

OPEN YOUR HEART TO ME

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 BLACK SCREEN 1

A ragged, hacking cough breaks the silence.

TITLE FADES IN out of the black:

OPEN YOUR HEART TO ME

A few more hoarse coughs and we:

FADE IN:

2 INT. JAZMINE'S BATHROOM - DAY 2

JAZMINE (JAZ), 18, beautiful, facing the mirror is massaging her temples. She opens her eyes seeing her pale face stare back.

JAZMINE

Oh, I can't be getting sick again.

She opens the medicine cabinet, finding the BOTTLE marked Tylenol and dry swallows a couple of tabs. Suddenly her eyes widen and she grabs her throat.

JAZMINE

Gack!

She chokes on a pill and quickly turns the sink tap on, scooping cold water inter her mouth. Once the pill is cleared she looks up into the mirror again and sighs.

JAZMINE

(hoarsely)

It's my prom night of all nights.

She is brought back to reality when offscreen a CELLPHONE rings.

3 INT. JAZMINE'S BEDROOM - DRESSER 3

A cellphone BUZZES loudly and SLIDES across the dresser. Caller ID shows "Zach"

Jazmine rushes in, looks at the name on the screen, smiles knowingly and picks it up, swiping to answer the call.

Jazmine's voice is raw and she coughs again but manages to speak.

JAZMINE

Hi lover boy.

ZACH (PHONE)

Hey! Hi Jaz. I hope this isn't a bad time. You don't sound so good. Is everything ok?

JAZMINE

No, no, I'm ok.

(Rubbing her throat.)

Just a pill went down, or wouldn't go down, the right way.

(laughing)

I'm fine.

Jaz has moved over to the mirror on the wall in her bedroom, looking at herself first, then her attention shifts to a single PHOTO OF ZACH taped to the mirror.

ZACH (PHONE)

Oh, hey, ok. I just wanted to say, I'm like, really excited about tonight! It's gonna be a night to remember. Prom is a once in a lifetime kinda thing.

She pulls the photo off with her free hand.

ZACH (PHONE)

I really want this to be a special night.

4 EXT. TASTY FREEZE - FLASHBACK - DAY

4

Jazmine remembers the first time she met ZACH, 18, good-looking, athletic, more brawn than brains. He is just about to enter the restaurant and upon seeing Jazmine, smiles widely and holds the door open for her.

JAZMINE

Thank you.

ZACH

Sure, no problem!

INT. TASTY FREEZE

It's a vintage soda & burger shop. Highschool aged kids are sitting in various booths laughing and eating. Rock & Roll is blaring from a jukebox in the corner.

Jazmine looks back over her shoulder at Zach and smiles.

Zach is bewitched by her beauty.

Zach musters his courage as he follows Jazmine in. Catching up to her.

ZACH

Uh, say, I haven't seen you here before.

Jazmine stops. Examining Zach ever so slightly.

JAZMINE

Yeah, I'm new... my mom and I just moved here last week.

Zach looks excited.

ZACH

Oh! That's great. Cool.
(shyly)
Uh, I'm Zach, by the way.

JAZMINE

Hi Zach, I'm Jazmine.

Zach grins and with more of a statement than a question,

ZACH

Oh, like the flower!

Jazmine laughs.

JAZMINE

Sure, I guess so.

Zach tries to recover from his awkward outburst.

ZACH

So, would you like... Er, that is, could I...

Knowing exactly what Zach is trying to say, Jazmine finishes his question.

JAZMINE

Can you...
 (giggles)
 buy me a soda? Sure.

Zach's blushes

ZACH

Uh, yeah. Buy you a soda!

Jazmine giggles and takes Zach by the arm and they walk to the counter.

END FLASHBACK

6 INT. JAZMINE'S BEDROOM - DAY - CONTINUED 6

Jaz puts down the photo of Zach, looking intently at herself in the mirror now.

JAZMINE

It'll be a wonderful night. I can
 feel it.
 (glancing at the clock)
 What time are you going to be here?

ZACH (PHONE)

Oh, yeah, I'll be there to pick you
 up at 7.

JAZMINE

Ok, sounds good. I'll be ready.

Jaz smiles and taps the 'end call' button on her phone.

7 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 7

SYLVIA REYNOLDS, 40, her back to us, standing at the sink, wiping dry a few dishes, then suddenly and calmly, she says,

SYLVIA

You can't sneak up on me.

Jaz jumps out from around the corner and bursts into a fit of laughter.

JAZMINE

Oh! You always know!

Sylvia smiles and puts another dish away, turns to face Jaz and raises an eyebrow.

SYLVIA
You're much too noisy when you try
to sneak, young lady.

Sylvia smiles and winks at Jaz and they both laugh but Jaz's laughter turns into a fit of coughing. Sylvia's smile fades and is replaced with a look of concern.

SYLVIA
Are you alright, sweetie?

Sylvia reaches out to hold Jaz's shoulder. Jaz shakes a bit, but quickly calms herself.

JAZMINE
I think so. I have a bit of a
headache.

Sylvia's look becomes ashen.

SYLVIA
Tell me the truth. Is this...

Before she can finish her sentence Jaz cuts in.

JAZMINE
(overreacting)
I'm fine! Really, I am.

Jaz looks ashamed of her outburst.

JAZMINE
I'm sorry

Sylvia relaxes, softening her grip on Jaz's shoulder.

SYLVIA
I know you are sweetie. It's just
that... Are you getting sick
already?
(worried)
This soon?

JAZMINE
No, it's not like that.
(unsure)
I don't think it is.

SYLVIA
Zach is a nice boy. It would be a
shame if...

