

MIST AND SMOKE

Written by

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INT. LIVINGROOM. NIGHT

A group of young people dance in the house with colorful flashing lights and loud musics.

A handsome boy Antonio(20s) dances closely with a hot girl.

Carl(male, early 20s) stands by the kitchen and looks at Antonio. Selina comes next to Carl and looks at Antonio as well. Both of them do not look happy. Selina joins the dance and starts to flirt with a boy.

Carl drinks alone by himself.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Carl and Selina are cleaning the tables. Selina looks a bit drunk.

Antonio comes to the living room in a casual suit.

CARL
(laughs)
Are you going out now?

ANTONIO
One of my friends asks me out for drinking.

CARL
Seriously? With a suit.

Antonio smiles and walks over to the door.

ANTONIO
Ciao, guys!

Carl keeps cleaning. Selina looks a bit angry.

SELINA
Let's clean it tomorrow, Carl. I am too tired.

CARL
It's fine. I can do it alone. I just don't like things in mess.

SELINA
All right. Leave something for me to do tomorrow. Night, Carl!

CARL
Night!

Selina walks away.

Carl takes the trash to the kitchen and notices a set of keys on the table.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT

Carl lies on the bed. He looks at the message that he sent to Antonio. The message reads 'Did you take your keys? I see it on the kitchen table'. It shows being read already. But no reply from Antonio.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT

Carl's phone vibrates. Carl gets up to check the message. A message from Antonio comes. He asks Carl to open the door for him.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Antonio sits on the couch with his eyes closed. Carl sits next to him.

He looks at Antonio's closed eyes and leans forward to smell. Every detail on Antonio's face is so clear to Carl.

His full attention is on Antonio until Selina comes.

SELINA

Is he ok?

CARL

Should be fine. He is just too drunk.

Antonio's eyes open slowly and look at Carl and Selina. He smiles like a child.

INT. BEDROOM. DAY

Carl gets up very early and leaves the house quietly.

INT. STUDENT CENTER. DAY

Carl sits by the window. He tries to type something but couldn't help looking outside.

He sees Antonio passes by with a girl. They look very intimate. His eyes follow him until Antonio disappears.

Selina appears suddenly and brings Carl's attention back. She sits down with him.

SELINA

Carl, I wanna tell him about my feelings. I can't stand him flirting with the other girls anymore.

CARL

You sure? What if he turns you down?

SELINA

But at least he knows I love him. I would be happy whatever the result is. I wanna move on, rather than stuck here.

CARL

Hope so! So what do you need from me if you have made up your mind?

SELINA

Nothing. I just want you to be my backbone. Bless me, Carl. Ciao!

Selina leaves the table happily.

CARL

Ciao.

Selina doesn't go too far before coming back to Carl.

SELINA

Will you be happy if we starts to date?

CARL

I will give my best wishes to you.

SELINA

Thanks, Carl!

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Carl comes into the house. The house is dark. He uses his phone as a torch and finds his way to his bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT

Carl puts down the bag and lies on the bed.

The sound of the bedroom door opening comes. He hears the footsteps approaching. Then the footstep stops in front of his door. He holds his breath.

Finally, the knocking sound comes.

Antonio
Carl, are you back?

CARL
Yes.

Carl gets up and opens the door. He sees a tie around Antonio's neck, but it has not been fixed properly.

Antonio
Can you...help me fix my tie? I
don't know how to put it on
properly.

Carl looks at the tie and starts to laugh.

CARL
You don't know how to put on a tie?

ANTONIO
I know you are going to laugh. But
yes...I Don't know.

CARL
Take it off.

Antonio looks like a child and takes off the tie. He hands it over to Carl.

Carl stands closer to help him with the tie. He can feel Antonio's breath.

CARL (CONT'D)
How did you manage the ties before?

ANTONIO
Ask for help from others.

CARL
Unbelievable. What if no one is
around?

ANTONIO
There are always people around me.

Carl gets the tie done.

