

If I Am Not Myself
Episode 4: Growth.

INT. VIRGINIA'S APARTMENT – NIGHT

The room is blurry. The shapes are meaningless.

Virginia sits on the couch still. Crying silently.

VIRGINIA (V.O.):
'I don't know who you are anymore'...

FLASHBACK

TYLER:
I don't know who you are anymore...

Virginia squeezes her eyes shut.

VIRGINIA (V.O.):
How does he not know me? I'm the same Virginia.

Virginia's eyes snap open.

VIRGINIA (V.O.):
Or maybe I'm finally growing.

BLACK SCREEN

TITLE CARD: IF I AM NOT MYSELF

GROWTH

INT. VIRGINIA'S BEDROOM. – MORNING

An alarm goes off. Virginia rolls around in her bed trying to find her phone to turn it off.

She eventually finds it and turns off the alarm.

Once she looks down at her phone she sees an email.

RAVER MEDIA – APPLICATION FOLLOW UP

Virginia shoots up and opens the email.

DEAR VIRGINIA, WE HERE AT RAVEN MEDIA WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU FOR APPLYING FOR OUR MEDIA SPECIALIST POSITION. AFTER MUCH CONSIDERATION, WE WOULD LIKE TO SET UP AN INTERVIEW FOR LATER THIS WEEK.

Virginia reads the email intensely and smiles brightly at the last line.

She got the interview. She can't believe it.

She rereads the email again to make sure she read it correctly. It's true, they want to interview her. She can't believe it.

Then she gets a text message. It's from Tyler. Her smile instantly fades. She squeezes her eyes shut quickly, then opens them again to read the message.

TYLER: HEY I KNOW WE LEFT THINGS AT A BAD PLACE A FEW DAYS AGO, BUT I JUST WANTED TO REACH OUT. WHENEVER YOU'RE READY TO TALK AGAIN, JUST TEXT OR CALL ME. I KNOW IT WILL TAKE A WHILE, BUT JUST KNOW I'LL BE WAITING. I LOVE YOU.

Virginia shuts her phone off. Right now, she doesn't have any words for him.

CUT-TO

EXT. PARK BENCH – MID-DAY

Tyler sits at the bench he once sat at with Julie. He is slumped over, looking at his phone.

He's looking at old pictures of him and Virginia. He scrolls mindlessly, looking at all of the pictures. He just keeps looking and looking.

JULIE:
Hi.

Julie walks up to the bench unexpectedly. Tyler looks up and shuts off his phone.

TYLER:
Hi.

Julie sits down next to Tyler.

JULIE:
How are you doing?

TYLER:
Um, okay.

JULIE:
Did you want to meet for a reason?

Tyler hesitates to respond. He doesn't exactly know why he wanted to meet; he just knew talking to Julie would help him feel better.

TYLER:
Not really for a particular reason...

JULIE:
Well, I can tell something is up with you. What's wrong?

Tyler once again hesitates.

TYLER:
I may have screwed up. Big time. With Virginia.

JULIE:
Oh...

Tyler thinks about what to tell her. He knows that he shouldn't mention the note, or should he?

TYLER:
Well, we got into a fight... a pretty bad one... she won't speak to me.

JULIE:
Oh, Tyler, I'm so sorry...

TYLER:
It's... it's my fault really... the more I think about what happened, the more I wish things went differently.

A slight pause in conversation.

JULIE:
What did you fight about?

Tyler thinks again. Should he tell her?

TYLER:
Well, it started with after graduation... she applied to a job in New York without telling me about it.

JULIE:
Oh, wow...

TYLER:

Yeah... but then it led to her reading a note a wrote... a note that she shouldn't have read...

JULIE:

What did the note say?

TYLER:

It-It was a note for you.

Tyler looks up at Julie and meets her eyes. She looks slightly shocked.

JULIE:

For me?

TYLER:

Yeah...

Julie looks away and tries to process what she just heard.

TYLER:

Look, Julie... I didn't expect to tell you this right now... but I think I may have feelings for you.
More than I thought.

Julie looks back at him.

JULIE:

Tyler, I-

TYLER:

I know, I have a girlfriend, I shouldn't be having these feelings. But I can't explain it either and I wish I-

JULIE:

Tyler, I feel the same way.

