

The Difference

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. OHIO - MAIN STREET - DAY - ECU (2002)

MICHAEL TAYLOR, early 20's, a college student, messy black hair and a sharp sense of humor. He sings along to his car radio Avril Lavigne's "Complicated".

MICHAEL
(Singing)

I like you the way you are When
we're driving in your car And
you're talking to me, one on one
But you've become Somebody else
'round everyone else You're
watching your back like you can't
relax You're trying to be cool
You look like a fool to me Tell me
Why do you have to go and make
things so complicated?

Michael glances sideways. A beautiful girl driving next to him is singing the same song. They match smiles as she pulls away.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Michael pulls in behind her. He quickly gets out and, without asking, starts pumping her gas

MICHAEL
So, who do I have the pleasure of
pumping gas for today?

LORRAINE WAGNER early 20's, with intensive blue eyes and blonde hair. Surprised she steps back.

She crosses her arms to study him.

LORRAINE
Lorraine.

Michael wipes his hands on his jeans, then extends his hand.

MICHAEL
Michael.

Lorraine firmly shakes his hand.

LORRAINE
Thanks for pumping my gas. Are
you always this charming?

Michael smirks.

MICHAEL
Always. So, would you like to see
me again because I know I need to
see you again.

Lorraine pulls a pen out of her car, pops off the cap with
her teeth, and grabs Michael's hand.

LORRAINE
Sure, why not.

She writes her phone number in the palm of Michael's hand.

LORRAINE
Call me later.

Lorraine waves as she pulls away. TAIL LIGHTS FADE by
BUFFALO TOM starts playing.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE - SAME DAY

Michael paces around the living room staring at the number
in his palm, mouthing different ways to start the call.

MICHAEL
Hey, Lorraine, it's Michael from
today. Hello Lorraine, it's
Michael, Michael Taylor from
today. No... Shit.

He exhales and grabs his wireless phone and calls Lorraine.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
Hello?

Michael stops pacing.

MICHAEL
Lorraine?

LORRAINE (V.O.)
Speaking.

MICHAEL
It's Michael. From earlier.
Remember?

LORRAINE (V.O.)
How could I possibly forget?

Michael switches the phone to his other hand.

MICHAEL
So... Would you like to go out
tonight?

LORRAINE (V.O.)
I would love to.

Michael holds the phone out away from his mouth, as he jumps up in a silent victory. He pulls the phone back up to his mouth and collects himself.

MICHAEL
It's about five now, how about
eight?

LORRAINE (V.O.)
Sounds good. I live at twenty-
four hundred Shane Drive. You
need directions?

Michael grabs a beer, takes a confident swig.

MICHAEL
Nope I'll find it.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
I guess I'll see you at eight.

Michael's fist softly taps the side of the wall.

MICHAEL
Eight, eight o'clock. I'll see
you then.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Michael paces around the room, the doorbell rings. He opens the door to see TONY. Tony is Michael's best friend, early twenties, skinny with black hair.

MICHAEL
Hey Tony.

Tony notices the Michael's huge grin.

TONY
Alright...what's with the big
grin?

MICHAEL
I met her, the girl of my dreams.
I met her. I met her today on the
highway.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Her name is Lorraine and she's
beautiful. I'll tell you all
about her tomorrow.

Michael starts pushing Tony out the door.

TONY
But, but...

Michael sarcastically waves to Tony and shuts the door on him.

MICHAEL
Tomorrow.

INT. MICHAEL'S CAR - NIGHT

Michael glances to see a woman selling roses on the side of the road. He pulls over and hands cash to the flower vender.

MICHAEL
I'll take one rose.

The flower vender hands Michael a rose.

FLOWER VENDER
She'll smile when she sees it and
even if nothing happens like you
hope, no one can take the memory
of her smile away from you.

MICHAEL
Thank you.

"It's Up to You" by Chalk Farm begins playing as Michael pulls away.

EXT. LORRAINE'S FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Michael rings the doorbell, and fixes his hair. The door opens-Lorraine stands there, looking stunning.

Michael's eyes widen while holding out the rose.

MICHAEL
Wow...This memory is for you.

Lorraine hesitates, and smiles.

LORRAINE
Um... thank you, Michael.

They stand in the doorway, just looking at one another.

LORRAINE
I'm sorry, please come in.

INT. LORRAINE'S HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Michael wipes his feet on the doormat and walks into Lorraine's house.

LORRAINE
I'm going to put this in water,
be right back.

Michael stands in the hallway looking around the house without moving. JAN, Lorraine's mom, pops into the hallway while her father, BILL sits in the adjacent room.

JAN
Hi, you must be Michael?

Michael shakes Jan's hand.

MICHAEL
It's nice to meet both of you.

Michael waves to Lorraine's dad.

JAN
It's nice to meet you also.

Lorraine's dad waves from his recliner as he is glued to the TV. Lorraine returns from the kitchen.

LORRAINE
I see you met my foster parents.

Michael's eyes wide.

LORRAINE
Are you ready to go Michael?

MICHAEL
Um... Yea, sure.

Lorraine gives her foster Jan a hug.

LORRAINE
I'll see you later.

Lorraine waves to her foster dad.

MICHAEL
It was very nice meeting the both
of you.

Michael holds the door for Lorraine.

JAN

It was nice meeting you, maybe
will get to see you again.

Michael smiles.

MICHAEL

I hope so.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF LORRAINE'S HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Michael opens the car door for Lorraine.

LORRAINE

Sorry about my dad, he worries
about me getting hurt. He thinks
every guy is out to hurt me.

MICHAEL

I won't hurt you.

Michael shuts the door and walks over to the drivers side.
As he attempts to unlock his door, Lorraine leans over and
unlocks it for him.

INT. CAR - SAME NIGHT

Michael begins to turn the key to start his car when
Lorraine puts her hand on his. He pauses.

LORRAINE

I barley know you, but I
strangely feel safe with you.

Michael looks over at Lorraine as the street light
illuminate her through the car window. Michael starts his
car and pulls away, smiling.

INT. TREASURES RESTAURANT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Michael gently guides Lorraine ahead of him, following the
host to their seats. He pulls out the chair for her.

LORRAINE

Thank you.

The host hands them menus.

MICHAEL

Have you ever been here before?

Lorraine sims through the menu.

LORRAINE
No, but everything looks good.

The waiter, DUSTIN takes there orders.

DUSTIN
I will be right back with your
drinks.

Michael looks across the table at Lorraine.

MICHAEL
Well, this is the hardest part of
a first date. The start of
conversation. So, tell me about
Lorraine Wagner.

LORRAINE
Well, I'm twenty-one and I go to
Columbus State. I also work part
time as a bartender at Tavern
Corner.

MICHAEL
My friends and I go there often.
I am surprised I've never seen
you there.

LORRAINE
Actually, I just started a few
weeks ago. Now, tell me about
you.

Dustin returns with their drinks.

MICHAEL
I'm also twenty-one and go to
OHIO STATE. I work as a server at
Chelsey's.

Michael hesitates.

MICHAEL
I hope you don't mind me asking,
but I notice you calling your
parents your foster parents.

Lorraine takes a sip of her drink, pausing.

LORRAINE
I don't mind you asking.
Honestly, I was waiting for you
to. It's really no big deal.

(MORE)

LORRAINE (CONT'D)

My dad left I young and moved out of state. After that, my mom....she started using drugs. She couldn't take care of us, so she too. The state found out and split up my brothers and stuck us all in different foster homes.

MICHAEL

Do you ever see them?

Lorraine a sip of her drink, pausing.

LORRAINE

I visit my dad just about every summer. My mom... Not so much. But that's okay, I have a mom now—she may not be my biological mom but she treats me like her own.

Dustin arrives with their food. Lorraine exhales, almost relieved.

LORRAINE

Yes, food saving the day from my life story.

Michael, who had been leaning back, scoots forward, intrigued.

MICHAEL

I'm enjoying our conversation. I just—I can't imagine life without my mom. She is the world to me.

Lorraine rests her elbows on the table, folding her hands.

LORRAINE

You haven't had a chance to talk with me blabbering about my life. Tell me about your family?

Michael wipes his mouth with a napkin.

MICHAEL

Well... my dad left I was three. I never see him—he lives in Florida. My mom remarried when I was eleven. She married this guy named John.

Michael runs his hands threw his hair, leaning back.

LORRAINE

You don't have to talk about him
if it's uncomfortable for you.

Michael fiddles with his fork, then looks at her.

MICHAEL

No, I want to. I want you to know
all of me-just like I want to
know all of you. It's just... he
made my life a living hell from
the age of eleven until I moved
out.

A beat.

MICHAEL

My sister and I were burdens to
him.

Lorraine listens intently.

He use to beat the crap out of
me. My mom would try to stop him
but then he'd hit her.

LORRAINE

I'm so sorry Michael. I've never
experience that kind of abuse.
That had to be hard on you.

Lorraine gently pushes her plate at the corner of the
table.

MICHAEL

When he drank, he became very
angry and abusive to anyone in
his way. I swore I'd never be
like him.

Michael finishes his meal and pushes his plate aside.

MICHAEL

My mom finally kicked him out. A
few months later, I moved out. He
then begged her to take him back-
he said he changed. My mom-afraid
to be alone, took him back.

LORRAINE

Did he actually change?

Michael exhales, then nods.

MICHAEL

Believe it or not yeah. And somehow we are actually friends now. It took a long time to forgive, but I figure you've got to forgive and forget.

Dustin clears plates.

DUSTIN

Dessert?

Michael glances at Lorraine

MICHAEL

None for me I am stuffed. Do you want any?

Lorraine looks up at Dustin.

LORRAINE

No thanks. I don't think I could eat another bite.

MICHAEL

Just take the check, then.

EXT. MICHAEL'S CAR - LATER THAT NIGHT - ECU

Michael slides into the driver's seat. He turns the key just enough for the radio to begins playing (Home by Nobody, et al). Michael pauses then looks at Lorraine.

MICHAEL

Lorraine, I'm sorry about

Lorraine gently presses her finger over Michael's lips.

LORRAINE

Shh.

Lorraine puts her index finger over Michael's lips.

LORRAINE

You have nothing to be sorry for, I'm having a great time.

Lorraine removed her finger and leans in, kissing him

LORRAINE

I think I'm going to fall for you.

Michael leans back, taking her in.

MICHAEL
Smile again for me.

Lorraine giggles then smiles. Michael slowly pulls her in placing a soft kiss upon her lips.

MICHAEL
I know I will fall for you, if
given the chance.

Lorraine leans back, resting against the seat.

LORRAINE
I'm so glad we found each other.

EXT. LORRAINE'S HOUSE - SAME NIGHT - ECU

Michael pulls up to Lorraine's house and quickly gets out, opening her door. As she steps out he takes her hand as the walk front porch.

They stop under the porch light, turning to one another.

LORRAINE
Thank you, Michael. I had a
wonderful time. I hope we can do
it again soon.

MICHAEL
How about tomorrow?

Lorraine smiles, the porch light beaming off her beauty.

LORRAINE
I would love too.

Michael takes both of her hands.

MICHAEL
I'll call you tomorrow?

Lorraine leans against the railing of the porch.

LORRAINE
I would be upset if you didn't.

MICHAEL
Until tomorrow.

Michael kisses her softly.

MICHAEL
Thank you for tonight.

Lorraine smiles.

LORRAINE
I'll talk to you tomorrow.

Michael steps off the porch, heading to his car and then pauses. He turns to Lorraine with a wave.

