

If I Am Not Myself
Episode 1 – Comfortable.

BLACK SCREEN

FADE IN – Blurred lights fill the area. People talking and laughing fill the space, but muted. There is a disconnect.

VIRGINIA (V.O.)

I am always the one watching from a distance. The world goes on while I watch it. It is never clear, just a blurred reality that I never fit into. At least, I never thought I could fit into the mold created around me; it was uncomfortable.

A figure appears. The figure approaches and comes into focus.

VIRGINIA (V.O.)

That was until I met Tyler

Tyler smiles.

VIRGINIA (V.O.)

He shifted the blurry mess into focus. I found my place, and it was with him.

Their hands reach for each other. Fades to black.

VIRGINIA (V.O.)

Three years later and that comfort he brought me still surrounds me. (pause) I am comfortable.

TITLE SCREEN: IF I AM NOT MYSELF

COMFORTABLE

INT. LIVING ROOM – DAY

VIRGINIA sits at her table, laptop open. She carefully reads emails, making sure she isn't missing anything important. She clicks on an important email, one from her university. It's about graduation. She is nervous just by looking at the email.

Then there is knock on her door.

VIRGINIA:

Come in!

The door opens and TYLER walks into Virginia's apartment.

VIRGINIA:
Hey.

TYLER (uninterested):
Hey.

Tyler collapses onto the couch and pulls out his phone. Virginia looks at him, desperately hoping he would say something. Nothing comes out of his mouth. Virginia turns back to her emails.

VIRGINIA:
So... how was class?

TYLER:
Well, boring. Sitting through lectures can only be so interesting. He assigned us with partners for the semester for a project.

VIRGINIA:
Oh cool.

TYLER:
Yeah, it should be interesting. My partner seems to have her act together so hopefully it will be a breeze.

VIRGINIA:
Yea hopefully.

Silence fills the space again. Virginia still looking at emails and marking down important deadlines and Tyler lost in his phone. Eventually, he looks at her.

TYLER:
Hey, what do you want to do tonight?

VIRGINIA (turning to Tyler):
I really should do some homework.

TYLER:
No, no Virginia, no homework.

VIRGINIA:
Tyler, I really should. I need to make sure I-

Tyler stands up and interrupts her. He grabs her shoulders and lifts her from the chair.

TYLER:
No. We are going to watch Netflix. You need a break from school. I see the tension in your shoulders.

Tyler guides Virginia to the couch and plops her down. He sits down beside her and grabs the remote. She looks at him smiling and lets out a laugh. He looks at her, smiling. He wraps his arm around her, and they watch a show.

FADE TO – A COUPLE HOURS LATER

Virginia and Tyler continue to occupy to couch, but on opposite sides paying no attention to the other. Tyler plays a video game, actively voicing out loud victories and losses.

Virginia browses jobs. She scrolls through positions, but nothing interests her. She glances at Tyler, who is deeply invested in his game. She searches up a job.

JOB POSTING – MEDIA SPECIALIST – LOCATED IN NEW YORK CITY

This isn't the first time Virginia has looked at this posting. She knew this position well.

Tyler yells out a victory whoop, pulling Virginia out of her thoughts. She closes the job posting and the two continue to sit in silence.

EXT. SIDEWALK – MORNING

Virginia is walking to class. Out of nowhere, another student slams into her, almost knocking them both over

ROONEY (quickly):
Sorry! Didn't see you there!

VIRGINIA:
It's alrig-

The girl is gone before she can get out two words. Virginia looks back at her. She continues to walk away, almost running into another person. Virginia continues on.

INT. LIBRARY – MID-DAY

Tyler sits alone, setting up the table. He pulls out his notebook and a pen. He looks around quick. He is waiting for someone.

Finally, JULIE shows up.

JULIE (out of breath):
Hi! Sorry! I got here as quick as I could!

TYLER:
No, you're all good! I just got here a little early that's all.

JULIE:
Okay good. (nervously laughs) So, for Brooks class...

TYLER:
Yes, the project, let's talk about it.

JULIE:
Have you thought of anything to present on?

Tyler looks down at his empty notebook page. Julie realizes that he hasn't thought about the project at all.

JULIE:
Because I have a few ideas we can discuss...

