

Excerpt from Tamara (short)

written by

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EXT. BEACH MANSION - DAY

A deflated flamingo float drifts in a massive pool. At the bottom lie cigarette butts, empty bottles and other remnants of a wild party.

On the deck is a row of recliner chairs with hangover HIGH-ROLLERS roasting in the morning sun.

KAI, late 20s, utilitarian ponytail, preps a Banana Bag (yellow IV with electrolytes and vitamins). She grabs the arm of an out-of-shape MILLIONAIRE.

MILLIONAIRE
You're doing a good job.

Kai ignores his pathetic attempt at flirting and plunges a needle into his flabby skin.

MILLIONAIRE (CONT'D)
Ouch! Fuck.

She hangs the banana bag on a coat hanger and preps another one for the next douchebag in line.

INT. BEACH MANSION - DAY

A SKELETAL MODEL, 20s, still wearing her party clothes, watches Kai count a wad of cash.

MODEL
You're pretty.

KAI
You're two hundred short.

MODEL
What?

The Model ruffles through her clutch-purse for more cash but finds nothing. She fishes out a credit card.

MODEL (CONT'D)
Do you take Visa?

KAI
You're kidding, right?

MODEL
(she wasn't)
Can I like, pay you next time or something?

Kai pockets the cash. She eyes an unopened bottle of Dom Pérignon on the kitchen counter.

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Kai is stuck in traffic. The Dom Pérignon bottle rolls on the backseat.

A self-help podcast plays on the car speakers.

PODCAST HOST
(mid-speech)
...so you can have a sense of self
again, what makes you who you are
and-

A call comes through. Kai checks her phone - *Mom*. She rejects it, switches to a club music playlist, and honks at the unending line of cars in front of her.

INT. LOCKERS, HOSPITAL - DAY

Kai changes into scrubs.

LIANA (O.S.)
Where the fuck were you?

The voice belongs to LIANA, 30s, a no-nonsense Charge Nurse who's been doing this job for too long.

KAI
Sorry I got-

LIANA
I don't give a shit, we've got an
intersection pile-up. Move!

Kai slams shut her locker door.

INT. ER - DAY

Kai helps a PARAMEDIC transfer a car crash VICTIM from a stretcher onto a bed.

PARAMEDIC
Fracture with multiple displaced
fragments and extensive soft tissue
damage. We applied a tourniquet and
started two large-bore IVs.

The Victim wails in pain holding what's left of her arm.

LIANA
For pain?

PARAMEDIC
Morphine. Five milligrams.

Kai monitor's the victim's vitals. There's blood everywhere.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Kai and Liana sit outside a concrete hospital wing. Liana smokes.

LIANA
(re: cigarette)
Alex hates it, so I quit. Then I got a double shift and started again. He's gonna smell it on me when I get home tonight, and then we're gonna fight. Sometimes I wish he was just... not there. You know what I mean?
(catches herself)
Shit. Sorry. I shouldn't-

KAI
It's okay.

LIANA
I didn't mean it like that.

KAI
I know. It's fine.

Kai notices blood on her shoe. She rubs it off with her other foot.

INT. PUBLIC POOL - NIGHT

SWIMMERS glide through the pool's lanes.

Kai, in a one-piece swimming suit, sits on the deck's bench with a swim cap in her hands. She eyes the water, nervous.

Someone dives into the pool with a SPLASH.

Kai fights a panic attack. She grabs her towel and rushes out.