Julie interrupts Tyler. They meet each other's eyes and smile.

TYLER:

Really?

JULIE:

Yes, yes, I do.

Tyler smiles harder and lets out a laugh of disbelief.

TYLER:
Well, what do we do then?

JULIE:
Well... you need to figure things out with Virginia first...

Tyler knows that's true.

JULIE:
Look, I don't want you to breakup with her because you two are going through a rough patch and I just happen to be in the picture too. If you two are able to make things work out, then I want that for you. I know you are happy with her and she is happy with you too. You have a whole future planned with her and that is important.

Tyler continues to listen to her. He's amazed by the fact that she wants him to do what's best for him.

JULIE:
Once you two talk and figure things out, let me know. I'll wait till then.

They meet eyes once again and smile.

CUT-TO

INT. VIRGINIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Virginia comes into her living room and looks at the couch. She walks over and sits down in the same place she sat that one night.

(SLOW MOTION) She sits there and sits there, thinking. Trying not to cry but she can't resist for long.

INTERCUT

EXT. CAMPUS – MID-DAY

(SLOW MOTION) Virginia walking on campus. Feeling down, her head slumped.

(REAL TIME) Rooney comes up to her side and puts her hand on her shoulder. Virginia looks at her and tried to smile. She pulls her in for a hug

ROONEY (V.O.):
How are you feeling?

CUT-TO

INT. ROONEY'S BEDROOM – MID-DAY

The two are laying on her bed.

VIRGINIA:
Could be better.

ROONEY:
Do you know what you want to say to him?

VIRGINIA:
Right now, not a single word.

Rooney looks over at Virginia and see that she looks sad.

ROONEY:
Well, what about the interview? How are you feeling about that?

VIRGINIA:
Good. It's going to be difficult, but I think I'm prepared.

ROONEY:
That's good at least.

Silence fills the space. Virginia fiddles with her hands.

VIRGINIA:
Do... do you think... that Tyler wants the best for me?

Rooney looks over to Virginia.

ROONEY:
Of course. I think he cares a lot about you.

VIRGINIA:
Why was he so upset then? Why hasn't he told me about his feelings?

ROONEY (hesitant):
I think... I think he probably thought you knew.

A pause.

ROONEY:
You two have become very comfortable around each other. I think with that feelings get unnoticed easily. You don't necessarily need that person. You just need their presence.

VIRGINIA:
But Julie.

ROONEY:
From the sounds of it, I don't think he quite understands his feelings for her. They probably came out of nowhere. Feelings like that tend to sneak up on you. If sure you know the feeling, when you first realized you liked Tyler.

VIRGINIA:
Yeah... it made me uncomfortable.

ROONEY:
Exactly.

They grow silent for a bit.

ROONEY:
You are growing in a different direction then he is. You keep resisting this change, but you need to start embracing it.

Virginia looks up at Rooney. Rooney smiles.

ROONEY:
I know it's uncomfortable. But it's worth it.

Virginia smiles at her. They hug.

CUT-TO

INT. VIRGINIA'S APARTMENT – DAY

Virginia sits down at her table in business clothing. It's interview day.

She looks down at her phone and sees a text from Rooney saying good luck. She smiles. That reassurance is all she needs.

She takes a deep breath and lets it out.

She opens a new message to Tyler. She thinks and then starts typing.

VIRGINIA: HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS WEEKEND? DO YOU WANT TO COME OVER TO TALK?

She sends the message and waits for a response.

A minute later, Tyler responds.

TYLER: I'M DOING NOTHING AT ALL. SUNDAY AT NOON GOOD?

Virginia smiles.

VIRGINIA: YEAH, THAT SHOULD BE GOOD.

She sends her message and shuts her phone off. She thinks again and smiles.

She then stands up and leaves for her interview.

CUT-TO

INT. VIRGINIA'S APARTMENT – MID-DAY, SUNDAY

There is a knock at the door. Virginia approaches from her bedroom and opens the door. It's Tyler.

TYLER:
Hi.

VIRGINIA:
Hi.

Virginia and Tyler stand there for a moment and just stare at each other.

VIRGINIA:
Um, would you like some water.

TYLER:
Sure.

CUT-TO

Virginia and Tyler stand in the kitchen silently and looking at their water glasses. Tyler takes a sip and accidentally spills a bit.

