

CAFE TALK

Written by

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Based on

SOUL MATE

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INT. CAFE - DAY

Sunlight streams through the cafe's windows, illuminating a sparsely populated space humming with a gentle warmth. Muted conversations drift, barely audible above the clinking of cups and the soft scrape of cutlery on plates as patrons savor coffee and other refreshments.

TONY, a young man, an Italian-American whose striking brown eyes and captivating physique radiate a blend of longing and contentment - a pastry and coffee sit half-consumed. He gazes directly at the viewer.

TONY

Hi. I am Tony, I'm a 23-year-old
Italian American male.

EXT. BEACH - AFTERNOON

Solitary, Tony strolled the shore. A COUPLE, their faces etched with the joy of youth, walked past, their fingers intertwined. He watched them, a melancholic shadow falling across his features.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I often walk alone on the beach
because I have no partner.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

A YOUNG MAN, strikingly handsome, strolled past Tony as he walked along the sidewalk. Tony, attempting subtle observation, feigned indifference, yet his gaze lingered, drawn back to the captivating stranger.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I have mixed emotions about my own
sexual identity.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Passionately hurled against the wall, Tony's damp skin glistened. His wrists, gripped fiercely in another man's grasp, pinned his arms above his head, a constrained power.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Crushed beneath Tony, the woman's face is lost, a canvas of shadowed emotion of passionate surrender.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I know I can be eye candy to both
men and women with my gorgeous
brown eyes and body to match.

INT. CAFE - DAY

In a secluded alcove, Tony occupies a plush banquette, a figure etched in pensive solitude.

TONY

I can be friendly, happy, sad,
sarcastic, polite, and rude.

INT. TONY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

In the vast expanse of his queen-sized bed, Tony lay solitary. A forlorn arm extended, a poignant gesture mirroring an absent presence.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I don't like waking up alone.

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

A striking twenty-five-year-old woman, LILY, her physique honed and elegant, casually looked at the enticing displays in the window. Across the street, Tony's purposeful stride echoed on the pavement.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

It should not be this hard to find
my life partner.

INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON

Across from Tony, AARON—a striking, twenty-three-year-old Caucasian with youthful features and an air of intellectual refinement—sipped his coffee. His intelligence and cheerful disposition were evident. They shared a moment of quiet companionship over their steaming mugs.

TONY

I have lost my way trying to find
that perfect person for me.

ARRON

Perfect does not exist, so, what do
you want?

TONY

Aaron, you know I want to find my
soul mate.

AARON

Minus perfection. I will introduce
you to Kelly again.

TONY

Who's Kelly?

AARON

She's my cousin.

TONY

I called Julie.

AARON

It is your choice. I do not prefer
pick up dates on social media. How
did it go?

TONY

She has not called back.

AARON

You know. Kelly likes your eyes.

TONY

My eyes? My eyes are so brown you can't even see my pupils.

AARON

If Julie does not call back in another day or two. She probably is not going to.

TONY

It's only been 18 hours. I'm still confident. I just heard that out loud, now I'm depressed.

AARON

If Julie drops you like stinky cheese it's okay if your old before you date again. Especially now. People are living longer, and they still have their own teeth.

TONY

You compared me to stinky cheese?

AARON

You know I have wondered more about a relationship with you and you know my feelings for you have gone on for longer than that. I like your puppy brown eyes.

TONY

I know we have talked in the past about spending the night together. I don't know why I still struggle with my own sexual identity. I know that I should have realized this long before now but my sexual identity seems to change.

AARON

It is perfectly okay for you to delve further into understanding your orientation well past your teen years.

TONY

I should make my chest rock hard.

AARON

Your chest is gorgeous the way it is.

TONY

I know that you hope one of your comments will make me run to you.

AARON

I heard you smiling after you said that.

TONY

You always sweet to me. But not today. I like the memories that we have made over the years more than the idea of fondling you for one night.

AARON

I know what you mean.

TONY

You know, if I looked as good as you think I do. I wouldn't be single. When did dating and understanding yourself get complicated in the 21st century?

Aaron anxiously consulted his timepiece, its face a stark reminder of the fleeting seconds.

AARON

I must go to work we can chat later.

With a decisive stride, Aaron departed.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

Be patient is what they tell me,
and good things will happen. I am
an Italian guy and there are things
that we always have. We have family
values. We have pasta and we always
play an adult version of twister. I
would join the priesthood, but I
don't think they serve pasta enough
to satisfy my appetite. I wish I
were more like Gary and in a steady
relationship with someone.

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

At a park table, Tony and GARY, a striking young man,
possessed a captivating air of effortless charm. His
impeccable style - gold-rimmed glasses, a flamboyant haircut,
and tailored clothes - hinted at a refined, individualistic
spirit, shared peaceful repose. The distant café buzzed.

A dramatic throat-clearing preceded a thoughtful pause from
Gary before inhaling his cigarette and exhaling and then,
with deliberate care, unwrapped and chewed a piece of gum.

TONY

I do not understand.

GARY

What don't you understand?

TONY

Why I end up alone so much. I am
compassionate, friendly, kind, I am
empathetic and loyal. You and Aaron
like me if you did not, we would
not have stayed friends after high
school.

GARY

You should call one of those call
in talk radio programs.

With a weary sigh, Gary discarded his wad of gum, its sticky residue clinging pathetically to the polished tabletop. He then ignited another cigarette.

TONY

With my luck my date would have
yellow teeth and have one butt
cheek higher than the other one and
smell like they slept in a
haystack.

With a decisive flick of his wrist, Gary withdrew the burning stick from his lips. His fingers, tense and restless, clutched the smoldering cylinder. A nervous tremor ran through him as he gnawed on his lip, a stark display of barely contained anxiety.

GARY

Well, if you are looking on a farm,
yes.

TONY

Why did you want to meet in the
park? We could have chatted in the
café.

GARY

Oh. I hate cafe's. I like to
breathe in the fresh air outdoors,
cafe's have no fresh air.

Gary breathes in the fresh air. The crisp, invigorating breath catches in Gary's throat, a painful gasp against the sudden influx of oxygen.

TONY

Why can't I find someone who shares
my interests and likes fresh mint
gum? Have you ever called into one
of those radio programs?

Gary's carelessly discarded cigarette fell to the ground, he retrieved it with a sigh.

GARY

No. I heard one the other night
Doctor Lust.

Gary's fingers, curled around the incandescent tip of his
death stick. He inhaled deeply.

TONY

Doctor Lust?

GARY

It might help you. Do you want to
sleep alone in a Queen size bed
forever?

TONY

People know more about what is
going on in my Queen size bed than
I do, and I am the one who sleeps
in it.

GARY

Are you still coming to my social
event? I might do a peppermint
theme. Who knows? You might meet
someone.

TONY

With my luck I still have a better
chance of meeting that person who
smelled like they slept in a
haystack before anyone would sleep
in my Queen size bed.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

Well Aaron would if I asked.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

A radiant luminescence bathed the water's surface as a
COUPLE, nearing mid-life, reclined on the grass, their
intimacy a silent testament to shared years.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

TWO SEPTUAGENARIAN'S, nestled together on their weathered porch swing, shared a silent communion, their intertwined lives etched onto the worn wood.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

TWO YOUNG LOVERS, entwined in a tender embrace, strolled along the sun-drenched avenue, their fingers interlocked, a silent testament to their burgeoning affection.

INT. TONY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Reclining supine, Tony's mind wrestled with its thoughts. His gaze drifted to his smartphone, resting innocently on the bedside table.

A slow, deliberate roll onto his side preceded his ascent to a seated position, the covers bunching around him like discarded thoughts. Uncertainty gnawed at him before his fingers finally, tentatively, closed around the device.

TONY

I cannot believe I am taking Gary's suggestion.

Tony initiated the connection. He flinched, instantly distancing the buzzing device from his head. The OPERATOR answered, a oddly endearing woman in her forties, her voice a whimsical counterpoint to the urgency of the call.

OPERATOR (O.C.)

Thank you for calling Doctor Lust, all lines are currently busy, but your call is very important to us, so please stay on the line. I do have to let you know this call is being recorded for privacy and security purposes.

Awakening from slumber, Tony retrieved his vibrant foam sphere.

With deliberate force, he unleashed a volley of throws against the unforgiving plaster, each impact a testament to pent-up energy.

DOCTOR LUST, a flamboyant fifty-year-old African American, exuded a captivating charisma.

DOCTOR LUST (O.C.)

Woman, what have I told you about playing that recording when we're not busy?

A Nerf projectile, launched with unexpected force, collided violently with Tony's face as he was intently listening through his mobile device.

OPERATOR (O.C.)

(Her melodramatic flights of fancy transport her to a realm beyond reality.)

Doctor Lust.

DOCTOR LUST (O.C.)

There is no lust for you, you do this all the time.

OPERATOR (O.C.)

I only want people to think you're a busy man.

DOCTOR LUST (O.C.)

I'm not listening to you.

Approaching his wardrobe, Tony collapsed onto the cold, unforgiving floor, the weight of the world pressing down on his shoulders.

OPERATOR (O.C.)

You must, you have your first caller in five hours.

DOCTOR LUST (O.C.)

Hi this is Doctor Lust. I am always here to answer any questions you might have about anything.

(MORE)

DOCTOR LUST (O.C.) (CONT'D)

I'm your long-distance friend when
no one else will listen to you. I
see you're a first-time caller you
know what I like to do with new
callers? I like to give them Indian
names.

TONY

You like to give your callers
Indian names. Why Indian names. Are
there a lot of people from the
tribe calling you needing lust
after midnight?

DOCTOR LUST (O.C.)

