

#BFFGoals

A 10-min psychological coming-of-age short film

Written by

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Logline:

In a society enslaved to the unrealistic standards of beauty shaped by social media, insecure high schooler Julia loses her best friend, Kelly, while feeding her obsession for social acceptance.

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Draft 1 - 09/05/2023

Draft 2 - 13/05/2023

Draft 3 - 19/05/2023

Final Draft - 26/05/2023

1 INT. JULIA'S BEDROOM. DAY

Soft sun rays shine through the tinted window and onto a wall plastered with celebrity posters. A calendar hangs adjacent. Today is 23 January 2023, the first day of the new school term. A red cross is marked two weeks earlier on 9 January 2023, '*Kelly is back!!!*'.

Enters a flushed JULIA MCKINSEY-LONG (18), a slightly chubby Australian-Chinese. Donned in neatly tucked-in school uniform, her hair is done up in a ponytail. Curtain bangs frame her fully made-up face.

Julia scrambles for her schoolbag but accidentally knocks over one of the framed pictures from her desk. It is a picture of her and Kelly at the airport, marked with the year 2020 and a BFF sticker. The glass over Kelly's face is shattered. Julia returns it to her desk in a hurry, barely noticing the crack.

JULIA

Mum! Come on! I am going to be late for school!

Julia's phone CHIMES repeatedly. She scurries for it in her bag. After briefly scrolling through a list of endless notifications, Julia opens her chat with Kelly. She types, "*Hey girlie, I hope u're not mad at me... If it's something I've done, I hope you'll let me know. Anw, c u in school!*" She pauses. Julia deletes the text and retypes, "*Hey girlie, c u in school! xoxo*" She hits send but the message is '*Not delivered*'. Phone CHIMES again. It is a notification of the week's Top 10 TikTok trends. She taps on it as she exits her room.

NARRATOR FROM VIDEO (V.O.)

Everyone's heard of the Trolley Problem - kill five to save one, or save five to kill one? But what if the 'one' is you, and the 'five' are prisoners...

JULIA (O.S.)

Mum! Let's go!

CUT TO:

2 INT. SURVEILLANCE DESK. DAY

A computer screen displays four black-and-white feeds of separate locations - BEDROOM, CLASSROOM, COURTYARD, and ROADSIDE. The feeds are flickering and extremely pixelated. We see a shoulder in the foreground, facing the screen.

CUT TO:

3 INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM. DAY

The class is arranged in groups, a cacophony of music and chatter fills the air. One group films a TikTok dance challenge while another gossips the latest celebrity news.

Julia is with her clique in the middle as they mock the blog written by their class nerd, BILLY MILLS (18), a petite and bespectacled boy who has his head lowered in sheer embarrassment.

Slightly unkempt class clown and Mr. Cool Guy, ANDREW YARD (18), reads off his phone.

ANDREW
(mockingly; in a
posh accent)
"An Ode to my Sanity in the 21st
Century" by billthemill on
billthemill.com.

JULIA
(sniggers)
Did you say .com? Who uses blogs
anymore? That's so old-school.

ANDREW
Hey Billy, you should consider
creating a Twitter account
instead. Your username can be
reviewwithbew.

JULIA
(chortles)
How about oldiebillie?

Just then, the school's elitist cheerleading squad enters. They stride with confidence - all pompous and displaying more than a hint of disdain. The classroom grows silent as students exchange whispers.

TIFFANY ANDERSON (18) and her squad take their seats at the back of the classroom. Tiffany turns to her fellow cheerleader.

TIFFANY
Could you get me a smoothie,
please? The usual. Get yourself
one too while you're at it. My
treat.

Attempting to draw the attention away from the cheerleaders, Andrew grows excited and exclaims to Julia and the clique.

ANDREW

Guys, the new and improved Trolley Problem trend on TikTok - did you see it?

JULIA

(confidently)

Yeah, I'm caught up alright.

ANDREW

So what will you choose?

JULIA

(apathetically)

Hm, honestly, it doesn't make sense to spare the prisoners for my life... Who would do that? I don't deserve to die.

ANDREW

(cheekily)

You know what, I'll just let the train kill all of us man. Equality at its finest.

They laugh.

JULIA

Well I mean, they are prisoners. So if they die that way, it's pretty justifiable in my opinion. It's called karma!

She chuckles and looks up to Kelly.

JULIA (cont'd)

Am I right, Kelly?

We zoom out to see KELLY WANG (18) seated a distance from the clique. She is doodling in a notepad and is clearly disassociated from the discussion. Aloof, Kelly ignores Julia.

KELLY

(blatantly)

You don't need to prove yourself like this. Why do you try so hard to fit in?

We zoom into Julia who is taken aback. Her smile gradually disappears. The clique continues to laugh in the background as if Kelly was not there. Julia frowns, slightly offended. She shrugs it off almost instantly and rejoins the clique.

CUT TO:

4 INT. SURVEILLANCE DESK. DAY

The same computer screen with the four feeds plays. The same shoulder in the foreground faces the screen. This time, the feeds are less pixelated. We can make out that Julia is concurrently in all of the feeds.

BEDROOM, Julia is getting ready for school. CLASSROOM, Julia is with her clique. COURTYARD, Julia encounters the school's cheerleading squad. ROADSIDE, Julia is engrossed on her phone.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL COURTYARD. DAY

Julia is greeted by her peers as she walks across the courtyard. She points to her shoes as she brags to the person she is walking with:

JULIA

Look at my new Jordans! It's the latest collab with JoJo Siwa. Cool right?

We zoom out to see that it is Kelly whom Julia is talking to. Kelly is still standoffish. But we see a matching pink friendship anklet that Julia and Kelly are each wearing on their right legs.

Beat.

JULIA (cont'd)

(concernedly)

Kelly, what's going on? Things seem to have changed between us. Is it something I -

Tiffany and her squad approach Julia.

TIFFANY

Julia, my girl! How was your summer?

JULIA

It -

TIFFANY

(sarcastically)

I saw you went to the Sunny Coast for a dip, it looked fabulous! You've got a nice tan now! You should do this more, makes your skin more... glisten-y.

JULIA

I -

TIFFANY

Now, you just need to work on your
body shape -

JULIA

It's a work in progress!

Tiffany's squad smiles wryly.

TIFFANY

(with contempt)

There's a diet routine I saw on
TikTok. It's really good, I can
send it to you.

By now, Julia has broken out in cold sweat. We hear the
taunts of Julia's ex-bullies as Julia's face grows pale.
Her lips are dry. Tiffany's voice drowns into the
background.

EX-BULLIES (V.O.)

You're so big! I can't see
anything ahead when I stand
behind you! ... Chubby
Julie! Chubby Julie! ...
You're nothing without your
BFF Kelly aren't you!
You're both fat anyways, no
wonder you're friends ...
Do yourself a favour and
lose a few kilos, maybe
then you'll make more
friends ...

TIFFANY

(muffled)

Salad twice a week on
Mondays and Tuesdays.
Wednesdays are cheat days
but I'm disciplined so I
don't need those. Thursdays
are quinoa days. Fridays,
it says yoghurt but I'm
sensitive to it so I just
don't eat anything. Oh and
this is on top of the
exercise I do thrice a
week.

Julia gulps, speechless.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

(conceitedly)

If you follow all these, you
should be on track. Trust me, it's
for your own good.

Tiffany walks away. Julia whips out her phone to search
for weight loss routines. We zoom out to see Kelly.

KELLY

(detached)

I'm not sure what's going on, but
we need to talk.

Julia is fixated on her research.

JULIA

(dismissively)

We'll talk later.

Julia walks off.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. OUTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL, ROAD. LATER

On the way home, Julia is still on her phone, now searching for liposuction procedures. She receives a call from Kelly but ignores it. Soon after, she receives a voice mail from Kelly. Annoyed, Julia lets out a groan and dismisses it again.

As Julia crosses the road, a train SCREECHES in the background. Suddenly, a car horn BLARES. Lights flash at her. Just then, someone pushes Julia off the road. A loud BANG echoes. Vision blurry, Julia hears footsteps rushing over, but not to her. She blacks out.

CUT TO
BLACK:

7 INT. THE IN-BETWEEN. EVENING

Eyes open. Julia finds herself on a bed in a white room that is minimally furnished. An automated voice plays over the speaker.

IN-BETWEEN STAFF (V.O.)
Hi Julia, welcome to the In-
Between, a state of your
subconsciousness.

Julia sits up slowly, holding her head.

JULIA
(murmurs)
What...? Where am I?

There is no response. The room speaker sounds:

FAMILIAR VOICE (V.O.)
(distortedly with
static)
Hey Julia, you know, you don't
need to prove yourself like this.

Julia frowns in bewilderment. Her eyes dart to and fro, trying to make out the voice. She shivers as she recalls...

FIRST FLASHBACK BEGINS:

CUT TO:

8 INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM. DAY

Kelly is doodling in her notepad and seated a distance from Julia.

