

Girl Out Of Water

By

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INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - DAY

SARAH STEM, 16 typical California Teenage Surfer girl in LuLu Lemon leggings and a Surfing Competition tshirt, is unpacking a box. The room is filled with boxes, and bare furniture other than that it is empty and cold.

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Sarah looks outside her window at the rain falling.

SARAH

Sixteen years of sunshine and now
this. I can't believe we have to surf
in this rain.

She says to no one in particular. She looks at the clock and rushes over to the box marked 'Sarah's Clothes'. Sarah pulls out a blue and black wetsuit.

She looks at the other boxes. Sarah's phone goes off before she gets a chance to open one. Sarah walks over and picks it up. She sees "Text message: Collin". She smiles and goes to text him back. She stops herself throwing her phone on her bed lifelessly.

As she returns to the boxes she hears her phone ringing now and a teenage boy's smiling profile picture pops up. Sarah lets it ring.

She is looking at the labels and grows frustrated as she cannot seem to find a certain box. Sarah frantically starts tearing through the boxes. She scratches her head thinking. She lets out a 'huff' and leaves her room.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sarah enters the kitchen in her wetsuit looking frustrated. Sarah's parents : KIM STEM and DANIEL STEM are unpacking boxes both wearing worn in but expensive clothes. Mid 40's upper class power couple.

DANIEL

Hi, honey. Could you help us with
these dishes?

SARAH

Sure, I have to leave for practice
soon though and I can't find...

Kim turns around from the box she is unpacking and interrupts

her daughter. Sarah stops talking not surprised her mother cut her off. Sarah starts to unpack a box marked 'Silverware'.

KIM

Are you ready to start London
Preparatory High School tomorrow? I know
a change in schools can be hard but
you have to keep your GPA high.

DANIEL

Yeah. Stanford doesn't just let
anyone in even if both your parents
are Dean's List Alumni.

Sarah keeps looking down. She plays it cool.

SARAH

Yeah. I'm ready. Maybe some of my new
surf teammates and I will be in the
same classes.

KIM

That'd be nice but I wouldn't get your
hopes up. Actually, I think you should
focus on their pre med club you'll
join.

SARAH

Maybe.

Sarah remembers why she came downstairs and changes the conversation.

SARAH

I have to leave in twenty minutes. I
can't find my equipment. Did you guys
see it when we were unpacking the
moving truck?

Sarah's parents exchange an uncertain glance. Sarah recognizes her parents change in expression but remains silent. Kim looks to her husband for help.

DANIEL

I'm sure it will turn up soon.

Sarah seems unimpressed with their answer. Sarah opens her mouth to speak but is stopped by her mother's voice.

KIM

Have you heard from Collin at all?

Kims leans in close to her daughter and winks. Sarah, still unimpressed, hands her a hand full of spoons to be put away. Sarah nods her head and goes back to the box.

KIM

And?

SARAH

He's messaged me a few times since we got here today. I haven't had time to answer him yet. We did just move 6,000 miles away.

DANIEL

Won't Collin want to know you got here safe? He already accepted our invitation to visit later this week. Maybe he can help you study when he gets here...

Sarah stops in her tracks at what her dad has just said.

SARAH

Collin's coming here? To London? You didn't even think to ask me before inviting him 6,000 miles to come visit?

KIM

He is your boyfriend. We thought you'd be excited.

Sarah is shocked as she storms out of the kitchen. Daniel and Kim look surprised by her reaction..

DANIEL

You said we were going to tell her he was coming.

KIM

Well, I didn't mean right then.

Kim shakes her head again and opens a new box.

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sarah is pacing around her bedroom with a phone in one hand up to her ear and a picture frame of Sarah and middle aged

tan and toned woman with an athletic build hugging in the picture. She is listening and nodding as the person on the other end of the phone talks.

SARAH

Nanny, you should have been here. I felt like I was being ambushed by them. They think because they're doctors they know everything.

