

The pill slides down my throat with ease.

“Have those been... helping?”

She turns her attention away from her computer, head tilted.

“I think? I’m not sure if anything’s really different, but I guess it’ll just take time.”

I cap the bottle.

XANAX

2mg

TAKE ONE TABLET BY MOUTH EVERY DAY

She gives a nod, wordless, and turns back to the computer.

I lean back, onto her bed.

“Are you home alone again?”

The mechanical keyboard clicks.

“Yeah. I mean, when am I not?” Her tone is hard to read.

Her ceiling is white.

“...but you’ve got me, right?”

“Yeah.”

Keyboard clicks.

Her keyboard is purple and white – Cherry browns. White backlight.

I can’t see it from here. I don’t have to.

She built it herself, last March.

I was there. I remember laying on the bed, chatting to her, just like now.

I don’t know anything about keyboards

Her ceiling is white,
with the faded image of glow-in-the-dark stars still visible.
I remember helping her take them down last year.
I remember helping her put them up, in sixth grade.

“...You alright?”

What?

“What?”

The clicking stops.

“Are you okay?”

Oh

“Oh.” I sit up. “Sure, uh, why?”

She shrugs.

I don't know if I'm okay

I walk to her side.

Some video game.

I don't usually play games, but I like them when I'm with her.

Maybe I should look for my switch sometime.

The window's open

I reach in my pocket

Turn away

I shouldn't be an annoyance in her home

“Hey, do you mind if I...”

“Huh?”

She sees my hand.

“’s the window open?”

I nod.

“I don’t mind.”

I lay back down

Take a hit and exh

COUGH

“FUCK”

“Shit, you okay?”

She waves the smoke away from her face.

I give a shakey thumbs up

but my eyes sting.

esc

Hey, are you okay?

like, really?

I’ve been worried

I mean, I haven’t been doing so hot either, but

I dunno

Something feels off

“Saki?”

She’s standing above me.

I touch my face.

It’s wet

“Huh?”

“I asked if you’re alright.”

My face is warm

and wet

I nod.

I turn away

I don’t hear the keyboard click.

My shoulders are warm

My face is wet

And my best friend’s ceiling is white.