

KINDRED SPIRITS

By

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FADE IN:

INT. VALERIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

VALERIE'S face fills the FRAME. She's 15, with an angelic face. At the moment, her eyes are full of tears and her hands are shaking uncontrollably while she holds an open book. We see it is Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet". WIDEN to see that she is sitting on her bed, motionless, with millions of tangles in her hair. She looks up from the book and we see an eternal sadness in her honey colored eyes.

VALERIE (V.O.)

Have you ever loved someone with every bit of strength in your heart and soul? Have you ever talked to someone and instantly feel like everything in the world is in its place? Have you ever found yourself within someone's eyes? I have.

Suddenly, we hear laughter and distant conversation. At once the laughter and happiness are cut off and we see the frame darken and slowly fade away. As this happens, we hear what appears to be Valerie's screams. The screams, also, fade away slowly.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAPLE WOOD STREET - DAY

Valerie and two of her friends, CHRISTIE (15) slim and attractive, and JAKE (16) tall and good looking, are standing in front of a huge, eerie looking mansion. We hear the wind blowing, and see the sun way up high in the sky. We see Valerie has a very worried expression on her face. Her hair flutters as the wind caresses it.

CHRISTIE

(smirks mischievously)

Well, what are you waiting for Val?

JAKE

Yea, Val what ARE you waiting for? The haunted mansion is waiting for you. You gotta pay up your bet honey. I beat you fair and square in that race and you know it!

He laughs loudly and slaps a high five with Christie.

VALERIE

Jake you are such a jerk!

JAKE

Come on, Val. Pay off your bet already and go inside that house.

CHRISTIE

We will wait for you right here Val. Me and Jake *WOULD* go in with you, but we kinda wanna live to see the sun tomorrow.

Jake and Christie stifle a laugh.

VALERIE

Thank you for the support, guys. You're the best friends I could ever ask for.

(gives them a cold look)

Well then, I guess I'll just have to go in. My fate is already written.

She begins to walk up to the house, reluctantly.

JAKE

Have fun, Val! Don't let the ghosts spook you! BOO!

CHRISTIE

What's the worst they can do? Scare you to death?

Valerie flashes them a fake smile. She heads up the stairs and stands in front of the door without moving. She turns back to Christie and Jake, who are staring at her anxiously. She turns to the door and takes a very deep breath. She reaches for the knob and opens the door slowly. The door creaks. All we hear is her quick breathing. As she walks inside, the door closes slowly behind her.

INT. MANSION - DAY

Valerie is walking slowly, looking around the mansion with wide, fearful eyes. As she advances, we see that everything is full of dust, as if it has been uninhabited for years. There is a huge golden chandelier in the middle of the living room. Fancy decorations adorn the walls, and we can clearly perceive that whoever the owner of this house is is very wealthy indeed. There is a spiral stairwell that leads to the second floor with dark red spots all over it, a huge nonworking clock striking exactly 6 o'clock.

Suddenly, the sound of a CREAKING door. Valerie freezes, turns towards the sound, just in time to see someone standing behind a door leaving. Valerie is terrified.

VALERIE

Who, who's there? Hello? Anybody there? Hello?

All we hear is silence. Complete, scary silence.

VALERIE

HELLO! ANYBODY THERE!?

She is yelling now, more petrified than before.

She looks around one last time, and abruptly turns to run to the door, her head swinging violently behind her, and instantly stops, because she is now facing a very pale looking boy straight in the eyes.

We see Edward (15) staring right into Valerie's eyes. He is very good looking, but extremely pale, and with a very fragile physical state. His eyes are ocean blue, and his hair are perfect brown curls that fall all over his face.

Valerie is still staring into his eyes, with the most horrified look on her face. Her eyes are super wide, and as she opens her mouth to scream, Edward puts a finger to his pale lips, signaling her to stop.

To Valerie's own surprise, she finds herself obeying him. She freezes and does not know what to do. Edward is just staring at her, without moving, without blinking.

VALERIE

(slowly steps back)

Who, who, who are you? What are you doing here?

EDWARD

I could ask you the same thing. My name is Edward Scott. I live here.

