

INT. SUBWAY - EVENING

Will is sitting, reading a book called..., he's been crying, his eyes are wet, his nose is red. He looks to the sky for mercy. He has flowers hanging loosely from his hands.

EXT. AROUND 105TH STREET - EVENING (SUNSET)

As the sunsets on another stressful day, Will is antsy, anticipating his arrival home. His headphones are blasting classical music. Wind blows, he walks through crowds--we track him from afar and the sound from his headphones contains itself.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING

A girl is sitting on the rail. It's Will's girl, but he's imagining her. Cut to Will looking at her in awe.

WILL

Eve!

Cut back to the entrance of the apartment; no one is there. Like a ghost, she's gone.

INT. APARTMENT GROUND FLOOR.

Will anxiously presses the elevator button, the door opens and cuts to it opening on the 5th floor and Will exiting. Cut to his apartment door closing, and him closing the lock and duck taping the peep hole, and the crack between the door and its frame. (shot through peephole if possible of it being covered/shot of lens being covered by tape---cut to black)

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Will is sitting in front of the TV with a fresh plate of chocolate cake and a full glass of milk, playing the pilot of the Dick Van Dyke show. Zoom on Mary Tyler Moore. WE HEAR the show

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ANGLE ON Will, with a plate full of crumbs and an empty glass of milk. The Girl is next to him. He's laughing alongside the TV show's laugh track. The light from the TV is the only source illuminating Will's face. The light is obstructed by a body standing between Will and the TV. WE HEAR the sound from the TV get lower. DAD has a big belly.

DAD

sighs

WE HEAR the TV go silent and close

Will, sitting ALONE, looks up to DAD

DAD has no head, stands in front of the TV, with the remote in hand.

DAD (CONT'D)

Will...your mother and I have been talking a lot about this recently...listen bud, it's too much cake. William, you've been eating too much chocolate cake, and you really need to stop.

ANGLE ON Will, who has a mouthful of chocolate cake and speeds up his chewing. He blinks slowly and licks the chocolate off his lips. Overlap with Dad dialogue. Plate

WILL

What?

DAD

You've been eating too much damn cake son, it's too much damn cake and I'm up to here with it!

WILL

The chocolate cake?

DAD

No, the fucking Vanilla cake--yes, the chocolate cake.

WILL

Oh, ok

Dad grabs the cake with two bags around his hands, leaving Will with a few crumbs on his plate.

DAD

Look, don't take it too harsh, but please ease up on the cake... you know money's been tight. Flour after covid is expensive, more expensive every week I swear, and I promised your mom I would find a job soon, I'm trying son, I really am. (a beat) So just go easy on the chocolate cake, please.

ANGLE ON Will who has a puffy face and eyes bursting with tears. He licks his fingers.

WILL

But Dad...

DAD

No buts! I don't wanna hear no
buts! No cake, ok?

Will licks the remainder chocolate on his fingers like it's the last piece of crack he'll ever smoke.

WE HEAR a fire alarm start to ring, Dad sniffs the air. Will instantly increases the volume on the TV. The Dick Van Dyke Show is Loud.

WE TRACK Will running into the kitchen. WE HEAR Volume fade into background, alarm gets louder.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Smoke surprises Will and engulfs him, He coughs and lifts his arm to touch the alarm, WE HEAR it stop beeping.

ANGLE ON Will looking into the oven, and removing a burnt* cake.

CUT TO:

[Following dialogue is all Voice over]

DAD (V.O.)

How's college?

WILL (V.O.)

It's good, you know...

DAD

What about classes, what are you
taking?

WILL

They're going fine

EXT. LOW STEPS - DAY (SUN)

The girl from the apartment rail is hiding behind a column, we see her emerge from and hide behind it. Will climbs the stairs, looking for her, tripping on a few.

He looks for her--eye shot into reverse eye shot. Camera pans to column 5 away to the left. She reappears. Wide shot of Will changing direction.

INT. APARTMENT DINING ROOM - WARM LIGHT - NIGHT

An elaborate budget dinner is set up: tv dinners, open beers, cigarettes in an ash tray. Will is heading the table with both his MOM (wearing an apron) and DAD (double fisting a beer and a cigarette), both hovering above Will, putting things down, passing items around.

WILL

You remember Ron?

MOM

Ron...the tall skinny one?

WILL

No you're thinking of Jeff (takes a bite, and spits it into his napkin). Ron, my best friend, we went to Mexico last year.

MOM

I don't know honey

DAD

Hmmm

WILL

Common! Ron! (laughs) The type of guy to fall off a building.

DAD

Yes! Yes, Ron, that goofy kid you used to follow around...What about him?

[keep filming the voiceovers at the table]

EXT. UNDER SCAFFOLDING, CITY STREET - AFTERNOON

Will is walking to school, backpack on, when suddenly, a body (stuffed clothes, dummy) falls from the scaffolding, almost hitting him.

WILL

(*screams*)

WILL (V.O.)
Well he -was- doing great, until
last week. He fell off a building.
You know, one of those big
buildings you fall off of.

