

PICK UP

Written by

By Lily Rafferty

Scene 1 - College accommodation morning time INT:

We see Ellen a 22-year-old student on screen. She is going about mundane tasks in her living space. She boils the kettle and makes a coffee. We see her eating breakfast cereal as she checks her phone notifications. Her face shows a lack of expression and paints a rather dull picture of a morning routine. She goes from the empty kitchen into her room. She sits at her desk and opens college works on her laptop and begins to type.

Scene 2 - In her bedroom INT:

Ellen is sitting at her desks typing away when she stops and sits for a moment. She then reaches to pick up her phone. We see she begins to call a saved contact on her phone screen although we can't quite see the name. Ellen sits for a moment waiting for the call to go through but no one picks up. We hear a muffled voice saying leave a message after the beep:

Ellen:

'Hey I know you're not there right now but I thought I'd send my usual updates. I have a lot of study to do, like I was telling you my exams are next week. Pause. It's a lot of work pause I'm really not sure how well I'm going to do. Anyway, I'm heading to the library now, so please please wish me luck.'

Ellen ends the call and stands up from where she's sitting. She begins to pack up her bag. She stands and takes a look in the mirror where she looks blankly back at her reflection. There is a sadness in her face and eyes. She then turns to grab a coat turning the bedroom light off as she leaves her room.

Scene 3 - College campus / Library:

We see Ellen walking through campus and then sitting in the library. Before she begins her work she checks her phone's notifications. The phone shows multiple missed calls from 'Mum', 'Dad', 'Brother' and 'Family whatsapp'. She looks to the person beside her to see if they've also seen the multitude of missed calls. She looks back and shuts her phone as she flips it over onto the table and opens her laptop. We see her begin to type. She works away with a dull expression. We see Ellen in the same spot during the late evening and then at night when it's dark. Not having moved from the desk.

Cut to clips of the late night dull Library interior.

Scene 4 - college library / campus / bedroom:

We see Ellen exit the library. It's now dark outside and not many people are around. She walks through campus slowly as though she has nowhere to be, looking up at the trees and buildings. We then see her in her room in the dark. The light from the street on her face. She calls the number on her phone but again she is met with the answering phone. Ellen falls back onto her bed as she begins to record a message.

Ellen

"It's me again, I really missed our chats today. I have a lot of work to do. I'm just not sure when I'm going to fit it all in, but I think I can anyway touch wood (she knocks on her forehead or desk).

But I know you wouldn't want me to give up so I'm really going to try my best'

She ends the voice mail and curls into a ball on her bed.

Scene 5 - bedroom:

The next morning Ellen is sitting at her desk again staring blankly out at the window. We then see her going through her emails on her computer. We see an unopened email from the college counsellor:

email Re: appointment. An automated email saying "Due to high demand the counsellor will try to get back to you in the next 10-14 days to begin scheduling an appropriate appointment time".

Her eyes begin to well as she stares at the screen. Ellen is jolted back to reality by the sound of a phone call from 'Mum'. She is hesitant to pick it up as her eyes are full of tears. She picks up the call and waits for her mother to speak.

Sandra:

"Ellen did you pick out your outfit for tomorrow?"

Ellen doesn't respond as she gathers herself

Sandra:

"Ellen, hello can you hear me? Can you please respond?"

Ellen:

"Hi, mum yes I found something"

Sandra:

"ok good, *pause* ,great. Now make sure you're looking presentable alright. A little bit of makeup will have you looking and feeling great."

"mm" a mumble from Ellen

Sandra:

"Now that will be just great Ellen, Just Great (A shake in her voice)."

Ellen:

"What time are we all meeting in the morning"

Sandra:

"Let's say 8:30 at ours just to be safe"

Ellen:

'I have to get back to studying now but I'll see you then.'

Sandra:

"Ok love, take it easy on yourself, see you then"

Ellen puts down the phone as tears roll down her face while she stares at her laptop.

Cut to filler shots of campus throughout the day

Scene 6 - Bedroom:

It's the next Day and we see Ellen again in her room. She is putting on her all black outfit. She sits on her bed and bends over to tie her shoes. Once finished tying them she remains hunched over. She eventually straightens herself and looks to an image of her and her granny that's in her room on the desk. "Our things by Saoirse plays". She walks over and picks up the frame, staring at it and then closing her eyes with sadness.

Scene 7 - College campus EXT:

Ellen is walking through the college campus. She walks past a friend sitting on a bench who calls her name.

Brian:
'Ellen hey'

Ellen:
'Leah. Hi.'

Brian:
"Ellen stop. The all black fit! Slayyy slay slay, love that on you"

Ellen:
"ha. Thanks. I've actually got to (Leah interrupts) "

Brian:
"Oh my god, don't let me hold you up, I'll see you soonn"

Ellen fakes a smile, we then see it drop once she's walked past Leah. Ellen then continues walking through town.

Scene 8 - Dart station in Dublin:

We see Ellen sitting at the dart stop on one of the metal benches in a dart station (Pierce) . We see Ellen turn and look at the dart timeboard. The dart says 'in 12 mintutes'. We see her take out her phone as she calls the number again while she waits. This time we see the name 'Granny' on her phone screen. Again no one picks up so she begins to leave another voice mail.

Ellen:

Hi Granny its's me again, I know you won't hear this but I just wanted to send you one more message. There's a lot I want to say.
Pause. This is just so unfair. I really need you to be around and I'm not sure what I'm going to do without you. Who's going to light candles for me with my exams next week.

Ellen laughs although sad
She begins to breakdown while still waiting on the dart.

I think I might fail these exams, you know mum and dad they'll
freak, granny your timing really wasn't great, I just need your
advice I have no one else who gets it.

You were my best friend and I just don't know what I'm going to do,
it's so sudden. You are so important to me. I hope you know how much
you mean to me and that you'll always be my best friend. I'll never
forget you'

While the monologue continues cut to clips of her on the way to her
way to the funeral. Cut to clips of her in her room with the mass
memorial card subtly sitting on her desk. She pulls out a projector
and begins to play clips of her and her grandparents as a child.
Clips of her and her grandmother. It then cuts to the original
clips.

The monologue comes to an end and the clips of her and her
grandmother end as the sound of the switch of the projector turning
off.

Titles

THE END

