

DEADLINKED

#1 Draft

written by
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FADE IN:

INTRO:

--Footage of News about the worldwide pandemic.

--TOP shots of a ghost small town.

EXT. GHOST TOWN - DAWN

Birds sing and fly freely in the sky. They are more and more birds as the sound increases in a beautiful landscape that gets wider in... a television screen.

INT. HOUSE - DAWN

The TV is ON showing beautiful landscapes of AFTER the pandemic started and pollution and catastrophes from BEFORE the pandemic, with a last STAY HOME warning.

MR. DANIEL TODD (50s) is sleeping in front of the TV surrounded by empty bottles of beer in a low-middle class house.

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - STORM NIGHT

SARAH TODD is writing on her computer. Only her hands and eyes reflecting the screen are visible.

INSERT PC - Sara types...

SARAH (V.O.)

(types)

These scary thoughts continue to
hunt me like a silent scream.

Sarah is navigating on various social media platforms.

SARAH (V.O.)

The thought of having nothing to
offer to the world. Nothing will
ever be enough, nothing is
achievable. Everything is an
illusion.

On the shelf, there's Sarah's high school yearbook with the word BITCH and SLUT near her picture.

No signatures, no dedications.

A picture of Sarah graduating. She has a sad smile with a group of happy students away from her in the background.

SARAH (V.O.) CONT'D

These likes, these apps, fake smiles, and empty content. A Worthless degree, no career. Too big dreams for a too-small world. It doesn't matter how smart you are, how hard you work for a limited period of meaningless validation. If I would disappear, no one would really care.

(checks social account)

My life is nothing but a hologram.

A LIGHTNING flashes from the window and then a THUNDER.

INSERT PC - Sarah (V.O.) types:

"I am tired of everything that exists"

Dot.

Dot. .

DOT. . .

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - RAINY MORNING (Present time)

Someone KNOCKS at the door. Dot-dot-dot.

The house is a complete mess. The coffee machine spreads coffee all over the place.

SLING (O.S.)

It's the detective Moore, we spoke over the phone.

(knocks again)

Mr. Todd are you there?

Mr. Todd opens the door to the detectives' SLING WILMOTT (27) and BROOKE KING (30's) who show him their identification card.

They're wearing face masks and gloves.

The detectives look around as they enter the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUES

They're on the couch. MR. Todd serves a dirty cup of coffee to Brooke and a beer for him and Sling while they speak, but Sling refuses it.

SLING

No thank you. Did you try to contact her? When was the last time you spoke?

MR. TODD

Her phone is off, since Tuesday.

BROOKE

We understand this must be difficult for you sir but you need to cooperate.

SLING

We just need to ask you a few questions.

Brooke puts a sound recorder on the table.

BROOKE

Is Sarah your biological daughter? From your first and only marriage with Johane Todd?

MR. TODD

Yes.

BROOKE

Date of birth. Medical papers.

MR. TODD

13 of September 1995.

Mr. Todd gives them Sarah's medical papers.

SLING

So she's not a minor. Were you and your family diagnosed with the virus recently?

MR. TODD

Sarah was. She returned from Europe recently.

SLING

Was she working there? Why did she leave?

MR. TODD

She got fired or the company closed. I-I'm not sure. We never spoke much about her life.

BROOKE

Do you think that was the reason for her disappearance? Did she ever run away before?

Mr. Todd is trembling.

SLING

Are you aware that leaving the residential area is now a federal crime, regardless of your test results? These rules apply for every citizen except for health and safety affairs, like the police, doctors...

MR. TODD

Yes, we know.

SLING

I'm assuming you couldn't pay the penalty. "If" she ran away.

MR. TODD

If?!

BROOKE

Perhaps we should wait for Mrs. Todd.

MR. TODD

No, she... Johanna is not Mrs. Todd anymore.

BROOKE

Sorry to hear it. May I ask why?

MR. TODD

She, she wasn't happy.

BROOKE

Would that be a reason? Is there a chance she's at her mother's house?

MR. TODD

No. This was years ago, she got really upset. They never talked since.

SLING

Did you and your daughter ever speak about the separation? How did it affect her?

MR. TODD

No. Never. What did you mean with "if"?

SLING

Did you notice something strange in her behavior since she returned to the village? Do you know if Sarah had friends or enemies? Was she popular?

MONTAGE: CYBERBULLYING - FLASHBACK

--INSERT PC:

"You don't deserve to live", "You're a slut.", "horse face", "look at what she did to Erica", "no wonder her mom left", "you should be dead."

END OF FLASHBACK

MR. TODD

It's a small village, we all know each other, but high school is another completely different world which parents don't have access to. The only friend I met was Hannah. Hannah Brown.

SLING

Were they in the same class together?

MR. TODD

I don't know...

SLING

She never mentioned it? How did they meet?

MR. TODD

I- I don't know.

SLING

You don't know 'cause you can't remember or she never mentioned it?

MR. TODD

We weren't very close.

BROOKE

(gets up)

Do you mind if we look around?

Brooke and Sling continue the interrogation while they investigate the house, go in and out of every room and open the drawers.

Sling finds the hairs of a blond wig.

FLASHBACK - SARAH'S BEDROOM

Sarah cuts a blond wig, puts fake passports in a bag and changes her identity and finishes all with red lipstick.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUES

BROOKE

Is this Hannah?

Brooke points to Hannah's picture. Mr. Todd nods "yes". She puts the picture in a plastic bag as a piece of evidence. They enter in--

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - CONTINUES

--Sling looks at Sarah's computer.

SLING

Did you have a pet? She ever mentioned a favorite film you can name of?