INT. APARTMENT DINING ROOM - WARM LIGHT - NIGHT

The parents are sitting tall, and Will is slouching, so we
don't see the parent's heads

DAD
Jesus, that's too bad, he was a
great kid. Let's say a prayer (he
urges everyone to hold hands)

WILL
No! He's not dead

EXT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM EXIT

Pan on exit sign, zoom out to see RON, casted up, with
crutches, face bruised up, walking away from the hospital

WILL (V.O.)
He went to the hospital, the doctor
said he'd never seen anything like
it. He said that Ron should play
one of those chance games, he
called it a lotter-ly game, you
ever heard of it? Anyways, the
kid's alive

INT. APARTMENT DINING ROOM

WE HEAR Doorbell rings, everybody ignores it

DAD
Well I suppose someone was watching
over him.

MOM
I suppose

WE HEAR doorbells rings again, followed by a loud knock
(a beat)

DAD

(standing up) GODDAMMIT WILL! Do something, check who it is you lazy (piece of shit)--[overlaps]

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Will goes to open the door, but WE HEAR the doorbell ring again, he gets scared and looks through the peephole to show Rob, bruised up and wrapped in gauze and on crutches and a crumpled up package in his hands. The girl is behind Ron in a black lace dress.

WILL (O.S.)

Hello- gasp

ROB

Hi, Will!

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT DINING ROOM - WARM LIGHT

MOM

Honeyyy, who is it?

WE HEAR Will's voice coming from the hallway (echo)

WILL (O.S.)

...I think it's what's left of Ron

EXT. OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT DOOR

Ron brings his mouth closer

RON

Please, Will, I swear to God open the door. I limped damn near a mile just to--

WILL

Wait! I need the key

---///?????///something

EXT. LOW STEPS - DAY (SUN)

Ron, still on crutches, hands the package to Will. Will opens it and removes the letter.

(voice over letter reading?)

WILL
Eve wrote this...

Ron takes it, reads a little.

RON
Oh man

WILL
Is this what I think it is? (teary
eyes)

He looks up, pan to the girl standing in front of them, lower
on the steps. Will gets up to grab her.

WILL (CONT'D)
Eve!

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY OUTSIDE DOOR

Will, still thinking of Eve, embraces Ron, bruising him more.

RON
Ow!

Will gets off, confused

WILL
Sorry man

RON
I just wanted to give you this, Eve
told me to give it to you before...

ANGLE ON the package

RON (CONT'D)
Here, take it, I've got a party in
like 20

WILL
What?

RON
What-what! Open the package man,
quit this bitching.

Will opens the package, removes the letter.

ANGLE ON the cursive hand-written letter

[make sure to capture this same angle and scrolling of the letter in the next scene]

CUT TO:

EXT. GAZEBO ON CAMPUS - NIGHT

ZOOM OUT from letter, Will is reading, sitting back to column to back with Eve, the girl.

Reverse POV, Will looks to his left shoulder to see Ron, still on crutches:

RON
So, what did she say?

Reverse POV, Eve is gone, Will turns his body as Ron sits next to him. Will hands the letter to him.

WILL
Is this what I think it is?

RON
I'm sorry man. You know what?
fuck Eve

Ron stands up and rips off his cast and throws his crutches way

RON (CONT'D)
And fuck this cast

Ron walks away

WILL
What the...

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

WE HEAR Thudding footsteps

ANGLE ON Will, camera does a quarter moon rotation, following from Will's sleeping laying down position to his seated position.

DAD (O.S.)
WIIIIILLLLLL!!!!

Angle on living room door, bust open by Dad

DAD (CONT'D)
How many times do I have to tell
you - LOCK. THE. FRICKEN. DOOR!

WILL
I will, I was just making sure Ron
got out safe

Will gets smacked across the face by Dad, his nose bleeds

DAD
The Russians will! They're gonna
get us.

Will is getting kicked on the floor by Dad

WILL
I'm sorry

DAD
I've had enough of sorries, I'm
sorry this dad, I'm sorry that dad.
Take your sorry ass and lock the
goddamn door

Will starts crawling, all bruised up and bloody, to the door.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY INSIDE DOOR

Will has crawled to the door and is on his knees locking the
door and duck-taping the crack between the foot and its
frame.

Finally done, he collapses just as

ANGLE ON the door, Mom and Dad come in,

ANGLE ON their feet next to Will's head.

MOM
Will, honey, we're going to the
mall, you can't come, obviously

Stacks of keys fall close to Will

DAD
Lock up after us will ya.

The door slams shut

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Will wipes his tears and gets locked into his baking zone.
Ingredients are lined up, ocd, there is flour in the air

(maybe speed up following)

Will makes the cake, getting messier and messier, sweating
into it.

Cake rises in the oven, WE HEAR *ding* it's done

Warmly lit cake is frosted and cut into almost sexually.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

[try with fish eye]

ANGLE ON- Will who sits down, puts his cake down, clicks the
remote

WE HEAR the dick van dyke show, and see the blue and purple
lights shine on Will's face.

Will take a small bite, then a bigger one, then stuffs his
face.

FADE TO BLACK.