MICHAEL
Until tomorrow.

Lorraine walks inside. Michael watches the door close.

INT. LORRAINE'S HOUSE - ECU

Lorraine leans against the door and belts out a scream.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - SIX MONTHS LATER - NIGHT

A cozy apartment, now lived-in. Framed photos of Michael and Lorraine decorate the shelves—a testament to their love over the past six months.

Michael lounges on the couch with his friends, beer bottles covering the coffee table.

The front door swings open. Lorraine walks in-tired, annoyed. She assess the scene, then storms past them without a word. She walks into their bedroom slamming the door behind her.

TONY, early twenties, Michael's best friend and co-worker.

TONY
What's up her this time?

Michael takes a sip of his beer.

MICHAEL
I got this.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S BEDROOM - SAME NIGHT - ECU

Michael shuts the door behind him.

MICHAEL
(frustrated)
What's your problem?

Lorraine scoffs, points at herself.

LORRAINE

(yelling)

What is my problem? My problem?
My problem is you. We have only
lived together for a couple of
months and all you care about is
drinking and hanging with your
friends.

Her eyes begin to well up as her voice cracks.

What about me, Michael? Where do
I fit in? Why can't you spend
time with me-without drinking? I
miss the Michael I fell in love
with.

Michael shrugs.

MICHAEL

I'm just having fun.

Her eyes begin to well up.

LORRAINE

It's just that you'd rather drink
and hang out with your friends
then be with me.

Michael moves in closer to Lorraine.

MICHAEL

I love you Lorraine.

Lorraine rolls her eyes.

LORRAINE

Do you or is that the alcohol
speaking?

MICHAEL

Come on Lorraine, you know I love
you.

Lorraine steps back and folds her arms.

LORRAINE

Prove it. Tell your friends to
leave so we can have the evening
together.

Michael runs his hand through his hair, sighing.

MICHAEL
Well... I already promised the
guys.

Lorraine stares at him, shaking her head.

LORRAINE
(softly, tearful)
Michael, a wise person told me
once. A person who has the
ability to make you feel all so
good, also has the ability to
make you feel all so bad.

A beat

LORRAINE
I must have been kidding myself.
I actually thought you could
never make me feel this way.

Lorraine storms out.

MICHAEL
Lorraine, wait

EXT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lorraine quickly pulls out as Michael tries to stop her.
She swerves onto the curb to avoid him.

Michael helplessly watches her drive away. He drops to his
knees.

Tony helps Michael up and hands him a beer.

Michael cracks open his beer taking a quick swig and he
throws the half-empty bottle down the street.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S BEDROOM - NEXT DAY - ECU

Michael rolls out of his bed heating his head on the side
table.

MICHAEL
Shit.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S LIVING ROOM - SAME DAY

Michael, hungover and disheveled, drags his feet into the
living room. The stench of stale beer reeks throughout the
apartment. Empty beers bottles decorate the apartment.

MICHAEL

Lorraine?

Michael glances out the window to see Lorraine parking her car.

MICHAEL

Oh shit!

He scrambles, shoving bottles into the trash can. He hears Lorraine unlocking the front door.

Lorraine walks in, her eyes damp, her expression blank. She takes a deep breath.

LORRAINE

Hi Michael.

Michael swallows the lump in his throat.

MICHAEL

Hi.

Lorraine quickly looks away and heads into the bedroom, with a box in hand.

MICHAEL

What's the box for?

LORRAINE

I'm leaving. I am moving back with my parents. Who were we kidding-living together?

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - SAME DAY

Michael follows Lorraine into the bedroom.

MICHAEL

Can we talk?

She throws the box on the bed, then turns to him.

LORRAINE

What is there to talk about? You made your decision last night. You picked your friends over me.

Lorraine quickly turns away, throwing clothes in the box.

Michael gently grabs ahold of Lorraine's arm and slowly turns her around.

MICHAEL

Please, Lorraine. Hear me out. I was wrong and I hurt you. I have to live with that but I can't live with losing you.

Michael takes her hand, looking in her eyes.

MICHAEL

Lorraine you mean the world to me. I don't always show it, but you do. I'm so in love with you. Please give me a chance to prove it. Please, Lorraine.

A long beat.

Lorraine leans into his chest, wiping her tears.

LORRAINE

Please don't hurt me again.

Michael nods.

MICHAEL

I wont, you will see the difference in me.

INT. TAVERNS CORNER - NEXT DAY

Lorraine stocks the bar. BOB, an older wealthy gentleman, sits at the bar.

BOB

How are you Lorraine?

LORRAINE

Better today.

Lorraine breaks down the empty beer box.

BOB

What do you mean?

Lorraine leans on the bar, doodling on a piece of paper.

LORRAINE

Michael got into a fight last night.

BOB

Did he hurt you?

Lorraine quickly stops her doodling, as she looks up startled.

LORRAINE

No! Nothing like that. He just...
hurt my feelings. Where fine now.

BOB

He'd better not hurt you again.
Or he'll have to deal with me.

Lorraine smirks, then throws the paper she was doodling on into the trash.

LORRAINE

Don't worry Bob it was just a
misunderstanding.

Bob, unconvinced looks eyes with Lorraine.

BOB

I just want to see you happy. You
deserve it.

LORRAINE

I am. I think.

KRISTY, a co-worker, walks over holding a dozen red roses.

LORRAINE

Wow, who are those for?

KRISTY

You.

All the girls working gather around, Lorraine.

KRISTY

Quick, read the card.

Lorraine tucks her hair behind her ear and opens the card.

LORRAINE

Lorraine, yesterday is history.
Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a
gift, that's why they call it the
present. For I'm so in love with
you, and I want the present to
show. With my love and more.
Michael.

STACIE, early twenties, best friend and co-worker of Lorraine wraps her arms around Lorraine.

STACIE

Oh my God. How sweet.

Lorraine holds the card against her chest.

LORRAINE

He really is sweet.

BRUCE, early thirties, manager of Taverns corner.

BRUCE

Ok its time to get back to work.

The girls scatter. Lorraine sets the flowers behind the bar and turns to Bob with a smile.

BOB

Do me a favor. Be with him
because he actually makes you
happy.

Lorraine smiles with hopefulness.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The kitchen is warmly lit, the bouquet of red roses sitting proudly in the center of the table. The scent of seasoned steak and buttery potatoes fills the air.

Lorraine, focused, plates the food with care.

The front door opens. Michael walks in, exhausted but smiling.

MICHAEL

Hey babe.

Michael can smell the dinner Lorraine made.

MICHAEL

(grinning)

Could that be, no it couldn't be.

Michael walks over to the stove, eyes wide and candid.

He turns to Lorraine lifts her up off the ground with a bear hug.

MICHAEL

You are the best. I don't deserve
someone as great as you.

Michael kisses her. Lorraine smiles against his lips,

LORRAINE

Thank you for the flowers.

Michael smiles.

MICHAEL

You're welcome.

LORRAINE

Ready to eat?

Michael snatches a couple of plates from the cabinet.

MICHAEL

Nope I got this, go sit down.

Michael gently spins Lorraine with a slight nudge to the table. She playfully throws up her hands.

LORRAINE

Ok...ok fine. I'm going.

Michael hands Lorraine a glass of wine. Michael raises his glass, smiling warmly at Lorraine, who mirrors his gesture.

MICHAEL

Here's to us and to many happy
times ahead. Let's leave the bad
behind and start fresh.

Lorraine's face lights up, her smile radiant.

LORRAINE

I hope so.

Lorraine stands and gently blows out the candles on the table. She picks up both their glasses in one hand and reaches for Michael's hand with the other, pulling him from his chair. As Michael rises, his napkin slips from his lap. Lorraine walks backward, her eyes locked on his, leading him across the room. Michael stumbles slightly, his foot catching the edge of the couch.

MICHAEL

(chuckling)

I guess I should've remembered the
couch was there.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S BEDROOM - SAME NIGHT

Lorraine leads Michael into the softly lit bedroom. She gestures for him to sit on the edge of the bed while she moves to the CD player. She selects the track "Cold Feet" by Tracy Chapman and presses play.

As the music begins, Lorraine lights candles on either side of the bed, their warm glow filling the room. Michael watches her with a big smile, captivated.

Lorraine approaches him, leaning in to kiss him. Michael responds, wrapping his arms around her, but she playfully pushes his hands back onto the bed.

She steps back, unbuttoning her shirt slowly, her eyes never leaving Michael's. She slides it off her shoulders and lets it drop to the floor. Then, with deliberate grace, she unzips her skirt, letting it fall as she steps out of it.

Standing before him in her bra and panties, Lorraine teases Michael with a playful smile as he tries to rise.

She gently pushes him back down onto the bed. Lorraine reaches behind her back, unclasping her bra and letting it slip away. Finally, she slides her panties down her legs, maintaining eye contact as she kicks them aside.

Michael breathes deeply, clearly mesmerized.

MICHAEL
(in awe)
Damn.

Lorraine takes his hand and guides him to his feet. She unbuttons his shirt, sliding it off, then moves to his jeans. As she unzips them, Michael leans down, kissing her neck and shoulders, his lips trailing down her chest.

Lorraine helps him step out of his jeans and boxers, then gently pushes him back onto the bed. She climbs onto the bed, moving closer as Michael pulls the covers over them.

Under the soft glow of the candlelight, Lorraine rests on top of Michael, pausing for a moment. She gazes into his eyes, her expression filled with vulnerability and love.

LORRAINE
I'm so in love with you. If you
give me the chance, I'll give you
my whole heart.

Michael brushes a strand of hair from her face, tucking it behind her ear. His hand rests gently on her cheek, his thumb caressing her skin.

Lorraine lays her head on Michael's chest, her fingers tracing lazy patterns across his skin.

MICHAEL

I'm in love with you and I promise
I won't let your heart down.

INT. MICHEL AND LORRAINE'S BEDROOM - DAY - MONTHS LATER

Michael throws his bookbag over his shoulder quietly leans over bed and kisses a sleeping Lorraine.

MICHAEL

I am sorry I didn't mean to wake
you.

Lorraine sluggishly opens her eyes and side-glances at the alarm clock.

LORRAINE

That's ok I have to get up soon
anyway. Are you going to work?

Lorraine rolls over and stretches.

MICHAEL

Yeah, then I have class. I'll see
you later.

She sits up in bed, holding the bed sheet to cover her chest.

LORRAINE

I class and then I work till
close.

Michael quickly kisses Lorraine again.

MICHAEL

Ok, I'll see you later.

Michael rushes out.

INT. CHELSEY'S - LATER THAT DAY

Michael throws a towel over his shoulder while talking to a guest at the bar. The ambience upbeat, with laughter and conversations filling the room.

The door swings open and in walks Michael's ex-girlfriend, HEATHER, 20, pretty with long brown hair.

MICHAEL

I'll be back with your drinks.

Tony slides up next to Michael along the bar, blocking his view. Michael's filling a couple of draft beers.

MICHAEL
What's up?

Tony puts his pen behind his ear with a smirk.

TONY
Look who's in your section by the
window.

Michael peeks over Tony's shoulder.

MICHAEL
Oh wow, Heather. I haven't seen
her since we broke up.

Michael overflows a beer while gazing at Heather.

MICHAEL
Shit.

Tony laughs. Michael quickly grabs the towel from his
shoulder and wipes up the beer.

TONY
Damn. Did she got hotter since
she dumped you.

Michael places the beers on a tray and then shoves the tray
into Tony's stomach, catching him by surprise.

