

TOO LATE

Written by

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INT. CAR

We are in standstill traffic. Alone in the car with KATE, late 20s. The camera focuses on the car radio which is playing nothing but static, we glimpse briefly at the time as she turns it off, noticing a thin silver wedding band on her finger. The camera then shifts to Kate's watch to focus on a timer counting down. It reads 20 minutes and 31 seconds.

Quickly it follows her hand as she picks up a mobile displaying a navigation app that states 42 minutes to the destination "Home". Swiping it off, Kate opens the contacts to call her wife, SARAH. A picture of them and their baby displays as she calls.

Voicemail. Redial. Voicemail. Redial. Voicemail. We feel Kate's agitation seeping through the screen. She just wants to be with them.

The phone is placed back down and Kate grips the steering wheel. Her knuckles bursting through. She starts breathing heavily, her exhale shaking on release.

Cut to the timer again. Another check of the app, but it's lost signal. She won't make it, she knows it. She won't see them again. She kisses the screen and holds the phone to her chest for a moment.

Kate turns and starts to drive off road. Charging forward at a great speed. Glancing between her watch, the rising speedometer and now the phone, she calls again. Voicemail. Redial. There's no signal. Fuck. A tear rolls down her cheek as she undoes her seatbelt.

Kate speeds faster and faster. The world outside whirling past the window. The tears are streaming now.

We see a cliff edge and sea on the horizon. She takes a slow and deep breathe in. She puts her foot flat to the floor and closes her eyes.

The phone begins to ring. A moment of shock. Kate hits the brakes suddenly. The car skids forward but doesn't stop. It's too late. The car won't stop in time.

The car flies over the edge.

KATE
(panicked, regret)
Fuck.

We focus on the happy family photo now showing on the phone, echoing louder in the still silence of the car, as we see the blur of sea out the window getting closer. We see a subtle glimpse of the watch, still counting down but with 15 minutes to spare. We hear a final shaky gasp as the car is about to hit the surface and the screen cuts to black.