I think if I knew something about
you I would be calling you little
loaded gun and you would be telling
me you have not had a girl in a
while and I would be telling you
that on that night you are going to
be a rabbit.

He rose, his presence suddenly commanding the space.

TONY

Are you seeing a therapist
yourself?

DOCTOR LUST (O.C.)

No, I am not seeing a therapist.

(Excited)

Are you horny? I am.

TONY

I am hard but not because of you.
Just so you know. I have been
involved in love making before and
I have been the rabbit.

DOCTOR LUST (O.C.)

Are you waiting for me to
congratulate you?

TONY

Just saying. Am I on the air?

DOCTOR LUST (O.C.)

Yes. Do you have a name?

TONY

I do not know if I want to give you
my name over the air. I do not know
if Julie the girl I called to talk
about listens to you and if she
does is she listening on this
night?

A profound hesitation wrestled with Tony; the revelation of
his identity to Dr. Lust.

TONY (CONT'D)

My name is Bubba. Bubba Mayberry.

Tony's gaze, intense and unwavering, locks onto the lens.

TONY (CONT'D)

Do not laugh there could be an
Italian guy out there named Bubba.

A restless energy propelled Tony into a restless pacing of
his chamber.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I was feeling good with my little
lie.

DOCTOR LUST (O.C.)

Tell me something about yourself in
60 seconds.

Pulling the phone from his ear, Tony commenced a restless,
agitated traverse of the room.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I am frozen. Hell had tracked me
down using GPS because of my lie
from earlier.

(MORE)

TONY'S INNER VOICE (CONT'D)

Should I tell him my real name?
Should I hang up? What should I do?

He approaches the reflective surface, his gaze drawn to the enigmatic image staring back.

TONY'S INNER VOICE (CONT'D)

People who lie go to prison. Look
at me. I cannot go to prison I am
man meat.

Lost in the captivating depths of his own reflection, he found himself mesmerized by the intensity of his gaze. Returning the mobile to his ear, a weary exhale escaped his lips.

TONY

I have gorgeous brown eyes. My date
would not have to worry about
coming home with orders on their
clothes as if I wrestled pigs all
day.

With deliberate strides, Tony approached his television. He activated the screen, its sudden illumination a stark contrast to the quiet room. Restlessly, he flicked through channels, a frantic search for captivating content. Finally, he relinquished the remote.

TONY (CONT'D)

I do not want to wrestle pigs
personally, but pig wrestling has
been on my mind.

With a deliberate stride, Tony approached his mahogany desk. He settled into the leather chair. A slow, considered rotation followed, his gaze sweeping across the room with quiet intensity.

TONY (CONT'D)

I did take cough syrup today and
maybe that is making me
hallucinate. I am not a good
fighter so the pig would win.

Tony rose. He moved purposefully to his bedside table, his hand closing around the resilient, weighted grip. A surge of determination filled him as he powerfully compressed the resistance device.

TONY (CONT'D)

My physician's assessments
consistently reveal a remarkably
high seed count.

Releasing his hold on the apparatus, Tony moved with a deliberate grace towards the expansive window.

TONY (CONT'D)

So maybe I am a little loaded gun
and the next time I have hanky
panky.

Gazing from his window, Tony's eyes ascended to the celestial canvas above, a breathtaking expanse of infinite possibility.

TONY (CONT'D)

My lover will experience an
unparalleled ecstasy, a celestial
bliss, as I unveil my intimate
prowess, leaving them breathless
with exquisite delight.

DOCTOR LUST (O.C.)

You could have an amazing career on
stage doing dramatics. Bubba why
did you call?

TONY

I told you I want to talk about
Julie. I want her to call me this
time, if she calls me, I will know
she enjoyed our conversation.

Grasping the lightweight foam sphere, Tony hurled it with deliberate force against the unforgiving plaster, the impact echoing the turbulent emotions churning within him.

DOCTOR LUST (O.C.)

If she calls, start small, have dinner and if she does not call there is somebody out there for you. Have a good night.

The physician, his patience exhausted, abruptly terminated the conversation. A forceful impact—a Nerf projectile—struck him sharply on the temple.

TONY

That is, it, that is his advice?
That was a waste of time. I am anything but gratified after this call. I see now why he only gets a caller every five hours.

Placing his mobile device on the desk, Tony collapsed onto his bed, a heavy sigh escaping his lips. Supine, he gazed at the white expanse of his ceiling, a silent testament to the emptiness he felt.

TONY (CONT'D)

I wish I could wake up and have too many people to choose from. Dinner with Julie, chance encounters with other people. I wonder whatever happened to my crush in high school. It would be nice to be in Aaron's bed one time and to talk with my ex again.

Rising, Tony approached the glass pane, his gaze lost in the distant settled upon him as he contemplated the view.

TONY (CONT'D)

I wonder whatever happened to Lily.

His gaze plummeted to the grimy urban expanse below.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A joyful amble consumed Tony and Lily. Their mirthful chatter, though inaudible, painted a vivid tapestry of shared intimacy. With a sudden, poignant shift, Tony's gaze reversed, a silent contemplation etched upon his face.

TONY

That is what I wish before finding
my soul mate.

Golden shimmer, ethereal and immense, erupted behind him, engulfing the heavens in a celestial downpour. A radiant cascade of magical particles descended, a breathtaking, otherworldly rain.

SUPER Two Days Later

INT. CAFE - NIGHT

Across the bustling café, Tony's gaze was fixed, worshipping JULIE, a striking twenty-five-year-old Caucasian woman, possessed a captivating, yet diminutive presence; her self-importance was seen, radiating from her like an aura of disdainful charm from his booth. A sea of patrons surrounded them.

TONY

I was happy you called me. This is
what I wanted, and it happened
Julie across from me.

JULIE

You act as if you have never had
dinner with a beautiful woman
before?

TONY

I have. I am a little more excited
with you.

JULIE

Why is that?

TONY

You sound like someone with a sense of humor, outgoing, and someone who has a direction in life. At least that's how you came across on the phone.

JULIE

Is your thermometer rising sitting across from me.

TONY

Well, something is rising.

JULIE

How are you feeling with me right now?

TONY

I am feeling like a schoolboy who was told he could have two pudding pops from the school's cafeteria for the price of one.

JULIE

I am turned on that you feel the way you do because after our call I am pretty sure you are the one.

TONY

I am standing in Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, we are on the same page.

JULIE

Your mind is in overdrive.

TONY

I am ready to explode with more excitement than a dog with a new squeaky toy.

JULIE

Are you having a breakdown?

TONY

Not yet. I am ready to get to know you.

JULIE

I want you to have my children.

TONY

We are not on the same page.

JULIE

What are you thinking?

TONY

I thought we could finish our rigatoni and our drinks and then walk around and talk some more, a lot more.

JULIE

Did I change the evening you had planned?

TONY

Yes. I am profoundly regretful. My judgment of you was flawed, a gross miscalculation based on assumptions rather than understanding. I failed to consider your perspective, your unique identity, and the possibility of a reality diverging sharply from my preconceived notions. This error weighs heavily upon me; I am deeply embarrassed by my misguided certainty.

JULIE

You can be in a stage play with your dramatics.

TONY

I have been told that. What do you see yourself doing in the future?

JULIE

I do not know what I want to do.

Compassion radiated from Tony as his gaze rested upon her, a profound understanding settling in his eyes.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Are you getting emotional?

TONY

A little.

JULIE

Wow, you are dramatic, why did that make you emotional.

TONY

It was the way you said those words and the thoughtful way you spoke them. That was the gentleness I heard on the phone, and that was why I wanted to have dinner with you.

JULIE

It sounds like you care for me.

TONY

I did care about you.

JULIE

You do not now?

TONY

We have different paths in life. I think we should end dinner.

JULIE

If I leave, you will not sleep with me.

TONY

Even if you had the personality I heard on the phone.

(MORE)

TONY (CONT'D)

I probably would not have slept
with you right away.

JULIE

You probably wouldn't have. That is
not saying that you would not.

TONY

I am not into natural insemination.

JULIE

You're a man and men have needs
like me. I know you still have my
number at home, and if you ever
change your mind, you can call me.
My offer will always stand.

As Julie departed. He contemplated her compelling proposal,
his gaze lingering on her retreating form, a silent farewell
etched in the space between them.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I did not know who I was after my
dinner with Julie. I had this image
of my life with her although I was
filled with mixed feelings after
our dinner. I know what I want so
considering her offer should not
have been on my mind, but it was.

A hand, deliberate and precise, places the check on the
tabletop. Tony, approaches the till.

The WAITRESS, a young woman of twenty, her uniform crisp and
impersonal, arrives.

He silently presents the payment - receipt and currency - a
transaction devoid of warmth. Lily, isolated at the counter's
far end, remains utterly still.

A handful of patrons occupy the remaining stools, their
presence a muted backdrop to the scene. Between Tony and
Lily, of unspoken words before departing.

INT. TONY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Entering his living room, Tony softly shut the door behind him. SOPHIA, a warm and vibrant Italian-American woman of fifty, radiated maternal strength.

SOPHIA (O.S.)

Tony is that you?

With deliberate strides, he proceeded to his culinary domain.

TONY

Yeah.

SOPHIA (O.S.)

Are you alone?

TONY

No. I thought I would bring the kids over.

INT. TONY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tony entered, his presence a sudden, unwelcome intrusion. Sophia, clad in her nightclothes, remained engrossed in her literary escape at the kitchen table, a fragile island of calm in the night.

SOPHIA

How was your date?

TONY

Like ice cream that has been sitting in the sun for three hours.