Jaz looks up, tears welling in her eyes.

JAZMINE

No! It's not gonna be like that! It can't...

Jaz looks around the room, searching for a distraction to end the conversation. FLOWERS on the kitchen table catch her attention. She motions to them.

JAZMINE

W-who sent flowers?

SYLVIA

(startled)

Jack. He's a friend I met a few days ago.

Jaz understands and looks sharply into her mother's eyes.

JAZMINE

Oh, I see... this is more about you than me, isn't it?

(glancing away)

You think I'm gonna ruin your chance.

Jazmine's sharp rebuke hits Sylvia hard. Sylvia flushes but regains her composure.

SYLVIA

Yes dear. Why is it you should have all the fun?

The two stare at each other. The clock on the wall ticks loudly. Finally Jaz speaks.

JAZMINE

(meekly)

I'm sorry mom. I didn't mean it.

Sylvia smiles.

SYLVIA

It's all forgiven.

(her smile returns)

You better run along and get ready.

Sylvia returns to wiping dishes. Jazmine pauses a moment at the corner to look at her mother, then disappears into the darkness.

9 EXT. JAZMINE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - EVENING 9

Zach's black '78 Trans Am pulls into the driveway. Jack and Diane by John Mellencamp is BLASTING from the speakers. Tires SCREECH to a halt and the engine cuts off. Neighbours scowl from their windows.

10 FRONT DOOR 10

Jazmine opens the door revealing her lovely lavender dress tightly wrapped around her slender figure. A small crystal tiara holds her hair up. Stepping out like a princess to meet her prince.

Sylvia watches from the door as Jaz walks to meet Zach.

SYLVIA

Jaz.

Please be careful... promise me.

Jazmine turns and giggles.

JAZMINE

Mom! You're embarrassing me.

11 DRIVEWAY - TRANS AM 11

Zach is already out and opening the passenger door for Jazmine. He waves to Sylvia.

ZACH

Uh, good evening Mrs. Reynolds.

Looking somewhat awkward he continues.

ZACH

We'll be back by 11 this evening.
Right after the last dance. Don't
worry about us; we'll be fine.

He waves again and smiles.

Sylvia smiles and returns his wave.

12 DRIVEWAY - TRANS AM 12

Jazmine giggles more as she jumps into the passenger seat and Zach makes sure all of her dress is safely tucked inside before closing the car door.

13 FRONT DOOR

13

Sylvia watches as the engine ROARS to life and the sound of Madonna's Open your heart to me BLARES through the open windows of the car. TIRES SQUEAL. Tail lights dim as the Trans Am races down the street.

SYLVIA

Oh, my poor dear. One of you will be fine.

She steps back into the house, closing the door behind her.

14 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

14

Sylvia scans the disorganized state of the room. Boxes are stacked and open. Some items are still in the process of being set up.

Her eyes are drawn to the FLOWERS on the table.

SYLVIA

(to herself)

Well, I guess we both may as well enjoy the evening.

She reaches out and plucks the small card tucked neatly in the flowers. Glancing at the hand written note momentarily, she then pulls a phone from her jean's pocket. Dials a number and waits. Then in her sweetest voice.

(Focus is on Sylvia. Her face and dialogue are all that matter. We don't hear Jack's replies.)

SYLVIA

Oh, Jack. Hi! I wanted to call and say thank you for the beautiful flowers.

She pauses for a moment listening to his reply.

SYLVIA

I hope this doesn't seem too forward, but I'm alone and feeling a bit hungry. Why don't you join me for dinner?

(Another pause.)

Sure, you can pick something up for us on your way, I actually don't have anything in the fridge to cook, so that's perfect!

A smile crosses her face as she listens.

SYLVIA

Oh, Jazmine? No, no, she won't mind. She's out with a friend.

(A wicked smile crosses her face.)

Sure, that sounds great. I'll see you real soon. Bye now.

15 INT. TRANS AM - DRIVING - EVENING

15

The rumble of the 455 under the hood is smooth and powerful. Zach is concentrating on the road but steals quick glances at Jazmine. She reaches over and TURNS DOWN the volume of the radio.

ZACH

Oh, I forgot you have a headache. Are you ok babe?

JAZMINE

Actually I'm feeling better now. I think I have the cure for this...

(pauses and emphasises)

little pain I've been suffering from.

Zach grins widely.

ZACH

Oh, that's great!

Jazmine runs a hand across Zach's beefy bicep.

JAZMINE

Actually, do you mind if we stop for a quick bite to eat before we get to the school?

Zach looks at her, slightly confused.

ZACH

Uh, yeah, sure... anything you want.

He glances up, seeing the Tasty Freeze in the rear view mirror.

ZACH

We just passed the turnoff for Tasty Freeze...uh, I'll just pull over and turn around.

Jazmine smiles and points to a darkened alley.

JAZMINE

There's a safe spot to do it.

With a wicked gleam in her eyes, Jazmine leans across Zach. She slowly unbuckles his seatbelt as the Trans Am pulls off the street onto the unlit road. He glances around cautiously.

ZACH

(nervous)

Uh, hey...whatcha doin babe?

Jazmine doesn't reply, only grins to reveal sharp fangs now protruding from her mouth.

16

EXT. ABANDONED ROADWAY - CONTINUOUS

16

Zach's terrified SCREAM is muffled by the sound of traffic passing by.

The Trans Am slowly rolls along and the illumination of the tail lights are all that can be seen. Cars continue to drive past the darkened roadway, drivers unaware of the horror taking place.

Then engine cuts off and the tail lights dim. The silence of the night continues on broken only by the passing of cars.

FADE TO BLACK.