

If I Am Not Myself  
Episode 2 – Breakout.

BLACK SCREEN

INT. VIRGINIA'S APARTMENT – NIGHT

VIRGINIA (V.O.):  
It has been a month of silence.

Virginia and Tyler sit together on the couch, separated. They don't look at each other. They don't speak. It is almost as if they are alone.

VIRGINIA (V.O.):  
I thought this growing divide would hurt more. Would be more... unbearable. I find myself happier though.

Virginia smiles down at her phone. She is messaging Rooney.

VIRGINIA (V.O.):  
I feel myself breaking out of the mold I sunk into.

BLACK SCREEN

VIRGINIA (V.O.):  
But... am I ready?

TITLE SCREEN: IF I AM NOT MYSELF

BREAKOUT

EXT. CAMPUS – MID-DAY

Once again, Virginia sits alone at the bench. But this time she is anticipating something. She seems anxious, looking around periodically then back down at her phone.

PHONE CHIME

Virginia looks down at her phone. A text from Tyler.

TYLER: HEY CAN'T HANG TONIGHT, PROJECT MEETING

Virginia's disappointment is clear across her face.

ROONEY:  
Hi!

Virginia shoots her head up, surprised by Rooney's arrival. She smiles when she realizes it's her.

VIRGINIA:  
Oh, hi! You scared me.

ROONEY:  
I know. You seemed invested in your phone.

Rooney tries to look at whatever Virginia was looking at, but Virginia quickly shields her phone away in her pocket. Rooney doesn't know much about Tyler, and Virginia isn't quite sure what to tell her about him.

ROONEY (mimicking):  
Don't want to share with the class?

VIRGINIA (laughing):  
No, I do not wish to!

Rooney tries to get the phone from her hands, but quickly gives up.

ROONEY:  
Fine, fine, I give up.

VIRGINIA:  
Good!

ROONEY:  
So... you ready?

VIRGINIA:  
For what?

ROONEY:  
You'll see.

Rooney hold out her hand to Virginia. Virginia meets her eyes and grabs her hand. Practically yanking Virginia from her seat, Rooney starts walking away from campus.

EXT. – APARTMENT BUILDING – MID-DAY

Tyler finishes sending a message to Virginia. He can't see her tonight. He tells himself it's because he needs to work on the project with Julie, but deep down he knows that he would rather spend his time with Julie.

Julie exits the apartment building and walks up to Tyler.

JULIE:  
Hi! Waiting long?

TYLER:  
Hi. Nope, just got here.

JULIE:  
Great! So... where should we go?

TYLER:  
Um... well we can go this way (points) or... (points) this way.

JULIE (laughing):  
You haven't thought about this have you?

TYLER (laughing):  
No. No, not even a little bit.

JULIE:  
Sounds familiar.

TYLER:  
Hey! I was ready for our first meeting I just didn't write anything down!

JULIE:  
Right... right...

TYLER:  
I was!

JULIE (laughing):  
I'm just kidding!

They walk down the sidewalk, laughing and talking with each other.

They walk around the town, ending up at a park. They play on the swings, laughing and teasing the whole time. They enjoy each other's company, the simple pleasure of just being with a person who understands you and your interests.

They laugh. And laugh. And laugh. Random conversations here and there. But they aren't random to them. They are important interests. It's their identities they are laying out on the table.

This is the happiest Tyler has been in months.

They come to a bench near the park and sit down, still laughing.

JULIE:  
You can't be serious!

TYLER:  
I am! I wouldn't joke about something like that!

JULIE:  
That is so embarrassing!

TYLER:  
Hey! You said you wouldn't make fun of me!

JULIE:  
It's just funny! I'm sure Virginia thought it was too.

They laugh it off.

JULIE:  
So, does Virginia have a job in Madison yet?

TYLER:  
No, she doesn't, but she is searching.

JULIE:  
Well, that's good. You two seem pretty happy together.

TYLER:  
Yeah, we are.

JULIE:  
How long have you been together?

TYLER:  
Three years.

JULIE:  
Wow.

TYLER (laughing):  
Yeah, it's been a long time.

JULIE:  
What's it like being in a relationship for that long?

Tyler thinks for a bit, trying to describe their relationship in the best way possible.