Approaching the cupboard with a deliberate stride, Tony selected a pristine glass. He then meticulously filled it with a refreshing draught of water.

SOPHIA

I know some night you are going to come home with the one.

TONY

After tonight with Julie, I am feeling like I am going to be alone in a room because I cannot live up to other people's expectations. I do not seem to find people who share my goals in a relationship.

SOPHIA

What are your goals and expectations?

TONY

Honest communication with my partner. If we can do that, we can work out most minor relationship conflicts.

SOPHIA

Regina called for you.

TONY

My brother's wife's sister called for me.

SOPHIA

The phone number is on the refrigerator.

TONY

I am not looking to call another girl right now.

SOPHIA

If you sit in your room and stop trying, how will you find the one who shares your relationship goals?

TONY

Did she say what she wanted?

Approaching his refrigerator, Tony detached the clinging reminder.

SOPHIA

All she said was she was looking
for you.

TONY

I guess I will call her and find
out what she wants after I put the
kids to bed.

He deposited the vacant glass, into the porcelain basin.

SOPHIA

If you do not want to, you do not
have to call her.

TONY

I will call her for you because you
want me to bring home the one.
Goodnight.

SOPHIA

Goodnight.

Tony departs.

INT. TONY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tony strode in, a sticky note clutched in his fist. His
mobile phone, retrieved from his pants pocket, and with a
decisive movement, he secured the door behind him.

He dialed Regina's number, the insistent trill of the ringing
tone. Four rings later, the answer came.

REGINA, a striking twenty-eight-year-old Italian woman,
possessed an elegant frame, captivating features, a sharp
mind, and a profoundly empathetic soul, was on the line.

REGINA (O.C.)

Hello?

TONY

Hi, is Regina there?

Tucking the sticky note into his pants, Tony collapsed onto the bed's edge. He then shed his footwear, each foot hitting the floor with a quiet thud that resonated with the weight of the day.

REGINA (O.C.)

This is Regina.

TONY

This is Tony.

He traversed the short distance to his closet. With a decisive movement, he flung open the door, revealing their contents, and gently deposited his footwear within the shadowed depths.

TONY (CONT'D)

Did you want to talk about
something in particular? I am a
little surprised you called me.

With a decisive click, Tony shut the closet, its contents concealed. He then strode purposefully to his workstation, selecting several delectable, unwrapped chocolates from the tempting assortment nestled beside his humming laptop.

REGINA (O.C.)

I know it is short notice but I was
wondering if you would like to go
to a dance club?

Astonishment seized Tony; his jaw slackened, revealing a gasp. The delectable sweets tumbled from his numb fingers, scattering across the hardwood floor, a shattered testament to his overwhelming surprise.

TONY

You want to go with me? Hold on.

His mobile device, settled onto the expanse of his work surface.

TONY (CONT'D)

I am not ready I cannot be expected
to run at the last minute. Shoes I
need shoes.

With a burst of frantic energy, Tony dashed to his wardrobe. He flung open the doors, his gaze immediately settling upon his comfortable loafers. Then, with a determined stride, he returned to his haven, his bed.

TONY (CONT'D)

I hope this is not a fancy dance
hall.

On the bed's rim, Tony fell to the floor, a sudden, decisive movement. He then donned his footwear.

TONY (CONT'D)

Slip-on shoes there a man's best
friend. I cannot wear this shirt I
have had this on all day.

Rising abruptly, Tony frantically undid his shirt, casting it aside with a sharp movement. He dashed to his wardrobe, his fingers feverishly sifting through the neatly stacked garments in a desperate search.

TONY (CONT'D)

Seriously? I do not have one good
dance shirt. Why can't I be in
Aaron's closet right now? I will
wear a T-Shirt.

With a frantic rush, Tony dashed to his bureau, yanking open the drawer with a desperate flourish. A chaotic cascade of his shirts erupted, a crumpled avalanche engulfing the floor in a desperate display of frustrated energy.

TONY (CONT'D)

There must be a solid shirt in
here. Ah, found one.

With hasty movements, Tony donned his garment.

TONY (CONT'D)

I did not put deodorant on.

With a fierce struggle, he wrestles free of his constricting shirt. The garment, finally liberated, is flung with a dramatic arc onto the bed.

INT. TONY'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

With a frantic urgency, Tony sped swiftly through the echoing corridor.

INT. TONY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

With a frantic urgency, Tony dashed into the lavatory. He flung open the medicine cabinet, its mirrored door reflecting his anxious face as he desperately searched for his antiperspirant.

TONY

Why are there so many deodorants in
this cabinet? One smell one
deodorant that is all you need, ah,
found one.

With a decisive twist, Tony removed the deodorant.

TONY (CONT'D)

Why am I so nervous? I should not
be worried spray yourself and smell
pretty.

A careless gust from the aerosol can misfired, clouding the air with a fine mist. He reflexively applied the substance liberally beneath his arms. Then, with a clumsy precision, he coated his sternum. Finally, the dispenser was placed on the bathroom countertop.

INT. TONY'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

With a desperate urgency, Tony hurtled down the corridor.

INT. TONY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Donning his garment once more, Tony confronted his reflection.

TONY

I smell amazing. I got a clean shirt on; my pants are acceptable. Tonight, intimacy remains absent from my plans., so my socks are not coming off, so it is okay if I have dirty feet. Regina will not see them if they are.

With a sudden, urgent movement, Tony dashed to his workstation, snatching his mobile device from its resting place.

TONY (CONT'D)

Hi are you there?

REGINA (O.C.)

You were gone a long time.

TONY

I thought I heard my cat wanting in.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

If she comes over some time I will rent a cat-no need to worry about minor details right now.

REGINA (O.C.)

I should have told you before. I am not going tonight. I am going tomorrow.

TONY

Oh, I figured that who would call last minute to go to a club?

Wearily, Tony collapsed onto the side of his mattress.

TONY (CONT'D)

And you want me to take you?

REGINA (O.C.)

I do. You enjoyed yourself dancing at my sister's wedding. Are you available?

TONY

I do not have anything going on.

REGINA (O.C.)

I should have asked this first I do not want to cause trouble if you are. Are you seeing anyone?

With a weary sigh, Tony distanced the insistent device from his throbbing ear.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

Oh no. My confidence has been reduced to nothing more than a trip to the ice cream store to enjoy a buy one gets one free cone. I need air.

Tony rose. He approached the expansive window, a silent sentinel overlooking the bustling cityscape below.

With a decisive push, he flung it open, the cool night air washing over him. He resumed his conversation, the device pressing against his ear.

REGINA (O.C.)

The cat again?

TONY

No. I opened my window to get some air.

Tony's gaze, intense and unwavering, locks with the lens.

TONY (CONT'D)

Admit it you were ready to judge me
you did not think I would be
honest.

REGINA (O.C.)

You did not answer my question. Are
you seeing anyone?

Frozen in place, Tony resembled a rabbit paralyzed by the
glare of approaching doom.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

If I told her I had not been seeing
anyone, would she think I was
getting together with her out of
desperation? Why do I have a chill
up my spine?

Approaching the glass pane, Tony secured the window with a
decisive movement as he contemplated the question.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

If I tell her I had just come out
of a relationship, would she think
I was on the rebound?

Approaching his wardrobe. He retrieved a thick, woolen
comforter, he gently nudged the closet door shut with his
foot. Then, sinking onto the edge of his mattress.

TONY

I have been on some dates but
nothing serious.

REGINA (O.C.)

Really?

TONY

I did not know you had feelings for
me.

REGINA (O.C.)

I would like to get to know you
better.

TONY

There is this carnival coming up
would you like to go?

REGINA (O.C.)

I love carnivals.

Unheard, their conversation flowed between Tony and Regina, a vibrant current of shared amusement punctuated by bursts of delightful laughter, betraying the deep satisfaction they found in one another's company.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

We talked throughout the night
about things that we did not get to
talk about at my brother's wedding,
and we found that we did share many
interests and likes and things that
we thought we would not have in
common we did. I found the talk
with Regina meaningful. I should
have asked if she liked fresh mint
gum.

INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON

Opposite one another, Tony and Aaron occupied a secluded alcove, their gazes locked in a silent, weighty exchange.

AARON

You are getting together with
Regina to go dancing?

TONY

Yeah.

AARON

I talked to Kelly for you I will
let her know you have moved in a
different direction, and you will
not be taking her to Gary's social
event.

TONY

I did not say that I would not get together with Kelly.

AARON

Do you want to get involved with both Regina and Kelly at the same time?

TONY

I just want to get to know them both.

AARON

Did you forget about Julie?

TONY

No.

AARON

Julie does not want to get to know you based on what you said. She views you solely as a means of base gratification, a disposable object for her fleeting physical desires.

TONY

I can still take Kelly to Gary's social event.

AARON

Does he still want to do a peppermint theme?

TONY

He has not decided yet. You are not going?

AARON

My grandparents got tickets for the ballet, and they ask me to go.

TONY

You are going to the ballet at your age?

AARON

What? The ballet is beautiful to watch at any age.

TONY

The night that my talk with Regina went into the early morning after my dinner with Julie. I enjoyed the talk so much that I have wondered if Regina could be my soul mate.

AARON

Will you give into temptation with Julie if things do not move in the direction you want with Regina?

TONY

I know Julie's affections are purely carnal, devoid of genuine emotional connection but to a guy a night of aggressive acts in the dark can carry him through like a fifty dollar bill until his next payday and he can find his stability again.

AARON

That is your thinking how to make it through until your next payday?

TONY

What do you want me to say?

Twenty-five-year-old ASHLEY, a captivating blonde, possesses a charming vulnerability, athletic prowess, and a playful, flirtatious nature.

