glad to be helping.

He smiles at her. She SNIFFLES and cracks a soft smile.

AARON (CONT'D)

But, I think you really need to go tell this, "him", that. Not me.

Miley nods sadly. She wipes at her tear soaked cheeks.

MILEY

Thank you-- Um?

AARON

Aaron.

Smiling, he offers a hand. She shakes it.

MILEY

Miley.

AARON

I know. Third period English, freshman year.

MILEY

Oh! Right! Fuck, I'm sorry.

AARON
All good. Goodnight, Miley.

MILEY
(smiling)
Goodnight, Aaron.

Aaron waves and smiles down at his black Chuck Converse as she walks away.

DISSOLVE TO:

20 EXT. CITY LOS ANGELES - FIVE YEARS LATER 20

SUPER: Five Years Later

SFX: A BOY SINGS an acoustic cover of LOVE ME by The 1975 over the montage... *We won't recognize some of the characters, but they'll be introduced later.*

21 INT. KITCHEN - DINNER 21

Aaron and his girlfriend, HELEN, cook pasta. Aaron throws pasta on the wall to see if it sticks. Helen rushes to clean the mess but Aaron teases her throwing more in her direction.

The scene quickly transforms into a flirtatious food fight which ends when Aaron grabs Helen's face to kiss her, slobbering red sauce all over her face.

22 INT. HELEN'S ROOM - NIGHT 22

Red light illuminates snuggling bodies. JACK holds Miley. They watching Animal Planet on a projector set up against a wall.

Miley's head turns up and gazes at Jack. His head turns to face her. They lean in to kiss but Jack teases Miley and blows into her face instead.

23 EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON 23

Aaron and Helen along a path in the park, lost in deep conversation. They pause at a park bench and look out, spotting a majestic bird perched in a tree.

24 JACK ROOM - AFTERNOON 24

Jack sits behind Miley, helping adjust his guitar in her arms. He gently places her fingers in the correct spaces, pushing her fingertips against the appropriate strings.