TYLER:

Well, it's comfortable, you know? Like, just being in her presence calms me. All stress and burden drips away. I can just be Tyler around her.

JULIE (joking):

And you're not Tyler around me?

TYLER:

(laughs) I am! I just mean... we don't even have to talk, we just understand.

JULIE:

Understand what?

TYLER:

We understand... well, each other.

JULIE:

That sounds special.

TYLER:

Yea it is.

Tyler smiles at the thought. He looks back at Julie and she smiles at Tyler, and he smiles back.

They continue to sit together.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. ROONEY'S BEDROOM – MID-DAY

Rooney opens the door and immediately makes herself comfortable. Virginia walks in and takes it all in.

Her room is the very definition of Rooney. Clean and messy at the same time. She had very little decorations on the walls.

Rooney sits on her bed.

ROONEY:

Welcome to my room!

VIRGINIA:

I like it!

Virginia smiles and steps inside. She slowly sets her stuff down. She doesn't look comfortable though.

ROONEY:

Dude, why are you so tense?

VIRGINIA:

Oh, um, I don't know.

ROONEY:

You gotta chill more.

Virginia doesn't know how to respond to this.

VIRGINIA:

Um, well, I don't usually chill.

ROONEY:

Why not? How do you destress?

Again, unsure how to answer. She usually just stays in with Tyler, looking at their phones separately in silence. This is not her comfort zone, she doesn't hangout with friends.

VIRGINIA:

Well, to be honest...

ROONEY:

Yeah?

VIRGINIA:

I usually just hang out with Tyler, my boyfriend.

ROONEY:

Oh, okay. What do you usually do together?

VIRGINIA (hesitant):

Well... nothing really.

ROONEY:

Nothing?

VIRGINIA:

Yea, we usually just sit together.

ROONEY:  
Sit together?

VIRGINIA:  
Yea...

ROONEY:  
Do you talk?

Virginia looks at Rooney. She doesn't look concerned, she looks intrigued.

VIRGINIA:  
Not really... no.

And there is the concern. Rooney adjusts where she is sitting. She thinks about what she just learns.

Meanwhile, Virginia sits there panicking. She shouldn't have told her. All she will do is judge. She fidgets with her hands, awaiting a response.

Finally...

ROONEY:  
So, you don't even talk to your boyfriend?

VIRGINIA:  
No.

ROONEY:  
Why are you with him then?

VIRGINIA:  
Well... we have been together for three years. Freshman year. Everything seemed meaningless until he came into my life. I mean, he inspired me so much back then. We would talk for hours.

FLACKBACKS

Virginia and Tyler talking and talking. Laughing. Very similar to how Tyler was with Julie.

BACK

VIRGINIA:  
I mean, three years is a long time. We have each gone through a lot, but the one constant was each other. We never changed. We are comfortable with each other... after we graduate, we plan to move into together. He got a job in Madison, and I'm... well trying to find a job there too.

Rooney thinks.

ROONEY:  
Do you really want to work in Madison?

Virginia knows the answer to this question well. Too well.

VIRGINIA:  
Well... um, no, not really...

ROONEY:  
So, where do you want to work?

VIRGINIA:  
There is a job... in New York City. My dream job, actually.

ROONEY:  
So, what's holding you back? You should apply there and get the job!

VIRGINIA:  
I mean, it's not that simple...

ROONEY:  
Yes. Yes, it is that simple. You know it is.

VIRGINIA:  
No-

ROONEY:  
Don't say no! You can do this! If you want it, you should go for it! Don't hold yourself back.

VIRGINIA:  
But what about Tyler?

ROONEY:  
Listen, Virginia... You shouldn't stay here for Tyler. You shouldn't miss out on the opportunity for your dream job for Tyler. You don't owe that him. You owe it to yourself to chase this dream of yours and thrive! You need to get comfortable with being uncomfortable, that's the only way you will grow.

Virginia looks at Rooney, and smiles. She believes in her.

ROONEY:  
Look. You need to do this. Stop giving yourself excuses. You need to breakout of this cycle of comforts you are stuck in.



VIRGINIA:  
Mhmm...

ROONEY:  
Plus, I need to see my new best friend in New York, that would be so cool!

Virginia laughs. Rooney smiles back at her and wraps her arm around her. They smile and laugh together.

