

COMING OUT STRAIGHT

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. AMBER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

AMBER RUSSET, an open-minded 17-year-old, cautiously tours the house. Gazing through the window, LUCAS FRAY, 18, charming and easy-going catches her eyes. She sets the boxes down that are clearly labeled kitchen.

CLAIRE REID, Amber's strait-laced mother picks up the same boxes and heads into the kitchen.

CLAIRE

Did you check out your new room?  
Everything should be in there. I  
even bought you new bed sheets to  
match the walls...

Enticed by the view, Amber tunes out Claire and leans in closer to the window.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. TRI COUNTY ICE ARENA - AFTERNOON

The sound of children's laughter fills the air. Amber, 10 years-old, is alone and uninterested in the other girls. Her eyes trail after a boy who smiles back. The sight of him is electrifying. She stands and enters the roller rink, her mom blocks her path.

BACK TO PRESENT

Claire pulls the living room curtains shut.

CLAIRE

His parents greeted me earlier  
today. Such a shame that they are  
heterosexuals.

AMBER

I don't see what's wrong.

CLAIRE

Sweetheart, you are too young to  
understand. People who choose to  
live that kind of lifestyle are  
mentally ill and need help.

AMBER

Being a heterosexual is not by  
choice, we were born this way.

CLAIRE

What do you mean "we"? I don't want to hear anymore nonsense. Now get away from that window and finish unpacking your room.

Amber marches past her mother in silence and kicks some boxes aside.

EXT. AMBER'S NEIGHBORHOOD - AFTERNOON

Amber strolls about her neighborhood as Lucas approaches her.

LUCAS

Hey! You're new here, right? I'm your neighbor, Lucas.

Amber is mesmerized by Lucas's dazzling glow.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

You okay?

AMBER

Huh? Sorry, what's your name again?

LUCAS

(chuckling)  
Lucas.

AMBER

I'm Amber.

LUCAS

Where are you headed off to?

AMBER

Just checking out the neighborhood, but I have no idea where to start.

LUCAS

Would you like me to show you around town? I'm headed there to buy a gift for my parents.

AMBER

I'd appreciate that.

Their chatter fills the air as they head into town.

EXT. TOWN - AFTERNOON

Amber grabs a hold of Lucas's hand and excitedly pulls him into town.

SERIES OF SHOTS

A) INT. Restaurant - AFTERNOON - Lucas offers to treat Amber to lunch. Indecisive, he offers to choose something that she may like.

B) INT. TRINKET STORE - AFTERNOON - Amber and Lucas browse the store. They find various items and do silly actions with them. Lucas finds the perfect gift for his parents.

C) INT. BOOK STORE - AFTERNOON - Lucas walks up and down the aisles in search of Amber. She glues herself to the floor skimming through several books. Amber buys a bag full and is content with her purchase.

D) EXT. WATERFRONT - AFTERNOON - The waterfront catches Amber's attention. She pushes her bags onto Lucas and sprints toward the end of the docks. They seat themselves and gaze at the bridge as boats pass by.

D) EXT. AMBER'S PORCH - EVENING - Amber returns to her house with a glow. Lucas bids her good night handing her several shopping bags, including his parents' gift and returns home empty handed.

INT. AMBER'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE WAY - EVENING

Amber closes the door and leans on it. A smile forms.

CLAIRE

Where have you been? It's almost dinner time.

AMBER

I was out with a new friend. He's been quite the gentleman.

CLAIRE

Out with that nutsy neighbors of ours?

Amber loses her smile.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I saw you come home with their son. I don't want their behavior to rub off on you.

AMBER

You're being unrealistic.

CLAIRE

What would society think?

AMBER

For once in my life, I actually feel as if I belong.

CLAIRE

I know what is best for you and that is for you to stay away from those heterosexuals. Now go wash up and get ready for dinner.

AMBER

You're such a bigot!

Amber storms past her mom, slamming the bathroom door behind her.

INT. AMBER'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - EVENING

The atmosphere is tense. Claire glances at Amber, trying to make eye contact.

CLAIRE

I did not have the chance to go grocery shopping yet so I ordered your favorite.

Amber ignores her mother and averts her gaze. She stabs a slice of pizza and plops it onto her plate. Claire sets her food aside.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Is there something we should talk about?

AMBER

(uninterested)

I don't know. Is there?

CLAIRE

I just want what's best for you, sweetheart.

AMBER

I can make my own decisions! I'm not your little sweetheart anymore.

CLAIRE  
What's gotten into you?

AMBER  
Nothing!

CLAIRE  
Did he put you up to this? I knew those ill-minded neighbors of ours were no good.

AMBER  
Can you stop demonizing them? You know what? I like their son. Are you going to hate me now just because I'm one of them?

Claire pushes her chair out and picks up her plate.

CLAIRE  
I will not tolerate this kind of behavior even if you are my daughter. I forbid you to see him and those are my final words.

Claire disappears into the kitchen as Amber pushes her plate away.

INT. AMBER'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE WAY

The sound of KNOCKING catches Amber's attention. Lucas is revealed after she opens it.

AMBER  
What are you doing here?

LUCAS  
I gave you my parents' gift by accident.

AMBER  
Right...

Amber listens closely; the sound of DISHES and RUNNING WATER are heard. Without hesitation, Amber grabs onto Lucas's arm and bolts out of her house.

AMBER (CONT'D)  
Let's go somewhere fun.

INT. TRI COUNT ICE ARENA - EVENING

Amber grabs two pairs of rental skates and pushes a pair onto Lucas. They seat themselves away from people.

AMBER

When I was younger, my mom signed me up for skating lessons.

A beat.

AMBER (CONT'D)

I never did pay attention. My eyes always trailed after the boys and my mom would scold me.

A beat.

AMBER (CONT'D)

That was when I realized that I was different. Until today, I've never felt so much joy.

Amber pulls on Lucas's arm and they head onto the roller rink floor.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Sorry if I'm rambling too much. I had a rough day with my mom.

LUCAS

By all means speak your mind.

AMBER

She's against heterosexuals... I told her who I really was and how you made me feel. She flipped out.

LUCAS

I'm sorry to hear that... Wait. What about me?

AMBER

You've made me feel like...

Claire approaches Amber and cuts her off.

CLAIRE

I thought I told you to stay away from that sinner. Get over here there this instant!

AMBER  
Why should I listen to you?

CLAIRE  
I am your mother!

AMBER  
I'm your daughter!

CLAIRE  
I'm only going to say this once  
more. Get over here!

AMBER  
Liking him doesn't change the fact  
I'm still your daughter. Why won't  
you listen to me!

Amber gets worked up and whips around. Not paying attention,  
she collides into another skater. Lucas calls out to her,  
Claire's voice fades as she blacks out.

INT. AMBER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Amber groans as she wakes up.

CLAIRE  
Sweetheart, you're awake.

AMBER  
My head...

LUCAS  
Don't get up so suddenly.

Amber looks confused as to who is in the room.

AMBER  
(surprisingly)  
What are you doing here?

CLAIRE  
He carried you home...

AMBER  
And you didn't freak out?

Amber crawls back into her blanket.

CLAIRE  
Without him, I couldn't have gotten  
you home.

A beat.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
He was a godsend.

AMBER  
Really?

CLAIRE  
Really.

She pokes her head out of her bed sheets.

AMBER  
Love you, mom.  
(mischievously to Lucas)  
You, too.

Lucas laughs and Amber joins in. Claire soon joins in.

FADE OUT.

THE END