

Kaden Mono

written by

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INT. KADENS BEDROOM- NIGHT

Bare bulb overhead.
Concrete walls.
The kind of quiet that feels judgmental.

Kaden and Dawn finish up a supernatural documentary, supposed real life story.

Kaden leans against his bed's headboard, arms crossed.
Dawn sits in a chair nearby, trying to stay composed.

KADEN

So let me get this straight.

Dawn looks up.

KADEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

They're not trapped.
Nothing convincing is happening.
And I'm supposed to believe
everyone just collectively lost
their minds?

DAWN

I'm saying panic makes people jump
to conclusions. That's why they
didn't react that way

KADEN

Oh yeah—panic.
That famous cause of locked doors
and disappearing evidence. The
movie was terrible.

Dawn exhales.

DAWN

You don't have to mock everything.

KADEN

I absolutely do.
Because if I stop, I might start
thinking this is real—and I refuse
to live in that version of reality.

Dawn shifts, uncomfortable.

DAWN

Not everything needs an explanation
right away.

KADEN

Spoken like someone who already
decided not to look too hard.

Dawn meets his eyes.

DAWN

Or someone who knows when digging
makes things worse.

Kaden laughs.

KADEN

That's rich.
You're telling me not to dig?

He gestures around.

KADEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

You're the guy who double-checks
the locks, counts the exits, and
pretends it's just "being
responsible."

Dawn stiffens.

DAWN

I like being prepared.

KADEN

No—you like being in control.

A beat.

Kaden steps closer.

KADEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Because if something happens that
you didn't plan for,
you might have to admit you're just
as lost as the rest of us.

Dawn's calm thins.

DAWN

Are we still talking about the
movie?

Kaden smirks.

KADEN

I'm simple.
If I can explain it, I can survive
it.

DAWN

And if you can't?

Kaden shrugs.

KADEN

Then it's not real.
Problem solved.

Dawn shakes his head.

DAWN

That's not how the world works.

KADEN

Sure it is.
Reality doesn't get a vote. I do.

Dawn stands now.

DAWN

You ever think your sarcasm is just
fear with better timing?

Kaden grins sharp.

KADEN

You ever think your calm is just
denial wearing a seatbelt?

Silence.

The bulb flickers.

Kaden straightens.

KADEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Look—I'm not saying nothing bad can
happen.

He pauses.

KADEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I'm saying if it does, I want to
know who to blame.
And "the universe" isn't cutting
it.

Dawn watches him carefully.

DAWN

Dude, You're just terrified of
being wrong.

Kaden holds his stare.

KADEN

And you're terrified of what
happens if you're right.

Another beat.

Neither backs down.

END SCENE