

HAPPY FOR YOU NORA/SOPHIE SIDE

5.

NORA (CONT'D)

I'm on Instagram. It's not just a birthday.

SOPHIE

Oh. Um.

START>>

NORA

When do you leave?

SOPHIE

Tomorrow.

Something flashes across Nora's face: surprise. Then sadness. Gone in an instant.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I'm excited. I mean, it's not a huge deal. Well. I guess it is because my foot's in the door and like, it'll be cool to be in a room with these people, and have them like, listen? Or like, care what I say? I guess?

NORA

(she means it)

Yeah.

Nora's support catches Sophie off-guard. She is suddenly overcome; deeply sad.

SOPHIE

Sorry I didn't know this would, um, happen today-.

She collects herself.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I did everything you said. When I invited you last year to my - , it's because I wanted you to-. I just spent so long thinking if I did that, you'd... see?

A beat.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I really wish you had-

NORA

Send it to me.

SOPHIE

I did.

A beat.

NORA

(a justification)

I just can't come to all my students' things.

SOPHIE

I'm not your student.

A beat.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Did you ever finish your book?

NORA

(proud)

Yes.

SOPHIE

Oh my god. Nora. That's-- Oh my god. Can I read it?

A beat.

NORA

I think those first few chapters were the best part.

SOPHIE

I'm sure that's not true.

Nora shrugs.

Sophie wants to say everything in the world to make Nora happy. She steps closer to Nora, REACHES OUT HER HAND; then doesn't know where to put it. Just before her fingers graze Nora's arm, Nora PULLS BACK.

NORA

I don't want to keep you.

A beat.

SOPHIE

You're not - ...

NORA

I have an early day and. My boyfriend is inside.

Nora glances to the window. The MIDDLE-AGED MAN glances up at Nora, nods; warm; familiar.

SOPHIE
Oh. Is that... new?

Nora shakes her head. Then walks towards the window.
She turns back to Sophie.

NORA
(earnest)
Write me sometime.

SOPHIE
...I just thought you would be like, happy for me. Or. Sorry.

NORA
(conflicted)
I'm here, aren't I?

Sophie nods.

<<STOP

Nora ducks inside. As she does, Nerd Boy's BUSINESS CARD flutters - unnoticed by Nora - from Nora's purse to the floor.

Sophie bends down to grab it. As she stands, card in hand; ready to return it, Sophie looks up to catch the middle-aged man TAKE NORA'S HAND. Nora leans into him; LACES HER FINGERS THROUGH HIS.

Sophie stops; paralyzed. She watches as the couple maneuvers their way through the party, further and further away...

She is the loneliest she has ever been.

Suddenly, Lizzie sticks her head out the window, blocking Sophie's view.

LIZZIE
Oh my god was that - .

Sophie forces a smile, nods; flustered.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
How did it...?

Before Sophie can answer...

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
That's CRAZY! Come back inside! ...