THE INDISCRIMINATE IMPAIRMENT

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FADE IN:

INT. ETHAN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The living room is mostly dark, besides a few streaks of light piercing through the window's blinds.

The light illuminates part of ETHAN's, a 20-something year old man dressed in dark jeans and black hoodie, face and his body.

Most details of his appearance can not be made out in the darkness of his lair as he sits on the couch with his head down.

CUT TO:

Ethan paces back and forth in front of his couch with his phone in his hand.

He huffs and puffs as he quickly changes direction.

He abruptly sits back down and takes a deep breath before unlocking his phone and dialing a number.

The name NIC appears on his screen and he hits the call button.

The phone rings.

Rings.

Rings.

Nic answers while he is sitting at his desk, studying in his room.

PARALLEL ACTION BETWEEN NIC'S ROOM AND ETHAN'S LIVING ROOM

NIC

Hey what's up?

ETHAN

(Ethan is quiet for a moment breathing) Can you come here... it's important. NTC

What's happening, Ethan? You haven't talked to me in a while I was worried.

ETHAN

Just come. I will explain when you get here.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT DOOR OF ETHAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Nic knocks on the door from the outside.

Waits a couple moments.

Then pushes the door open.

It creaks as it moves.

The silhouette of Nic can be made out from the street lights behind him.

He stands in the doorway momentarily, looking towards the living room anxiously.

He keeps his gaze towards the darkness in front of him, while he slowly closes the front door.

NIC

Ethan?... The door was open... uh care to explain anything yet?

Nic creeps his way in the dark towards the living room.

The figure of the back of Ethan can be seen sitting on the couch.

NIC

Why are you sitting in the dark, man? You're making this as creepy as possible.

ETHAN

I know this is weird. I'm sorry.

Nic walks to stand in front of Ethan.

NIC

I'm going to turn on some lights I can't even see you.

Nic turns towards the light switch and flips it up as Ethan jumps up from his seated position.

ETHAN

NO! DON'T! ----

The light comes on revealing Ethan's secret.

Ethan is standing up with what appears to be two copies of himself on either side.

NTC

What the fuck!

ETHAN

Turn it off! NOW!

Nic flips the light switch off.

They both stand there in silence.

The light from outside dimly shines in making them both somewhat visible to one another.

Ethan sighs as he sits back down on the couch, shaking his head and putting it in his hands.

NIC

I think I'm just going to let you talk now, so I can figure out if I'm losing my mind.

ETHAN

You're not losing your mind. If anyone is... it's me.

Ethan sits there before speaking again.

ETHAN

Now you see why I haven't talked to you in a week. I have no idea what to do or what this is.

NTC

I know you have struggled with multiple personalities, but not quite like this.

ETHAN

I think that might be where this stems from. The only thing that I have been able to understand is that they can only come out when there is light. Daytime. And a flip of the switch like you just saw.

NIC

Have you tried maybe talking to them? I mean, they are you, I guess.

ETHAN

I kind of have. One of them really has no interest in being here. It's kind of like the angel and devil on my shoulders. One is very nice and the other is angry. He actually got out a few days ago and I'm terrified of what he could have done.

NIC

How did you get it to come back?

ETHAN

This was before I figured out that the light has so much power over them. So I must have gone into a dark room and when I turned the light back on the Angry One was back.

NIC

This may be a bit grim but have you tried, you know.

(Makes slashing motion across his neck)

ETHAN

If these things are me then I'm afraid to get rid of them like that. What if I'm collateral damage?

Nic walks over to Ethan and sits in the chair opposite of him.

NIC

Fair Point. Unless...

Ethan looks at Nic with a concerned look on his face

ETHAN

Unless what?

NIC

We capture them. We would just need to get them in some sort of holding area. Especially the Angry Ethan.

ETHAN

My room. We could put them in there and stand in front of the door? It's not fool-proof at all but it least gives us some time to talk to them and if they try to escape we can just turn the lights off.

NIC

That works. I doubt they will both be very cooperative. If they are in the same place they were when we turned the lights off. Then maybe we can think of a way to capture them there and then bring them upstairs.

ETHAN

I will turn the lights on and you hit the temperamental me with something. We'll worry about the other after.

Nic walks over to the kitchen and looks through one of the cabinets and pulls a bowl out.

He looks at it and walks back over to the couch standing in front of the spot where the Angry Duplicate was.

NIC

I've always wanted to smash you over the head with something.

Ethan rolls his eyes and walks over to the light switch.

ETHAN

On the count of three... 3,2,1!

Ethan turns the lights on.

CUT TO:

INT. ETHAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ethan and Nic stand in front of the door. Lights from the closet and bathroom fill the room, just enough to keep the other Ethan's tangible.

NIC

(smiling)

That was easier than expected. They are just versions of you don't know why I was expecting more of a fight.

Ask them something?

Ethan looks back at Nic uncomfortably. He crouches down to get a better look at the duplicates on the ground.

ETHAN

Where did you guys come from?

Ethan continues to look at the other versions of himself.

Silence.

ETHAN

Please. I just want to understand why I have to deal with this. You came into my life unexpectedly and you won't even talk. If we are actually the same maybe we can find a solution.

Nothing.

ETHAN

Nic. I... I don't know.

NIC

Maybe we can't. It might be about how you handle it.

ETHAN

I don't know if I'm capable of that. I'm cursed.

NIC

Life is kind of just always waiting to find some way to be shitty. It's not fair, but it chooses its victims at random a lot of the time. You're not cursed.

Nic puts his arm around Ethan's shoulders.

NIC

Let's take a break. We'll pick up the pieces in a few hours.

Ethan opens the door and Nic walks through.

Ethan looks back at the other versions of himself and turns the light off.

CUT TO:

INT. ETHAN'S LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Ethan wakes up on the couch and looks over to Nic asleep in the chair across from him.

He sits up and then stands.

Stretching a bit, he walks through the darkness of the house.

Creaking up the stairs back to his room.

Ethan reaches the top of the stairs and takes a couple of steps so he is standing in front of his bedroom door.

Deep breath.

INT. ETHAN'S ROOM - EARLY MORNING

He opens the door and turns the light on.

There are now not just two other Ethan's in the room.

But five.

CUT TO BLACK: