

"LEFT ON READ"

Written by

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Based on, the dating lives of lesbians everywhere
(and other people who date too)

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OVERBLACK:

A Tinder notification sound sings.

FADE IN:

INT. HOPE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

IN 8MM BLACK AND WHITE ACADEMY ASPECT RATIO FILM;

HOPE (20s) gets up and turns on her phone screen. The little bright box illuminates the dark space around her. She got a message from KARA, a girl she met on Tinder.

ALL DIALOGUE AS TEXT MESSAGES WILL BE PORTRAYED AS TEXT BUBBLES, WITH CHARACTER NAME AND TIME BY THEM.

KARA (O.S.)

Heyyy beautiful! How are u??

Hope smiles, in spite of being tired. She starts typing.

HOPE

Oh, you know. Can't sleep, tired of being asked to be someone's third.

KARA (O.S.)

So annoying. I don't wanna be someone's fucking unicorn either

HOPE

Exactly!

Hope sits up in bed. Debating about what to type, as a typing awareness indicator bubble hovers over her phone.

HOPE (CONT'D)

I really liked messaging with you yester-

She deletes that, and restarts.

HOPE (CONT'D)

I like the new photos you posted in your bio!

She deletes that.

HOPE (CONT'D)

Are you still down to hang out tomorrow?

Sent. She waits.

Beat.

Getting anxious, she stares at her phone, begging for a reply.

KARA (O.S.)
Yeah! I think you'll rllly like that restaurant!

Hope lights up with excitement.

HOPE
I'm so excited! 😊👉

Hope smiles at her phone, holding it to her face. A tiny heart flies out of her phone.

SUPER: "KARA LIKED THAT."

Hope then switches apps and sends a text to her best friend, VIOLET (20s).

HOPE (CONT'D)
DUUUUUUUUUUUUDE

INTERCUT:

INT. VIOLET'S BEDROOM - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Violet slides into a split screen after reading Hope's message.

HOPE
I have a date tomorrow!!! 😊

Violet rubs her eyes as she reads her text from "Brotato chip of Hope".

VIOLET
Yaas! I'm so happy for you queen! ♡

Violet looks at her phone with a mixed face. Then to her wall with several photos of her and Hope with other friends.

She signs and turns her phone off.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. PEDRO'S TACO SHACK - DAY

VARIOUS SHOTS OF THE FOOD BEING COOKED, AND THE RESTAURANT
OPPERATING.

Hope and Kara are eating and talking when Hope snorts at one
of Kara's jokes. Kara laughs.

KARA
You're such a goofball!

DISSOLVE TO:

Later, the two of them are eating their food. Hope gazes at
Kara, in awe of her ANGELIC GLOW.

EXT. TEMPE TOWN LAKE BRIDGE - NIGHT

The two are walking under the stringed lights of the bridge.

HOPE
Whoa, check this out!

Hope runs over to the side, looking at the view of the city.

HOPE (CONT'D)
Isn't it gorgeous??

Kara looks to Hope and smiles at her. Hope smiles back.

Kara grabs her hands and kisses Hope as Hope closes her eyes.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. HOPE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Hope opens her eyes and lands on her bed, with her phone in
her hands. She sends a quick text.

HOPE
I had a really nice time tonight!♡

She holds her phone close to her chest, staring up into the
ceiling, grinning widely.

She closes her eyes an imagines...

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE - DAY, IN COLOR NOW

A) EXT/INT. HARKINS VALLEY ART - Kara literally pulls Hope by
the arm into the movie theater.

The two of them look up at the Marquee and then run inside. They sit down in the theater and start watching themselves on the screen.

B) EXT. FLOWER SHOP - Hope and Kara are kissing in front of a garden wall of roses, near a neon sign.

C) INT. HOUSE PARTY - Hope and Kara are at a party, Kara smokes a massive hit from a bong as Hope dances.

D) EXT. OUTDOOR PRIDE EVENT - Hope and Kara are at an event for Pride Month. Everyone is waving or wearing rainbows and other LGBTQ pride flags. Kara has her arm around Hope, and Kara leans in and gives Hope a kiss on the cheek.

MONTAGE END.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOPE'S APARTMENT - DAY, "A FEW DAYS LATER"

MATCH CUT: A POSTER OF SAPPHO KISSING ONE OF HER LOVERS OR SIMILAR LESBIAN POSTER INVOLVING KISSING.

Hope opens her phone and looks at her messages that she's sent to Kara over the past few days.

She spots a READ RECEIPT, but no reply from Kara.

INT. - HOPE'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - LATER

Hope makes some eggs and bacon, checking her phone for responses. NO REPLY.

She cuts up some fruit, and checks her phone again. Nothing.

She eats her breakfast alone, scrolling through social media.