MICHAEL
Shut up. Take this to table ten.

Tony salutes Michael, takes the tray, and spins toward the
table.

TONY
Yes sir.

Michael quickly runs his hand through his hair, and puts
his hand up to his mouth to smell his breath. Satisfied, he
walks over to Heather's table.

MICHAEL
Hey Heather. I didn't even see
you walk in.

Heather springs from her chair, giving Michael a hug. He
hesitates before hugging her back.

HEATHER
How are you? You look great.

MICHAEL

You too.

Heather breaks first from their locked eyes.

HEATHER

Aw... I'm sorry this my friend
Michelle.

Michael breaks from his daze turning to MICHELLE. He shakes her hand.

MICHAEL

Nice to meet you.

Michael quickly turns his attention back to Heather.

MICHELLE

You too.

Heather glances across the restaurant.

HEATHER

Is that Tony?

Michael peeks over his shoulder.

MICHAEL

Yeah, we can't get rid of Tony.
He's like furniture.

Tony waves to Heather from across the restaurant with an smart-aleck smile.

MICHAEL

So...what can I get you two to
drink??

Heather smiles and tucks her hair behind her ear.

HEATHER

A pitcher of bud light.

MICHAEL

Be right back.

Michael fills the pitcher while Tony makes kissing sounds.

TONY

So how's Heather? Did you tell
her about that pretty girl, oh
what's her name?

Michael slams the tap off.

MICHAEL
I haven't forgotten about
Lorraine.

Michael walks away with Heather's pitcher. Tony quickly runs up behind him, garbing his arm. Michael quickly turns around, startled.

TONY
Calm down, Michael. I was just joking. But if I had an ex-girlfriend that looked like Heather, I might forget I have a girlfriend too.

Michael, frustrated glares at Tony.

MICHAEL
I haven't forgotten, it just hasn't come up. But I haven't forgotten.

They walk away in opposite directions.

TONY
(talking to himself)
I guess he hasn't forgotten.

Heather and Michelle sit at the table, engaged in conversation.

HEATHER
We broke up around two years ago.

Michelle leans in, curious.

MICHELLE
What happened?

Heather glances out of the corner of her eye for Michael.

HEATHER
He wanted a serious relationship, but I wasn't ready. I didn't want to lead him on, so I broke it off.

Michelle notices Michel coming their way.

MICHELLE
Shh. He's coming.

Michael arrives with their pitcher. He pours a beer for Michelle and then Heather.

HEATHER

Thank you.

Michael sits the pitcher down and smiles at Heather.

MICHAEL

You're welcome.

Michael turns and walks away, heading to the window to get the food waiting for his guest.

He delivers the food to his table, placing the plates in front of both guest and holding the empty tray at his waist.

MICHAEL

Is there anything else I can get for you?

The guest looks up at Michael.

GUEST

No thank you.

MICHAEL

Enjoy.

As he turns, he notices Heather waving him down.

MICHAEL

Yes, what can I do for you?

HEATHER

I think you need to come to Dax Henderson's party tonight.

Michael pauses.

MICHAEL

Dax from high school?

Heather nods.

HEATHER

Yep. Bring Tony and meet us there.

Michael, stunted, searches for excuses.

MICHAEL

I would love to, but I have class.

Heather giggles.

HEATHER

Well the party doesn't even start
until nine, so you should be
good, right?

Tony strolls by and plants his arm around Michael.

TONY

I do believe I heard my name and
"party" in the same sentence.
We're going, right Michael?

Michael glares at Tony.

MICHAEL

Well...

Tony cuts off Michael.

TONY

Now we wouldn't want to let these
beautiful ladies down. Now would
we?

Michael forces a smile.

MICHAEL

(reluctantly)

Yeah we'll be there.

Michael's expressions waver with unease settling in.

HEATHER

Great. You remember where Dax
lives?

MICHAEL

(deeply troubled)

Yeah, I guess we'll see you
tonight.

He turns garbing Tony by the arm, pulling toward the bar.

MICHELLE

You think he has a girlfriend?

Heather smirks.

HEATHER

I know he does. I hear she's a
bitch.

Heather take a sip of her beer.

HEATHER

Did you see the way he looked at me? I think he forgot her name.

They laugh.

INT. CHELSEY'S - BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Michael pulls Tony behind the bar.

MICHAEL

Nice move. What in the hell am I supposed to tell Lorraine?

Tony grabs Michael shoulders, looking him the eyes.

TONY

Relax. We're not going to the party with them.

Tony, using air quotes.

TONY

So it's not lying when you say we're going to a friends house.

Michael steps back.

MICHAEL

Don't let this go to head but... you have a point.

Tony slowly drifts away from Michael.

TONY

Trust me, it will be fun.

Michael glares at Tony.

MICHAEL

I know, that's my issue.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT DAY

Michael set his backpack on the kitchen table as notices a note from Lorraine.

LORRAINE (V.S.)

Hey sweetheart, I left some food in the frig for you.

(MORE)

LORRAINE (V.S.) (CONT'D)
I will see you later tonight.
Love, Lorraine.

A dazed Michael focuses on his food spinning around in the microwave. The ding startles him.

He grabs his cordless phone and calls Tony.

MICHAEL
(chewing)
Hey it's Michael.

TONY (V.O.)
What are you doing?

Michael walks to the frig and grabs a beer.

MICHAEL
Sorry, I'm eating.

He flips the beer cap into the trash can.

MICHAEL
So Lorraine left me a sweet note.

TONY (V.O.)
(crunching chips)
Yea, so. You're not feeling
guilty now, are you?

Michael flops onto the, and turns on the TV.

MICHAEL
No.

Michael recklessly flips through the TV stations.

TONY (V.O.)
Then get your ass over here and
pick me up.

MICHAEL
Let me call Lorraine and let her
know I'm going out with you.

Michael grabs another beer from the frig.

TONY (V.O.)
Ok, see you in a few, later.

MICHAEL
Later.

Michael end the call then immediately calls Lorraine at work.

BRUCE (V.O.)
Tavern's Corner, how can I help
you?

Michael paces back and forth.

MICHAEL
Hey Bruce, can I talk to
Lorraine? It's Michael.

BRUCE (V.O.)
Sure, hold on.

Michael holds the phone away from his mouth but still
against his ear. He takes a sip of his beer.

Bruce yells for Lorraine over the loud bar.

BRUCE (V.O.)
(yelling)
Lorraine, phone. It's Michael.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
Hi honey.

Michael abruptly stops pacing.

MICHAEL
Hey, babe. I just wanted to let
you know that I'm heading to a
friends house with Tony.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
Will you be home when I get home?

MICHAEL
Yeah I should be.

Lorraine hesitates.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
Alright. I guess I'll see you
later.

Michael takes a sip of his beer.

LORRAINE
Michael do me a favor. Don't
drink too much.

MICHAEL
I wont babe.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
Love you.

MICHAEL
Me too.

EXT. MICHAELS CAR - NIGHT

Michael pulls up to Tony's house honking.

Tony steps out with a twelve pack of beer.

TONY
(mocking)
I'm glad you didn't hurry to get
here.

Michael laughs, pulling a beer out of the twelve pack.

MICHAEL
Hey. I had to get ready.

Tony makes exaggerated kissing noises in Michael's face.
Michael pulls out of the driveway.

TONY
(sarcastically)
Yeah, for Heather.

Michael laughs, shoving Tony out of his face. Michael
opens his beer.

MICHAEL
You need serious help.

INT. DAX'S HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Michael grabs a beer from Tony, chatting with an old high
school friend, TAVIS. Travis, early twenties with short
brown hair.

TRAVIS
(yelling over the music)
I know someone who has been
looking for you all night.

MICHAEL
Oh yeah? Who's that?

Travis put his arm around Michael.

TRAVIS
The one and only Heather, I think
she's still into you.

Michael smiles.

TRAVIS
So let's celebrate.

Travis pours a shot of tequila and hands it to Michael. He
tosses it back then slams the glass down.

Before he can react, Heather sneaks up behind Michael,
grabbing his hand.

HEATHER
Come with me.

As she pulls him toward the porch, Michael swipes a beer
from Tony.

MICHAEL
Tony. I'll be on the porch.

EXT. DAX'S PORCH - SAME NIGHT

Heather sits on a wicker bench nestled against the house,
Heather crosses her legs, tucking her hair behind her ear,
then pats the seat next to her.

HEATHER
Come sit.

Michael sits beside her slightly hunched over, clutching
his beer.

MICHAEL
So... How've you been?

Heather scoots closer to Michael, resting her on his leg.
Michael nervously takes a sip while nonchalantly scanning
his surrounding for any familiar faces.

HEATHER
Don't worry Michael. No one
watching.

Michael exhales, relieved.

HEATHER
I know you have a girlfriend.
We're just two friends talking.

Heather pauses.

HEATHER
Although, I can't lie. I miss
what we had.

Michael runs his hand through his hair with a gasp.

MICHAEL
Really?

Heather takes a hold of Michael's hand. She begins to tear
up.

MICHAEL
What's wrong?

HEATHER
I'm so sorry Michael. I am sorry
I hurt you. I loved you but...

MICHAEL
But what? What did I do wrong?

HEATHER
You didn't do anything wrong. I
just got scared.

Michael wipes Heather's tears with his thumb.

MICHAEL
Scared?

Heather leans in, kissing his bottom lip with a slight
tease. Michael lost in his emotions lets his guard down and
begins kissing her.

He abruptly stops and gently pulls away from Heather.

MICHAEL
I can't do this.

Heather, surprised sits back.

MICHAEL
I'm in love with someone else.
This was good, but I'm in love
with Lorraine.

Stacie, Lorraine's friend, steps onto the porch. She spots
Michael and Heather. Unseen by Michael Stacie slips back
inside.

Michael rises from the bench.

MICHAEL
I'm sorry Heather but I have to
do what feels right, and this is
what feels right.

Michael starts to head back into the house.

HEATHER
Michael wait. I'm sorry.

Michael pauses and turns to Heather.

MICHAEL
Yeah... me too.

INT. DAX'S HOUSE - SAME NIGHT - ECU

Michael pushes through the crowd, tapping Tony on the
shoulder.

Tony happily turns to Michael.

MICHAEL
Let's go.

Tony lens in.

TONY
We can't leave now.

Tony nonchalantly points to a girl across the room.

TONY
You go ahead. I'll get a ride.
I've got a good feeling about
this girl. You understand, right?

Michael grabs another beer from Tony.

MICHAEL
Fine. I'll call you tomorrow.

Michael pushes his way out through the crowd.

TONY
Are you alright to drive?

Michael raises his hand with acknowledgement.

INT. DAX'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS - SAME NIGHT

Stacie takes the cordless phone upstairs to call Lorraine.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
Hello!

STACIE
Lorraine, it's Stacie. I'm at a party and I just saw Michael... with Heather.

Lorraine pauses.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
(voice trembling)
He didn't tell me he was going to a party. Did he do anything with her?

Stacie paces around the room.

STACIE
I didn't see anything, but they looked close. I am sorry Lorraine.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
(voice trembling)
Is he still there?

Stacie peeks out the bedroom window and watching Michael pull away.

STACIE
He just left. And he's drunk.

Lorraine fights her emotions.

STACIE
Do you want me to come over?

Lorraine collects herself.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
No. I have to deal with this myself. I've got to go.

STACIE
If you need me I'll be at home soon.

A beat.

STACIE
And don't worry he didn't see me.

