

EXPERIENCE POINTS

Written by

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BLACK.

We hear the beeps and boops of old 8-bit video games. The sound of a young girl laughing.

DAD  
Did you press start?

CUT TO:

1 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING 1

Gabby, 21, lays asleep on her computer wearing the same black dress from the day before.

We see a graphic hover over her head.

GRAPHIC: HOLD "X" TO WAKE UP.

Gabby is jolted awake.

Gabby checks the vodka bottle next to her computer then the small army of Red Bull cans surrounding.

GRAPHIC: PRESS "A" TO STAND.

She pulls herself away from her computer, legs hard with entropy as she walks to the door.

CUT TO:

2 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 2

Gabby rubs the sleep off her face while walking to the fridge. We see more graphics as she opens the fridge and takes out a Redbull, then a coffee mug from the sink.

We see a bouquet of flowers in the corner, starting to wilt. Next to the flowers is a card and a stack of unopened bills.

We see what's written on the card.

GRAPHIC: WE'RE HERE FOR YOU. -KNIGHTS OF PHOENIX

Gabby walks past the flowers and back to-

CUT TO:

3 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 3

Gabby sits at her computer. She cracks open the Redbull and pours it into the mug followed by a dash of vodka.

\*BOOP\*

Gabby gets several e-mails, most refer to overdue bills. We see one in particular.

GRAPHIC: CENTRAL POWER: YOUR PAYMENT IS OVERDUE.

Gabby closes the e-mail. Instead she starts to play video games.

CUT TO:

4 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 4

Gabby is still playing video games.

Gabby checks the Vodka bottle to find it empty. She glances at a picture frame next to her computer, we can't see the picture but its clear that Gabby doesn't like it.

She places the frame face down.

Gabby steps away from her computer and staggers into-

CUT TO:

5 INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 5

The faucet runs as Gabby splashes cold water on her face. She stares at herself in the mirror for a moment.

Suddenly Gabby sees a DnD style stats menu pop up next to her face.

TEXT: GABBY. LEVEL 21 HUMAN. CHARISMA 12 (+2). STATUS: DRUNK.

Gabby disregards the menu, and leaves.

CUT TO:

6 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING 6

Gabby is wide awake still playing. The morning sun creaks through the blinds behind her computer.

\*Knock\* \*Knock\* Gabby ignores it.

\*Knock\* \*Knock\* Gabby is irritated.

\*KNOCK\* \*KNOCK\* Fed up, Gabby walks to-

CUT TO:

7 EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

7

Gabby opens the door.

GABBY

What?!

No one is there. Gabby looks down to see yet another bouquet of flowers at her feet. She picks up the card attached.

CARD: WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU IT WAS TWO FOR ONE? -  
TIM

Gabby does not find this funny, she walks back inside.

After a few moments Gabby opens the door, grabs the flowers, and goes inside.

CUT TO:

8 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

8

Gabby sets the new bouquet on the counter next to the first.

GRAPHIC: PRESS "X" TO PLACE IN A VASE.

Gabby ignores the prompt and exits.

CUT TO:

9 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

9

Gabby is in the middle of a popular online multiplayer game, wearing a headset and chatting with her guild (ROUGE, DRUID, TIM)

We hear the sound of thunder in the headset.

ROUGE

Everyone set for the next boss?

DRUID

Yep.

GABBY

Yeah.

ROGUE

Where's Tim?

We hear the sound of a toilet flushing in Gabby's headset.

As Gabby flinches at the sound, we see a "RAGE METER" appear in the lower third.

TIM

Sorry! Sorry! I'm back, let's finish this.

The Guild plays.

TIM (CONT'D)

So who's the next boss?

DRUID

You don't know?

Rage meter rises.

TIM

Haven't gotten a chance to run this one yet.

GABBY

(interjecting)

It's fine. Tim just, follow me. Watch out for the fire guys.

The game continues.

TIM

Hey Gabby, how you been?

Rage meter increases even more.

GABBY

Don't pull the adds yet.

DRUID

No, really?!

TIM

-I haven't seen you around lately-

GABBY

-Taking damage, need heals.

Rage meter rises. Getting high.

TIM  
-And I just want you to know-

GABBY  
Heal me!

Rage meter getting close to hitting the top.

TIM  
-we're here for you-

GABBY  
-I'm dying here!-

TIM  
-if you need anything.

RAGE METER MAXED OUT.

TIM (CONT'D)  
Did you get the flowers?

Gabby's character is dead. FINISH HIM.

GABBY  
Nice job idiot! You just had to  
keep my alive and you couldn't even  
do that! Now we gotta do the whole  
raid over again!

Silence. We hear the sound of someone logging out.

GABBY (CONT'D)  
Tim? (Panicked) Tim?

ROGUE  
He logged out.

GABBY  
Let's just keep going, we can beat  
this without him.

ROGUE  
Actually Gabby I think I'm gonna  
call it a night.

DRUID  
Yeah me too, I got work in the  
morning.

Gabby hears is the shuffling of headphones as her friends log out. She sits for a moment then resumes playing.

CUT TO:

10 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

10

Gabby lays face down on her computer fast asleep. We hear the same 8-bit sounds and laughter from before.