TYLER:
Yes! Yeah, let's talk about what you came up with.

JULIE:
Okay, so...

The two start to discuss their project. They both lean in and smile, even laugh a bit while discussing the project.

Tyler's phone starts to light up. Someone is calling. His phone is facedown though, so he doesn't notice. Tyler and Julie continue to talk.

EXT. CAMPUS – MID-DAY

Virginia tries to call Tyler but gets no response. She eventually gives up. She looks around and feels uncomfortable. She contemplates calling Tyler again. Instead, she gets up and walks home.

INT. VIRGINIA'S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Once again, Virginia sits at her table, attempting to study. She gets distracted by the job posting again. She looks at it every day. She lets out a big sigh and closes the window. She opens Pinterest and scrolls.

Then she sees a quote.

"IF I AM NOT MYSELF – I AM NOBODY." – VIRGINIA WOOLF

She stares and stares at the quote.

These words hit her deeply. She picks up her pen and write in her planner.

SEND IN APPLICATION FOR NEW YORK POSTION

Virginia's phone rings, interrupting her writing. It's Tyler. She answers immediately.

VIRGINIA:
Hi.

TYLER (over the phone):
Hey, what are you up to?

VIRGINIA:
Just homework, you?

TYLER:
Oh, I just got home.

VIRGINIA:
Just now?

TYLER:
Yeah.

VIRGINIA:
From where?

TYLER:
The Library.

VIRGINIA (giggling):
The library? You never go there, even when I ask you.

TYLER:
Well, I have my project for my class, remember? I met up with my partner today.

VIRGINIA:
Oh, right. Who is your partner again?

TYLER:
Oh, um, her name is Julie. She's a senior, as well.

VIRGINIA:
Oh, I've never met her.

TYLER:
Yea, she transferred in last year. Different course load.

VIRGINIA:
Okay. So, did you want to come over?

TYLER:
No, no I shouldn't tonight, but maybe tomorrow?

VIRGINIA (disappointed):
Yea, that should be fine.

TYLER:
Okay, well, I will let you get back to your homework. Bye.

VIRGINIA:
Bye. I-

Tyler hangs up the phone before she can say "I love you". Confused, she shakes it off and gets back to work.

INT. TYLER'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Tyler finishes talking to Virginia. He notices that there is a message from someone on his phone. He opens his messages and sees a text from Julie. He smiles. He opens the message and starts to respond back. The screen fades to black.

EXT. ON CAMPUS – MID-DAY

Virginia sits alone at a bench. She stares at her phone just passing the time until Tyler is done with class.

Then, a voice.

ROONEY:
Hi.

VIRGINIA:
Oh, hi.

ROONEY:
Can I sit here?

VIRGINIA (taken aback):
Oh, yes, sure.

Virginia moves her bag to the group and ROONEY sits down next to her. Rooney settles in.

ROONEY (confidently):

My name is Rooney.

VIRGINIA (awkwardly):
Hi, Rooney, I'm Virginia.

A silence fills the space.

ROONEY:
Look, I wanted to say I'm sorry formally for running into yesterday. I know you don't know who I am, but I have noticed you in my classes and I just felt bad for knocking into you and rushing away.

VIRGINIA:
It's all good.

ROONEY:
I mean, it's not, it was rude. But you know last night I was thinking about it, and I realized it gave me a reason to talk to you, so here I am.

VIRGINIA:
You want to talk to me?

ROONEY:
Yea, you seem like a cool person. I have wanted to talk to you since we first started having classes together, but you always dashed out of classes as soon as possible. I never see you around campus either. Are you never on campus?

VIRGINIA:
Um, no not really. Wait, what classes have we had together? I only remember you from yesterday.

ROONEY:
Ouch. (laughs) No it's all good, I sit in the back of classes, never speak, whereas you always sit in the front, always paying attention. How do you do that? Never mind, we can talk about that later.

VIRGINIA (squeezing in a word):
Later?

ROONEY:
Anyways, why are you sitting here all alone?

VIRGINIA:
I'm waiting for my boyfriend.

ROONEY:
Ah. It makes sense.

VIRGINIA:
What makes sense?

ROONEY:
He's the reason why you are never on campus, why you always dash out of classes.

VIRGINIA:
No, he is not, I have other things to do.