INT. MICHAEL'S CAR TRAVELING - EARLY MORNING

Michael pops open a beer, foolishly sipping as he drives. He turns on the radio-"The Difference" by The Wallflowers plays.

While his mind is elsewhere, he pulls into his apartment parking lot, running over a curb as he pulls into a parking space.

EXT. APARTMENT - PARKING LOT - EARLY MORNING

Michael steps out, sitting his half-empty beer on the roof of his car. He pulls out a cigarette, lighting it while cupping the flame.

Through a small opening in the blinds, Lorraine watches.

Michael takes one hit of his cigarette and then flicks it into the street.

He leans his head against the roof of his car holding his beer. Then with one last swig he flings the empty bottle in the street.

The bottle shatters on the pavement. A startled Lorraine jerks back from the window.

Michael pushes himself upright from his car. He staggers to the apartment.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

Michael stumbles into the apartment. Lorraine waiting. Sitting on the couch-legs crossed, arms folded, and a bit teary-eyed.

Michael plops down into the nearest chair.

LORRAINE
So where have you been?

Michael scoots up to the edge of his chair, forearms resting on his knees.

MICHAEL
I was at Dax's.

LORRAINE
Who was there?

Michael leans back, avoiding eye contact.

MICHAEL
Just some friends from high
school.

Lorraine rolls her eyes. She stands, walking over to Michael.

LORRAINE
Or maybe an ex-girlfriend?

Michael's eyes became wide, leaping from his chair.

MICHAEL
What? What are you talking about?

Lorraine becomes teary-eyed.

LORRAINE
Michael come on, be honest with
yourself, and most of all with
me.

Lorraine turns away, wiping her tears. Michael steps closer to her.

MICHAEL
Okay. I ran into Heather. But
it's not what you think. Wait how
did you know anyway?

Lorraine quickly spins around.

LORRAINE
It was just a hunch-until now.
Michael, I can see right through
you. I know when you're being
honest and when you're not.

Lorraine's voice trembles.

LORRAINE
(voice shaking)
Did you sleep with her?

MICHAEL
No.

LORRAINE
Did you kiss her?

Michael lowers his head.

MICHAEL
It's not what you think. She
kissed me.

Michael grabs Lorraine's arms, scanning her eyes.

MICHAEL
Lorraine, I shoved her away. I
told her I was in love with
you... I told her I was in love
with you.

Lorraine pushes him away.

LORRAINE
That's the difference between me
and you.

Lorraine exhales.

LORRAINE
I don't have to tell people I
love you. They see it. In my
actions.

She points at herself.

LORRAINE
I don't put myself in those
situations. My love is complete
because I have you. But for it to
be complete there has to be two
working at it, and I only feel
one.

Michael tries to hold her, she shoves him away. Then she
storms into the bedroom.

A beat-then returns with a pillow in hand.

With a quick meaningful throw, she hurls the pillow at
Michael. It hits Michael directly in the face.

She slams the bedroom door behind her.

Michael stares at the closed door.

MICHAEL
(shouting)
I pushed her away because I love
you!

Lorraine quickly opens the bedroom door

LORRAINE

No Michael. That's where you're wrong. You only love yourself.

Lorraine wipes her tears

LORRAINE

Remember when you said you don't deserve someone as great as me? Well you're right. Maybe I should listen to you more often.

"In Circles" by Sunny Day Real Estate plays.

Lorraine shuts off the lights, slamming the bedroom door.

Michael runs his hands through his hair, and resting palms against his forehead.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

Michael rolls off the couch with a thud, his head smacking against the coffee table. He lifts himself off the floor back onto the couch, pushing the blanket to the other side of the couch.

MICHAEL

Ouch!

Then-he notices a note on the coffee table as he rubs his head.

LORRAINE (V.O.)

Michael, I'm staying with Stacie for a few days. I need time to think about everything. -Lorraine

Michael, in a daze, stares at the note. Then-he crumbles up the note and tosses it into the trash beneath a clock on the wall.

MICHAEL

Shit. I'm late for class.

INT. TAVERNS CORNER - MID AFTERNOON

Lorraine accidentally knocks over Bob's beer bottle.

LORRAINE

Sorry Bob.

She quickly grabs a towel, wiping up the mess in front of Bob.

BOB
Let me guess, you're fighting
with Michael?

Lorraine, pops off the cap of a new beer and hands it to
Bob.

BOB
I know you heard me. What
happened?

Lorraine leans on the bar in front of Bob.

LORRAINE
Yea, we had a fight. And no he
didn't hurt me. I would say he
hurt my feelings, but I'm
wondering if I have any left.

Bob leans back in his bar stool.

BOB
Come on Lorraine. What are you
doing to yourself? Any guy would
love the chance to treat you
right.

Lorraine shakes her head.

BOB
What happened this time?

Lorraine grabs a couple of beers out of the cooler, setting
them at the end of the bar for the server.

LORRAINE
I know this is going to sound
crazy, but.... I don't think he
did anything.

Bob raises his eyebrows in confusion.

BOB
What?

LORRAINE
He ran into his ex, and she
forced herself on him.

Bob laughs.

BOB
You actually believe that?

Lorraine slams the towel down on the counter.

LORRAINE

The one thing that Michael isn't-
is a liar. He's never lied to me.

Lorraine pauses.

LORRAINE

Maybe that's why we fight. Maybe
I don't want to hear truth?

Bob shakes his head, arms folded.

LORRAINE

Maybe I want him to lie to me,
because it's expected.

BOB

What about his drinking? Isn't
that a problem?

LORRAINE

I'm not saying everything's
perfect... but if I can trust him
on this, maybe it's easier to
handle.

Stacie sneaks up behind Lorraine.

She motions to Bob, putting her finger up to her lips. Bob
slightly grins, as Stacie pokes Lorraine in her side.

STACIE

Boo.

Lorraine jumps and quickly turns, hitting Stacie in the arm
with towel.

LORRAINE

You bitch.

Stacie laughs.

STACIE

No, you're the bitch, bitch.

Stacie grabs a towel, both playfully smacking each other
with their towels.

STACIE

Ouch, you bitch. Now you're in
for it.

Stacie tightly twists her towel, ready to fight. They move around in circles laughing at one another.

Bruce walks up.

BRUCE
(deadpan)
You girls can have your weird
sexual fantasies on your own
time.

Lorraine throws her arm around Stacie.

LORRAINE
Way to destroy mood. Maybe next
time, we'll let you join in.

Bruce smirks as he backs through the swinging kitchen doors.

Stacie throws her towel on the bar.

STACIE
Hey roomie, you want to go to The
Room tonight? Red Wanting Blue is
playing tonight.

LORRAINE
That's Michael's friend's band.
They have a song that reminds me
of us.

Stacie rolls her eyes as she leans against the bar.

STACIE
It's girl's night out. That means-
no Michael. Don't even say his
name-not even if you meet someone
with the same name.

Lorraine side-glances at Bob looking for approval. Bob sips his beer, looking the opposite direction.

LORRAINE
Okay, okay-I'll go. And I won't
tell...

Stacie cuts her off.

STACIE
Come on. You can't last five
seconds without mentioning him.

Stacie wraps her arm around Lorraine.

STACIE
It will be so fun.

LORRAINE
Let me just tell you what I
realized.

Stacie stops Lorraine before she can say anything else.

STACIE
Unless it has to do with tonight,
I don't want to hear here it.

Lorraine smirks, biting her nails.

LORRAINE
I guess it can wait until
tomorrow.

Stacie fetches her purse from behind the bar.

STACIE
I'm outa here, see you soon
Lorraine.

Stacie approaches the door, Lorraine runs up to her.

LORRAINE
I have to stop by my apartment to
grab some clothes.

STACIE
Ok see you soon.

Stacie walks out the door-then immediately come back into
Taverns Corner.

STACIE
(yelling)
Bye Bob!

Bob waves with the raising of his beer.

Lorraine exhales, leaning on the bar in front of Bob.

LORRAINE
Thanks for listening to me. I
think tonight is just what I
need.

BOB
Anytime, I'm always here for you.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT- BEDROOM - SAME DAY

Lorraine stumbles across a painting in the closet that Michael's been working on at school. Lorraine realizes the painting is of her.

Lorraine tears up as she gazes at the painting. She wipes her tears as she returns the painting to the closet. She quickly gathers some clothes throwing them in a bag.

INT. LORRAINE'S CAR - SAME DAY

Lorraine throws her bag in the back seat and slides into the car. Lorraine starts her car as she breaks down in tears.

INT. STACIE'S HOUSE - THAT NIGHT

Lorraine arrives at Stacie's house as she quickly dries her eyes as she reflects from the rearview mirror.

Stacie rings the doorbell.

STACIE

Seriously? Just walk in, this is your place too.

Lorraine sets down her bag on the couch.

STACIE

You know where the shower is, I already took one so go ahead.

Lorraine grabs her bag and goes heads to the bathroom.

Stacie makes a couple mixed drinks.

INT. STACIE'S HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Stacie lounges on the couch. Lorraine confidently walks out of the bathroom, dressed in a short black spaghetti strap dress with her hair up exposing a lot of neck.

STACIE

Damn girl, you are going to break a lot of hearts tonight.

Lorraine questions herself.

LORRAINE

Are you sure it's not too much?

Stacie leaps up from the couch with two shots in hand.

STACIE
You look beautiful. Alright are
you ready for this?

Stacie asked, a mischievous grin spreading across her face as she held up two shot glasses brimming with tequila.

STACIE
To us having a great night.

Lorraine face is over come with disgust, as Stacie downs her shot.

INT. CHELSEA'S - SAME NIGHT

Michael mopes behind the bar as Tony picks up his drinks.

TONY
You look like someone stole your
best friend, but I'm right here.

Michael hands his drinks to Tony.

MICHAEL
Lorraine left.

Tony doesn't try to hide his smile.

MICHAEL
I glad to see this makes you
happy.

Michael walks to the expo line to grab his food as Tony follows.

TONY
I am not saying I am happy, but I
have a great idea. Red Wanting
Blue is playing tonight at The
Room. It'll be fun and we can't
get silly drunk.

Michael loads his tables food on a tray propped up on serving tray stand.

MICHAEL
That's how I got in this mess in
the first place and may I add, it
was your great idea the last
time.

Michael crouches down and picks up the tray of food and walks way from Tony to drop of his food for his table.

Michael returns from his table as Tony leans against the bar.

MICHAEL
I lost the only happiness I want
to know. Never mind you wouldn't
understand.

Michael throws his hand up and walks away from Tony.

Tony yells across the restaurant.

TONY
(yelling)
You think I don't understand, but
the way to love anything is to
realize it might be lost.

Michael stops for a moment but then continues walking away.

The manager MACKENZIE walks over to Tony.

MACKENZIE
Do you do anything around here or
do we just pay you for advice?

Tony puts his hand up to his ear.

TONY
Someone is in trouble, and they
need me, my work is never done
here.

INT. CHELSEY'S - LATER THAT DAY

Michael returns from his table with a drink tray under his arm.

MICHAEL
Look don't let this go to your
head but maybe your right. I'm
sure that Lorraine is not going
to be sitting around tonight.

Tony shakes Michael by his shoulders with excitement.

TONY
He's back! What time are you off?

Michael glances at the wall clock.

MICHAEL
As soon as get my table to leave.

As they speak Michael notices his last table leaving.

MICHAEL
Goodnight, have a wonderful
evening.

Michael grabs the tip off the table.

MICHAEL
When do you get off?

Tony throws his towel under the bar.