Sarah pauses pursing her lips to listen to the interruption to her rant.

NANNY

Can you blame them? He's still your boyfriend.

SARAH

Yeah I know. But, you said it yourself he is a distraction and you're right. I need to focus. You were the one who signed me up for the September Preliminary Surfing Competition here in England.

NANNY

As your coach, I stand by that but as your nanny the only thing I care about most is your happiness. Are you happy-

Sarah cuts her off.

SARAH

Nanny, why can't you be here? They choose now to move away? They keep saying it's only for a year. A year might as well be an eternity the way today felt. To make things worse, I can't even find my surfing equipment so I can't even go to practice today.

NANNY

You need that box if you are going to compete.

Nanny pauses.

NANNY

I miss you, too. Today at practice your teammates said to say they miss you, too.

Sarah's eyes start to water but she blinks away the tears. Sarah waits for Nanny to continue but Nanny doesn't say anything.

SARAH
How's the house? I'd do anything for
an ocean front view right now.

NANNY
The house is good. The plants are
watered.

Nanny's mind seems to be somewhere else.

SARAH STEM
What's up? You sound a million miles
away and not just because you actually
are.

NANNY
Um kiddo, did that box say 'Sarah's
Surf Stuff' on the front?

SARAH STEM
Yeah, it did!

Clearly not getting the picture yet.

SARAH
Wait... why?

NANNY
Because it's sitting right here in
your mom and dad's office. I came in
to water the ferns and-

Sarah hangs up the phone before Nanny can finish her sentence. She runs out of her bedroom to go downstairs.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sarah arrives in the kitchen breathless. She pants with her hands on her knees until she can catch her breath.

KIM
Sarah! What is the matter? Why are you
running?

Both parents look concerned but are calm when Sarah regains her composure.

DANIEL

What could possibly be worth
sprinting?

Sarah finally catches her breath to speak. She tries to play it cool.

SARAH

Oh, I was just on the phone with Nanny. She says your plants are all watered and healthy, the cleaning staff is keeping up while we are gone, and... Oh, yeah! My surfing equipment box is in your office!

Sarah's voice rises as she goes on.

KIM

There is no reason to shout, Sarah.
There is a perfectly good explanation
as to why it is there. Right, Daniel?

Sarah's hands are on her hips and she turns to her father expectantly who looks like shocked Kim has asked him to speak.

DANIEL

Yes. You bet there is and your mother
is going to tell you what that reason
is.

Sarah groans at this.

SARAH

Would someone just tell me what is
going? First, Collin and now, this!
You never tell me anything.

Sarah's parents exchange a glance and nod.

KIM

I know. I am sorry we had to move here
for the year. I know you miss surfing
and planned on doing a show this
month.

SARAH

Mom... it's not a show. It's the first
step to getting me into the Olympics!

KIM

So you've said. But, your father and I have been talking and think you have been spending too much time surfing and not enough studying lately. We decided the board should stay home so you can focus on your school work. I'm sorry we didn't tell you sooner but this is for the best, honey. That's why we invited Collin to come visit. Now, go change out of that silly suit and get ready for dinner.

Sarah's jaw drops. Sarah's eyes fill with tears and she runs out of the kitchen as fast as she ran into it. Sarah's parents call for her but she doesn't stop until she gets to her bedroom.

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sarah is laying on her bed. Both of her parents are at the door knocking. She is not crying as hard anymore but tears are still rolling softly down her cheeks. Sarah is holding a photo of a teenage boy -COLLIN- who has sweeping brown hair and a look that resembles a young Zac Efron.

The knocking continues as the parents apologize from outside the door.

KIM

You're being ridiculous, Sarah. Please open this door.

DANIEL

Pumpkin, we are sorry you're upset. Talk to us.

Sarah's parents continue to knock. Sarah stays put wiping away her tears. Eventually the knocking slows to a stop and she hears them leave.

