

W H E N I T W A S B L I S S

By Curtis Rainey

FADE IN:

BEGIN FLASHBACKS

- CAMERON (17), alternative and handsome, sits on the roof of a bungalow with DANIELLE (23) a beautiful girl with big eyes.

They both hold bottles of beer. They take a swig each.

CAMERON

This is our lives, our very dull
and boring lives.

DANIELLE

(Excited)
Cheers to that!

- Both Danielle and Cameron look up at the sky.
- Cameron and Danielle stay on the roof until dark.
- They have fun on a set of swings in a playground.
- They hug each other and pose for a photo.
- Both run down a street, racing each other.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

You snooze you lose, little bro!

Danielle bolts ahead. Cameron stops, smiles, gasps for air.

END FLASHBACKS

FADE TO:

EXT. RILEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPER: FOUR MONTHS LATER

Suburban homes are illuminated by street-lights.

RILEY (17) - long brown hair, beautiful, sits on the roof of her car in the drive-way. She smokes a cigarette.

Cameron sits next to her. He also smokes.

RILEY

What do you want to do tonight?

CAMERON

I need to escape that house...

Cameron takes a drag, puffs out smoke.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
Just for one night. Do you think
your mom would mind?

Riley smiles.

RILEY
What she doesn't know wont hurt
her.

Riley flicks the ash off her cigarette onto the drive.

Cameron sighs and looks up at the sky.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Tomorrow will be better.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Cameron's car rides down a street.

INT. CAMERON'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Cameron drives.

Riley hangs out the window. Wind blows through her hair.

INT. PARK - LATER

Cameron and Riley sit on a bench. Riley lies across the
bench, her head on Cameron's lap.

Cameron strokes Riley's cheek whilst he looks off into the
distance.

RILEY
I wonder what goes on in my
boyfriend's head sometimes.

With a smirk, Cameron looks down.

CAMERON
I wonder why your boyfriend is the
type of guy who'd rather sit on a
bench than go nuts on the swings.

Riley giggles.

RILEY
Because he's too cool for that kind
of shit.

She finally sits up on the bench.

RILEY (CONT'D)

But is he the type of guy that's too cool to talk about his problems?

CAMERON

There's nothing to talk about.

RILEY

I'd have to disagree. I'm not a psychiatrist, or even one of those overly pretentious people who call themselves psychiatrists and charge crazy prices for you to lie back on a leather sofa, but I am your girlfriend. I just wish you wouldn't bottle things up, Cam.

CAMERON

I have too many bottles on a messy imaginary shelf to start considering that now.

(BEAT)

Nice weather we're having.

Riley swats him in the chest. Cameron giggles.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Jesus, Riley, what do you want me to say?

(More serious)

I miss my sister, I cry at night when I'm alone... in that house, I see her sometimes, I hear her, but it's not real... she's not here...

Riley leans in and kisses Cameron on the cheek.

RILEY

It'll get better. It's only been four months.

Cameron sighs, rubs the bridge of his nose. He stands and takes out some cigarettes, plucks one out of the pack and lights up.

RILEY (CONT'D)

I love you, Cam... I'm here, all the way.

Cameron puffs out smoke.

CAMERON

I love you too.

EXT. CAMERON'S HOUSE - LATER

A much more grubbier area in comparison to Riley's street.

INT. CAMERON'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

The front door is pushed open. Cameron enters.

He glances across at the wall to his left and a smile appears on his face before he walks into a different room.

ON THE WALL -- a framed photograph.

It shows Cameron and Danielle sitting on the swings in the middle of a playground having a blast.

INT. DANIELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The door is creaked open and a slither of light from outside cuts into the room that once was Danielle's.

It's sophisticated and neat. Not a thing out of place.

Cameron is sitting on Danielle's bed, hugging a purple pillow to his chest.

DANIELLE (V.O.)
Come on, it'll be fun...

CAMERON (V.O.)
You're going to get hurt.

DANIELLE (V.O.)
*Don't be such a pussy, grow a set
and come on! The view's great!*

Cameron rocks back and forth on the bed.

CAMERON (V.O.)
You're crazy...

Cameron's phone then suddenly VIBRATES on the bed.

He lifts it up, checks it -- A MESSAGE from RILEY.

Cameron ignores the message, locks his phone. A MIRROR sits on a dressing table across from the bed.

Cameron looks at his reflection, he takes one quick glance, before he gets up and leaves quickly.

EXT. CAMERON'S HOUSE - DAY

Riley, arms folded, walks up to Cameron's door.

She knocks a few times, but there's no answer.

MOMENTS LATER

SIDE OF THE HOUSE

Riley holds her cell-phone to her ear as she approaches a window. She peers inside. Cameron is asleep in bed. His phone VIBRATES on the dresser next to him.

BZZT! BZZT! -- Finally, the noise wakes him up...

INT. CAMERON'S HOUSE - CAMERON'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cameron leans across and answers the phone.

CAMERON

Hello?

EXT. CAMERON'S HOUSE

Riley moves away from the window, leans up against the side of the house with the phone to her ear.

RILEY

Hey, where are you?

CAMERON (V.O.)

Oh, just... out running a few errands...

Riley turns her head. Cameron's car is parked in the drive.

RILEY

Oh? I thought we were going to go see your mom and Danielle's graves?

CAMERON (V.O.)

Yea, we are... later. I should be home soon.

RILEY

Cool. I'll... be waiting then.

CAMERON

Bye.

