

THE WAIT

Written by

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EXT. BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

A narrow, gray alley. Almost no light. A single, rusty metal door. Near eye level, a small sliding window - shut. Faint police siren somewhere in the distance.

KEVIN (late 20s, leather jacket, relaxed) walks ahead, hands in his pockets. RYAN (around 20, glasses, tense) follows a step behind. They stop in front of the door.

RYAN  
(whisper)  
This is it?

KEVIN  
Yeah. This is the only place still open. Nothing else is running right now.

KEVIN glances at the door. Then at the empty alley behind them. RYAN shifts, uneasy.

RYAN  
I'm serious, man. This--this feels weird.

KEVIN  
You said you wanted to try it. This is how.

Kevin steps closer to the door, looks at the small window. Ryan hesitates... then steps up beside him.

RYAN  
...We just wait?

Kevin nods. Ryan looks back toward the street and then at Kevin.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
How long does it take?

KEVIN  
Depends.

RYAN  
On what?

KEVIN  
On you. The closer it gets, the slower it feels. If you keep checking, it won't come.

RYAN  
That doesn't make sense.

KEVIN  
(smiles slightly)  
You sure you can handle it?

RYAN  
I think so.

KEVIN  
Everyone thinks they can. Before they try. It hits harder than you think.

RYAN  
What happens if I can't?

KEVIN  
You deal with it. Or you don't.

A distant siren cuts through the silence.

RYAN  
...Why does this feel like a bad idea?

KEVIN  
You wanted this, right?

RYAN  
...Yeah.

KEVIN  
Then you take it. You don't get to pick just the good part.

A faint clanging from inside the door.

KEVIN (CONT'D)  
(suddenly)  
You're taking it.

RYAN  
(panic)  
What?

KEVIN  
You said you wanted to try. Go.

Ryan doesn't move. The sound behind the door grows louder. A clatter. Something shifted. Ryan instinctively moves to the side—almost hiding. Kevin pulls him back, places him directly in front of the door.

KEVIN (CONT'D)  
Hey- stay with it.

RYAN  
I don't-

KEVIN  
(low, steady)  
Don't think about it. When it  
opens, you don't hesitate.

The noise behind the door builds-A sudden, loud bang. Ryan startled and freeze, almost on the verge of tears.

The small window slides open. A harsh, warm light spills out. A hand suddenly shoots out-Holding a greasy paper bag.

WORKER (O.S.)  
EXTRA SUPER HOT CHICKEN WING COMBO  
FOR KEVIN!!!

KEVIN  
Yeah.

Kevin takes the bag, grabs Ryan by the back of his collar, and pulls him into the dark alley.

END.