ROONEY:
Oh really, like what?

VIRGINIA:
I have homework and... other responsibilities...

ROONEY:
Right... well, if you ever finish all your homework and want to hangout, hit me up. Give me your phone, I'll put my number in there.

Virginia hesitates. Why does she feel compelled to give this girl her phone? She just met her. Eventually, she does hand Rooney her phone.

After she enters her number, she hands the phone back.

ROONEY:
Call, text, whatever. I'll be waiting. See ya!

Rooney waves and walks away. Virginia watches her leave down the sidewalk, once again with the same urgency and rush she witnessed yesterday when she ran into her.

Virginia looks down at her phone and looks at Rooney's number. She set her name as 'ROO'. Virginia looks back down the sidewalk Rooney walked down and smiles and lets out a laugh. She will never talk to that girl again.

INT. VIRGINIA'S APARTMENT – MID-DAY

Virginia and Tyler arrive back to her apartment. They aren't talking when they walk through the door.

Tyler immediately sets down his stuff, kicks off his shoes, and slouches into the couch. He pulls out his phone and starts playing a game.

Virginia sets down her items and starts to pull out her work for the night. She looks over at Tyler and grimaces.

VIRGINIA:

I thought we were going to study together today.

TYLER:

Oh, I don't have any work I can do here.

Tyler didn't even bother to look up from his phone. Virginia frowns and continues to pull out items from her bag. She sits down and opens her planner and sees the reminder to apply to the New York job.

VIRGINIA:

Hey, how are you feeling about graduation in a few months?

TYLER:

Can't wait. Since I already have my job in Madison, I want it to come quicker.

VIRGINIA:

... Yeah, that would be nice.

TYLER (looks up):

Have you applied to any jobs in the area yet?

VIRGINIA:

Well...

TYLER:

What about the job at the marketing firm, that seemed like a good fit, and a short drive from the apartment we looked at?

VIRGINIA:

Yea... um, I haven't heard back from them yet.

Tyler looks up at her and sees her distress. He stands up and goes behind her. Virginia quickly closes planner with the reminder. She looks up at him when he places his hands on her shoulders.

TYLER:

Don't sweat it, V, you will find one. And then we can leave this place.

VIRGINIA (quietly):

Yea, leave this place...

Virginia looks back at her planner. The reminder seems daunting but calling her name. She considers scratching it out, forgetting all about it.

But she doesn't.

Instead, Virginia circles the reminder, making it more important. She smiles and starts to get to work.

INT. VIRGINIA'S LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

Virginia and Tyler are once again sitting on the couch, separated, on their phones.

Virginia mindlessly scrolls through social media, while Tyler texts someone.

It's Julie. He smiles at every message.

Virginia looks over at Tyler and sees he is smiling at texting someone.

VIRGINIA:

Who are you talking to?

TYLER:

Oh, just my project partner.

VIRGINIA:

Why are you smiling so much?

TYLER:

We are talking about how boring Brooks was in class today. It was bad.

VIRGINIA:

Oh, okay.

Virginia lingers her gaze on Tyler, who continues to text and smile.

Virginia looks back down at her phone. She pulls up her contacts and looks up Rooney. She stares at the contact contemplating messaging her.

Why does she feel compelled to take this leap?

Virginia opens a new message to Rooney and messages her.

VIRGINIA: HEY, IT'S VIRGINIA

She types out the message and contemplates making it wittier.

VIRGINIA: HEY, IT'S VIRGINIA. I FINISHED THE LOAD OF HOMEWORK I HAD.

Virginia doesn't like this.

VIRGINIA: HEY, IT'S VIRGINIA, HOW'S IT GOING?

She sighs and gives up. She starts to delete the message. Accidently, she hits send when down to the last letter.

VIRGINIA: H

Panicking, she types out a new message.

VIRGINIA: HI, IS WHAT I MEANT TO SAY, SORRY! IT'S VIRGINIA BTW

Virginia sends the message. She looks down at the texts and sees that Rooney opened the message. She straightens her back and gets excited. A text from Rooney comes through.

ROONEY: HAHAHA IT'S ALL GOOD! I'M GLAD YOU MESSAGED ME!

Virginia smiles down at her phone.

END CREDITS.