ASHLEY (O.S.)

Aaron?

TONY

No, I was not going to say that.

AARON

That was not me.

Ashley gracefully approached.

AARON (CONT'D)

Hi Ashley.

ASHLEY

I thought that was you.

AARON

Tony, you remember?--

TONY

(Happy)

--It is me, Tony.

ASHLEY

I do not remember you, what is your last name?

TONY

High School.

ASHLEY

Your last name is high school?

TONY

No, we went to the same high school my last name is Mastroeni.

ASHLEY

Oh yes baloney Mastroeni Tony because you always had a story to tell.

AARON

He still does.

ASHLEY

Oh, wow Tony Mastroeni.

TONY

So how have you been?

ASHLEY

Great I am going to college in the fall, and I have been playing a lot of tennis lately.

TONY

That's a coincidence. I started playing tennis recently.

AARON

You did?

TONY

My back hand and foreword swing allow me to win a lot.

ASHLEY

It sounds like you are good.

TONY

We should play tennis sometime.

AARON

Not a clever idea.

ASHLEY

I am always interested in a challenge with someone with talent.

TONY

Can I call you?

ASHLEY

I will be at Franklin Tennis Court Saturday at 10am, come by if you want to play with me.

Tony's gaze followed Ashley's retreating figure, as she departed.

AARON

It was nice talking to you. Well, it was.

TONY

She has not changed that much.

AARON

What exactly was that with Ashley?

TONY

I guess after seeing her now it reminded me of my crush on her in high school.

AARON

What are you going to do when she wants to play tennis?

TONY

I play tennis. Why can't a guy have a lot of women friends, but it is okay to have a bunch of guy friends?

AARON

Because of the situation you are getting yourself into. You do not know how to play tennis don't you think that might be a minor problem?

TONY

How can it be? It is just balls flying over a net. Isn't it great? Things are suddenly starting to look up—what a beautiful day.

AARON

As long as you understand it can suddenly storm at any moment and it can be your balls in the net.

In the café's shadowed interior, Tony remains immobile. Beyond the glass, Lily's graceful form drifts against the vibrant backdrop of the bustling street.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

Why is it so hard to find my soul
mate? It should not be this
difficult to find my life partner.

INT. TONY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Relaxed in attire, Tony surveyed his reflection, a critical
eye assessing his appearance. Then, Sophia entered, her
arrival a sudden interruption to his private appraisal.

SOPHIA

I did not know you were in here.
Oh, look at you don't you look
handsome.

TONY

Mom. I do not want to look handsome
going to a nightclub.

SOPHIA

Why? It is a good look for you.

Approaching Tony, Sophia delicately adjusted his hair.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

You should fix your hair.

TONY

My hair is fine.

SOPHIA

Did you use that new shampoo I
bought?

TONY

I tried it.

With gentle, loving fingers, Sophia caressed his hair.

SOPHIA

How come your hair does not feel
soft? My hair is soothing when I
use that new shampoo.

(MORE)

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

Your hair has no bounce. My hair has more bounce now.

TONY

Is an Italian guy's hair supposed to have bounce?

SOPHIA

I think Regina would like a man with a bit of bounce in their hair it shows a certain confidence.

TONY

I was confident, now I am nervous.

SOPHIA

What do you have to be anxious about? You said you had a wonderful talk.

TONY

I had a great talk with Julie on the phone and then we met, and it blew up, boom.

SOPHIA

I am sure you will have an excellent time; oh, I hope she is the one. Wouldn't that be wonderful two sisters married in the same family?

(Happy)

It is just a matter of time, and I am going to have grandkids.

Sophia departed. Tony scrutinized his reflection, a critical gaze assessing the man staring back.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

How can I give you grandkids when I am thinking about Aaron? Why am I thinking about Aaron and a first time with him?

INT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

A throng of revelers reveled in the vibrant atmosphere. Bodies swayed rhythmically to the pulsating music, a captivating dance of exhilaration unfolding across the floor. Laughter mingled with clinking glasses as intimate conversations blossomed around every table, friendships fortified by shared moments.

Laser beams sliced through the inky blackness, painting the dance club in dazzling patterns as the electrifying music throbbed relentlessly. Across from each other, Tony and Regina nursed their drinks.

TONY

How has Billy been?

REGINA

He is in the Navy.

TONY

The last time I saw him he was not sure if he wanted to join.

REGINA

He did not get into the university that he had hoped. So, he decided to join the Navy and study Engineering through them.

TONY

And what about you?

REGINA

I majored in Linguistics and my current company wants me to consider opportunities in other countries.

TONY

You can stay here and work for a consulate. How many languages can you speak?

REGINA

I speak seven different languages.
If I did go to another country. I
think I would move to one that is
less crowded and one where the
nights are mostly quiet.

Tony surveyed his surroundings, a keen observer amidst a sea
of swirling uncertainties.

TONY

You know if it is too crowded or
noisy in here, we can leave at any
time.

REGINA

Don't be silly, what would we do?

Lost in contemplation, he remains seated, a profound weight
settling upon his soul.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Isolated, Tony and Regina observed the passionate embrace of
a five-piece fountain display, its cascading water a
shimmering curtain around the lovers.

INT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

REGINA

Thanks Tony but we don't have to go
anywhere.

A profound regret washed over Tony; he acutely lamented his
missed opportunity to escape with her to some tranquil haven.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

TONY

Yeah, I am fine.

REGINA

You seem like there is something
that you want to talk about.

TONY

No, not at all.

INT. JULIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

In the intimate space of Julie's chamber, a tension crackled between Tony and Julie, their proximity hinting at the imminent eruption of passionate intimacy.

INT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Tony's attention is captivated elsewhere; his focus is scattered and adrift.

REGINA (O.S.)

Do you want to dance?

EXT. TENNIS COURT - DAY

Having once graced the court with her athletic prowess, Ashley now paused, her gaze locked intently on the lens.

ASHLEY

Tony do you still want to play
tennis with me on Saturday?

INT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Perplexity clouds Tony's mind.

REGINA (O.S.)

Tony?

TONY

Sure.

REGINA

So, you would you like to dance?

TONY

Dance? Dancing is good.

Rising gracefully, Tony and Regina moved as one towards the vibrant dance floor, their bodies already anticipating the rhythm. An intoxicating waltz began, their elegant movements a testament to unspoken understanding.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A solitary stroll for Tony and Regina unfolded, their path occasionally intersected by fleeting figures.

TONY

Do you like boating?

REGINA

The last time I was on a boat. I was young.

TONY

We should go some time.

EXT. LAKE - AFTERNOON

Amidst the sun-drenched expanse of the lake, Tony and Regina, their joyous laughter echoing across the tranquil water, propelled their vessel forward. His powerful strokes, moved them effortlessly through the shimmering expanse.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

As they strolled, a tender moment unfolded; Regina's hand, a gentle, comforting clasp, found its way into Tony's.

REGINA

I did not think I would get the chance to spend some time with you.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I am be tested. Another opportunity
to see if Regina wants to get
close. Now I am going to follow the
clues.

TONY

Why? I'm no prize.

REGINA

I know you're no prize but It's so
hard to meet the right people.

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM - AFTERNOON

The arena is overflowing with a throng of fervent spectators.

UMPIRE (O.C.)

Strike. Your outta there!

TONY (O.C.)

And I did not have to follow
another clue.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Tony and Regina proceeded onward, their steps echoing the
unspoken weight of their shared journey.

TONY

I have the same problem, meeting
the right people.

Halting their ambulation, Tony and Regina came to a
standstill.

REGINA

You know that I don't believe that.

TONY

You should.

REGINA

You know if you ever want to talk
about anything I'll listen.

TONY

There are some things that you just
have to sort out yourself.

INT. JULIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A captivating allure emanated from Julie as she reclined in
her chair.

JULIE

You can call me anytime, my offer
will always stand.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Ashley undertakes a brisk, invigorating run.

ASHLEY

I know about your crush on me.

INT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Aaron moves with a captivating grace, his body a whirlwind of
expressive motion.

AARON

Just ask me and I will lay in your
Queen size bed with you.

INT. RADIO STATION - NIGHT

In the dimly lit studio, a figure—Dr. Lust—sat before his
microphone, his face a grotesque masterpiece of unsettling
makeup, long, pendulum-like earrings swaying. His gaze, fixed
intensely on the camera, held a chilling allure.

DOCTOR LUST

(Excited)

Are you horny? I am.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A tense silence hung between Tony and Regina. His lips, yearning, sought hers. But her hand, a resolute barrier, gently yet firmly arrested his advance.

TONY

It's just a kiss.

REGINA

I know. I just don't feel ready yet.

TONY

Then I won't push.

REGINA

Maybe we can go boating some time.

With a resolute stride, Regina veered away, embarking on a divergent path.

TONY

Don't you want me to walk you home?

Halting her stride, Regina's gaze fastened upon him; a profound, assessing stillness fell between them.

REGINA

I think I am good. It is like you said, there are some things that you just have to sort out yourself.

TONY

You mean me?

REGINA

Yes.

TONY

I will call you.

REGINA

Okay.

With a resolute stride, Regina departed. Tony, his gaze lingering, felt the sting of her absence.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I was finding a new respect for her. She was willing to wait and not jump into bed with me but I am not sure she shared the same respect for me because of how I handled myself throughout the night.

INT. CAFE - NIGHT

Across the cramped confines of the booth, a tension simmered between Tony and Aaron. Tony's agitation was evident; his simmering discontent radiated outward.

TONY

This is your fault.

AARON

How is this my fault?

TONY

You aroused me!