DAD

(O.S.)

Don't worry, that part always gets me too.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK. Gabby is jolted awake.

CUT TO:

11 INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

11

Gabby opens the door. ROGUE [22, business casual] is there.

ROGUE

Hey.

Gabby nods.

ROGUE (CONT'D)

You okay?

A dialogue menu appears through which we see what Gabby is thinking of saying.

GABBY

I'm good.

ROGUE

Wanna talk about last night? I know Tim was, well-

GABBY

-An idiot.

ROGUE

Yeah. But you know, that's just how he is. Just trying to help.

GABBY

He was messing up the raid.

ROGUE

The raid? Seriously, that's what you're hung up on? Are you okay?

GABBY

I'm fine.

ROGUE  
Listen if you want to talk-

GABBY  
Don't. Just don't.

Rogue has had enough.

ROGUE  
Alright, you don't want to talk?  
That's fine, but for now I think  
you should take a break from the  
guild for a little while.

GABBY  
Wait!

ROGUE  
You should get out of the house,  
take a walk or something.

GABBY  
Come on, don't do this!

ROGUE  
Have you been going to work? Paying  
your bills?

GABBY  
I'm fine, really. Don't do this  
we're so close to tier 5-

Rogue walks away. She turns around to speak.

ROGUE  
-Don't forget to water the flowers.

Rogue exits. We see a bunch of dialogue options that Gabby  
completely ignores and goes in the house. SLAM.

CUT TO:

12 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

12

Gabby splashes water on her face. We see the DnD menu again.

GRAPHIC: GABBY. LEVEL 21 HUMAN. CHARISMA: 12 (-12) STATUS:  
DEPRESSED.

Gabby splashes water on the mirror and exits. As she leaves  
we hear the sound of thunder.

CUT TO:



13 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 13

Once again Gabby sits at her desk in silence playing. While outside it rains cats and dogs.

Suddenly the power goes out.

GABBY  
(denial to anger)  
No no no no no no no no!

But the constant pressing of the power button doesn't bring the games back. She reaches under her bed and pulls out a flashlight.

CUT TO:

14 EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 14

Under the pouring rain Gabby tries to flip fuses on the breaker box. She flips the main breaker over and over again but the power does not return.

GABBY  
You gotta be kidding me!

CUT TO:

15 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 15

Gabby stands sopping wet wringing out her hair over the sink, while also on the phone.

PHONE  
Central City Power?

GABBY  
Hi, I think my power got knocked out by the storm. How soon can someone come out here?

PHONE  
Ma'am it appears your power has been shut off due to delinquency.

GABBY  
What?

PHONE  
You aren't paying your bills Ma'am.

GABBY

No I know that, what do I have to do to get-

The call is dropped. Gabby looks at her phone to find the battery dead.

Gabby chucks her phone away uncaring and finishes wringing out her hair.

CUT TO:

16 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

16

Gabby lays on her bed staring at the ceiling as the rain hammers the house.

Gabby's foot rhythmically taps her bed frame over and over. The silence is deafening.

Gabby rolls over, then to the other side. She tries to sleep.

Gabby arises and goes to her closet. She digs through the detritus until she finds an old GameBoy cartridge.

CUT TO:

17 INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

17

Gabby works her way through the room guided by her flashlight.

She arrives on a box labeled "OLD GAMES". Gabby digs through the box until she finds her prize, an ancient GameBoy.

CUT TO YOUNG GABBY PLAYING THE GameBoy.

Gabby jams fresh batteries in the toy and fires it up. The game loads and we see the high score, "DAD".

CUT TO YOUNG GABBY PLAYING THE GameBoy AGAIN. Gabby's DAD enters. His voice is the same one we've been hearing before.

DAD

Where did you find that old thing?

CUT BACK TO GABBY. Gabby grits her teeth.

CUT TO YOUNG GABBY AND HER DAD.

DAD (CONT'D)

Let me see that.

Gabby's Dad takes the GameBoy.

CUT TO GABBY. Gabby sniffles, clearly holding back tears.

CUT TO YOUNG GABBY. Gabby's Dad hands her the GameBoy. We see the high score Adult Gabby is trying to beat on it.

DAD (CONT'D)  
Try to beat that.

CUT TO GABBY. DING! NEW HIGH SCORE.

Gabby gasps.

GABBY  
Don't go!!!

She finally said it.

Gabby covers her mouth to keep more words from coming out, instead tears begin to form as she begins to hyperventilate.

Gabby openly weeps in the empty garage, scored by the sound of rain gently thumping against the walls.

CUT TO:

18

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

18

TIM [22, hipster] opens the door. Gabby stands in the doorway holding the same bouquet of flowers Tim sent her.

Tim silently stands arms crossed.

With an eye roll Gabby pulls the flowers back and reveals a six pack of craft beer.

Tim uncrossed his arms, smiles, and beckons Gabby inside.

CUT TO:

19

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

19

Gabby places the flowers in a vase while Tim pulls out an old N64 and a copy of Mario Kart 64. Together they open a couple of bottles of beer and settle in the living room.

We see Gabby and Tim sitting and playing together, ending on Gabby smiling for the first time in a long time.

END.