KELLY
(distortedly with
static)
Why do you try so hard to fit in?

END OF FIRST FLASHBACK.

CUT TO:

9 INT. THE IN-BETWEEN. CONTINUOUS

The familiar voice continues over the speaker. Julia's eyes widen, pupils dilate.

KELLY (V.O.)
(distortedly with
static)
You know you've got me. You just
need to be you.

SECOND FLASHBACK BEGINS:

CUT TO:

10 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL COURTYARD. DAY

Kelly walks beside Julia.

KELLY
(distortedly with
static)
I'm not sure what's going on, but
we need to talk.

END OF SECOND FLASHBACK.

CUT TO:

11 INT. THE IN-BETWEEN. CONTINUOUS

KELLY (V.O.)
(distortedly with
static)
Call me back.

Speechless, Julia scrambles for her phone to call Kelly, but it's gone.

Beat. She glances around the room and spots a computer screen a distance away. She gets up from the bed and hurries to sit down on the chair in front of the screen.

CUT TO:

12 INT. THE IN-BETWEEN, SURVEILLANCE DESK. CONTINUOUS

The computer screen displays four black-and-white feeds - the same as before. We learn that the mysterious shoulder belonged to Julia all along.

A fifth feed, this one in colour, plays. Julia leans in closer to the screen. She notices herself in hospital gown lying unconscious with her worried parents around her. A medical record next to her bed reads in bold: 'ICU: COMA PATIENT'.

Puzzled, Julia looks down at the grey jumpsuit that she is wearing in The In-Between. A sharp pain strikes her head.

Just then, the fifth feed plays a surveillance footage of Julia's car accident. We see Kelly jumping in to shove Julia off the road.

JULIA
Don't tell me...

The screen flashes: 'Kelly Wang, deceased 3 months ago.'

JULIA (cont'd)
(shakily)
No. This can't be true... What
just happened? Am I dreaming?
(screams)
HELLO?! HELLO!? Anyone there???
Where am I?? Where's Kelly?! This
can't be true!!!

There is no response. Beat.

She leans in again towards the four feeds and analyses them. She notices herself in all of them doing different things at different locations at the same time. Julia is dumbfounded and in denial.

JULIA (cont'd)
No... I must be dreaming... It's
all an illusion... It must be.

Julia's eyes light up with a slight sense of hope.

JULIA (cont'd)
If this is an illusion, this
means... this means that Kelly
isn't dead, right?
(screams aloud)
KELLY ISN'T DEAD, RIGHT?

There is still no response, only echoes of her own voice. She pinches herself and winces. The pain is ever-so-real.

Beat. She inspects the room for an exit but the four white walls are seamless. Her eyes rest on what seems like a door. Charging towards it, Julia pounds on the door in deep frustration and anxiety.

JULIA (cont'd)
Get me out of here!!! Whoever is
keeping me here, this is illegal!
This is kidnap!!!

Silence.

Beat. Julia heaves a loud sigh.

JULIA (cont'd)
(teary)
It's all Tiffany's fault! All
those bullies! Everyone who has
ever called me fat! If they didn't
do that, I wouldn't have neglected
Kelly.

The pain strikes Julia's head again. She crouches into a ball and breaks down uncontrollably.

Beat. She looks up at the computer screen that is playing the accident on repeat. We see quick flashes of the accident. They are extremely vivid, as if Julia was really there when it happened.

MONTAGE OF QUICK FLASHES BEGIN:

Train SCREECHES... Car horn BLARES... Lights flash...
THUMP... Loud BANG... Frantic murmurs... Blurred vision
of a motionless right leg wearing a pink anklet spotted
from afar... Ambulance sirens ECHO...

JULIA (cont'd)
(screams aloud)
KELLY!!!!

Julia whimpers in agony. It's as if the pain from her head seems to have spread to her heart. She grabs her chest.

JULIA (cont'd)
(shakily)
Kelly... How could you have done
this... How could you still have
loved me like this... After all
I've done... You chose me... when
I chose myself... You didn't
deserve it, yet you chose to
die... for me...

Trembling, Julia wails uncontrollably as tears roll down
her cheeks.

JULIA (cont'd)
(weakly)
Kelly... I'm-I'm... I'm so
sorry...

Lying prostrate, Julia groans aloud. In the background,
we see the surveillance footage of unconscious Julia and
her worried parents on the computer screen.

CUT TO
BLACK:

We hear the monotonous ECG tone resound from the computer
screen, followed by incoherent cries.

The End.