At the counter, THREE WEATHERED LONG-HAUL TRUCKERS, their faces etched with years of hard miles, sat, their gazes briefly meeting before shifting away.

AARON

How did I do that?

TONY

You planted that seed in my head.

AARON

What seed? No seed.

TONY

If Regina would not get close to me on this night. I would call Julie.

AARON

That you remember but when I told you it was not a good idea to get together with Ashley, well, you know what you did.

TONY

This is your fault.

AARON

I bear no responsibility for your arousal.

TONY

Oh, you stimulated me!

With furtive glances, the three hauler's briefly registered Tony and Aaron's presence before pointedly averting their gazes.

AARON

What are you going to do?

TONY

I don't know, what if Regina was my soul mate and I screwed it up.

AARON

Well, give it a few days and call her again.

TONY

I guess but I'm still lustful.

AARON

Just because your searching for your soul mate does not mean you are not still going to have sexual desires.

TONY

I am trying to tell you something.

Their gazes locked, a silent, intense exchange passing between Tony and Aaron.

AARON

Your sexual desires tonight are not just about Regina and Julie. There about you and I also. You thought about me when you were with Regina?

TONY

I was thinking about you before I saw Regina. I was thinking about Julie when I realized nothing was going to happen with Regina.

AARON

If we have this talk. Those customers at the counter are going to have something to talk about over their apple pie.

TONY

Than let them talk.

While Tony's gaze bore into him, Aaron contemplated, lost in profound thought.

AARON

What happened to what you said. The memories you have made with me are more important than one night of enthusiastic moments?

TONY

Lets make a new memory.

AARON

I don't know, what if this memory you are asking me to make with you is the one thing you will want to forget? I would never want to break your heart.

TONY

I do not think you can. You have not done it yet and I do not think you are going to do it now.

AARON

Can I ask you something?

TONY

You know you can.

AARON

Am I your soul mate?

TONY

No.

AARON

Than why?

TONY

I need to know if I like men, do I like women or do I like both? You are the only man I would want to spend the night with, and you are the only man that I would want to try this with. I sometimes find myself thinking of you holding me against a wall with my arms raised high, sweaty and being passionate with you.

AARON

I have always said it was your decision and I was never going to push you into anything that you were not ready for. Are you sure, this is what you want?

TONY

Let them eat their apple pie at the counter with something to talk about.

INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A visceral encounter ignites between Tony and Aaron. The scene opens with Tony forcefully pressed against the wall, Aaron's grip tightening on his wrists, Tony's arms pinned above his head.

Sweat glistens on Tony's skin, a testament to the intensity of the moment. Their intimacy explodes as Tony, seemingly destined for Aaron's embrace, falls atop him, Aaron reclining on his bed. Afterwards, Tony sits up, his back to Aaron, a distance forming between them.

AARON

What are you thinking about?

TONY

I am not thinking about anything.

AARON

You can stay for the rest of the night if you want.

TONY

I was planning to go after our sexcapade.

AARON

Did this change anything between us?

TONY

Nothing has changed. I just needed to know if I would enjoy an activity with you.

AARON

And did you?

TONY

If you are asking me if this is a moment, I want to forget I do not, you were beautiful.

AARON

Are you more confused now than
before?

TONY

I am.

AARON

I never meant to complicate things
for you.

TONY

You did not I did that myself.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Lost in thought, Tony sat on one end of the bench. Lily arrived, slowly taking the other, a silent contrast to his quiet contemplation. Their eyes avoided each other. A bus came and went, unnoticed. With her departure. He finally looked at the empty space, reaching for his phone, he called, his voice a fragile connection across unspoken feelings.

(Beat)

JULIE (O.C.)

(Seductiveness)

Are we on the same path now?

TONY

What makes you think this is Tony?

JULIE (O.C.)

I have a lot of patients waiting
for guys like you to call me. 176
Bixby Lane. I will see you soon.

The call ended, leaving Julie with a disquieting silence. Tony remained motionless, lost in contemplation, his hand clenching the inert device. A physical manifestation of his unresolved anxieties.

SUPER Dr. Lust's prophecy tragically came true. Tony's frantic rush, like a runaway train, satisfied Julie, but left him drowning in regret.

INT. JULIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lost in contemplation, Tony occupied Julie's plush sofa. She entered the elegantly appointed living room, bearing two crystal goblets brimming with ruby-red wine. With a graceful gesture, Julie offered him one.

Magnificent eight-by-ten inch portraits of Julie, each meticulously framed in gold, adorned the walls, a testament to her self-assured vanity.

JULIE

What are you thinking about?

TONY

I'm thinking I engaged in intimacy with a callous stranger, a hollow act devoid of genuine connection.

Beside Tony, Julie reclined. She delicately sampled the robust vintage, the ruby liquid a momentary solace.

JULIE

Does that bother you?

TONY

I knew before I called you that you just wanted a one night stand. Yes it does bother me. My frustration is irrelevant to you; your apathy renders any explanation futile.

With a pensive sigh, Julie delicately savored another taste of the wine, its deep crimson hue mirroring the intensity of her thoughts..

JULIE

In the morning you won't even think about me. A mutual, intense physical desire consumed us.

(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)

You enjoyed yourself, all you have to do now is go home and tell yourself another satisfied lady.

TONY

You talk as if you are on a USO tour waiting to greet all the servicemen who have been away at war and this was the first time they were seeing a lady in months. I would ask you what your definition of a lady is but after what I have done tonight. I do not even know what the definition of a man is.

JULIE

You do not sound happy with yourself.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

How could I be? I had a splendid evening with Regina but concluded unsatisfactorily. Her refusal ignited a reckless, impulsive chain of events. Driven by a desperate need for intimacy, I sought solace - and release - first with Aaron, then immediately afterward with you. Who succeeds with two and feels good about themselves afterwards.

SUPER Julie was right. Tony had moved on.

INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON

Opposite each other in a dimly lit booth, Tony and EDDIE, a jovial Italian-American man of forty-five, possessed a comfortable physique and a disposition as carefree as a summer breeze. His inherent optimism was a fortress against life's inevitable storms; nothing could truly dampen his spirits.

TONY

Eddie can I borrow your boat?

EDDIE

Who is this special lady going on this ride with you?

TONY

Regina. I do not think Ashley likes boating,

EDDIE

Um. What were you going to do with Ashley if you did not take her on the boat?

TONY

We would play tennis. I am not sure.

EDDIE

Not sure about what?

TONY

Kelly.

EDDIE

You're choosing between three women?

TONY

I am not sure. Nicki might like to go on a boat ride.

EDDIE

Nicki?

TONY

My ex. I was shopping at the mall and I ran into her.

EDDIE

You want to take your ex out somewhere?

TONY

She mentioned she was going to be at a friends social event on Saturday. I do want to try and talk with her and see what we might have in common.

EDDIE

She's your ex, if you had something in common, she would not be your ex.

TONY

We didn't really talk that much, so I really do not know what we might have in common.

EDDIE

She was a casual partner only?

TONY

Yeah.

EDDIE

Can't you pick up socks at the mall and check out like everyone else? You're deciding between four women.

TONY

I should have never slept with Julie.

EDDIE

You slept with Julie. I don't even want to know who she is, five women?

TONY

Yes.

EDDIE

Good. I just wanted to make sure this was not going to get complicated.

TONY

I think I should get away for a while, but where would I go?

EDDIE

If you did get away. Do you think you could keep walking if you saw a lady?

TONY

I got it. I know what to do. I will take Regina out on the boat. I will play tennis with Ashley. I will take Kelly to the social event. I will talk to Nicki there. Who did I promise to have lunch with.

EDDIE
Another one?

TONY
Six. Really, there is no one else,
you don't think that's too many do
you?

EDDIE
You are asking me that when I do
not even have one lady?

A hush descended as they slowly savored their coffee. Eddie's unspoken question, a tension betraying his internal struggle to articulate it.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
I have met Aaron.

TONY
I know. I have brought him to your
boathouse before.

EDDIE
He seems nice.

Tony found Eddie's unexpected interest in Aaron utterly perplexing.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
I want to ask you something and it
is fine if you do not want to
answer this.

TONY
What is it that you want to know.

EDDIE
How do you and Aaron get along?

TONY
We get along good, we have a lot in
common.

EDDIE
I mean something else. You and
Aaron seem to connect in other
ways.

TONY
Ask me what you want to ask me.

EDDIE

Could it be six women and a man you are choosing between?

TONY

If I said he does not think about me, that would not be entirely correct. He has expressed himself.

EDDIE

Have you?

TONY

Not in the way that he would hope.

A hush descended as Tony gazed pensively from the windowpane, his mind adrift in a sea of unspoken thoughts.

TONY (CONT'D)

Do you think I am gay?

EDDIE

I am sorry. I should not have said anything.

TONY

If you think I am, tell me because I do not know what I am.

EDDIE

What you are?

TONY

I saw a therapist the other day.

EDDIE

What has you troubled?

TONY

The things that I do not understand.

EDDIE

You mean what you just ask me. Did the therapy help?

TONY

She said I was going through the five stages of grief, denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

EDDIE

You haven't lost anything.

TONY

I've lost my way trying to find
that one person who will make me
the most happiest.

EDDIE

What stage do you think you're in?

TONY

Depression.

EDDIE

Do you think your soul mate is
between those women you told me
about?

TONY

You left Aaron out. You know what?

INT. GYM - AFTERNOON

With ferocious intensity, Tony pummeled the heavy bag.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I thought I was in a stage of
depression. I am not in any stage I
am popular with people right now. I
have no reason to tell myself I
will never find my soul mate and it
is just me myself and I and stop
looking.

INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON

EDDIE

Do not get too overconfident.

