

ALL WRITE

by

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EXT. SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON

A warm sunny day. University students walk and lounge outside. MARA approaches a building wearing a blue shirt and her hair slightly disheveled. Her backpack weighs her down as she walks, clearly lost in thought. She opens the door to the building and steps inside.

INT. STUDY BUILDING - AFTERNOON

A fairly quiet floor filled with students pouring over books. Mara navigates through tables and desks and finds a vacant study room. She enters.

INT. STUDY ROOM - AFTERNOON

Mara sits in the middle of the table. She pauses then places her backpack on the table. She takes out textbooks and notebooks until something catches her eye. At the bottom of her bag is a crumpled note.

Mara slowly retrieves the note and sets her backpack down on the floor. She hesitantly opens up the note. It reads "Hey there. This is Lucas from Geography. You've been in a couple of my classes this year and I wanted to reach out to you. I think you're really beautiful. Hopefully I don't sound like a creep or anything, but I genuinely think you're pretty. Maybe you'd like to get coffee sometime? I know a great place off of Willow Road. Anyway, I hope you have a great rest of your day and I'll hopefully see you soon. Lucas."

A sudden KNOCKING at the door snaps Mara out of her trance. She looks the right and sees her friend ESPERANZA waving at her from the room's window. She wears a yellow top and her hair pulled back in a ponytail.

Mara quickly throws the letter back into her backpack as Esperanza enters.

ESPERANZA

(happily)

Mara! Its so good to see you!

Esperanza sits down across from Mara.

ESPERANZA (CONT'D)

I was on my way to a meeting but I had to say hi when I saw you.

(pause)

I hope I'm not bothering you.

Mara quickly shakes her head. A forced smile paints her face.

MARA
No, no! I'm not doing anything
much. You're good.

ESPERANZA
(nodding)
Okay! Gotcha.

There is a moment of SILENCE between the two. Mara looks away absentmindedly.

Esperanza lets out a soft SIGH and looks directly at her friend.

ESPERANZA
(softly)
Listen, I heard about you and
Lucas. I'm sorry.

Mara stiffens and instinctively crosses her arms. She continues to avoid eye contact.

Esperanza carefully pushes on.

ESPERANZA (CONT'D)

Now, I know its not my place to
say anything about all that, so I
won't. But I want to let you know
something.

Esperanza leans forward and gently takes Mara's hand in her own.

ESPERANZA (CONT'D)
You're not alone. Many people want
to see you happy, but we know that
it takes time. If you ever need
anything, dozens of people and I
will be right there with you.

Mara shifts her eyes over to Esperanza. A thin film of tears coats her gaze.

Esperanza tightens her grip and smiles.

Mara stares quietly at their hands. She slowly wraps her fingers around Esperanza's. She raises her gaze. A small but genuine smile appears on her lips.

MARA
(quietly)
Yeah. Thanks.

Esperanza gets up and gives Mara a long hug. The two part from the embrace and Esperanza gives Mara one last smile before leaving the room.

Mara stands still for a while looking after Esperanza. She then turn her gaze to her backpack and the letter within.

EXT. SIDEWALK-DUSK

A sparsely populated sidewalk. Mara exits the building with the letter in her hands. She walks for a moment and stops when she sees a trashcan. Mara takes on last look at the letter, glancing over the name "Lucas" one last time. She turns and throws the letter into the trashcan and walks away. As she moves ahead, her stiff posture relaxes. Her head leans back as she stares at the evening sky, smiling.

THE END.