CARL
You are the most narcissistic
person I have met.

ANTONIO
(smiles)
You are back very late recently.
How's it going with your
interviews?

CARL
Not bad. A bit struggling, but
still manageable.

ANTONIO
Let me know if you need my help.
You know I am good at that.

CARL
Thanks! I will.

Both of them keep silent for a moment. Carl doesn't know what to look to while Antonio's eyes are on him all the time.

ANTONIO
Do you wanna go for a drink now?

CARL
Now? Just you and me, or.....

ANTONIO
My friends will come too.

CARL
Maybe another day. Thanks for
inviting me.

ANTONIO
Ok. Ciao.

Carl lies on the bed again.

His phone rings. It is from Selina.

SELINA
Carl, can you come to pick me up?

She sounds drunk.

INT. SELINA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Selina lies on the bed. Carl helps her to take off the shoes.

SELINA
You love him too, right?

Carl covers her with a blanket.

CARL
Do you need water?

SELINA
Why am I always being turned down?
I hate him. I hate Antonio. I hate
all men.

Selina cries again. Carl touches her shoulder softly.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT

Carl lies on the bed. He couldn't sleep. He wants to message Antonio, but he hesitates.

Finally, he sends him a message 'Did you take your key with you today? Should I wait for you?'

The message was read immediately. But no response. Carl puts down the phone and covers his head with a pillow.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Carl comes back home.

A girl, Clare(20s), cooks in the kitchen.

CARL
Hi.

CLARE
Hi, I am Clare. Antonio's friend.
You must be Carl, right.

CARL
Yes, nice to see you.

Antonio comes to the kitchen.

ANTONIO
You are finally back. Join us for
dinner? We cooked for you too.

Carl squeezes a smile.

CARL

Thanks. But I already had my
dinner. See you later.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT

Carl sees a note on the floor. It is from Selina.

'I will be out for a few days, Carl. Please take care of my
little baby while I am away. Love you.'

Laughing sound comes from the kitchen.

He puts the note on his table and puts down his bag, then
walks out of the room.

EXT. STREET. NIGHT

Carl walks on the street. People passes by. Lights flashes.
Wind blows.

He stops by a street performer and listens to his songs.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Carl comes back home. Antonio sits on the sofa, reading a
book.

ANTONIO

Where have you been?

CARL

Just out for a walk.

ANTONIO

That's a long walk. Are you hungry?
We left some food for you.

CARL

A little bit. Is she gone?

ANTONIO

Yes. I am sorry. I should have let
you know in advance. I didn't mean
to surprise you.

CARL

Not a problem at all. You are
antonio. People are queuing to cook
for you.

Antonio smiles and does not say anything. He comes to the kitchen and takes out the food for Carl.

Carl eats on the kitchen table. Antonio keeps reading his book in the sofa. They did not say anything.

Carl joins him for reading. They keep silent and sit very close to each other.

Carl's face gets red. Antonio notices a few rashes occur on Carl's face.

He reaches his hand to Carl's face.

ANTONIO

Are you alright? Your face is so red now?

CARL

(touching his face)

Really? I must be allergic to something in the food that you have cooked. But it's ok. I am very easy to get allergic. Just one or two pills will be fine.

ANTONIO

Sorry, I did not know that you are so easily to get allergic.

Carl stands up.

CARL

It's ok. I need to go back to my room now. I will be fine. Don't worry. See you tomorrow.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT

Carl sits on the bed and looks quite happy.

He sends a message to Antonio.

'Thanks for your food! I really enjoyed it. Have a good night.'

The messages shows being read. It shows Antonio is typing, but no reply in the end.

Carl looks a bit upset.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Carl comes out from bedroom. He sees Selina sits in the sofa, typing on her computer. He looks a bit surprised.

CARL

Morning, Selina. When did you get back?

SELINA

I have a due tomorrow. So I got back last night. I was worried that I may wake you up. But it looks like I worried too much.

Carl walks to Seline and give her a hug.