TONY

I am not I am in control of my
affairs.

INT. GYM - AFTERNOON

Fueled by rage, Tony unleashed a furious barrage of blows
upon the heavy bag.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

My affairs are not in control of
me. I am managing everything fine!

INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON

EDDIE

If you ever sleep with Aaron. I
will support your decision.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I think you would since you brought
it up. So why do I not have the
confidence in me to tell you that I
already slept with him?

SUPER Two Weeks Later

INT. GARY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A refreshing peppermint motif permeated the atmosphere. A
diverse crowd, spanning generations, engaged in convivial
conversation and the leisurely enjoyment of beverages.

Twenty-three-year-old KELLY, a Caucasian woman of slender,
toned physique, wrestled with quiet self-doubt despite her
inherent gentleness. She sat beside Tony on the sofa, a
poignant juxtaposition of fragility and companionship.

TONY

So, Kelly you are going to college
in the fall?

KELLY

I am not going to college.

EXT. TENNIS COURT - DAY

Ashley skillfully wields her racquet, a whirlwind of athletic
grace on the court.

ASHLEY

I am going to college.

INT. GARY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

KELLY

Are you going to college in the
fall?

TONY

I do not know what I would study.

Tony was overtaken by Ashley's swift, determined run.

ASHLEY

Go to college with me and we can
have chemistry together.

KELLY

If I tell you something I might
embarrass you. I have had a few
drinks and I have, well. I kind of
have had a crush on you. I have
always been insecure about telling
you that.

TONY

A lot of people have been having a
crush on me lately.

KELLY

I was hoping to see you on the
beach when Aaron invited me and his
friends to play volleyball.

TONY

I thought about going.

A striking figure, NICKI—twenty-five, Italian, a willowy
silhouette with cascading brown hair and intense, captivating
eyes—moved with an assured grace past Tony. His gaze,
fleeting yet lingering, registered her presence before
abruptly returning to Kelly.

TONY (CONT'D)

Anyway, you are with me now and it
is like being at the beach without
the sand.

With Kelly unseen behind him, Tony's gaze fastened intently
upon Nicki..

KELLY

No, it's not, you're not in your speedos, all wet from head to toe with an erection that would stop traffic for miles with your hard nipples that look like tiny lasers shooting at you from a distance with the warm hot sun shining down on your chest making you sweaty as you walk like a rock star as tourists pass by you in awe of what they see ready to faint making the woman walking with you scream out. He is mine, mine, mine, mine!

Kelly became the focus of Tony's intense gaze.

TONY

Maybe it is time for you to switch over to a juice box. Tiny lasers shooting at you?

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I doubt Aaron thought that when he saw them.

TONY

I think you should consider visual arts as a major if you do consider college.

KELLY

I think I need a coke.

TONY

That is close enough to a juice box.

INT. GARY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tony's arrival was a sudden, powerful intrusion.

TONY

Nicki why did you walk into the kitchen when you saw me coming towards you? Are you going to ignore me all night?

Gazing pensively from the pane, Nicki slowly pivoted.

NICKI

You are with someone.

TONY

It is Aaron's cousin I do not want to get close to her.

NICKI

I think she sees it differently after that display of affection.

TONY

Aaron thought we might have something in common, so I agreed to get together with her tonight. It would have been polite when you passed by to say hi.

NICKI

And ruin her moment with you?

TONY

If you still wanted to be with me, we might have come together to Gary's social event.

NICKI

Things changed with us.

TONY

You dropped me for a guy named Pablo. Pablo, it sounds like something I would name my ice cream bar if I made ice cream bars.

NICKI

Go ahead make yourself feel better by insulting Pablo. I should never have introduced you to him when we ran into you at the mall on that day.

TONY

What you did to me would be like me leaving you suddenly for no reason at all for a girl named yummy buns.

NICKI

I see you are still super vain. You compared Pablo to someone named yummy buns? Since I saw you last, I am not seeing Pablo anymore.

TONY

Can we meet later by the pool and talk?

NICKI

How do you know I am not seeing somebody new?

TONY

Does Pablo have a brother?

NICKI

You sound obsessed with Pablo maybe you should call him and see if you two have anything in common.

From the chilling depths of the refrigerator, Tony retrieved a frosty Coca-Cola.

TONY

I will take Kelly home and come back.

NICKI

You would disappoint her like that?

TONY

I know I am eye candy to woman and men. She is probably out there crying in a corner thinking I will not come back but not everybody can have me.

NICKI

Do we have to talk?

TONY

Can we try one time?

NICKI

Ugh. I guess.

TONY

That is all I am asking for yummy buns.

INT. GARY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Returning to Kelly, Tony observed her animated conversation with RICK, a courteous young man of twenty, Rick-Caucasian-exuded an air of genuine respect.

KELLY

There you are.

TONY

Sorry I ran into someone I had not seen in a while.

KELLY

You do not have to spare my feelings I know you were talking with the other woman who grabbed your attention from earlier.

TONY

I am back now but I will have to cut our time together short.

With a gentle, almost reverent touch, Tony offered Kelly the refreshing beverage. She accepted the cool, fizzing drink.

KELLY

Would you be disappointed if I left? Rick and I have been having a nice talk.

TONY

I was not gone that long.

RICK

Did you two come as a couple? I could go if you did.

KELLY

(Firm)

No, we are not a couple.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I never had any intentions on this night or any other time of letting Kelly get close to me. We do not connect and we have nothing in common.

A chuckle erupted from Rick and Kelly, a joyous sound echoing their shared amusement.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

I knew somebody would connect with her and maybe it was Rick she was meant to find and with her firm approach towards me just now I knew she would never be crying over me in a corner.

Rick became the focus of Tony's intense gaze.

TONY

You have a lovely girl this one. I hope you both enjoy the rest of the night.

As Tony departed, a whirlwind of peppermint-striped fabric erupted in his wake. Gary, a jittery, manic figure, hurtled toward him, a bottle of potent peppermint schnapps clutched fiercely in his hand, his erratic energy lighting up the room.

GARY

What do you think, what do you think, what do you think of my peppermint theme?

TONY

You out did yourself it looks great.

GARY

I think I should have done more.

Gary's gaze swept the surroundings, his eyes meticulously assessing the environment.

GARY (CONT'D)

Yes more. I could have done more, definitely more.

TONY

Are you all, right?

GARY

I am great I hope everybody likes what I did. I ordered everything early, everything should have been here on time. Why were things not here on time? I hope no one is mad I had to postpone my event.

TONY

I do not think anyone cares you had it two weeks later.

GARY

I love peppermint; you can never have enough peppermint.

A taste of the bracing, minty schnapps invigorated him.

GARY (CONT'D)

Enough.

A second, deliberate taste of the bracing peppermint liqueur follows.

GARY (CONT'D)

Enough.

A third, deliberate taste of the bracing peppermint liqueur follows.

GARY (CONT'D)

Enough.

Gary's abrupt departure was a whirlwind of frantic energy.

GARY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hey, do you like my peppermint theme? I should have got peppermint drapes, why didn't I get peppermint drapes?

EXT. GARY'S POOL - NIGHT

Surveying his surroundings, Tony's gaze finally settled upon Nicki, a serene figure by the tranquil pool. She sat in solitary contemplation. With deliberate steps, he approached her.

NICKI

You could not have taken her home that quick.

TONY

She is going to go home with someone else.

NICKI

Why do you sound disappointed?

TONY

I did not expect her to be talking with another guy.

NICKI

You are eye candy to me. Let us get naked there is nobody in the pool.

TONY

I am not going swimming with you.

Nicki inclined her head, a tender gesture preceding a delicate brush of her lips against Tony's cheek.

NICKI

Tony?

TONY

Yeah?

NICKI

Engage in playful interaction with me.

TONY

Oh well there goes the talk. You have had something stronger than light sparkling wine since I left you?

A passionate, tender embrace passed between Nicki and Tony, their lips meeting in a fervent kiss.

NICKI

Let's explore intimacy now; a deeper conversation can follow later.

Her fingers, tentative yet deliberate, commenced to undo the fastenings of his crisp, shirt, each button a tiny, yielding surrender.

TONY

You are basing your decision on how many drinks you have had. If you had no drinks tonight, could you still look at me in the same way and tell yourself I still want to wake up next to him in the morning?

NICKI

I have made my decision.

TONY

But I have not made mine.

Ceasing her contact, Nicki's gaze lifted, transfixed by the celestial tapestry above.

Tony, acutely aware of her shift, followed her upward glance, sharing in the silent contemplation of the infinite, glittering expanse.

NICKI

What is so crucial that you want to talk to me seriously about?

TONY

I want to see if we have anything in common. I want to see if there is something with you other than mattress dancing.

NICKI

I find our physical intimacy far more fulfilling and deeply connecting than any conversation.

TONY

I wish this talk would have started differently than you wanting to undress me or play with me.

NICKI

It would not have this is how I see you.

TONY

I am getting tired of looking for my soul mate.

NICKI

Let's abandon this fruitless search and instead, find solace and intimacy together.

Nicki's eyes, fixated on his groin, betrayed a morbid fascination.

TONY

My eyes did not fall there.

NICKI

But mine did.

TONY

I want to find someone who wants to be with me, and I know that I want to bring happiness to them I desire a relationship built on genuine connection, not merely physical intimacy. I want a lover and a friend.

NICKI

Initially, the casual nature of your intimate companionship didn't appear to cause you any distress before.

TONY

Things change as you said.

NICKI

I do not want a partner, at least not now I desire an intimate, physical relationship with one partner, devoid of emotional entanglement or long-term obligations. That is what made me happy with you and Pablo until it stopped.

