

**OVER HERE**

The voice is SADIE, a twentyish white woman.

SADIE (VO)  
My name is Sadie, and I'm a ghost.

FADE IN:

EXT. CITY APARTMENT BUILDING ROOF - NIGHT

Sadie sits with her feet dangling over the roof edge. Light snow falls. The camera circling from her back to front reveals a muscular, shaved-bald androgynous Chinese person (WU). They're behind Sadie and dressed much too lightly for the cold.

WU  
(speaks in layered voices)  
What are you doing, Sadie?

SADIE  
(angry)  
What the hell does it look like I'm doin', Wu?

WU  
(slight smile)  
What have you been doing, Sadie?

SADIE  
(tears start to fall)  
Don't you know? You always seem to. I've been doin' what we talked about. It's hard. It's really, really hard.

WU  
I know.

SADIE (VO)  
Wu's been my only friend over here. I think they're an angel but won't say. They showed up after . . . after I died. Well, not right after.  
  
Maybe I should start earlier, so you understand what happened a little better.

INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY (FLASHBACK SEQUENCE)

High school co-ed gymnasts practice. Sadie stretches on a mat. Next to her, another young lady (AMY) does the same. They watch a young black man (GERALD) on the rings.

AMY

One of the benefits of being on this team.

SADIE

(rolls her eyes)

That's not why I'm here.

AMY

(smiles)

But he is hot. And you like him.

Sadie nods and smiles, and both women laugh. Gerald dismounts. He wipes sweat off his face and looks over at the women, and he smiles as they look away.

INT. SCHOOL HALLS - LATER

Gerald, dressed and cleaned up, approaches Sadie and Amy, also in street clothes, as they talk. They turn toward him.

GERALD

(nervous, eyes on Sadie)

Hi, Amy. Uh . . . Sadie.

AMY

(fingers a pentacle pendant)

Hi!

SADIE

Hey, Gerald.

GERALD

So, Sadie, uh, you think we could, like, go out?  
Or something? Maybe?

Amy smiles and nudges Sadie.

SADIE

(smiles)

Yep.

SERIES OF SCENES - GERALD AND SADIE

SADIE (VO)

Like there was a chance I'd say no. So crazy. Gerald went with me to art museums. Brought me flowers. Stuff like that. Called at two in the mornin' after we'd just been out 'til midnight.

- A) Sadie and Gerald at an art museum. She describes the works. He poses like an angel in one painting. They leave, holding hands. Leaves fall from autumn trees under a cloudy sky.
- B) Gerald arrives a Sadie's house in an orange VW Bug. It's dusk. He's dressed warmly, and the trees are bare. He has flowers. An older woman (Sadie's MAMA) smokes on the porch. She hugs Gerald and goes in the house with him.
- C) At night, Gerald and Sadie drive up to her house in the VW. The porch light is on, but the house dark. They're dressed for spring. Leaves are back on the trees.

INT. SADIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sadie sleeps in a room decorated, partly, for a younger girl. The clock reads 2:01 AM. Her smart phone vibrates.

SADIE

(awakens and answers)

Hi. What's up?

GERALD (on phone)

I just wanted to hear your voice.

SADIE

Here it is.

GERALD

Did you know I love you?

SADIE

(playfully)

I figured it out. Ditto.

GERALD

(laughs)

Nice! No school. Wanna go to the lake tomorrow?

SADIE  
How 'bout now?

GERALD  
Miss Dewitt! What would your parents say?

SADIE  
Nothin', because I won't wake 'em up by trying to  
find my suit. You in or what, Mister Carver?

The conversation continues.

SADIE (VO)  
Thinkin' about it still makes my insides melt. It got so we  
couldn't stand bein' apart. So, we moved into a one-bedroom in  
the city. You know, old as dirt, hardwood floors, a bug motel.

Gerald took an electrician's apprenticeship, claimin' he was  
savin' for school. I was in community college, studyin' art,  
about ready to transfer to university. My job at an art-supply  
shop filled the gaps my financial aid didn't.

My parents didn't approve, really, but they loved me enough to  
keep that fact to themselves, I guess.

EXT. SADIE'S PARENTS' HOUSE - DAY

Sadie drives up in the orange VW. Her MAMA smokes as she sits on  
the porch. Mama stands as Sadie walks up. They hug.

MAMA  
(taking the cigarette out halfway through)  
Hi, baby girl. How's that handsome beau of yours?

SADIE  
He's fine, mama. Workin' overtime. Where's daddy?

MAMA  
It's Sunday. Where do you think that man is?

INT. SADIE'S PARENTS' LIVING ROOM - SAME

Sadie smiles as she walks in. Her DADDY sleeps in an old  
recliner. A football game plays on the TV. Sadie picks up the  
remote and changes the channel.

DADDY  
(waking)  
Hey, I was watchin' that. Change it back.

SADIE  
Through your eyelids?

Sadie smiles and changes the channel back. Then she jumps in the recliner. Daddy hugs her. She kisses him on the cheek.

DADDY  
You're too big and I'm too old for sharin' this chair. Or is it the other way around?

SADIE  
(smiles)  
Neither. Especially that part about me.

She pats his belly. They sit silently for a time.

DADDY  
Sadie, somethin's been worrying me.

SADIE  
(sits up)  
What?

DADDY  
(hesitant)  
You've been with Gerald a while now. You know I love you, and I'm happy with him if you are.

SADIE  
(frowns)  
Jeez, Daddy. I thought we were past this.

DADDY  
Now, don't start in on me.

SADIE  
Daddy!