CARL

How do you feel now? Are you alright to see Antonio? Please don't move out. I won't let you go.

SELINA

No worries, Carl. I already moved on. We can't expect everyone that we love will love us back. But I believe I will meet the person who I love and will also cherish my love to him.

CARL

Sounds like you are really alright now.

Carl stands up and is ready to leave.

SELINA

Carl, don't fear losing anything. You won't. Be brave.

CARL

(laughs)

Are you really Selina? You sounds like my big sister now. Come on. I recorded a video for you when I got you out from the pub.

SELINA

(laughs and throws a pillow to Carl)

How dare you!

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT

Carl finishes an online interview.

Knocking sound comes from the door.

ANTONIO
Can I come in, Carl?

CARL
Sure. Come in.

Antonio comes into his room and sits on his bed.

CARL (CONT'D)
How can I help you sir?

ANTONIO
(smiles)
Can I read a book in your room?

Carl looks a bit shocked.

CARL
Of course. I just finished an
interview and still gets some tests
to do. Stay as long as you want.

Carl turns back to his computer and chuckles to himself.

Antonio concentrates on his book. Carl peeps at Antonio through the computer screen.

Both of them are very silent.

Some noise comes from the living room. We hear Selina and a few more people's voice.

The sound of knocking the door comes.

SELINA
Carl, are you at home?

CARL
Yes, come in.

Selina comes into the room. She sees Antonio sits on Carl's bed. She chuckles.

SELINA
What are you two doing here? My
friends and I are celebrating for
the due we have done. Do you wanna
join us?

Carl looks to Antonio.

ANTONIO
Sure. I will be there after I
finish this page.

CARL
I will join you guys after I finish
my interview test.

Selina leaves with a smile.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Carl comes to the living room and sits next to Antonio.

SELINA
Carl, we are playing truth or dare.
You know how to play right. If you
choose DARE, you will have to drink
a cup of wine.

CARL
Really? A cup? That's too much.

Selina spins the bottle without waiting for Carl to finish
himself.

The bottle points to Antonio.

SELINA
Truth or dare?

ANTONIO
Dare.

Antonio drinks a cup of wine very quickly.

Antonio spins the bottle and it ends at Carl.

SELINA
Haha, Carl. Truth or dare?

CARL
Dare too.

SELINA
One cup. Don't cheat.

Carl finishes it slowly.

The bottle keeps spinning.

It points at Carl again.

SELINA (CONT'D)
Truth! Truth!

CARL
(looks a bit drunk)
Ok, truth.

SELINA
Do you love anyone here?

CARL
(looks around)
Y.....Yes.

SELINA
Who?

CARL
That's another question.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Light is off. We hear some sound coming from the projector.

Carl comes out from the bedroom. He goes to the kitchen table to get some water.

He sees Antonio sits in the sofa, smoking while watching a film.

He sits next to Antonio. Antonio does not look at him.

After a few seconds' silence.

ANTONIO
Do you love me, Carl?

Carl keeps silent for a bit.

CARL
Yes, I thought you already knew it.

Antonio does not say anything.

Carl puts his head on Antonio's shoulder. He does not reject it.

ANTONIO
I like being with you. But I don't
know if that is love.
(MORE)

ANTOIO (CONT'D)

I am more passive than you thought
about love.

Antonio blows the smoke towards Carl. Carl does not say
anything.

ANTOIO (CONT'D)

Do you wanna try smoke?

CARL

Yes, give it to me.

Antonio hands him the cigarette. Carl takes a deep breath. He
blows the smoke towards Antonio.

ANTONIO

This does not look like your first
smoke. I thought you never smoked.

CARL

You don't know the real me. I don't
know the real you too.

Carl blows out the smoke beautifully. Antonio takes over the
cigarette and smokes it again.

ANTOIO

I am a bit sleepy now. Ciao.

CARL

Ciao.

Carl sits in the sofa alone and finishes the cigarette by
himself.

FADE TO BLACK.