They fall backwards onto the bed.

CUT TO

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING – MID-DAY

Tyler and Julie walk up to the building they started their day at. They are laughing still, finding everything funny.

They stop at the steps.

JULIE (laughing):  
You totally made a fool of yourself!

TYLER (laughing):  
No, no I didn't!

JULIE:  
Yes, you did! I can't believe Brooks didn't notice!

TYLER:  
Well, I'm a master, what can I say?

Their laughing dissipates into silence. Tyler looks at Julie while Julie glances around, every so often catching his gaze.

TYLER:  
Hey. I had fun today.

JULIE:  
Yea, me too. It was the most fun I've had in a while.

TYLER:  
Yea, agreed.

Silence again. The two look at each other, almost expecting the other person to do something.

Suddenly, a group of people walk out the building, interrupting them.

They let them past and laugh it off.

JULIE:  
Well, I should go inside...

TYLER:  
Yes, you should. Um... thanks again, for today.

JULIE:  
No, thank you.

They lean in awkwardly for a hug.

JULIE:  
Bye.

TYLER:  
Bye.

Julie walks up the stairs and looks back at Tyler before going inside.

Tyler smiles uncontrollably when Julie is out of sight. He starts the trek back home.

INT. TYLER'S ROOM – NIGHT

Tyler enters his bedroom, all aglow. He just had one of the best times of his life with Julie. He can't believe it.

Tyler walks over to his bed and sits down. Smiling and smiling even more just thinking about Julie.

She is perfect.

Then his phone buzzes.

NEW TEXT – JULIE

His smile gets wider and he immediately opens the message.

JULIE: HEY TODAY WAS GREAT, THANK YOU

Another text immediately pops up.

JULIE: IS IT LAME THAT I AM MESSAGING YOU RIGHT AFTER WE SAW EACH OTHER? HAHA I'M SORRY

Tyler laughs under his breath and begins to text.

TYLER: NO, NO IT'S NOT LAME AT ALL LOL I LIKE TALKING TO YOU

He waits for her response.

JULIE: I LIKE TALKING TO YOU TOO

Tyler can't control his smiling now.

CUT TO

INT. ROONEY'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Rooney and Virginia sit together on the bed again. They are laughing. Rooney wants Virginia to tell Tyler about applying to the New York position.

ROONEY:  
Come on! Just text him!

VIRGINIA:  
I shouldn't. He might get upset.

ROONEY:  
Then I will message him.

Rooney snatches Virginia's phone from her hand and starts to type a message.

VIRGINIA:  
No stop!

Virginia tries to get her phone back, but Rooney blocks her.

Rooney read out loud what she is typing.

ROONEY:  
'Hey Tyler, I know it's late, but I need to tell you something. I am going to apply to a job in New York City. I have to take this opportunity.'

VIRGINIA:  
Please don't send it.

ROONEY:  
...Okay, I won't. But you will.

Rooney gives Virginia her phone back. Virginia stares at the typed-out message, her finger ready to delete it all.

ROONEY:  
V, you have to do this.

Virginia looks at Rooney then back at the phone. What good will come from this?

Virginia presses send.

ROONEY:  
There you go!

VIRGINIA:  
He is not going to be happy.

ROONEY:  
So what? You'll be happy.

Virginia smiles and lays back.

CUT TO

INT. TYLER'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Tyler's phone chimes. Expecting a text from Julie, he sees a text from Virginia.

TYLER:  
Oh, crap, V...

He opens the text, realizing that he completely forgot about Virginia.

VIRGINIA: HEY TYLER, I KNOW IT'S LATE, BUT I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.  
I AM GOING TO APPLY TO A JOB IN NEW YORK CITY. I HAVE TO TAKE THIS  
OPPORTUNITY

Tyler doesn't know what to say back. How could she do this to him? They had plans. They were going to both stay here.

Tyler shuts his phone off, not responding back.

CUT-TO

INT. ROONEY'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Virginia laying on her back, smiling, carefree. The happiest she has ever been. Is this what she has been missing out on?

Rooney comes and lays next to her and they laugh.

Virginia has a friend. Someone that believes in her abilities, her dreams. Someone who listens and helps.

VIRGINIA (V.O.):  
And now I crave more.

BLACK SCREEN

ROLL CREDITS