

SAFE DISTANCE

by

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INT. CAMERON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Light cracks through the blinds, revealing a messy bedroom with clothes strewn on the floor and every shelf filled with a collection of bric-a-brac and dirty crockery. In bed, lying spread eagle is CAMERON, mid 20s, who slowly wakes up. As he does so, he looks over to the other side of the bed. It's empty.

CAMERON
Fin? Where you at?

He checks his phone. It's 11am. He rests his head on the pillow and shuts his eyes again.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
Ugh.

Just as Cameron nods back off, he receives a facetime call. It's from Fin. The sudden noise jolts Cameron so much that he almost falls out of bed, knocking most of the items from his bedside cabinet onto the floor in the process.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
Aw f-

Cameron picks up the phone and answers.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
-Fin. Why aren't you in bed?

FIN, late 20s, is on the other end, wearing scrubs.

FIN
I'm at work.

CAMERON
Work? But I thought you said you were done with early starts?

FIN
So did I, but duty calls. I was asked to go back to the front line, and I couldn't say no.

CAMERON
Front line? Why didn't you say anything?

FIN
By the time I got the message last night you were already asleep. I didn't want to wake you.

CAMERON

But you should've woken me. We needed to at least talk about it.

FIN

What is there to talk about? These are hard times Cam, and I need to do all I can to help.

CAMERON

But it's a big decision. You're putting yourself in danger.

FIN

I know. But I have to do it. I don't want to look at the death rate rising sitting at home playing Animal Crossing knowing that I could've done something.

CAMERON

You could've created a house on an island.

FIN

You know what I mean. I wouldn't have been able to sleep at night knowing I could've helped but didn't.

CAMERON

But we had always had plans to play Animal Crossing together when it came out, and with the lockdown now there's even more of a reason to play it.

FIN

But things have changed, Cam. I can't shut myself away and pretend that they haven't.

CAMERON

So why aren't you working now?

FIN

I'm on break. I'll be back on the ward in a few minutes.

CAMERON

And then when are you back here?

FIN

Not for a while.

CAMERON
Long shift?

FIN
Kind of.

CAMERON
Will you be back in time for
dinner? I can cook you something
nice if you like or -

FIN
Cam.

CAMERON
Or if you're not back before 10 I
could have mine later and leave
something in the oven for you.

FIN
Cameron. I'm not coming home.

Cameron sits up.

CAMERON
Whu- what do you mean?

FIN
I'm not coming back tonight. And
not for a while.

CAMERON
What? I don't understand.

FIN
You're immunocompromised.

CAMERON
Immuno-what?

FIN
You're diabetic.

CAMERON
Now it just sounds like you're
trying to insult me, albeit poorly.
What's that got to do with
anything?

FIN
It means you're more susceptible. I
can't come back to risk infecting
you.

CAMERON

It's alright. My body can handle it.

FIN

No it can't, that's what I'm saying.

CAMERON

But, self-isolation. We had plans. We were going to watch a new film every day, we were going to do yoga exercises together, we were -

FIN

Cam. We can still do those things, but they'll have to wait.

CAMERON

For how long?

FIN

Weeks, months, I don't know.

CAMERON

But you're still coming back. To collect your stuff, right?

FIN

I took everything I needed with me.

Cameron gets up and wanders towards the wardrobe. He opens it and it's half-empty.

CAMERON

Where will you live?

FIN

A local hotel is putting us up.

CAMERON

And what will I do?

FIN

Stay at home. Keep fit. Keep healthy.

CAMERON

Without you?

FIN

Don't make it more difficult than it already is.

CAMERON
I just want to hold you, Fin.

FIN
Cam, my break's almost over. I've gotta go.

CAMERON
But we'll speak later, yeah?

FIN
Yeah, we'll speak later.

CAMERON
I love you.

Fin hangs up.

Cameron, going limp, drops his phone and flops back onto his bed. He cocoons himself in his duvet.

INT. MAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Fin is standing in a much tidier, more sterile bedroom. He looks down at his phone.

MAN (O.S.)
Is it done?

Fin blocks Cameron's number.

FIN
It's done.

MAN (O.S.)
Difficult?

FIN
A bit.

MAN (O.S.)
Well it's over now.

Fin puts his phone away.

MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Come back to bed, my love.

Fin walks towards the bed.

CUT TO BLACK.