The call is over. Riley puts her cell in her pocket.

When she peaks through the bedroom window again --

Cameron has the covers pulled back over his body, eyes shut.

Riley watches her boyfriend with a worried look.

CUT TO BLACK.

RILEY (V.O.)
 Hey, so you didn't call to see me
 today? What's up? I'm worried,
 Cam.

A moment --

RILEY (V.O.)
 It's been five days. Ever heard of
 answering a text, or a call, or
 your door?

A moment --

RILEY (V.O.)
 Being alone is not the answer, Cam.
 Seriously, just talk to me. Talk
 to me and just... tell me what's
 wrong. I only want to help. I
 need to see you, and hear your
 voice. Call me, please...

A moment --

FADE IN:

EXT. CAMERON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Riley's car sits across the street from Cameron's house.

INT. RILEY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Riley sits in the driver's seat clad in a black hooded
 sweatshirt which covers most of her face.

She watches Cameron's house as she drums her fingers on the
 steering wheel.

INT. CAMERON'S HOUSE - BATHROOM

The exposed light-bulb above FLICKERS every few seconds.

Cameron lies in a bath-tub half filled with water.

DANIELLE looms inches away. She leans against the sink.

DANIELLE
 This is what you're going to do?

CAMERON
 You're not real.

DANIELLE
 You're going to just waste away and
 get lost in the memories.
 (MORE)

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

That's not the answer. You get up,
you move on Cam, you make new
memories.

Cameron rubs water over his face. Danielle is still there.

CAMERON

I miss you.

DANIELLE

And I miss you.

CAMERON

But you're not here.

DANIELLE

I'm still around... I watch over
you...

Cameron is holding back the tears.

CAMERON

I'm sorry... it was my fault,
wasn't it? I should have got you
down...

He begins to cry. Danielle moves forward, bends down to her
brother's eye-level.

DANIELLE

It was not your fault. You need to
stop blaming yourself.

(BEAT)

When you stop blaming yourself,
it'll be bliss again, it'll all
feel better.

Danielle smiles, grazes her brother's hand with her finger.

CLOSE ON Cameron's face as he looks down into the bath-tub
then glances back up -- Danielle has vanished.

Cameron's tears stop.

EXT. CAMERON'S HOUSE - LATER

The front door opens and Cameron exits hastily.

ACROSS THE STREET

A car door opens, Riley exits. She runs across the street.

RILEY

Going somewhere?!

Cameron freezes, his eyes shut and he exhales.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Forget about someone?!

Cameron still says nothing when Riley rushes towards him.
She pushes him in the chest and he staggers back --

RILEY (CONT'D)
Remember me?! The girl whose been
worried sick thinking about you
this last two weeks?!

Cameron rubs his neck. Stressed.

CAMERON
Listen, I'm sorry, I just --

RILEY
What?! You just forgot I existed!?
You forgot how to work your phone?!
What?! What's the excuse this
time?!

Cameron stays silent.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Why cut me out?! Am I a bane?!
Does my love, my care, my feelings
for you... mean nothing?!

Riley is on the brink of tears. So is Cameron.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Answer me!

CAMERON
I thought I wanted to be alone, I
kept seeing her and hearing her,
and I was having dreams and I
didn't know what was happening...
and I just want her back, Riley! I
want her back... I miss my sister!

Cameron breaks down. He sobs. Riley gets down beside him
and pulls her boyfriend into an embrace.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
I'm sorry...

RILEY
Ssh! It's fine, I'm sorry, it's
okay, just cry...

Riley hugs Cameron on the ground as he cries.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Riley's car is parked at the edge of the bridge. Both she and Cameron sit on the hood.

Cameron has his eyes closed and Riley watches him intently.

CAMERON

...and she told me not to be a pussy. And she was standing on the edge...

Riley looks at the wall behind her at the edge of the bridge.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

(Eyes still closed)

...and I told her she was crazy, and I went to walk to her.

(BEAT)

And then she was gone.

Cameron opens his eyes straight away. Riley rubs his arm.

RILEY

You're, like, the bravest person on the planet for coming back here.

Cameron looks up at the sun.

RILEY (CONT'D)

Does it make it better... or worse... being here?

CAMERON

It makes it feel bliss.

INT. CAMERON'S HOUSE - CAMERON'S BEDROOM - LATER

The couple stand in Cameron's bedroom.

RILEY

And every day, starting now, you mark off the date, another day you're stronger... another day to make memories...

A CALENDER hangs on the wall. Cameron, with a marker, writes an "X" on the space for:

April 4th, 2013.

CAMERON

I can do this...

RILEY

You can do it.

Cameron smiles strongly. He takes his girlfriend's hand.

FADE TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Riley and Cameron are sprawled out on a picnic blanket in the middle of a grassy field in the park. The sun shines.

RILEY

It's been three weeks. Have you
been marking the dates?

Riley has an ice-cream cone. She takes a lick.

CAMERON

Indeed I have.

She offers some ice-cream to Cameron. He also takes a lick.

RILEY

And how do you feel?

CAMERON

I feel...

(BEAT)

I feel like I have all the time in
the world to make a million more
happy memories. How's that for
opening up?

Riley smirks. Cameron puts his arm over Riley's shoulder.

Behind both them --

IN THE DISTANCE

Danielle watches from afar, under the sunlight.

CLOSE ON Cameron, unaware, as he smiles. Happy. At peace.

FADE TO WHITE.

THE END