TONY
Now. I'll follow you over to your
house, I have my clothes in my
car.

MICHAEL
Lets go.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - SAME NIGHT

Michael showers while Tony watches Super Friends on TV.

Michael comes out about fifteen minutes later dressed in
jeans and a white button down shirt, with his hair styled.
Michael grabs a beer out of the frig.

MICHAEL
Hurry up and take your shower
it's almost eleven thirty.

Tony grabs his bag of clothes and heads to the bathroom
while Michael watches Super Friends.

Tony comes out of the bathroom a few minutes later dressed
in jeans, T-shirt and a backwards ball cap.

Michael finishes his beer as he two more beers from the
frig.

MICHAEL
Lets drink these and then will
go.

Michael pops the top of both beers and hands one to Tony,
as he sits next to Tony on the couch.

TONY
This is my favorite cartoon,
who's your favorite super hero?

MICHAEL

Definitely Green Lantern. He can do everything with that ring.

TONY

Are you crazy? Everyone knows that Aqua Man is the best. I mean not only do all the people like him but so does the underwater world. Now that's what I am talking about. Everyone is on his side, and he fears nothing. And why the hell does Green Lantern carry that lantern?

MICHAEL

Because its part of his costume. Why else would they call him Green Lantern?

They both finish off their beers and they start to walk out the door.

Tony turns around to Michael.

TONY

Aqua Man would still kick Green Lantern's ass.

Michael grabs Tony by left arm and turns him around with a slight shove out the door.

INT. THE ROOM - SAME NIGHT

Michael and Tony pay the cover charge and walk into 'The Room' as they run into a few old high school friends.

Tony heads straight to the bar while as Michael checks out the scenery while listening to 'Red Wanting Blue'.

Tony returns a few minutes later beers, as he hands one to Michael.

MICHAEL

What the hell took so long?

TONY

Man I tell you, you have to pretty girl to get a beer around here.

MICHAEL

Who's complaining?

TONY

Not me.

Tony and Michael's eyes follow a couple beautiful women.

TONY

Shall we go on?

MICHAEL

I think we would hate ourselves
if we didn't.

With a smell of beer and cigarettes, Michael follows Tony
through a crowd of people toward the stage.

TONY

Shit!

MICHAEL

What?

Tony spots Lorraine across the bar and quickly tries to
steer Michael away before he notices her.

CUT TO:

INT. THE ROOM - DANCE FLOOR - SAME NIGHT

The dance floor rocks to the beat of Red Wanting Blue,
illuminated by swirling lights that ripple through the crowd.

Lorraine, dressed to kill, leans close to Stacie, who sways
to the beat. Lorraine points across the floor at Tony.

LORRAINE

(leaning in)
Look who's over there?

STACIE

I suppose that means Michael is
here.

Lorraine grabs Stacie's hand, trying to pull her through
the crowd, but Stacie resists, digging in her heels.

LORRAINE

Come on, Stacie, let's just check
if Michael's here. I just need to
talk to him for a minute.

Stacie reluctantly gives in, allowing Lorraine to pull her
through the crowd.

STACIE

Why do you want to talk to him?

Lorraine lets go of Stacie's hand and quickly spins around to face her.

LORRAINE

You didn't even give me a chance to tell you because you said you didn't want to talk about it.

STACIE

OK I am listening.

Lorraine finishes her beer and sets the empty bottle on a nearby table.

LORRAINE

I realized today that I get so mad at Michael, because I expect him to lie and he doesn't. I'm not saying that there isn't more to work out with our relationship, but this is a start. And I want him to know that I do understand.

Stacie rolls her eyes, taking a swig of her beer.

LORRAINE

What?

STACIE

I just don't want to see you get hurt again.

Lorraine starts to walk away, but Stacie grabs her arm and pulls her back. Lorraine turns toward her.

LORRAINE

Stacie, I am in love with him. The only hurt I'll feel is if I don't try to make it work.

Stacie sighs as she grabs Lorraine's hand and begin to weave their way through the crowd.

STACIE

Remember I'm always here no mater what you decide.

A grateful smile crosses Lorraine's face.

LORRAINE

Love ya.

Lorraine reaches Tony and taps him on the shoulder. Stacie lingers behind her.

TONY

(surprised)

Oh, hey, Lorraine.

Tony's gaze shifts to Stacie.

TONY

Hi Stacie.

LORRAINE

Is Michael here?

Tony glances toward the bar.

TONY

Uh, yeah he's at the bar.

As if on cue, Michael approaches, handing a beer to Tony. Michael stops short when he sees Lorraine and Stacie.

LORRAINE

Hi Michael.

MICHAEL

Hi.

Tony grabs Stacie's hand.

TONY

Let move closer to the band

Stacie grins as Tony pulls her into the mosh pit. She walks backward, giving Lorraine a playful wink.

STACIE

I'll be on the mosh pit if you need me.

Lorraine and Michael remain, standing awkwardly in the energetic crowd, their eyes locked.

MICHAEL

You look great.

Lorraine smiles shyly, glancing at her outfit.

LORRAINE

Thank you.

Michael takes a sip of his beer.

MICHAEL
Would you like a beer?

LORRAINE
Sure.

MICHAEL
I'll be right back.

Lorraine mouths "OK" so softly no sound escapes. Michael smiles, then heads to the bar.

Lorraine walks to a nearby table, sitting down and crossing her legs. As she waits, a guy approaches her.

GUY1
Hi.

Lorraine looks over at the bar as Michael has his back turned away from Lorraine as he waits for his drinks.

LORRAINE
I'm sorry, but I am here with
someone.

The guy walked off as quickly as he came over.

Michael returns from the bar, handing a beer to Lorraine before sitting across from her.

LORRAINE
Thanks.

Michael takes a drink, his eyes scanning the room. Lorraine reaches over, gently holding his hand with both of hers.

LORRAINE
Michael, you've never lied to me.
Not once.

Michael sets his beer down and clasps both of her hands, his eyes locked on her.

MICHAEL
I'm sorry for everything that's
happened, but I would never lie
to you. The love I have is all
for you, and I don't need time to
realize that.

Lorraine slides their beers aside, pulling closer to Michael. She kisses him softly, then lingers inches from his face.

LORRAINE
I love you. Plain and simple.

Michael cups her face and kisses her back, softly. Lorraine sits back, smiling warmly.

MICHAEL
I need you and your simple,
beautiful love.

As the music shifts to Red Wanting Blue, Michael smiles.

MICHAEL
Would you like to go home with
me?

LORRAINE
Absolutely.

INT. THE ROOM - DANCE FLOOR - SAME NIGHT

Michel pulls Lorraine through the crowd as they come up on Tony and Stacie.

LORRAINE
I'm going to go home with
Michael.

STACIE
I'm going to head out myself then,
love ya.

Stacie hugs Lorraine.

MICHAEL
Any way I could talk you into
taking Tony home?

Stacie rolls her eyes in a joking manner, as Tony had a few to many drinks.

STACIE
I guess I can take your little
drunk friend home.

Michael folds his hands together.

MICHAEL
Thank you, I owe you.

STACIE

Yeah you do.

Michael throws his arm around Tony as he helps him out of the bar.

Tony looks over at Lorraine, who is walking along side of Michael.

TONY

(slurring his words)

You know he has been miserable
without you, he really
loves you.

A glowing Lorraine smiles at Michael.

EXT. THE ROOM - PARKING LOT - 2:00AM

Michael helps a drunk Tony into Stacie's car. He joins Lorraine and Stacie by the driver's side.

MICHAEL

Thanks again. Are you sure you've
got him?

STACIE

(laughing)

He's fine.

Lorraine hugs Stacie.

STACIE

(whispers)

Don't let him hurt you again.

LORRAINE

(whispers)

He won't, I promise.

Stacie lets go of Lorraine as Michael grabs Lorraine's hand and begins to walk over to Michael's car. As Michael and Lorraine are hand in hand, Michael walks to the passenger side of his car and unlocks and opens the door for Lorraine. Lorraine starts to get in, but stops and turns toward Michael who is standing waiting to shut the door. Lorraine grabs a hold of Michael's face with her right hand in a slow but gentle manner. She gives Michael a little kiss on the lips, and then she gets in the car. Michael stands with car door wide open as Lorraine sits in the car with a beautiful smile. Michael rubs the side of his face that Lorraine just so softly touched, with a big smile. Michael then shuts the car door and slowly walks over to the driver's side of his car.

As he goes to unlock the door, Lorraine reaches over so sweet and innocent and unlocks Michael's door in a slow seductive manner. Her dress moves up her thighs as she leans over to unlock the door.

INT. CAR - NIGHT ABOUT 2:00AM

Michael leads Lorraine to his car, unlocking the passenger door. As she slides in, she stops, cups Michael's face, and kisses him softly.

Michael closes the door, beaming. She reaches across to unlock his side, her dress rising slightly.

Michael pauses, mesmerized, then gets in. Michael starts the engine, stealing glances at Lorraine.

MICHAEL
Damn your beautiful.

Lorraine smiles, resting her hand on his lap as they drive away..

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S BEDROOM - ABOUT 2:30AM

The soft glow of moonlight filters through the curtains, casting faint streaks of light across the room. Michael stands by the CD player, pressing play as "No Words Allowed" by Lovers begins to play. The melody fills the room, soft and inviting.

Lorraine approaches from behind, wrapping her arms gently around Michael's waist. Her touch lingers as she begins unbuttoning his shirt, her fingers slow and deliberate. When the last button slips free, she slides the shirt off his shoulders. It falls silently to the floor.

She leans forward, pressing soft kisses along the curve of his back, trailing upward to his shoulders. Michael closes his eyes, savoring the moment, then turns to face her.

Their eyes meet, and without a word, he pulls her closer, their lips meeting in a passionate kiss. Michael's hands glide to her shoulders, slipping the straps of her dress down. Lorraine lets the fabric fall effortlessly to the floor, pooling around her feet.

He kisses her neck, his lips tracing a tender path to her shoulder as she runs her hands over his back. Lorraine tilts her head, her lips brushing his ear. She whispers something inaudible, her breath warm against his skin.

Michael cradles her face with his hand, his thumb grazing her cheek as their lips meet again, their movements becoming a mix of urgency and tenderness.

Lorraine's hands move to his waistband, unfastening the buttons of his jeans. As she kisses his chest, she guides the denim down, and Michael steps out of them with ease.

Without breaking contact, Michael takes her by the hand and leads her to the bed. The two slip under the covers, their laughter muffled by the music and the intimacy of the moment.

Lorraine lays back, her hair fanned out on the pillow as Michael leans over her, brushing a stray strand of hair from her face.

MICHAEL

Because of you my world is happy.

Lorraine smiles

LORRAINE

Mine too.

The music swells as they share a quiet, heartfelt moment, their silhouettes moving gently in the moonlit room.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

Sunlight filters into the room. Lorraine stirs and opens her eyes, finding Michael's side of the bed empty. On the pillow beside her lies a single red rose and a small envelope with her name written in neat handwriting.

Lorraine sits up, clutching the covers to her chest. She picks up the rose, inhaling its soft scent, then opens the envelope.

She pulls out the note and reads it.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Lorraine, I am sorry that I left without waking you. But I had to work and you looked too beautiful and peaceful to wake. Thanks for making my world. I leave you but for a short time, until then here is a rose and my words from a wise person. We can do not great things - only small things with great love. That's what I hope to do for you. With my love and more, Michael.

Lorraine's eyes well with tears of joy. She clutches the rose and note to her chest, her lips curling into a smile.