He seems extremely nervous. His voice is shaking. He clasps and opens his hands without stopping.

VALERIE

My, my name is Valerie Tulane. I live close by. I never knew anybody lived here. I thought it was an abandoned house.

EDWARD

No, not quite.

VALERIE

Oh my God! I just realized you must totally think I'm a thief or

something! I'm really sorry I bothered you, I'll leave right now.

Valerie starts for the door. Edward steps to her side.

EDWARD

No, no, please don't! I'm all alone here with my mother, I don't have any friends. I need someone to talk to, I haven't talked to anybody in such a long time.

She finds herself unable to deny his request. She sees the loneliness in his eyes.

VALERIE

Um, sure thing, Edward.

EDWARD

Really? God, that's wonderful! Just wonderful! Um, just one thing... You'll have to go when my mother wakes up from her nap. She doesn't like unexpected visitors.

VALERIE

No problem. Let me just say bye to my friends. Hold on!

Valerie runs past Edward to the door only to find that Jake and Christie are gone. She shakes her head bitterly, heads back to Edward.

VALERIE

Um, never mind, Edward, they kinda left. The rats. So tell me, how old are you? Where are you from?

EDWARD

I'm fifteen, Valerie. I come from a small town of North Carolina. But my mother decided it was best if we moved here to California.

VALERIE

Wow that's really cool! I can relate to you a lot! I just moved here from Texas a few months back. I'm like the only girl in this entire town from Texas. It's been hard adjusting to everything.

EDWARD

I hope that you and I can become good

friends.

VALERIE

That'd be great. You can count on me for everything, I'm always there for my friends. I'm like a ghost! Always popping in outta nowhere!

EDWARD

(a bitter smile)
I'm kind of like that, too.

She smiles sweetly and Edward does too.

Before she can respond, we hear footsteps from upstairs. Edward looks up in fear. Valerie follows his frightened gaze to the ceiling.

EDWARD

Valerie, I'm sorry but you need to go. My mother just woke up.

VALERIE

No worries. I wouldn't want to get you in trouble.

Edward just stands there as Valerie heads for the front door. As she walks, the footsteps seem to get louder.

EDWARD

Please, can you come back tomorrow? At this time? Can you?

VALERIE

Well, sure, if you'd like. It was very nice meeting you, Edward, I-

EDWARD

(cuts her off)
Yes, yes, me too Valerie. Please go. I'll see you tomorrow.

He looks up at the ceiling frantically, then back to Valerie. She stares into his penetrating eyes, then turns and leaves. As the door is closing behind her, she looks back at Edward one more time -- but he has vanished.

INT. VALERIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mother VILMA, 39, slim and very attractive, is serving dinner as father PETER, 40, slim and good looking, along with Valerie, await their food anxiously.

VILMA

(as she sits down)
Uff, I had a long day at work today.
Maybe your day was better Val.

VALERIE
Actually, my day was awesome! I made
a new friend!

PETER
That's great honey! Who is it? Tell
us about your new friend!

VALERIE
(laughing nervously)
Well, his name is Edward Scott. He is
very nice, very good looking! He
looks like an angel with those blue
eyes of his! His skin is very pale
though, I don't know why. He lives in
that big mansion at the very end of
Maple Wood Street.

Vilma and Peter put their forks down simultaneously. They
look at each other, and then turn to Valerie in confusion.

VILMA
Honey, that house has been abandoned
for years. Nobody lives there. The
neighbor next door told us all about
it.

PETER
(worried)
Valerie, are you feeling okay? Do you
have a fever or something?

VALERIE
What are you two talking about?! He
told me he moved in about a week ago.
*I saw him with my own eyes. We
talked. I swear we did!*

We can see that Valerie is clearly upset now.

VILMA
Whoa, calm down Valerie. Look
sweetie, maybe you're talking about
the wrong house.

VALERIE
I know exactly the house I'm talking
about. I'm talking about the big
mansion on Maple Street!

PETER

(trying to remain calm)
Honey, it just doesn't make sense! As far as we know, that house hasn't been bought or rented or anything.

VALERIE

I don't care what either of you think. I was there today, I made a friend... A good friend who was very kind to me! You two are acting like I'm crazy! Well, I'm not! I'm not!

