

MEL/ANC/HOLY

Written by

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EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAWN

A wave crashes peacefully on the shore. The sun breaking through night's untouched, cold darkness. As the sun enters the sky, it gets smaller and more distant.

EXT. VENICE BEACH - LIFEGUARD TOWER - SAME

A YOUNG MAN (28, chestnut skin, above 6 feet, fade) sits on the bottom stairs of a lifeguard tower; a bike lies next to the stairs and a pair of converse with lime green socks slipping out sit beside him.

His bare foot plays with the sand. He exhales to watch another wave crash. He pulls his socks and shoes over with a grudge.

In the background, "Will He" from Joji begins.

He hops on the bike, and as the beat changes, he is biking through...

EXT. VENICE BEACH - BOARDWALK - SUNRISE

As the young man bikes down the middle of the winding path, street performers start to set up cans and boxes for their entertainment with toothy grins. Shopkeepers peek through the blinds.

A few strangers walk on the edge of the street, never getting closer to him. And he never gets closer to the edge of people.

EXT. VENICE BEACH - APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

A high towered apartment with windows facing the street. The building is peeling and asking for more. There's an empty bike rack to which the young man chains his bike.

He walks over to the front door to enter...

INT. VENICE BEACH - APARTMENT COMPLEX - SAME

In the lobby is SERENE GLOBAS (26, Copper toned skin, Dark hair, thin) is checking her mailbox as the young enters. As she turns to see him, she smiles.

SERENE
You were born today, Orion.

ORION
What do you mean?

SERENE
It's your birthday today, right?

ORION
Yesterday.

SERENE
Do anything I should be jealous
about?

ORION
Not much.

Serene clutches her mail as her phone vibrates.

SERENE
I gotta grab this.

ORION
You're good.

She picks up the call as they both get on...

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - ELEVATOR - SAME

As Serene chats on the phone, Orion stands there with an awkward slouch.

INT./EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - ELEVATOR - SAME

When the elevator reaches his level, Serene stops the elevator from closing after Orion walks away.

SERENE
Happy birthday, Orion Johns.

ORION
Thank you, Serene Globas.

Both of them smiling as the elevator door closes.

INT. ORION'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY

The keys jingle, he enters taking off his shoes, sand leaking out.

INT. ORION'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM

The shower runs. He takes off his clothes. The water merges with the sand until it runs clear.

INT. ORION'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

With a towel wrapped around his waist. He pulls a wrinkly white tee over his head.

INT. ORION'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM

He reads a cereal box while he eats a cold bowl.

INT. ORION'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

He sits in a brightly lit room on the couch watching tv. The show goes to credits, and he gets up to close the curtains. Darkness covers the room.

He goes back to his spot on the couch. The only light on his face is from the tv screen.

His eyes begin to wear, and his eyes begin to water. With a deep breath, he wipes his eyes and they won't fill again.