INT. CHELSEY'S RESTAURANT - NEXT DAY

The restaurant buzzes with activity. Michael moves between tables with a radiant smile, taking orders with enthusiasm.

At the bar, TONY leans heavily on the counter, nursing a hangover. He winces as he pours a glass of Coke for a customer.

Michael approaches with his tray and slams it onto the bar, startling Tony.

TONY
(shouting)
You asshole!

Tony jerks back, spilling a drink down his pants. He looks at the mess in horror.

TONY
(shouting)
What the hell is wrong with you?

Michael bursts out laughing.

MICHAEL
Are you awake now?

Tony glares, grabbing a towel to wipe his pants.

TONY
Yea, no thanks to you.

Michael walks behind the bar, still grinning as he starts pouring drinks.

MICHAEL
What a great day.

Tony rolls his eyes as Michael sets drinks on a tray.

TONY
(sarcastically)
Yea great.

Tony looks at Michael, who's still smiling ear to ear.

TONY
Gee, let me guess. That grin...
Did someone get lucky last night?

Michael lightly taps Tony on the cheek, and chuckles.

MICHAEL
You wouldn't understand my young
unwise friend.

Michael heads toward a table with his tray of drinks. Tony rushes after him, grabbing his arm.

TONY
Hey, hey! What wouldn't I
understand?

Michael turns to Tony.

MICHAEL
True love, my friend. True love.

Michael walks away, delivering drinks to his customers. Tony stands there, arms crossed, wearing an expression of utter disbelief.

TONY
(sarcastically)
Wonderful.

Tony sighs and mutters to himself as he heads back to the bar.

TONY
(talking to himself)
I had my friend back for while
and now he is in love again. God
I need a girlfriend.

SHERRY, a coworker with an unfortunate lack of charm and an obvious crush on him blocks his path with an exaggerated smile.

SHERRY
(trying to be sultry)
Hi, Tony.

Tony overcome by Sherry, raising a finger, pointing at her.

TONY
Um... no.

Tony sidesteps her with an exaggerated eye-roll and heads to the bar. Sherry's smile fades as she stands there, dejected.

INT. TAVERNS CORNER - SAME DAY 5:00PM

Lorraine walks behind the bar, setting her purse down.
Stacie rushes up to her, brimming with excitement.

STACIE
So, how did it go?
(beat)
Actually, dumb question, I can tell
by that smile on your face.

Lorraine's smile grows.

LORRAINE
He is the sweetest from the
smallest touch to his last word.

STACIE
Girl, you know what this is?
You're in love all over again.

Lorraine looks down, idly fiddling with a pen on the
counter. She then looks up at Stacie.

LORRAINE
I know, but I am scared to love
him too much. It's so easy to do.
(beat)
You know what he did this
morning? He left for work before
I woke up, and when I opened my
eyes, there was a rose and a
letter waiting for me.

Stacie covers her mouth, genuinely touched.

STACIE
That is so sweet, I wish I could
find a guy like that.
(pausing)
Maybe I don't give him enough
credit. Maybe... he has changed.

Lorraine's eyes become wide and candid.

LORRAINE
You think so? I do, but I guess I
just needed to hear it someone
else.

STACIE
Go with what your heart tells
you.

Lorraine smiles, her expression softening.

LORRAINE
I truly believe he's changed.

From the other end of the bar, Bob, a regular, waves at Lorraine. She waves back, then turns to Stacie.

LORRAINE
I am going to tell Bob the good news. He might not think it's great but, he'll be happy if I'm happy.

STACIE
He just wants what's best for you.

Lorraine grabs Stacie's hand with a gentle squeeze.

LORRAINE
I know. Talk to you later.

INT. TAVERN'S CORNER - AT THE BAR - CONTINUOUS

Lorraine makes her way to the end of the bar, leaning against it as she greets Bob.

LORRAINE
How are you doing today?

Bob smiles warmly, taking a sip of his beer.

BOB
Evidently not as well as you. Let me guess, you and Michael patched things up again.

Lorraine looks down, tracing small circles on the counter with her fingers. She finally looks back up, sensing his disapproval.

LORRAINE
You don't sound too happy for me.

Bob leans slightly, his tone calm but serious.

BOB
It's not that I'm not happy for you. I just want you to make sure this is what you really want and that he's real this time.
(beat)
(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)
You and I both you can't handle
being hurt again.

Lorraine's expression falters, her lips pressing into a thin line.

LORRAINE
How do I know when he is real?

Bob pauses, choosing his words carefully.

BOB
You'll know when you feel in your
heart without any fear. When it's
right, there's no doubt, no
hesitation.

Lorraine looks at him, her eyes searching his for clarity

LORRAINE
All I ever wanted was something
to love... and something to hope
for.

Bob nods, his tone softening.

BOB
And you deserve that. But until
you feel it deep down without a
shred of doubt, don't give away
your heart. Take it slow. When
it's true, everything will be
clear. That's when you'll know.

The phone rings sharply, breaking the moment. Stacie answers it from across the bar, her voice muffled in the background.

STACIE
Tavern's Corner this is Stacie,
how may I help you?

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Hey, Stacie, it's Michael. Is
Lorraine there?

Stacie perks up, her eyes darting toward Lorraine at the other end of the bar.

STACIE
Yea sure, hold on.

Stacie covers the receiver with her hand.

STACIE
(shouting)
Lorraine, it's Michael.

Lorraine smirk's in Bob's direction.

Lorraine playfully snatching the phone from Stacie, who grins mischievously. Lorraine puts her hair behind her ear as she answers the phone.

LORRAINE
(smiling)
Hi Michael.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Hey, sorry to bother you at work.

Lorraine notices Stacie making kissing sounds. Lorraine tries not to laugh as she turns away from Stacie.

LORRAINE
That's ok, were not that busy.

Muffled voices come through the receiver as Michael speaks to someone in the background. Lorraine tilts her head, straining to make out what's being said.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
(to someone in the
background)
Yeah, just give me a minute. I'll
handle it.

Lorraine waits curiously as she twirls the phone cord absently, waiting.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
I was wondering if you would mine
if I hangout with Tony and the
guys tonight?

Lorraine tucks her hair behind ear and quickly wipes her eyes, halting tears before they fall.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Are you there?

She answers with a controlled voice.

LORRAINE
Yea I am here.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Do you mind?

Lorraine inhales sharply, steadying herself.

LORRAINE
No that's fine, have fun. I'll
just see you later.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
All right, I'll be home early. I
love you.

Lorraine's voice softens, almost breaking.

LORRAINE
Okay bye.

She hangs up and stares at the phone. Behind her, Stacie
strides in, tossing a towel on the counter.

STACIE
So what romantic thing does lover
boy have in store for you
tonight?

Lorraine turns, her face a mix of bitterness and composure

LORRAINE
You really want to know? ...He is
going out with his friends.

Stacie jaw droops as she slams the towel down on the bar.

STACIE
That asshole! Does he really
think he can sweet-talk you one
day and pull this crap the next?
That's it were going out tonight.
Screw him! And to think I
actually believed him this time.

Lorraine moves toward a customer, but Stacie grabs her arm,
spinning her back around.

STACIE
You should be more pissed off
than anyone.

Lorraine locks eyes with Stacie, her voice low but firm.

LORRAINE
All I am. But I am not going to
get back at him. Tonight, I'm
going to find out what he really
wants. If I don't believe he
loves me, I'm done.
(MORE)

LORRAINE (CONT'D)
...So, can I crash at your place if
it comes to that?

Stacie's expression softens.

STACIE
You're serious this time?

Lorraine with a revolt look.

LORRAINE
Yes!

Lorraine turns and heads to the other end of the bar.

STACIE
(shouting)
By the way the answer is yes. My
door is always open.

Lorraine sets a beer in front of Bob before he can even
ask.

BOB
Do you want to talk?

Lorraine grabs more drinks for other customers, then leans
on the bar near Bob.

LORRAINE
Maybe you were right, Bob.

Bob downs the last of his beer, setting the empty beer
bottle on the bar.

BOB
I don't want to be right, not
about this.

Lorraine sighs and leans on the bar in front of Bob.

LORRAINE
Tonight, he needs to decide. I
don't care if he goes out with
his friends, but I need to know
where we stand. If he really
cared, he'd make time for me.

Bob stares at Lorraine with an unreadable expression.

LORRAINE
What?

BOB

I have never seen you like this.

Lorraine cracks a smile while her eyes are clouded with hurt.

LORRAINE

Like you said, I have to find out if he is real. I won't waste my love on someone who only loves me when it's convenient.

Bob nods, with encouragement.

BOB

Good. Don't let him take you for granted. Right now, he thinks you're not going anywhere. Show him otherwise.

Lorraine straightens, grabbing empty beer bottles.

LORRAINE

Not anymore.

BOB

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying he doesn't love you. I'm sure he does, with all his heart. But maybe he doesn't know how to show it. Saying the words, that's easy. Showing it, well that's much harder.

Lorraine wipes down the bar, clearing bottles left by other customers.

LORRAINE

That's all I want just for him to show me. Don't get me wrong his words are always beautiful, but showing me, that's the key to my heart.

INT. BAR CENTRAL THAT NIGHT ABOUT 8:00PM

Michael, Tony, and two work friends, SHELDON and CHRISTIAN, walk into Bar Central. Michael leads the group, followed by Tony, Sheldon, and Christian. They approach the bar and take seats. Michael greets MIKE, the bartender.

MICHAEL

Hey Mike, how've you been?

Mike immediately sets a Beck's beer in front of Michael.

MIKE

I haven't seen you in forever.
Where have you been?

Michael raises his beer with a grin.

MICHAEL

Guess you didn't forget me.

Mike laughs.

MICHAEL

I've been busy.

MIKE

Yea what's her name?

Michael takes a sip of his beer.

MICHAEL

Remember that girl I brought here
about a year ago? Oh by the way
my friends will each have a beer
on me.

Mike grabs three beers and sets them in front of the group.

MIKE

You mean to tell me that that
pretty little thing is still with
you? You haven't scared her off
yet? And look at you buying beers
for your friends. That's not the
Michael I remember.

Michael chuckles along with Mike.

MICHAEL

What can I say? I've got a new
lease on life. I'm in love.

Sheldon covers his mouth, faking a cough.

SHELDON

Bullshit!

He nudges Christian, grinning.

SHELDON

Come on Christian there are a
couple of girls with our names on
them.

Michael spins around on his barstool as Sheldon and Christian begin to walk away.

MICHAEL
Sheldon! If they put words make sentences. Sentences leads to conversation. If you get stuck, I'll be right here.

Sheldon waves dismissively, laughing as he walks off with Christian. Michael turns back to the bar, grinning.

MICHAEL
Always the teacher, never the one that needs taught.

Tony taps Michael on the shoulder.

TONY
Come on teacher. Lets play darts.

Michael raises two fingers toward Mike, signaling for two more beers. Mike sets them on the bar. Michael hands one to Tony.

MICHAEL
Hey Mike, put it all on my tab.

Mike nods. Michael and Tony walk to the dartboards, beers in hand.

INT. BAR CENTRAL - NEXT ROOM - SAME NIGHT - 8:15PM

"Father" by The Why Store plays in the background. Michael places his beer on a nearby table and walks to the dartboard, pulling out the darts. He returns to Tony, handing him the darts. Tony takes a sip of his beer before setting it down next to Michael's

Tony throws the first dart, hitting an eighteen.

TONY
Not bad, huh?