MONTAGE - HOPE'S APARTMENT - DAY

A) She takes a shower.

B) Hope reads a book on the couch, anxiously checking her phone for replies.

C) Hope watches TV. Her phone lights up on the coffee table. She glows with joy until she realizes it was just some push notification. She goes back to watching TV, visibly sadder.

D) A clock on the wall shows the passage of time.

E) A calendar fills up with a three more days crossed out.

MONTAGE END.

INT. HOPE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Hope enters the apartment in a new outfit. She checks her phone one last time. STILL NOTHING.

She leans against the wall, and slides down onto the floor.

She starts typing something to Kara.

HOPE
Hey Kara, I was wondering if-

She backspaces.

HOPE (CONT'D)
Hey, I'd love to see you again. Are
you fr-

She deletes what she typed.

HOPE (CONT'D)
Heyyy, are you busy this weekend?

She deletes the message, and decides not to send anything.

She takes a moment to cry.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. HOPE'S CAR, PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Tears roll down Hope's face as she eats ice cream right out of the gallon. It's still in the grocery bag.

She pulls up her phone and scrolls through Instagram.

She keeps finding cute art of lesbian couples. She tosses her phone behind her to the back seat.

She shovels a few more scoops into her mouth.

Ding. She gets a message from her friend, VIOLET.

VIOLET (O.S.)
Hey Hope, are you okay?

She ignores it, puts her phone down and eats more ice cream.

She looks back to her phone. She puts the ice cream down, and grabs her phone.

HOPE
Yeea, I'm fine.

VIOLET (O.S.)
I really wanna see you dude. Wanna hang?

HOPE
I would but-

She backspaces.

HOPE (CONT'D)
I kinda wanna be alone.

She deletes that.

HOPE (CONT'D)
I just got ghosted again.

VIOLET
awww, i'm sorry dude :(

HOPE
I should just get used to being alone-

She looks at that text before sending it. She get's another text from Violet.

VIOLET
you're an amazing human being! u don't deserve that!

Hope deletes the text she was going to send.

HOPE
can u come over fam?

VIOLET
ppfftish, ya girl! i'll bring weeeeed.

HOPE
Lit👉👍

INT. HOPE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Hope hits the bong, as Violet falls onto the couch.

VIOLET
How many dates did you two go on?

Hope hands Violet the bong. Then, she picks up a tissue and blows her nose.

HOPE
One... but it was amazing. I just thought it could really turn into something.

VIOLET
That good? Or did you just want it to be that good?

HOPE
I don't know, both I guess.

VIOLET
Well, she doesn't deserve you.

HOPE
I can't feel that.

VIOLET
What?

HOPE
I don't want to deserve better, I just want to be happy again.

Violet puts down the bong and leans in.

VIOLET
Was the last time with Riley?

HOPE
The only time was with her.

VIOLET
Maybe you're relying too much on tinder to find your soulmate?

Hope shrinks into the couch.

HOPE
Maybe.

Violet takes one more hit.

VIOLET

I mean, I don't use tinder but maybe it's a good idea to log off for a while. Try to focus on yourself.

HOPE

I need to get out of this house.

Hope leaps up off couch.

VIOLET

Bro we're high as fuck.

HOPE

You say that like it's a problem.

VIOLET

Fair.

Hope smiles.

HOPE

Wanna go to a gay bar and get hella cross faded?

VIOLET

Fuck yeah, that's my girl.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCAL GAY BAR - NIGHT

Violet leads the way, an excited but anxious Hope follows behind her.

HOPE

Holy shit this is crazy.

VIOLET

Bitch, this was your idea. Let's do shots!

Hope hesitates, but then walks to the bar. Violet slams down her shot.

Hope stares at the filled shot glass. She shrugs. And sips it down. She gags, Violet laughs.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

You're supposed to drink it fast.

Hope laughs with her.

INT. LOCAL GAY BAR, LATER

The two dance on the dance floor and have a good time.

Hope notices that she can't take her eyes off of Violet.

Hope runs up to the BARTENDER.

HOPE
Can I get another shot?

BARTENDER
Sure, same kind?

She nods.

The bartender goes to fill her shot.

HOPE
I don't know if this me being
lonely, or hi-- drunk, but I wanna
make a move on a friend.

BARTENDER
Sounds like she's more than a
friend.

HOPE
I mean... that's what she's always
been.

BARTENDER
If you really like her and she
swings that way. Shoot your shot.

She looks back to Violet, who smiles at her. Hope turns back to the bartender.

HOPE
I'm gonna go for it!

She slams the shot, and runs out to the dance floor.

As they dance, the music slows down. Hope goes in for a kiss, and catches Violet off guard.

HOPE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, I-

Violet pulls her back in, and kisses her.

THE BLACK AND WHITE FADES INTO COLOR.

FADE OUT.