TONY

My fear is being alone and not having anyone to come home to at the end of the day.

NICKI

I am not your soul mate.

Nicki departed. Tony remained, utterly bewildered, adrift in a sea of confusion. From the opposite edge of the pool, Lily materialized.

INT. TONY'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Upon the cushions of his couch, Tony lay in slumber, a heavy, dreamless sleep claiming him. Sophia approached, a quiet purpose etched upon her face.

SOPHIA

Ah, Tony, honey.

TONY

Yeah?

SOPHIA

There is a girl at the door for you.

TONY

Who is it?

SOPHIA

She did not say, and I did not ask. Why did you sleep on the couch and not in your bed?

Drained of energy, Tony awoke.

TONY

Probably because I could not remember I had a bed.

Approaching his threshold, Tony discovered Julie, her displeasure gazed at him, standing rigidly on his doorstep.

TONY (CONT'D)

Is this an unprecedented event, or am I simply experiencing an unusually frigid environment?

JULIE

I need to talk to you.

TONY

No, you do not, and Woody is also sleeping.

JULIE

This is important.

TONY

Julie nothing with you is
important. I am going to my bed now
that I been told I have one.

JULIE

Tony!

With a decisive movement, Tony initiated the securing of
his door.

TONY

I am sleeping alone.

Oblivious to Julie, Tony initiated the closure of his door.
The panel was nearly shut when an unforeseen sound jolted
him, a jarring intrusion into his intended privacy.

JULIE (O.S.)

You're having my baby!

Lost in contemplation, Tony remained motionless, a profound
weight settling upon his shoulders.

TONY

That is important to talk to Julie
about. I think now would be a
suitable time for breakfast.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Tony and Julie occupied opposing seats. Her gaze, restless
and searching, swept across the bustling eatery. A diverse
collection of diners populated the various tables and the
long, gleaming counter.

JULIE

This cafe again?

TONY

Yes. Everyone else takes too long to cook their food and you are not spending that much time with me.

JULIE

You are a vanity boy this morning.

TONY

You just told me that you think you're having my child.

JULIE

It's yours.

TONY

There is no way that little loaded gun is the father of your child.

JULIE

You were the last person I slept with. Wait, what, little loaded gun? You were good, but I don't know if you were that loaded.

TONY

You have more business in your bedroom than an ATM on a Monday morning at the corner bank. I am sure I was not your last transaction.

Astonishment seized Julie. Her fingers, trembling slightly, fastened the buttons of her blouse.

JULIE

I will have you know that I happen to be a down-home country girl. I feel different. I hope I will not lose my figure too much in nine months.

TONY

I don't know what you are whining about. This is what you wanted.

A vibrant, thirty-year-old African-American waiter, his attire a flamboyant spectacle, approached Tony's table with infectious energy..

WAITER

Good morning happy people, have you decided what you will have for breakfast.

JULIE

Well I am happy. I am having a little one.

WAITER

Congratulations.

TONY

Perky only asked you what you wanted to order. You can make hers a double plate.

JULIE

A double plate? That makes me sad.

TONY

How does this make you sad?

JULIE

You make me look like a big butt in front of the waiter as if I always order a double plate of food. I am not a big butt!

Rising from her chair, Julie deliberately presented her posterior to the astonished server.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Does this look like a big butt!

WAITER

I think it is wonderful that you are going to have a baby.

The server embraced Julie warmly, a gesture both unexpected and deeply comforting.

TONY

Are waiters supposed to hug
customers that they have never met?

Julie settled into the booth, the weight of the day pressing
down on her.

TONY (CONT'D)

You did not sleep with the waiter,
did you?

JULIE

Tony. I am shocked you would ask if
I slept with the waiter in front of
him.

TONY

I am sorry. Perky can you come back
later so I can ask her that
question again?

JULIE

Tony!

TONY

How rude of me to think a down-home
country girl like yourself would do
something like that.

JULIE

I will have the blueberry pancakes,
home fries, and orange juice.

Tony became the focus of the server's attention.

WAITER

And what would you like daddy to
be?

TONY

I want nothing.

Julie became the focus of the server's unwavering attention.

WAITER

Is this your first child?

JULIE

Yes, it is.

WAITER

Oh, they're so cute than they start walking and getting into everything.

JULIE

I am so excited, we've waited a long time for this.

Astonishment seized Tony; his mouth gaped. The attendant then addressed him.

WAITER

Can I shake your hand?

TONY

What do you think the answer to that question is?

Julie became the focus of the server's attentive gaze.

WAITER

I remember the first time my child spit in my face.

JULIE

I think we'll do ok except for those 2:30 am feeding calls.

WAITER

Wait until the crying continues all day and into the night. They sound like screeching brakes on a car in serious need of a tune up.

A simmering irritation radiated from Tony; the waiter, keenly observant, perceived his displeasure.

WAITER (CONT'D)

I'm going to go and put your order in.

TONY

Now you understand how you get a tip.

Julie became the focus of the server's intense gaze.

WAITER

(Whispering)

Maybe you should raise this child, he is snippy.

Julie's silent affirmation, a subtle bob of her head, conceded the point. The server retreated, his presence fading like a forgotten dream. With deliberate grace, Kelly approached Tony's table.

KELLY

Tony. I did not expect to see you.

TONY

(Surprised)

Kelly.

KELLY

I saw your car in the parking lot, can I talk to you?

TONY

Of course.

Beside Julie, Kelly occupies a proximate position.

JULIE

Are you staying long? Because Tony and I have a lot to talk about.

TONY

Kelly this is Julie.

KELLY

Good Morning.

JULIE

That depends, are you staying long?

KELLY

I just wanted to talk with you about Rick. I didn't want you to think I wasn't enjoying being with you.

TONY

It's fine, it look like you both were having a good time.

KELLY

When we left Gary's, we had a fabulous time.

JULIE

Tony and I have more important things to talk about, so you know what a fabulous time for us would be, if you left.

TONY

Julie!

ASHLEY (O.S.)

Tony?

TONY

Julie, your voice has changed.

Ashley approached Tony's table with a determined grace.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

Of all the restaurants in this town. They all decided to show up here!?

ASHLEY

I did not expect to see you. I have never seen you in this café before.

TONY

I am never here this early.

KELLY

I think I will leave and talk to
you another time.

ASHLEY

I am going to go also. I am feeling
uncomfortable.

JULIE

That news is like hearing they are
having triple coupon days at the
Piggly Wiggly.

Bringing Julie's eagerly awaited meal, the server paused, his
gaze drawn to the captivating presence of Kelly and Ashley.

WAITER

Would any of you like something?

ASHLEY

I am fine. I do not need anything.

KELLY

I will have orange juice.

JULIE

That is the closest you will get to
freshly squeezed.

The server carefully placed the delectable meal before Julie,
then silently retreated, leaving her to the anticipated
pleasure.

ASHLEY

I will only stay a moment.

Beside Tony, Ashley settled, in the charged atmosphere.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

I enjoyed playing tennis with you
Tony, although you were not as good
as you led on to be.

JULIE

Tennis?

KELLY

I did not know you played tennis?

TONY

I just started.

ASHLEY

Started? You hit the balls like you were swatting flies.

JULIE

I am annoyed that you took Kellogg out.

KELLY

My name is Kelly and we went to a social event as if it is any of your business! I did like the peppermint theme.

TONY

So did I, he had the right amount of peppermint with a warm feeling.

JULIE

I had a ferret named Kelly and it had an attitude until I shot it.

ASHLEY

Tony you told me you do not go out much?

TONY

Usually I don't.

Kelly's refreshing orange juice arrived, delivered by the attentive server. He gracefully placed the vibrant beverage before her. Meanwhile, Regina's purposeful stride carried her to Tony's table.

WAITER

Would you like a more oversized table?

TONY

No. I do not need a more oversized table.

WAITER

Are you sure? You looked like you needed a more oversized table.

TONY

I do not need a more oversized table!

WAITER

Fine. You're the star of the show!

The server departs, his presence fading like a forgotten dream.

REGINA

If this is not a good time to talk I can tell you later. I did not expect to see you here until I saw your car.

TONY

Tell me what?

Kelly and Regina are seated in close proximity, a silent intimacy passing between them.

REGINA

I enjoyed going boating with you and I would like to go boating with you again.

JULIE

Boating?

ASHLEY

Tony do you have something to tell us?

TONY

Kelly is Aaron's cousin, and I met Julie a while back and I ran into Ashley when I was talking to Aaron, and I saw Regina at my brothers wedding. See, It's all innocent.

KELLY

You were seeing all of us at the same time?

TONY

No I was not. You're just friends.

JULIE

I do not think I have to remind you that's not what we were. We went picking for cherries.

REGINA

My instincts were right, you did get together with another woman after we went dancing!

JULIE

Dancing? Well, aren't we multitalented!

ASHLEY

This is too much for me to take I have to go.

TONY

You do not have to leave.

ASHLEY

You have your hands full.

TONY

You're all friends.

Aaron approached Tony's table, his presence looming beside Tony.

AARON

We need to talk. Things are not the same since our night together.

KELLY

A guy?

REGINA

How did you know he was here?

AARON

I know his car when I see it.

JULIE

Oh like you can spot a car in a parking lot from a distance.

AARON

Well, It's kind of hard to miss when you have a license plate that says brown eyes.

JULIE

I cannot believe you are seeing Aaron!

TONY

I am not seeing anyone. How do you know who he is?

JULIE

(Bashful)

Oh. I have seen him around.

Awakening with a start, Julie arose.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Can I have everyone's attention? I want to share my great news before everyone starts their glorious day.