Tony's second and third darts miss entirely. Michael grabs his beer and pauses before taking a drink.

MICHAEL
Is this my beer?

Tony glances over while writing their names on the chalkboard.

TONY

Yours is the one with less in it.

Michael looks between the two beers, sets his down, and grabs the other, finishing it off.

MICHAEL

You know what time it is? Time
for shots.

Michael waves over a WAITRESS, who approaches with a smile

WAITRESS

What can I get you?

MICHAEL

Two shots of Snakebite.

Tony watches him with a blank expression, finishing his beer and setting it down.

TONY

What's wrong with you? I thought
we were just having a couple of
beers.

Michael steps up to the line, darts in hand, but turns to Tony with a grin.

MICHAEL

I am just happy, I thought you'd
want to celebrate with me.
Lorraine's back, and this time...
it's real. I really love her,
man.

Tony wraps his arm around Michael.

TONY

Well, shit, Michael, all you had
to do was say so. Let's drink!
Lorraine's not gonna be pissed?

Michael throws his first dart—a bullseye. He turns to Tony, arms raised triumphantly.

MICHAEL

She gets it now. She knows I've
changed. Just like you know I
just got a bull's eye.

The waitress returns, setting down the shots and two beers.

WAITRESS

Mike figured you guys would also
need a couple beers.

Michael raises his shot and beer toward the Mike, who nods
from across the room.

MICHAEL

Got to love Mike, always looking
out for us.

Michael and Tony clink their shots together.

MICHAEL

To me and Lorraine, may I make
her happy again.

TONY

Yeah, yeah whatever.

They down their shots and slam the glasses onto the table.
Michael grabs his beer, takes a drink, and steps back to
the line. He throws a dart, as it lands outside the board.

TONY

You're losing your touch, champ.

Michael smirks and throws his last dart, missing again. He
walks to the board, retrieves the darts, and marks his
bullseye on the chalkboard.

MICHAEL

Screw this, lets drink.

Tony laughs, tossing his darts haphazardly. They all hit
the wall around the dartboard. Tony grabs his beer.

TONY

I'll drink to that.

The two sit back at the table as the waitress drops off two
more beers. Tony leans back, sipping his drink.

TONY

So what's different this time
with you and Lorraine?

Michael sits up, leaning in toward Tony.

MICHAEL

I've been the bad guy for too
long. She deserves the best, and
I want to be the one to give it
to her.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
For the first time in my life,
there is a smile in my heart and
it's because of her. I refuse to
lose her again.

Tony sets his beer down, leaning closer.

TONY
Have you told her that, or are
you practicing on me?

Michael hesitates, running his hands through his hair.

MICHAEL
Not exactly, but I think she
knows.

TONY
She's not a mind reader, Michael.
If you love her, and I know you
do, you need to tell her. But
more than that, you've got to
show her.

Michael stares at Tony, his expression blank.

TONY
Look, words are great, but they
only go so far. Love isn't just
spoken, it's felt. You know, like
the way she makes you feel, she
deserves to feel that too.

Michael's eyes widen in realization.

MICHAEL
You're right. I know what I need
to do.

Tony smirks, finishing his beer.

TONY
Go get her.

Michael stands while finishing his beer.

MICHAEL
Thanks, man. You need a ride?

Tony laughs as he sits at the table he waves his hand at
Michael.

TONY

Don't worry about me I'll catch a ride with Sheldon and Christian.

MICHAEL

Are they even still here?

Tony shrugs his shoulders with a grin.

TONY

Who knows. Doesn't matter. Just go. You have a beautiful girl at home.

Michael smiles, pats Tony on the shoulder, and heads out. Tony raises his beer as Michael leaves.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - 12:37AM

Lorraine sits on the couch, legs crossed, staring at the TV. The glow flickers across her face as she pointedly avoids looking at Michael.

He walks in, his steps unsure but brisk, and sits on the edge of the couch beside her. He places his hand gently on Lorraine's leg, but she doesn't react.

Without looking away from the TV, she picks up his hand, sets it aside. Michael shifts uncomfortably, glancing at the TV.

MICHAEL

(laughing nervously)

It's paid programming, I didn't think you were the infomercial type, but if you are looking to get rich quick, I'll leave you to it.

Lorraine's jaw tightens. She grabs the remote, shuts the TV off with a sharp click, and slams the remote onto the coffee table. Uncrossing her legs, she turns to face Michael. Her stare is icy and controlled, but her anger simmers beneath the surface. Michael leans back slightly, caught off guard.

LORRAINE

(yelling)

It's not about this fucking TV, it's about you. The second I think you've changed, you go right back to the same old Michael.

(MORE)

LORRAINE (CONT'D)
You can't even give it a day
before slipping back into your
routine.

She gestures sharply, her frustration pouring out.

LORRAINE
I don't care if you go out with
your friends. But where do I fit
into all of this? I feel like I'm
just here for a fuck and then the
next day you cover it up with a
sweet letter, hopping I won't
leave you. I feel so... cheap
with you.

Michael looks stunned, his hands clasped nervously in his
lap. Lorraine shakes her head, her voice trembling with
restrained emotion.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Lorraine storms into the bedroom, grabbing a suitcase from
the closet. Michael follows her, grabbing her arm. She
jerks away and spins to face him, her disgust and weariness
plain.

MICHAEL
Lorraine, just... let me talk?

Lorraine crosses her arms, staring at him, her expression
hard and unwavering.

MICHAEL
I'm trying. I'm trying hard to
find myself and I think tonight I
found myself and what I want.

Lorraine scoffs, rolling her eyes.

LORRAINE
Well congratulations, let's just
give him the I found myself
medal.

She turns back to the suitcase, throwing clothes inside.
Michael hurries to speak, his voice cracking with emotion.

MICHAEL
I love you. I mean it, Lorraine.
I want to show you. I know it
takes less time to do things
right, then to explain why I did
them wrong.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
I'm begging you, let me show you
how much I love you. Please give
me this chance.

Lorraine freezes for a moment, staring down at the pile of clothes in her hands. Her shoulders tremble, and her breathing hitches. A single tear falls down her cheek. She sets the clothes in the suitcase and resumes packing, her voice breaking as she speaks.

LORRAINE
(crying)
You've run out of chances,
Michael.

Michael steps closer, gently placing his hand on her shoulder. Lorraine turns to face him, and his hand falls to his side. Her tear-streaked face is filled with pain and resolve.

LORRAINE
I need to feel love here.

She places her hand over her heart, her voice trembling.

LORRAINE
Any love I felt, it doesn't seem
to be there anymore. Michael I
loved you so much. All I wanted
was to feel that love returned.
But it's been one-sided for too
long.

Michael opens his mouth to respond, but no words come. Lorraine steps closer, her voice soft but firm.

I know you love me, but not the
way I need. And I can't keep
trying to make this work when it
feels so empty.

INT. APARTMENT DOORWAY - CONTINUOUS

She places her hand on his chest, letting it linger for a moment before sliding it down and stepping away. Michael watches helplessly as she picks up her suitcase and heads to the door. He follows her, tears welling in his eyes. Lorraine pauses at the door, turning to face Michael one last time. He tries to speak, but she gently places her fingers over his lips, silencing him.

Her tears fall freely as she wipes his cheek and leans in, giving him a brief, tender kiss.

LORRAINE
I'll come back tomorrow for the
rest of my things. Goodbye
Michael.

Michael's face crumples as she opens the door and steps out. He stands frozen, tears streaming down his face as Lorraine walks to her car.

EXT. APARTMENT PARKING LOT - 1:30AM

("Take a Walk Upside Yourself" by Urge Overkill plays faintly in the background, distant and melancholic.)

Lorraine throws her suitcase into the car, wiping away her tears with the back of her hand. She takes a deep breath, trying to steady herself.

Michael rushes to the car door, his breath uneven. The door stands between them, one last barrier. Lorraine locks eyes with him. His face is streaked with tears.

LORRAINE
(softly, but firm)
Michael, just go. There's nothing
left to say.

Michael shakes his head, his hands gripping the top of the car door like it's the only thing keeping him standing.

LORRAINE
You had my heart, I gave you my
heart. You took it for granted. And
now that I am leaving you want me?
That's not how this works.

Michael lets his head fall against the car door. He exhales sharply, then runs a trembling hand through his hair. Lorraine watches, arms crossed, holding herself together.

MICHAEL
(low, voice shaking)
All I ever had were my words to
show you how much I care. But now
see that's not enough.

He wipes his tears roughly with his sleeve, gripping the car door again as if letting go would mean losing her completely.

MICHAEL

I can change. I will change. Just let me show you. Lorraine, if only you knew the excitement I felt tonight when I realized that I can show my love for you.

Lorraine shakes her head, eyes glistening.

MICHAEL

Because of you, my world is happy. I've always felt it, Lorraine. But I didn't know how to show you until now.

Lorraine bites her lip, trying to steady her breathing. She looks away, then back at him, her expression torn.

LORRAINE

I am sorry Michael, but I can't do this. I can't let my heart open up to you on a chance that you are different now. I just can't. Not when I don't even know what happiness feels like anymore.

She swallows hard, blinking back more tears.

LORRAINE

I'm sorry Michael. But it's over.

INT. LORRAINE'S CAR - ABOUT 2:00AM

Lorraine slams the door shut. Michael's hands fall lifelessly to his sides.

She starts the engine, staring straight ahead, refusing to look at him. Michael places his left hand on the roof of her car, his right pressing against the window.

As she pulls away, he slaps the window with his palm, then steps back, his chest rising and falling heavily.

MICHAEL

(yelling)

To have loved in your heart is irreversible!

Lorraine gasps sharply but keeps driving. She turns the radio up-loud, drowning out his voice, drowning out the ache in her chest. Tears blur her vision, but she doesn't stop. She can't.

In the rearview mirror, she sees Michael standing in the middle of the parking lot, watching her leave. Still. Unmoving. Like a ghost of the love they once shared.

Further down the road, when he's nothing but a memory in the mirror, Lorraine pulls over. Her breath shudders. She clutches the steering wheel, pressing her forehead against it as sobs shake through her body. The radio hums softly in the background.

EXT. STACIE'S APARTMENT - ABOUT 2:30AM

Lorraine pounds on the door, her knuckles hitting the wood with frantic desperation.

LORRAINE
(teary, pleading)
Stacie! Stacie its Lorraine,
please open the door.

She wipes at her face, but the tears keep coming. A dim light flickers on behind the curtains. A few seconds later, the door creaks open. Stacie, groggy and squinting, rubs her eyes.

Then she sees Lorraine, broken, standing in the doorway, her chest rising and falling unevenly.

Without a word, Stacie steps aside, opening the door wider. Lorraine stares for a moment, then steps inside, collapsing into her friend's arms.

INT. STACIE'S APARTMENT - SAME NIGHT

Lorraine walks in sluggishly, heading straight to the couch. She sits with her legs together, elbows resting on her knees, and hands covering her face. Stacie shuts the door, walks over to the couch, and sits next to Lorraine. Gently, Stacie pulls Lorraine's hands from her face and puts her left arm around her. Tears begin to stream rapidly down Lorraine's face. Stacie holds her tighter as she cries.

STACIE
Shh, it's ok. Do you want
something to drink?

LORRAINE
Sure.

INT. STACIE'S KITCHEN - SAME NIGHT

Stacie opens the refrigerator, grabs the milk, and takes a glass from the cabinet. She pours the milk into the glass, puts the milk back, and starts walking back to the couch.

