

With the Press of a Button

Written By

Catherine Saucier

FADE IN:

INT. JACKSON'S COLLEGE DORM ROOM - EVENING

JACKSON is your typical 19 year old college freshman. He is in the middle of a truth or dare game over facetime with his friends: AMBER, NOAH, and RYAN. Jackson appears to be extremely panicked while his friends, not so much.

AMBER

Dude relax! She was bound to find out anyway.

NOAH

All you had to do was make the confession video and take a screenshot of it in the message box, not actually send it.

JACKSON

I didn't press send! My phone must have glitched!

Jackson takes a deep breath and becomes focused.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

What do I do now? She hasn't seen the message yet.

AMBER

There's nothing you can do so chill out. Plus, she could like you back!

JACKSON

Are there really no other options?

RYAN

Well I have an idea... but you'll have to hear me out.

Everyone looks at Ryan suspiciously but intrigued.

RYAN (CONT'D)

There's a website I found on the dark web that supposedly can delete message history with a contact.

NOAH

Man we told you to stop looking at that kind of stuff! It can be dangerous and gives me the creeps.

RYAN  
I know, I know, but this website  
can actually help.

JACKSON  
Yeah I don't know about this.

RYAN  
Look I'll just send you the link  
and you can think about it.

INT. JACKSON'S COLLEGE DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Jackson is looking at the website Ryan sent him. He hesitates  
but still clicks download.

JACKSON  
This is stupid. What am I doing?

Jackson looks at the app on his phone and sighs.

JACKSON (CONT'D)  
I can't let her see the video.

Jackson clicks the app and it opens with a warning message,  
he ignores it.

It asks for a contact and he selects 'CALLIE'. He presses  
enter and he sees his body start to turn to pixels.

JACKSON (CONT'D)  
What the fu...

Jackson gets sucked into his phone.

INT. THE APP - UNKNOWN

Jackson lands in a flat black space. He can see no walls or  
ceiling, appearing almost infinite. The only thing there is a  
pop up message, like one you'd see on a computer. The message  
reads "Erase Memory?" and has two buttons: yes and cancel.

Before Jackson can react a girl appears from pixels next to  
him. She is wearing ripped jeans with a cropped rock shirt  
and appears very alarmed.

JACKSON  
(shocked)  
Callie?

CALLIE  
(panicked)  
Jackson? Where are we?! I was just  
sitting in class and suddenly I got  
sucked into my phone!

JACKSON  
I don't know! I just got sucked  
into here too!

Callie looks up at the message and reads it.

CALLIE  
Erase memory? Like our memories?

The space flashes red. They both jump in surprise.

JACKSON  
Maybe just our memories of each  
other?

The space flashes green. Above the message appears a new part  
that says "application closes in" with a timer counting down  
from three minutes.

CALLIE  
I guess you are right. We need to  
get the hell out of here and fast.

Callie walks over to the cancel button and hits it. A pop up  
appears saying "Can not cancel at this time. Unopened file  
has disabled this function".

CALLIE (CONT'D)  
Unopened file? There's nothing  
here! What is it talking about?

Jackson looks confused but it quickly changes to realization  
and fear. He begins walking over to the yes button.

JACKSON  
Look let's just press yes and get  
out of here. There probably is no  
file anyway...

Jackson reaches for the button but Callie tackles him before  
he can press it. She pins him to the ground.

CALLIE  
(upset)  
What the hell! You could have  
erased our memories!

JACKSON

I just...

CALLIE

If you delete them then it'll be like we had never meet! Do you not care about our memories together?!

JACKSON

(yelling)

Of course I care! I care about you more than anything!

Jackson freezes when he sees Callie's shock. He pauses and continues in almost a whisper, looking away from Callie.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

But either way I will lose you. I would rather you forget me than hate me.

Callie gets off of Jackson and sits next to him.

CALLIE

Why would I hate you?

JACKSON

Because I am the one that got us trapped in here, all because of that stupid video.

CALLIE

Video?

Jackson sighs and sits up, still not looking at Callie.

JACKSON

A video confessing my feelings for you. I sent it to you by mistake and I was just trying to delete it.

Jackson begins to get teary eyed.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

And now we have to forget each other or maybe die. I fucked up really bad. I am so sorry.

CALLIE

Why?

Jackson turns to face Callie. He doesn't respond.

CALLIE (CONT'D)  
Why didn't you just tell me you  
liked me?

JACKSON  
I was scared of losing you. I love  
every moment when I am with you and  
I didn't want it to end.

CALLIE  
Why do you think I am always the  
last one to leave? Why do you think  
I always try to sit next to you  
when we hang out?

JACKSON  
(confused)  
Because we are great friends?

CALLIE  
(chuckling)  
No stupid, because I have had a  
crush on you since day one.

JACKSON  
Really?! I've been in love with you  
since the first time I saw you.

CALLIE  
You're in love with me?

Before Jackson can respond they hear the sound of a loud  
alarm. The world around them is beginning to disappear. They  
look and see the timer has gone off, the app is closing.

CALLIE (CONT'D)  
Look!

Jackson looks over and sees that the cancel button is now  
available. He grabs Callie's hand and they begin to run.

They don't get far before the floor below Callie falls. She  
begins to go down with it but Jackson keeps his grip and  
keeps her from falling. He tries to lift her up but he can't.

He looks around for something to help and sees the cancel  
button beginning to disappear in the distance. He looks  
behind him and reaches for the yes button.

CALLIE (CONT'D)  
Don't do it! We can still make it!

JACKSON

No we can't! I have to do this or  
you could die!

Callie looks at the emptiness below her and begins to cry.

CALLIE

Promise you'll find me?

JACKSON

I promise.

CALLIE

And Jackson

(pause)

I love you too.

Jackson smiles and presses the button. There's a bright flash  
and everything goes white.

INT. COLLEGE DORM HALL - DAY

Jackson is walking into the dorm hall, heading toward the  
stairs. He notices a girl in the elevator and stops.

JACKSON

Hey hold the door!

The girl stops the doors just in time and Jackson hops into  
the elevator.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Sorry, I usually just take the  
stairs but something just...

Jackson looks at girl. She is wearing a bleached band shirt  
and black jeans. He smiles but only for a moment.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

My name is Jackson, have we  
possibly met before?

CALLIE

Maybe? You look very familiar. My  
name is Callie.

JACKSON

Well its very nice to meet you  
Callie.

Jackson turns and presses the button for his floor.

END