

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

A Letter to Lily Hadler

ELLIOT SIDES

START

1 INT. COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER RECEPTION'S DESK - DAY 1

Elliot opens his writing journal, sinking his head into the pages. Lily takes notice, and takes off her headphones. She glances over her shoulder, and down towards the journal.

LILY HADLER
What are you writing?

Lily looks up at Elliot, waiting for a response.

ELLIOT CARTER
(dragging his words
as he's writing)
It's this... passion project. A...
novel on... stoicism.

Stammering, Elliot waves off Lily, and doesn't break eye contact with his book.

LILY HADLER
Jesus, what are you? Like- Batman or
something?

ELLIOT CARTER
(flabbergasted,
laughing nervously)
What?

Lily grabs half of the journal, skimming through Elliot's writing.

ELLIOT CARTER (cont'd)
It's a story about life! I-It's about
my experiences and my art, and about-

LILY HADLER
(muttering, fake
reading pages[])
-About detachment and acceptance and
blah blah blah blah- curl up in a
ball and die.

Elliot stares at Lily for a beat, then the two start to chuckle while Elliot hides his face in his hand.

ELLIOT CARTER
(chuckling)
That is... wow, I don't even know how
to respond to that.

LILY HADLER
I just think its stupid- It's living
your live without *living* your life-
you're just giving up on everything.

Lily pulls the book, but Elliot isn't so quick to let go.

LILY HADLER (cont'd)
(tittering)
Lemme finish reading it.

ELLIOT CARTER
(annoyed)
Yeah? So you can keep mocking it?

LILY HADLER
(teasingly)
No... so I can *deeply respect* it.

Lily and Elliot laugh.

ELLIOT CARTER
Are you always this... enigmatic?

LILY HADLER
(chuckling, murmuring)
God, you have no clue.

ELLIOT CARTER
(still chuckling a
bit)
What are you here for anyway? You
seem- just fine.

Lily's smile recedes a bit, getting more serious. Elliot
doesn't notice this. Lily looks up at him.

LILY HADLER
(nonchalantly)
Pancreatic cancer. Its terminal.

Elliot is stunned. He squints and shakes his head in
confusion over the shocking news.

ELLIOT CARTER
(caught by surprise)
Wh- what?

LILY HADLER

-So I was thinking I could get your number, we can talk more about your sad book or.. hang out.

Lily is trying to move past the conversation, seeing how uncomfortable it made Elliot.

ELLIOT CARTER

(confused, whispering)

Wait wait wait wait wait... so are you here for like... chemo? Do they even do that here?

LILY HADLER

No? Why would I need chemo?

Elliot chokes on his words.

LILY HADLER (cont'd)

(trailing off)

It's terminal. I'm just here to get meds- for pain and stuff or whatever.

Lily's eyes dart around a bit, and the two sit in silence for a beat. Lily raises her phone up to Elliot.

LILY HADLER (cont'd)

So I was thinking like- coffee on Tuesday? or...

END

START

2 INT. COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER RECEPTION'S DESK - MONTH LATER 2

MARIE

(sympathetic)

She's gone, Mr. Carter.

Elliot's grin drops down. His face is bleak, yet confused. Marie is sympathetic towards Elliot, but she's concerned about how to answer his questions.

ELLIOT CARTER

(stuttering, in a panic)

H-h-h-how.. W-w-when? I just talked to her-

MARIE
(stuttering,
sympathetic)
I'm so sorry... s-she passed in her
sleep this morning...

ELLIOT CARTER
(stern, but soft)
Why didn't you call me?

Elliot's confusion quickly turns to anger. inching closer
towards the reception's desk.

MARIE
(stuttering,
sympathetic)
...I-I couldn't, I just...

ELLIOT CARTER
I know- I m-mean.. no! T-t-that's
bullshit... you- you have my
number... You know how to contact...

Marie stands up and raises her voice. Trying to gain control
of the situation. She cuts off Elliot in retaliation.

MARIE
(yelling)
You aren't her emergency contact
Elliot!

The two start to yell over each other.

MARIE (OVERLAPPING)
(yelling)
We called her family that's all we
could do. What am I supposed to do?

ELLIOT CARTER (OVERLAPPING)
(yelling)
Emergency contact? Emergency
contact!?

Elliot roars over Marie, which is succeeded by a deafening
silence.

ELLIOT CARTER
I AM HERE EVERY GODDAMN DAY.

END