DADDY  
Listen. I can see where this is goin' with you two. I was young once, and I'm just worried for you, is all. And maybe for my gran'kids. Not everyone is like your ol' dad.

SADIE

This isn't like when you were young, daddy. Mama loves Gerald, too.

DADDY

I know. I know. Gerald's good to you. I know.

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - NIGHT

SADIE (VO)

I hate funerals. Everyone knew I wanted to be cremated. I wasn't fit for an open casket anyway.

Sadie stands in the aisle among the pews. Amy and Gerald sit beside each other, near Mama. Daddy speaks at a lectern. A picture of Sadie stands nearby, behind an urn on a table.

DADDY

Thank you, Amy, for lovin' Sadie since you were little. And I want to thank Gerald for lovin' Sadie, too, and making her happy. You've earned a place in my heart, man, and I'm sorry . . .

(his voice breaks)

I'm just sorry.

Gerald cries. Tears fall down Sadie's cheeks as she walks to the lectern in front of her father. Mama clenches her jaw.

DADDY

(continuing)

I love you, Sadie. You'll always be . . . daddy's little girl.

SADIE

I love you back, daddy.

Sadie kisses Daddy on the cheek. He looks through her, and shivers. A tear rolls down the same cheek.

Sadie walks down the aisle. She looks at Amy holding Gerald. The empty exit stands just beyond her, out of focus.

SADIE

This isn't right. There's gotta be more.

Sadie looks toward the exit. Wu stands there. She turns to see what Wu is looking at, not understanding it's her.

WU

Sadie.

Shocked, Sadie turns quickly back toward Wu and steps back.

SADIE

Who are you?

WU

You're lost, and I'm here to help you find your way. Think of me as your guide. A friend.

SADIE

Why? Are you an angel? Why now?

WU

(kindly)

I am Wu. I've come because this ISN'T right. Sadie, there IS more than this.

SADIE

You heard that? I thought this was supposed to be all tunnels of light and dead relatives.

WU

When you are ready, something like that, yes. Are you willing to begin? Will you come with me?

Wu holds out a hand. Sadie cautiously takes it.

SADIE (VO)

Something about Wu made me feel, I don't know, like they were a life preserver. And I'd just realized I was drownin'. Angel or devil, it didn't matter to me. I needed Wu.

EXT. CITY - LATER

Funeral mourners leave a doorway behind where Sadie and Wu walk.

SADIE

Why am I here, Wu? I don't want to be here.

WU  
(points to empty space)  
You want to be there. But you can't.

SADIE  
I don't want to be HERE. I know I can't go back.

WU  
But you don't want to leave, either, do you?  
If you did, you'd already be gone.

SADIE  
Is this hell?

WU  
As close as you'll come in the way you mean it.  
(introspective)  
Hell is always of our own making.

SADIE  
(cries)  
I didn't make this! I just wanted to live! I want  
Gerald to hold me again! I want to be all right!

Sadie pounds hard on Wu's chest. Wu doesn't move. They embrace her as she gives up and nearly collapses.

WU  
Nothing will ever be the same, Sadie. To find  
your way from this . . . this hell . . . you must  
let it go. The universe is ultimately just, as  
you shall come to know in the end. The real end.

Tears fall from Wu's eyes onto Sadie's head. Sadie notices.

SADIE  
(recovering)  
I don't want to leave him.  
I can't leave him. Not alone.

WU  
So don't.

SADIE  
I won't.

FADE OUT

SADIE (VO)  
So, I didn't. I haven't.

FADE IN (BACK TO THE PRESENT)

INT. GERALD'S APARTMENT - DUSK

Sadie gazes at the sunset through a window. She sits on a radiator between the kitchen and living room.

Amy opens the door with a key. She's dressed for warmer weather and carries groceries. Without noticing Sadie, she starts New Age music on a smart speaker. Humming in tune, she prepares food in the kitchen. Sadie watches.

SADIE (VO)  
Gerald and Amy started hangin' out a lot after I passed. There was somethin' there between 'em. Over here, it looked like fog. It made Amy sit on one end of the couch and Gerald on the other.

I think it was me.

I couldn't help it. He was mine. I'd watch them, and I'd cry. But I knew I could trust her to make him smile, and he . . . he'd make her sing.

So, I decided to let it be. To remove the "me." Slowly, it worked. Slower, the hurt faded, and my love for them took its place. After that, there was this tug--a longing to be someplace else.

Sadie leaves the window, jumps up on the table, squats in front of Amy, and caresses her face. Amy stops working but doesn't look up. Her pentacle necklace dangles near the food.

SADIE  
Take care of each other. I've gotta go.

AMY  
(looks up, through Sadie)  
Sadie?

SADIE  
Yep.

Amy goes to the window and watches the fading light. Gerald enters and walks over to her. They embrace, and Amy holds on.

Sadie blows a kiss and flies through the ceiling.

EXT. CITY APARTMENT BUILDING ROOF - NIGHT

Sadie sits with her feet dangling over the roof edge. She looks down at leaf-covered trees. Wu steps up behind her.

WU

What are you doing, Sadie?

SADIE

Looking at the trees. They have a light in them.

WU

I know.

SADIE

I've let them go. You know that, too?

WU

Yes. It's time for you to go.

SADIE

Where? What about you?

Sadie stands and turns to Wu. Their form glows (to the fade).

WU

You'll see. We'll meet again when you're ready to join me. Take care of you until then.

FADE TO WHITE

SADIE (VO)

(voice quiets, ending in a whisper)

This light engulfs me

Fills me.

Becomes me.

Always was me.

I am Sadie Allison Dewitt.

I am me.

I am.

I.