Sarah's phone vibrates and she picks it up. she looks hopeful but puts the phone down when she realizes it's not from Collin. Sarah looks at the photo and begins to talk to it.

SARAH

Why did we have to have things like this, Collin? You'd know what to do. You were always so much better with my crazy- ass parents than I was.

Sarah goes into her messages with Collin and scrolls up to see one of their last conversations. She laughs at something they wrote about.

Sarah plays her missed messages. The boy's voice does not waver but he does sound sad.

COLLIN

Hey baby. I'm sorry for how we left things. I hope the flight was good. Call me.

Sarah smiles wiping a tear away. She clicks on the next message.

COLLIN

Did you get in okay? Hope to hear from you soon. Can't wait to see you.

Collin's voice is sweet. Sarah scrolls to the most recent message.

COLLIN

Me again. I can't come to London anymore. I'm really sorry. Thank your parents for me. Talk soon.

Sarah's face falls at this news. Sarah calls Collin and gets his voicemail.

SARAH STEM

Hey. Sorry, today's been crazy. I know we left things kind of weird. Call me?

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - DAY

SARAH

Why hasn't he called me back?

NANNY

Maybe he's busy. You didn't call him back right away. You have other things to focus on. Like how are we going to get your board back? The box would cost \$200 to ship because of how big it is.

SARAH

\$200? That's crazy. My parents would kill me if they saw that on their credit card bill. Maybe Collin could

help. If he would answer.

NANNY

I wouldn't get your hopes up on some boy.

SARAH

He's not just some boy, you know that. You've known him as long as I have.

NANNY

Sorry, coach in me. He's a good guy. I'll keep my fingers crossed he answers.

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - DAY

COLLIN

Hey.

SARAH

I'm sorry I haven't answered your calls. It's just that-

COLLIN

It's fine. I had football, anyway.

SARAH

No, its not. I started acting like a fool the moment I found out I was moving. I didn't know what to do.

There is silence on the other end of the receiver.

SARAH

It was already hard with us both practicing every day and now 6,000 miles. How are we supposed to get around that?

COLLIN

We still could've talked about it.

SARAH

I didn't want to hurt what we have together.

COLLIN

Sarah, we are stronger than that. We've been dating for two years and best friends since the first grade.

SARAH

I know.

COLLIN

Then why didn't you talk to me?

SARAH

I'm sorry. Really.

COLLIN

It's okay. It's my fault, too. I should've fought for you more.

The couple waits in silence waiting for the other to speak.

COLLIN

So where does this leave us?

SARAH STEM

You could still come visit?

COLLIN

I wish. Coach is making practice extra hours next week for our season opener. I can't play if I'm not at practice and it's supposed to be my first start.

SARAH

It's okay. Coll, I gotta go but we'll talk later, I love you.

COLLIN

I love you, too. Talk to you later.

Sarah hangs up the phone looking disappointed but smiles when she sees a text from Collin pop up.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Two weeks has passed. Kim and Daniel are standing on the porch. they have on lab coats and guest passes for the nearby University Medical school. A taxi pulls up to the house. Kim opens the door.

KIM

Sarah! You have a visitor! Sarah!!

Sarah comes outside confused. Collin gets out of a large SUV and Sarah screams shocked. He opens the trunk pulling out a suitcase and a large box. A surfboard peeks out of the top of

the box that's as big as him.

SARAH

Really?

KIM

Really.

Sarah takes off runs to Collin. Collin sets the box down.
Sarah leaps into his arms.

SARAH

How did this even happen

COLLIN

I sprained my wrist at practice last week. I can't play for a weeks so I called your parents and we planned the whole surprise.

Collin holds up his arm brace and Sarah laughs and then she looks back to see her parents smiling and she runs over to them.

KIM

We didn't listen to what you want and we're sorry. We still want you go into medicine like us but if surfing makes you happy. We want you to be happy.

Sarah wraps her arms around her parents and wipes a tear away from her eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.