

Alone: A Ghost Story

Written and performed by Jake Lane

SON. I've missed this.

Well hanging out I mean. I wish we could go to the park or the beach but

I mean it's nice to be by the pool but

Okay sorry yes i'm getting off topic

I'm rambling

You always said, I rambled, mom

I know that things have been hectic lately and we haven't had a lot of time to talk

Which i think is not "good" but yanno like a natural reaction to how things have been and so

I just wanted some time to talk and uh

And yeah this is uh

This is a good a time as any to catch up so

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I had a dream the other day that was um really just bizarre

That's actually

But yeah that was the main

That was why I wanted to talk to you today, I wanted to tell you about this dream but don't like

It's just a dream so

Yeah but

The dream is this:

I'm a scientist on a submarine

—i know. i'm horrible at science

and also are scientists even on submarines?

Or is that just in horrible James Cameron movies? —

But anyways, i'm a scientist and i have to swim out to this big reef

Because a um a piece of coral in the reef has some type of fungus growing on it

Like, the coral is a host

Again, i don't know that's a real thing but

I'm swimming out to the coral and all around me are fish, of course,

but there's also this huge octopus

And i look into the octopus's eyes and its eyes are JUST like your eyes and i'm like ???

Are you an octopus?

But anyways, i keep swimming and i get to the reef and it's actually kinda hard to get there because i'm using flippers and have an oxygen tank and a camera and for some reason this waterproof clipboard with (i guess?) waterproof paper? And a pen?

Because, you know, i have things to chart and stuff

So i'm looking at the reef trying to find this fungus

And i'm expecting it to be yellow for some reason  
But all the rocks are this amazing reddish purple and i'm just admiring them and i forget  
the mission for a second  
But then i see something flapping on some of the coral and so i pull it back and everything  
underneath that beautiful red coral  
Is green, this disgusting blackish-green  
And i realize it's too late  
The fungus is like a cancer that has taken over the whole reef  
And the whole thing sort of starts peeling away and suddenly everything that was in front  
of me  
—What was literally a feast for my eyes a moment ago—  
Is gone and now it's just replaced by death.  
And also this is the moment where at the exact same time, of course,  
i find out i'm running out of oxygen  
And now i'm panicking because yes i might die  
But also I'm panicking because, like, i failed.  
Really, really badly.  
And all of the sudden then i'm falling really far and really fast  
Like something is just yanking me through every single layer of the earth  
And i go through the coral first and i see all the decay  
and then i'm through the sand and the pressure is kinda just pummeling me  
And then the core of the earth  
but for some reason it isn't hot like they always said it would be  
and nothing is burning  
it's just darkness  
And then i'm like "this is it. There's no where left for me to go."  
I say that, i actually... for some reason even though i'm alone in the core of the earth i  
actually say that out loud  
And it's calm for a second  
Because no one answers and i'm just floating alone  
And the fear is gone

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And then i'm crashing through a ceiling  
And i'm in the house i grew up in  
But it's really weird and seems so old and just like  
It's like the weird abandoned house in Edward Scissorhands where Edward lived, the  
one with the creepy gray dilapidated attic

But anyways yeah it's creepy and i look up and there's no hole in the roof that i just crashed through, I'm just sitting in the attic

And i'm not in pain but i'm still wearing the oxygen tank

so my first question is "Why?"

But then I'm like:

What If I'm In An Alternate Reality Where There Is No Oxygen? What If A Different Version Of Me Is About To Walk Through The Door?

But no one walks through so I have the option to just stand there but also like there has to be something for me to find

So i leave the attic and the minute i step out everything else in the house looks exactly like i remember it

And i see that awesome, awesome little racetrack i used to play with my cars on; it has three levels and the cars have this garage that they can drive in to with an elevator that takes them to the top

And i go into the bathroom and see my old toothbrush that stuck to the counter with suction cups

And my old toothpaste, which was bubblegum, it was always bubblegum flavored and uh I keep going because i smell something which somehow i could smell? Even though i was wearing an oxygen mask?

And i follow the smell to the kitchen and i walk in and that's just like

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That's the Moment.

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I see you, Mom.

And you're older than you've ever been before, and much more worn.  
you look so tired.

But you're younger, too. You're just like i remember you being when i was a kid

And somehow you're moving forward and backward in time simultaneously

And i want to hug you

Really

I want to complain about doing the dishes

And I want to chase you around the house with smelly socks

And i want to yell at you and be so angry because I'll never get old enough to understand how much you love me

But i can't do any of that

I just stand there and watch you move through time

And all of the sudden it's getting dark

and you're moving slower and slower  
And the sun is setting and the sky is closing  
And i try with everything in me to push against this force that's keeping me from you but  
i'm out of oxygen now and I'm passed out on the floor and everything is spinning and  
orange and black and flashing and my eyes fling open and you're standing over me

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Of course  
You're standing right there

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And i realize in this moment that i saw your ghost before i saw your body  
And I still haven't seen your body  
I can't...

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And i realize that you really were in the octopus  
And you were in the coral, and the attic too.  
And you bought me the toothpaste, and the toy cars,  
And you were standing over me.  
And now you're kneeling down to check on *me*.

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And that was it, i guess  
That was uh  
That was when i woke up  
But

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Anyways  
I wanted to tell you that story  
That dream  
Because it was so

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I kinda wish it didn't end like that  
I almost wish the cancerous coral just swallowed me  
Or i ran out of oxygen then and washed up on a shore somewhere  
Or just stayed in the abyss

But  
I didn't

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That's the ending we got so

\*

You're gone and you're everywhere

\*

But  
Yeah

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I miss you.

*(He turns the camera to reveal an empty seat)*

I miss you every day.