TONY

Julie, you do not know that!

JULIE

I am having Tony's baby.

KELLY

How many people have you been in
bed with?!

Tony contemplates the question.

KELLY (CONT'D)

You have to think about it?!

A wave of simmering resentment propelled everyone from their
seats, the room emptying with disgruntled haste.

Aaron remained, a solitary figure across from Tony. An
awkwardness settled between them; both men grappled with the
daunting task of initiating dialogue.

TONY

It has been a while since we have
talked.

AARON

I thought about not coming in when
I saw your car.

TONY

You do not call anymore. It is
funny because we connect in almost
every way.

AARON

I have something to tell you.

TONY

Is it the reason you have stayed
away?

AARON

I started seeing someone.

TONY

That would be a good reason to stay
away.

AARON

I am sorry if I finally broke your heart.

TONY

You did not. I was going to call you. I have something to tell you also.

AARON

Are you going to tell me you're straight?

TONY

I am. I let you arouse me sexually and have wild moments with me because that is what I wanted you to do that night, but it was after Julie I realized that I only wanted to be pleased in that way by a woman.

AARON

Will the baby make you happy?

TONY

I do not know if it is even mine. Could her baby be yours?

AARON

(Laughing)

I had no idea that was Julie. I was in the cafe awhile back and placed a take out order, she must have heard my name. It's a little weird that she remembered me.

Aaron's palm, a gentle weight, rested upon Tony's.

AARON (CONT'D)

I will always love you and you will always hold a place with me.

TONY

As will you. You will always be in
my heart, and I will always have a
beat for you.

With a deliberate stride, Aaron rose and advanced toward
Tony,

AARON

And you will always be my brown
eyes even if I was not your soul
mate.

A tender peck upon Tony's cheek, a fleeting contact from
Aaron's lips, marked a poignant farewell. Then, with a quiet
departure, Aaron vanished.

A profound melancholy washed over Tony as he contemplated his
recent encounter with Aaron. Then, Kelly settled opposite
him, Julie beside Tony.

JULIE

You need to talk to Kellogg.

KELLY

And you need to talk to the she-
devil.

JULIE

That is no way to talk to an
expecting mother.

KELLY

I only wanted to do my grocery
shopping, and who crept around the
corner not paying attention,
hitting my cart, this.

TONY

You both had to shop at the store
across from the cafe and could not
keep your distance?

JULIE

She didn't even say she was sorry for running into me. Instead, she was just mean. She called the birth of our baby an exorcism, and when was it scheduled for? I knew she was jealous.

KELLY

Because you are having a baby?

JULIE

I'm not just with child; I got an Italian stud also.

TONY

I don't consider myself an Italian stud, well, sometimes.

JULIE

I've already picked out a name for our little boy.

KELLY

You don't even know if he is the father. It might not be Tony's.

JULIE

Tony's waiting for the test results, and when he gets them, I just know he's going to welcome our new bundle of joy with open arms. Tony was so good that night. I feel another egg developing. Maybe he was a little loaded gun on that night. That reminds me. I am feeling hair in my face. I need to buy super hold hair spray.

KELLY

Good luck with everything.

JULIE

You don't have to be happy for us,
but when I deliver Guido Gagliano
Mastroeni, I just know Tony will
fall in love with him.

TONY

Guido?

JULIE

I should patent my fabulous baby
name so no one tries to steal it.

KELLY

Steal it?

JULIE

I came up with the perfect baby
name. I hope you're not upset
because you did not think of it
first.

KELLY

I do not have to think of a baby
name. I am not expecting. Just out
of curiosity, if you have a second
child, will you name him Gonzo.

JULIE

Gonzo? That is an awful name for a
child.

KELLY

I should have said nothing to you
when I saw you at the supermarket.
I should have just done my
shopping.

JULIE

In the future, when you see Tony
and me with our child, it would be
proper for you to say hi to us in
an appropriate tone.

KELLY

You know what. I hope Tony is not the father, and I hope you find out the father of your baby is an unemployed trash man who eats pork grinds all day and farts all night in his sleep.

TONY

Why would you want her baby's father to eat pork grinds?

KELLY

You have no idea who the father of your baby is. You see a pair of buns and a sausage hanging. You're ready to take it home. It's time for you to start remembering where you're getting your sausage bun from.

JULIE

Remember what I told you about jealousy. I will have you know I am an essential person in this universe, and you will see Tony, and I will be happy.

KELLY

As I said before, you do not even know who your baby's father is. To raise a child, you must have your priorities in place, and if you think you can buy priorities at a department store, you can't. I wouldn't expect you to know that because the lubricants are the only aisle, you probably visit anywhere.

JULIE

That's not true. I have bought hairspray at department store before, and it was not in the lubricant aisle.

Departing, Julie and Kelly vanished from sight, leaving a void. Nicki, with deliberate grace, approached and settled opposite Tony.

TONY

Did you spot my car in the parking lot?

NICKI

No. I like the coffee here.

TONY

What do you need to see me about?

NICKI

This is awkward. I did not expect to see you today.

TONY

I have been hearing that a lot this morning.

NICKI

I did not want to leave town without saying goodbye.

TONY

Where are you going?

NICKI

I am going to take over my aunt's small business in Iowa.

TONY

You could have left and said nothing.

NICKI

I suppose I could have but I did not want to I wanted to say goodbye and to see you one last time. If you were not here, I would have called you to get together.

TONY

I did not know you had a business degree. Maybe if we had talked you might have told me that.

NICKI

We shared an intimate physical relationship. There was no reason to tell you things about myself.

TONY

Did you want to see me to say goodbye, or did you want me to change your mind about leaving?

NICKI

There is nothing you can say that would make me stay after your reception here.

TONY

I know that I have been focused on what I want and it is time for me to think about my partner's needs.

NICKI

You have a little fight in you.

TONY

You should always fight for what you want.

NICKI

Can I give you one last kiss before I go?

TONY

That would be like me asking you can I mattress dance with you one last time?

NICKI

I would not say no.

TONY

But I would.

Nicki's departure, a silent exit. Tony remained, his gaze fixed elsewhere. Lily lingered by the counter, her posture a subtle shield against the amiable WAITRESS, a woman of fifty.

WAITRESS

Your order is ready.

Lily's head swiveled, a sudden, expressive movement.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

That will be ten dollars even.

In the reflective surface, Lily's gaze snagged on Tony's engrossed form. A crisp ten-dollar bill exchanged hands with the cashier.

Her eyes, lingering on the glassy expanse. Tony, captivated by his mobile conversation, remained unaware of her silent observation. The attendant gracefully presented Lily with her satchel.

LILY

Thank you.

Lily departed.

EXT. CAFE - MORNING

Emerging from the doorway, Tony paused, his breath catching in his throat. Before him, Lily materialized, a breathtaking apparition. Speechless, he stood transfixed.

INT. CAFÉ - MORNING

TONY

I never thought I would see you again.

LILY

I never thought I would see you again.

TONY
What happened?

LILY
I could not find your phone number
when I got home. I had no idea
where it went.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

From her handbag, Lily retrieved a key.

EXT. PORCH - NIGHT

A numbered slip, adrift in a sudden gust, descended in a
silent, spiraling waltz. A capricious wind, carried it into
the boundless expanse.

LILY (O.C.)
That number was the only way I
could get a hold of you.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Awaiting the arrival of public transport, Tony remained
steadfast.

TONY'S INNER VOICE
I lost your number also. I had no
idea where it went. I never asked
where you lived either.

A DESTITUTE MAN, his age hovering around forty, approached
Tony with a desperation.

DESTITUTE MAN
Do you have a dollar?

TONY
Ah, yes.

From his jeans, Tony retrieved a one-dollar bill.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A numbered slip, dislodged from his pants, plummeting into the storm drain.

INT. CAFE - MORNING

TONY

You are the same as I remember you.
It is as if we took our only walk
down the street yesterday.

LILY

You have not changed either.

TONY

What were the odds that I would see
you at this café?

LILY

I like the pastries here.

TONY

You said apple was your favorite.

LILLY

You said spaghetti and meatballs
were your favorite.

TONY

We should go to Louie's.

LILY

OMG. I love Louie's.

TONY

Would--

LILY

--Would.

TONY

I am sorry you go ahead.

LILY

I was going to ask if you were not doing anything Saturday night if you wanted to see the fireworks at the beach?

TONY

That is what I was going to ask you. I would love to. We had many likes the only time we got together.

LILY

I know. I never stopped feeling anything for you and I always hoped I would see you again.

TONY

I never stopped thinking about you either. It's funny how we both lost each other's phone numbers and we never thought about asking what are last names were or where did we live. Imagine if we had done that one thing on that night.

LILY

Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today.

TONY

I never understood until now be patient and good things will happen without having to wish for them.

LILY

For what were you wishing?

TONY

This moment. There is something that I do want to ask you.

LILY

What did you want to ask?

TONY

Do you like fresh mint gum?

LILY

It's my favorite.

A serene smile played on Tony's lips as he gazed at Lily, his heart brimming with quiet joy and profound satisfaction.

TONY

Mine to.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Hand in hand, Tony and Lily strolled, their silence a profound, unspoken conversation and emotions.

TONY'S INNER VOICE

Days later I found out that I was not the father of Julie's baby. I took many roads until I found somebody who wanted to be with me. I set my mind to finding my life partner and if I had stopped looking. Lily and I would never have found each other again. I do not have to look anymore or search any further for what I want because I know the next time, I share my Queen size bed with someone that it will be with Lily, but it will be different this time because I will be waking up with my soul mate.

As they depart from the frame, a breathtaking pyrotechnic display erupts silently overhead.

End Titles.