TYLER:
Ah, crap.

Virginia laughs to herself.

VIRGINIA (V.O.):
Do you remember that first day we met?

Virginia still looks at Tyler while he wipes the water stain from his shirt.

TYLER (V.O.):
Yes, of course.

VIRGINIA (V.O.):
What do you remember?

CUT-TO

Virginia and Tyler sit on the couch looking at each other.

Tyler looks around the room.

TYLER:
It was the weekend before Halloween... and we were both at some random person's house trying
to live the college dream.

Both laugh briefly.

TYLER:
But... we were each alone and each in a corner just, waiting for something.

CUT-TO

Tyler and Virginia closer together. Virginia cries and Tyler wipes away one tear from her face
and she looks up at him.

TYLER (V.O.):
I saw you across the room. It was almost...

CUT-TO

The previous scene, Tyler and Virginia sitting on the couch together.

TYLER:
It was almost like a light shined down on you perfectly and it just made sense. It was like a
movie.

CUT-TO

Tyler brings Virginia into a hug.

TYLER (V.O.):
I remember you looked so... distracted. Almost like you weren't exactly all there.

CUT-TO

Tyler looks at Virginia once again.

TYLER:

So, I decided to walk over and talk to you.

VIRGINIA:

Do you remember what you first said to me?

TYLER (laughing):

I-I tried to say an impressive line to make you interested in me. Something about working out.

VIRGINIA (laughing):

To which I immediately shot you down.

Both laugh. The silence fills the space.

TYLER:

It made me so... uncomfortable. But it was worth the risk.

VIRGINIA:

I understand... the discomfort.

CUT-TO

Tyler continues to hug Virginia.

VIRGINIA (V.O.):

I think in those moments of discomfort though, we fell into a comfortable place with each other.

I mean...

CUT-TO

Virginia and Tyler sitting on the couch.

VIRGINIA (con't):

We started dating so soon into our college careers that we never gave ourselves the chance to grow on our own. We never got the chance to... be ourselves.

Virginia looks at Tyler.

VIRGINIA (con't):

Tyler, I know we still love each other, but we are holding each other back from growing.

Tyler looks down at his hands.

CUT-TO

Tyler pulls out of the hug with Virginia and looks her in the eyes.

Her face is stained with tears and he wipes them away. This isn't a good feeling.

TYLER (V.O.):
I don't like this feeling.

CUT-TO

Virginia and Tyler sitting on the couch.

VIRGINIA:
What feeling?

TYLER:
This... discomfort.

VIRGINIA:
It will eventually pass. Soon our discomforts will become

CUT-TO

Virginia squeezes her tear-soaked eyes shut and Tyler looks at her.

VIRGINIA (V.O.):
Our comforts. Feelings we fall back on.

CUT-TO

Virginia and Tyler sitting on the couch.

VIRGINIA (con't):
We have to push past those. To keep growing.

Tyler meets Virginia's eyes. They look at each other, knowing what needs to happen.

TYLER (V.O.):
So... is this it then? Are we breaking up?

CUT-TO

Virginia and Tyler are sitting slightly closer, Virginia on the verge of tears.

VIRGINIA:
I think it is.

They look at each other, trying to think of what to say, but knowing that nothing more needs to be said.

Then the scene we have seen previously plays out. Virginia starts to cry, Tyler wipes her tears away.

Tyler pulls her in for a hug.

They separate and look at each other. Virginia squeezes her eyes shut, eventually opening them to meet Tyler's eyes once again.

VIRGINIA:
Thank you.

TYLER:
For what?

VIRGINIA:
For letting me grow.

Tyler smiles at her. She smiles back. They hug for the last time.

CUT-TO

Tyler and Virginia standing at the door out of the apartment. Virginia opens the door for Tyler to leave.

He starts to walk out, but he quickly turns around.

TYLER:
One more thing.

VIRGINIA:
What?

TYLER:
... You seem like yourself again, V. I'm glad.

Virginia smiles.

VIRGINIA:
I'm starting to feel like myself again.

TYLER:
Good.

They smile one last time, say their goodbyes, and Virginia shuts the door.

Virginia lingers briefly, and softly smiles.

Virginia walks off screen.

BLACK SCREEN

ROLL CREDITS