Valerie gets up from the dinner table, her food still on her plate, and storms out of the dining room straight to her room. Her parents just stare at each other, completely lost.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAPLE WOOD STREET - DAY

Valerie is standing in front of the mansion's door. She looks nervous once again, and hesitates to knock. As she lifts up her hand to do so, the door swings open. Edward stands in the threshold, happy to see her.

EDWARD

Valerie, it's so good to see you again. Please, come in, come in.

Valerie steps inside.

INT. MANSION - DAY

Edward leads the way down a long hallway.

EDWARD

I've been counting the hours until I saw you again. How are you?

VALERIE

I've been better! Wait till I tell you what went on with my parents --

Edward stops at a room at the end of the hallway. He opens the door and ushers Valerie inside.

INT. EDWARD'S ROOM

Valerie steps inside the tiny room and is startled by what she sees: Books everywhere and of every type. There's poetry, mystery, plays, non-fiction, everything. Valerie is awestruck by the sheer number of books. She looks at the rest of the room but there's not much else to see. A small bed in the

center of the room is neatly made. Otherwise, no clocks, no TV, no desk, no dresser, nothing.

EDWARD

This is my room. You're the first person I ever showed it to. I know it isn't much --

VALERIE

Isn't much!? This room is like paradise! I love reading! It's my life!

She looks at Edward, and with a smile, walks past him, and grabs an old book off a shelf.

VALERIE

And this is my favorite thing to read of ALL.

EDWARD

(reads the cover)

Are you serious!? Romeo and Juliet is my favorite too! Wow! I never knew anybody could EVER have something in common with me!

VALERIE

I know what you mean. Every time I try to talk about the play, people totally ignore me!

EDWARD

(quoting)

"A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life; whose misadventur'd piteous overthrows...

VALERIE

((finishing the quote)

"... Doth with their death bury their parents' strife." Wow, that's my favorite line.

EDWARD

(smiles)

I kind of figured it would be.

VALERIE

I just love the way Shakespeare describes Romeo and Juliet. "Opposed by the stars, by fate, by destiny. They live in two different worlds, and yet they are the same. They are

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equal to each other. They are each others' reflection."

Edward just stares at Valerie. Tears of happiness glisten in his eyes.

VALERIE

Do you think I can take it home and read it again? I lost my copy during the move.

EDWARD

My pleasure to share it with you. We share so much already as it is.

Valerie smiles, and puts the book inside the pack she is carrying across her chest. She looks up at Edward, and both share a moment of pleasant silence. They stare into each others' eyes. At the same time, they look up again. Valerie walks towards Edward. Closer. Closer. As she is about to touch his face with her small hand, Edward close his eyes. Just then, the door swings open and --

BAM! It slams against the wall. Valerie and Edward wheel towards the door. An unearthly gust of wind blows in, followed by an echoey VOICE that chills Valerie's blood:

URSULA (V.O.)

EDDDWAAAARRRD!!!!

Edward is too startled to answer. His hands shake and his skin turns paler than ever. Valerie, confused and scared to death, moves to clutch Edward. Suddenly:

Books start flying off the shelves. Valerie ducks and covers her head. Volume after volume rain down around her. Valerie flees from the room, followed by Edward.

INT. HALLWAY

Valerie dashes through the hallway, cowering as paintings and ornaments fly off the walls at her. Edward walks slowly behind her, his fear turning to frustration as he hears:

URSULA (V.O.)

EDWAAAARRRRD!!!!

Valerie races past the spiral staircase, only to freeze in terror at the sight of --

URSULA, 45, wrinkly, demonic, at the top of the staircase. Her crimson eyes fixed on Valerie, staring daggers at her.

URSULA

Who are you!? What are you doing in
my house!? You came for my son,
didn't you?! DIDN'T YOU?!

(no response)

Well, you can't have him!!!

Suddenly, the chandelier comes CRASHING down inches from
Valerie. She SCREAMS, dashing to a far corner of the room.

URSULA

Nobody can! He belongs to me!!

