

DISTANCE
a short film

Written By

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EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

JUSTIN

Yea, you're right. I just don't know what to do. I love this girl, but I don't know, am I a dick for wanting to be in other relationships for the experience? Or even just to experience what hookup culture is like? Like I don't want to be one of those people that ends up getting married to one of their high school sweethearts and is only ever with them. And if I stay together with GIRLFRIEND, like that's it. We're adults now. Either we stay together and get married, or we break up somehow.

BRENDAN

No, it's totally fair to want to experience something new. But, you can't approach every relationship like that, like there's some sort of ultimatum involved. Yea, at the end of the day the goal for most people is to find someone that you can marry and spend the rest of your life with, but that doesn't mean you have to marry every person that you love. (pause) Look, just because you don't marry her, doesn't mean your relationship was a waste or that you didn't really love her. You guys have been together for what, two years? Three years now? That's a huge chunk of your life right there dedicated to one person. I mean, I know how much time you've dedicated to her if its anything like what I've seen the last few months here at school. There's so much sacrifice and emotion that goes into learning how to be with and love someone. And, the fact that you are out here right now, telling me all these things, trying so hard to find a way to move forward in your relationship with her on a Saturday night, it just shows that you guys have gotten to a point where you

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BRENDAN (cont'd)
really do love her. There's no way
that if you do walk away from this
relationship you're walking away as
the same person you were three
years ago. And that, that has to
mean something. She's a permanent
part of you, no matter what
ultimately happens down the line.

There's a pause. Justin looks down at his hands, trying to
register all of what Brendan just said.

JUSTIN
You're right. It's just, I don't
want to lose her as a friend. Even
if we aren't together, that's
really what I want. To save a
friendship.

BRENDAN
I know, man. But, this stuff isn't
easy when it's someone you love.
Staying friends is basically
impossible.

JUSTIN
Well, you said you had a girlfriend
right? Are you guys still friends?

BRENDAN
Yea, well, we had been best friends
before, since we were really young,
but we never really, like,
addressed our feelings until right
before she had to leave. But we had
to try. Long distance was tough for
us, too. We ended up deciding it
would be best for both of us if we
just went back to being friends, at
least until we were both done with
school and shit. Then, somewhere
down the line, if it works out and
were both single and stuff, then
maybe we could get together and try
again.

JUSTIN
See, now I don't know if me loving
her is like...worthy of an
agreement like that. I don't know,
especially recently and stuff, we
have fights over the dumbest shit,

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JUSTIN (cont'd)

I'll get mad at her for leaving me on read, or she'll take something I texted her the wrong way...I don't know one time we had a huge argument and all of it was just because I saw her active on Instagram thirty minutes ago or something but I had sent her Snapchats and texts two hours ago that she never checked. And it was just such a stupid thing to get mad over but just those stupid little things...

BRENDAN

But you have to realize that those things only exist because of phones, and social media? It's all just miscommunication that exists because you tried communicating through an online server. None of that would've happened if you guys were actually together in person, because you'd be right there in front of each other talking to one another. There's no leaving on read, or active however long ago type things when you're actually together in person. Think about it. You guys only got to this point where you wanted to try long distance because you loved each other so much when you actually were in the same place. Don't let how your relationship has been over the internet become your interpretation for your entire relationship as a whole. It's literally just how the world works now. Long distance takes place entirely within the internet, and it's messing with your head. Since you're allowed instantaneous communication at any time at any place in the world, it basically forces you to be in constant communication, and then if one person doesn't do that, the other person feels hurt. When the internet makes the world like that, there's gonna be problems that never would've happened in person.

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BRENDAN (cont'd)

And those problems take away from
reality, and real life. No matter
how much you love someone, you
still gotta live your own life in
reality.