

ABSENT

written by

Bethany Lee

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - DAY

A LOUD ATMOSPHERIC BOWLING ALLEY

Four girls enter the bowling alley. Phoebe is visably distant from the others.

Upon entering, one girl spots a photo booth and eagerly runs to it with the others trailing behind. They squeeze in shutting the curtain and leaving Phoebe on the outside.

At the main desk, Phoebe is given her shoes and walks down to the bowling lane. The three girls follow her.

They automatically get out their phones oblivious to the world around them.

Sophie steps up to bowl her eyes glued to her phone screen. With little effort or enthusiasm she throws the ball not caring about the result.

After she returns, it is Phoebe's turn.

Clearly determined and focused, she tactifully bowls.

The ball rolls down the lane resulting in a strike.

Phoebe jumps in excitement, swiftly turning to celebrate.

Her friends remain unbothered, ignorantly tapping their screens.

Phoebe, disheartened, walks back sitting a metre away from the pack, alone but surrounded by people.

A new presence, Lisa, enters the frame dressed similarly to Phoebe.

Lisa settles on the lane next to Phoebe and her acquaintances.

Phoebe looks up exchanging a quick glance with Lisa who smiles, Phoebe returns this warm gesture before looking down at her feet again awkwardly.

Phoebe bowls again achieving another good score.

She turns to see Lisa silently immitating a clap and a cheer.

Phoebe smiles properly for the first time.

Lisa and Phoebe then take turns bowling parallel to each other, smiling and laughing amongst themselves.

No dialogue is shared between them.

Phoebe bowls and gets a strike. Her and Lisa celebrate jumping up and down like children.

Sophie pokes the others pointing at Phoebe who is still jumping up and down.

The girls look confused by her behaviour before retuning to their phones.

A focus on the score screens reveals that the girls have one shot left and are on the same score.

They walk in sync down the lane and bowl at the same time.

Phoebe gets more pins and takes a awkward box whilst laughing with Lisa.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - DAY
THE DINING AREA OF THE BOWLING ALLEY

Phoebe is packing away her things.

Lisa is sat on a sofa a metre away.

Phoebe makes her way over and sits on the space next to her.

Both girls shift awkwardly smiling at each other

LISA
(still smiling but with a
sense of sadness,
hesitates then speaks)
We should've done this when I was
alive.

Phoebe's smile drops

CUT TO:MONTAGE

EXT. BUS STOP - MORNING

A bus covering the frame drives off revealing Phoebe, in her school uniform, running after it shouting for it to stop.

Lisa enters the frame also in her uniform running after it.

The bus leaves and both girls look frustrated before noticing each other and laughing.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

A teacher stands at the top of a class writing a mathematical formula on the board.

Lisa and Phoebe sit side by side both staring with complete confusion at the board in the same slouched position.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lisa and Phoebe walk down the street linked arms and laughing.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

FAIRY LIGHTS

Lisa and Phoebe sit comfortably. They throw Maltesers into the air moving to catch them in their mouths, laughing as they miss and cheering as they succeed.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Lisa and Phoebe run towards the sea, a wave approaches and they attempt to run back to the shore but fall.

LISA AND PHOEBE
(echoing laughter)

INT. ARCADE

Lisa and Phoebe throw basketballs into the nets at one of the game stations.

PHOEBE
(echoed)
Oh my god you're going down

EXT. SUNNY DAY

SHOT REVERSE SHOT OF BOTH GIRLS SMILING GRADUALLY SHOWS
LISA'S SMILE DROPPING

LISA
(her voice shakes,
dialogue is echoed)
I need to tell you something

INT. BEDROOM

Lisa lays in bed weak and pale.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Lisa, wearing a head scarf, and Phoebe walk with arms linked.
Both have forced smiles and are clearly masking sadness.

DIALOGUE WILL NOT BE IN SYNC WITH WHAT'S ON SCREEN

PHOEBE
(echoed)
Please don't leave.

LISA
(weak, quiet and fading.
Echoed)
I'm sorry.

FADE OUT.

END MONTAGE

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - DAY
THE DINING AREA OF THE BOWLING ALLEY, A WIDE SHOT REVEALS
PHOEBE IS ALONE

PHOEBE
Yeah.

THE END