Edward suddenly appears at the foot of the stairs. He looks
at the cowering Valerie, then turns to his mother with
pent-up rage.

EDWARD

(forcefully)

Stop it, mother! That's enough!

Deathly silence. Ursula glares from the top of the stairs.

URSULA

(fearsome)

Edwaaaaarrrrd!!

EDWARD

It's no good, mother! You can't
control me anymore! I won't let you!
I've been trapped in this mansion for
fifty years! Ever since you pushed
me down these stairs and I drowned in
my own blood! And then you put a
bullet through your brain, just so
you could keep controlling me, even
AFTER death!

Valerie reacts with shock and disbelief.

URSULA

Edward, you are my life, my blood, my
soul! This is our home. We belong
here together.

EDWARD

(bitterness in his eyes)

It's over, mother. I'm through
letting you hurt me and everyone I
care about.

A defiant Edward marches over to Valerie, who is still
huddled in a corner, paralyzed with fear.

EDWARD

Valerie! Get up! Leave now... while there's still time!

Valerie summons her last bit of strength and rises. She reaches out to grab Edward's arm. Her hand goes right through it. She GASPS in shock.

VALERIE

Then it's true, Edward. You really are --

EDWARD

(desperate)

Please go! Before it's too late!

Her feelings for him give her courage and strength.

VALERIE

Come with me, Edward.

URSULA

EDWAAAARRD, NOOOO!!!

A chair goes soaring through the air at Valerie. She ducks out of the way, her resolve fortified.

VALERIE

Let's leave this place together.

EDWARD

(with deep sadness)

I can't.

VALERIE

Sure you can. She doesn't control you anymore, you said so yourself!

Another chair comes flying at Valerie, missing her barely.

EDWARD

You don't understand. If I go outside, we'll never see each other again.

Tears run down his cheeks. The wind is gusting fiercely. Dishes and glassware are now flying through the air.

VALERIE

Edward! You can't stay here! You need to be free!

EDWARD

Even if it means... losing me forever?

A wine bottle shatters against the wall beside Valerie. She grips her arm as a glass fragment wounds her.

VALERIE

I want you to be free, Edward. You deserve to be free!

URSULA

You will never take Edward away from me! NEVER!

Edward looks up at his mother, eyes blazing at the top of the stairs. Then back to Valerie, her soft eyes pleading. Finally, a melancholy smile appears on his face.

EDWARD

Yes. It's about time I was.

With this, he turns with Valerie, dodging flying debris as they race to the door. Valerie gets there first and throws open the door. Beams of sunlight fill the room, illuminating the dust and decay of the place.

Valerie steps outside, beckoning Edward to join her. He hesitates by the door. Valerie gives him a reassuring look that tells him everything will be okay. She leans in to kiss him. Her lips never touch his, but in her heart she feels the kiss with all its strength.

With newfound courage, Edward crosses through the door.

URSULA

(a deafening wail)

NOOOOOOOOO!

He slams the door shut, silencing Ursula's WAIL. Bathed in sunlight, Edward turns towards Valerie. And for the last time ever, they lock eyes.

The light around Edward grows brighter and brighter, as Edward himself grows ever dimmer. Valerie watches transfixed as the light swallows him up. He bids her farewell mouthing two heartfelt words "Thank you" before disappearing from view.

Valerie just stands there watching the light evaporate. She smiles with satisfaction, but it only lasts a moment as the truth hits her right in the heart without mercy.

Edward is gone forever.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. VALERIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Valerie is sitting motionless on her bed, with Edward's copy of "Romeo and Juliet" in her trembling hands -- exactly as we found her in the beginning.

VALERIE (V.O.)

Have you ever found yourself within someone's eyes? I have.

(pauses)

The second I looked into Edward's eyes, I found myself. I was lost before I saw his eyes. I had nobody. Nobody understood me. And then, just like that, I found the person that I'd been looking for my whole life. Edward was my other half. He was missing puzzle piece in my lonely life. He was my kindred spirit

As she says the last words, a single tear runs down her cheek. It lands on the open page of "Romeo and Juliet," exactly where it says, "A pair of star-cross'd lovers." Valerie manages a faint smile, and slowly closes the book.

THE END