INT. STACIE'S LIVINGROOM - SAME NIGHT

Stacie returns to the couch with the glass of milk. She looks down to find Lorraine sound asleep. She gently takes the blanket from the back of the couch and drapes it over Lorraine. Leaning over, Stacie brushes Lorraine's hair from her face.

STACIE
(whispers)
Everything is going to be all
right.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NEXT DAY -
10:00AM

Michael lies in bed, eyes wide open, the sheets half off of him. He stares at the ceiling, motionless. The silence is broken by the ringing phone. Michael quickly snaps out of his trance and rolls over to answer the phone on the first ring.

MICHAEL
(urgent, hopeful)
Lorraine?

Michael with anticipation waits for a response.

TONY (V.O.)
(hesitant)
...No this is Tony.

With his head half off the bed Michael throws his face in the bed. The phone remains pressed to his ear as he says nothing.

TONY (V.O.)
Michael, are you there?

Michael gradually lifts his head up, running his hand through his hair.

MICHAEL
Yeah.

TONY (V.O.)
What's going on? Where's
Lorraine?

Michael lets out a heavy sigh, rubbing his face.

MICHAEL

She left me. She doesn't believe that I've changed. Doesn't believe that I've changes that I can show her that I love her. I tried, man. I tried, and I failed.

TONY (V.O.)

You didn't fail. You just can't tell her you changed when your drinking. Right now she thinks the only difference is that you're the same Michael. I think you are saying the right things just at the wrong time. Do something outrageous, something that will truly show her you do love her.

Michael shakes his head in frustration.

MICHAEL

Why did you let me talk to her while I was drunk?

TONY (V.O.)

Because I was drinking too, and everything sounds right at the time. And lets be honest, I couldn't have stopped you. You were determined. Well the good new is that she know you have said you changed, now you just have to show her.

A small, determined smirk lands on Michael face, He gets out of bed.

MICHAEL

You're right. I'm going to show her love like she has never been before.

Michael stands, stretching, then walks to the radio and turns it on.

MICHAEL

Hey, Tony?.

TONY (V.O.)

Yeah.

Michael flips through the stations, stopping at a song he likes.

MICHAEL
You've got all this great
advice... why don't you have a
girlfriend?

Tony pauses.

TONY (V.O.)
I am holding out for a Lorraine.

Michael's smiles.

MICHAEL
Thanks Tony. Talk to you later.

TONY (V.O.)
That's what I am here for, to
solve problems. See ya bye.

Michael shakes his head with a smile, as he turns the radio up.

INT. STACIE'S APARTMENT - SAME DAY 11:00AM

Stacie walks out of her bedroom to find Lorraine curled up on the couch, a blanket wrapped around her, watching TV. Stacie sits down beside her, studying her for a moment.

STACIE
Do you want to talk about it?

Lorraine exhales, picking up the remote and shutting off the TV. She sets it on the coffee table, turning to Stacie.

LORRAINE
Stacie he said all the right
things, but he was drunk so I
don't know if he meant any of it.

Stacie turns toward Lorraine as she puts her legs on the couch with her knees up. Stacie grabs some of Lorraine's blanket and covers her legs as she wraps her arms around her knees.

STACIE
What did he say?

LORRAINE
He said he finally realized he
needed to show me love. That if I
gave him a chance, he'd prove it.
(MORE)

LORRAINE (CONT'D)

And I want to believe him... but
it's always fine for a night. Then
the next day, it's back to the same
shit.

STACIE

What did you say?

Lorraine sighs, pushing her hair behind her ears, then
wrapping her arms around her knees.

LORRAINE

I told him that I needed to feel
love from him And I don't. I told
him... he was out of chances.

Stacie's eyes widen slightly.

STACIE

Wow. You really said that? What did
he do? Is it over?

Lorraine rests her chin on her knees, her voice softer now.

LORRAINE

I can't believe I said it either.
He didn't take well. He kept
pleading with me, but I had to be
strong. If I gave in, I'd just be
the fool again. It was hard, but
I had to let him know he can't
take me for granted anymore.

Stacie studies Lorraine.

STACIE

So... if he doesn't show you that
love, what happens? Do you stay
friends?

Lorraine's expression shifts—almost horrified at the idea.

LORRAINE

I don't want to be his friend. I
don't know how to love him halfway.
But I know he loves me. I just—
(beat)
I think he'll come back to me.
Right?

Stacie stands, heading toward the bathroom, then stops and
turns back.

STACIE

He'll come back... if you let him. You've got to let him believe that you're really gone or else it's going to go back to the same shit. Tell me something, do you love him? Really love him?

Lorraine looks down, hesitating. When she lifts her gaze, a few tears spill onto her cheeks.

LORRAINE

Yes. Yes, I do with everything I am.

Stacie crouches beside her, looking her in the eyes.

STACIE

Then you have to stay away until he proves he loves you the same way. Until you feel it. Otherwise, what's the difference?

Lorraine wipes the tears, nodding.

LORRAINE

(softly)
...I will.

Stacie glances at the clock on the wall.

STACIE

Good. Now, I've got to get ready for work.

Stacie stands from her crouched position as she starts to go to the bathroom.

LORRAINE

Well I am going to go home and get a few more things from home as long as it's all right if I stay here for a while.

Stacie turns around and looks at Lorraine with a smirk.

STACIE

(mock serious)
No! ...Of course you can.

Lorraine smiles.

STACIE

Just don't go if he's there.
That would defeat the whole
purpose.

Lorraine walks to the front door. Before leaving she turns back toward Stacie.

LORRAINE

Don't worry. I've made enough
mistakes.

Stacie points at her playfully. Lorraine grins, then heads out.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - SAME DAY - 12:30AM

Lorraine enters cautiously, noticing Michael isn't home. She exhales in relief, carrying a few boxes inside and setting them down before closing the door. She picks up two of them and heads into the bedroom.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - SAME DAY - 12:35PM

Lorraine places the boxes on the bed and moves to the closet. She pulls out her clothes, leaving the empty hangers behind, then lays them over her arm. As she folds them into the box, her eyes catch a familiar hoodie of Michael's. For a moment, she hesitates, fingers brushing over the fabric before she shakes her head and tosses it aside.

She moves to the dresser, emptying her drawers quickly, methodically. A framed photo of them together sits nearby. Lorraine picks it up, studies it. Then, jaw tightening, she sets it face-down on the dresser and keeps packing.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S BATHROOM - SAME DAY - 1:10PM -
ECU

Lorraine walks into the bathroom, carrying the box in which she had placed her personal items. She turns on the light and begins transferring her things from the bathroom into the box. Opening the cabinet, she carefully puts her items into the box.

She hesitates as she clutches Michael's cologne, as she pulls it out of the cabinet with her right hand. The box in her left hand slips, hitting the bathroom floor with a thud. Lorraine brings the cologne to her nose, inhaling its familiar scent with a sense of longing. She sprays a squirt of the cologne on her wrist, rubbing both of her wrists together, and then holds them to her nose, eyes closed.

Lorraine silently pauses and savors the sent. She then places the cologne back in the cabinet exactly where it was, and closes the cabinet door. She pauses, staring at her reflection in the mirror of the cabinet door.

She looks down to see the box full of her belongings, bends down, and picks it up. With a final glance around the bathroom, she turns off the light and exits.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - SAME DAY - 1:30PM

Lorraine places both of the boxes on the couch, as she attaches the lids. She stacks the one box on top of the other. She reaches into her pocket, pulls out her keys, and picks up two boxes. Balancing them on her knee, she opens the front door with her left hand. With a quick knee lift, she readjusts her grip and carries the boxes out to her car.

EXT. APARTMENT - PARKING LOT - SAME DAY

Lorraine secures the boxes in her car and returns to the apartment. She grabs two more boxes. Back inside, she surveys the now sparsely furnished apartment, holding an empty box for any remaining items she might have missed.

She then walks toward the bedroom, her heart heavy with the finality of her departure.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S BEDROOM - SAME DAY - 2:15PM

Lorraine enters, a box in hand. She walks over to the stereo, sets the box on the floor, and begins sorting through CDs.

She separates her CDs from the rest, placing them in the box. Then, she comes across "Lovers" CD.

She pauses. Opens the case. Removes the CD.

Lorraine turns on the stereo, selects Track 11 - "No Words Allowed". She then sits on the edge of the bed, staring at the CD case as the song plays. A tear trembles down her face.

Lorraine glances toward the corner of the room, where Michael's easel stands, a sheet draped over a painting. She gently sets the CD case on the bed, rises and slowly walks to the easel. She carelessly pulls the sheet, revealing a finished painting of herself. A mix of emotions washes over her. Lorraine tenderly runs her fingers over the face of the painting.

Suddenly a car engine rumbles. Startled, Lorraine quickly wipes her tears as she rushes to the window. She peeks out to see Michael pulling into the parking lot.

Panic sets in. She dashes back to the stereo, ejects the CD, shoves it into its case, and tosses it into the box.

Lorraine grabs the box, heads for the door but then pauses.

She looks back at the painting, quickly throws the sheet back over it, then pulls a folded note from her back pocket and tosses it onto the bed.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S BACK DOOR - SAME DAY - 2:30PM

Lorraine fumbles with the lock, balancing her box in one arm. She finally gets the door open and rushes out, shutting the door behind her.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S BEDROOM - SAME DAY - 2:33PM - ECU

Michael enters the apartment, heading straight for the bedroom. He scans the room, his eyes landing on the bed where a note sits with his name written on it. He picks up the note and sits on the edge of the bed. He unfolds the paper and begins to read.

LORRAINE (O.S.)

Michael, I stopped by to get some of my things. I will have to come back another day to get the big things. If you see anything else that is mine could you just put it in a box and I will get it when I grab the rest of my things. I'm sorry we didn't work.
Lorraine.

Michael stares at the note, motionless. Then, suddenly he puts his head in his hands, gripping the note tightly.

(BEAT)

Michael jumps up, his emotions boiling over. He tears the note to shreds, throwing the pieces into the air. The torn fragments drift down slowly, silently scattering across the floor.

Michael sharply marches over to the stereo and cranks the volume to the max. Then he lunges at his easel, knocking it over. The painting crashes to the floor. The sheet slips off revealing Lorraine's portrait.

Michael's breathing is heavy. His hands tremble. He spins toward his dresser, and with a single, furious motion, swipes everything off-glass, books, and picture frames shatter against the floor.

Feelings of rage, hurt and regret an exhausted Michael falls backwards onto the bed, he stares at the ceiling. Tears slide from his eyes and down each side of his face.

INT. TAVERN'S CORNER - SAME DAY - 5:00PM

Lorraine walks behind the bar. She kneels, sliding her purse into a cabinet under the cash register. Stacie approaches Lorraine.

STACIE

So, how did it go? Was he there?

Lorraine grabs a pen, puts it in her mouth, and tightens her ponytail. She takes the pen out and sticks it in her hair.

LORRAINE

Well I did it. I got all my stuff except the big stuff, I think. Michael showed up while I was there but I got out of there before he saw me.

Stacie grabs a couple of beers out of the cooler.

STACIE

I am so proud of you for not trying to talking to him. You just need to wait and see if he comes to you. If he doesn't then it's his loss and the hell with him and I'll have a new roommate.

Stacie pops the caps off both beers and, while maintaining eye contact with Lorraine, walks them over to her customers. She returns.

LORRAINE

I could have so easily stayed and talked to him. But I didn't. It was hard, but I knew what I had to do.

Stacie gingerly motions toward the end of the bar. Lorraine follows her motion.

STACIE

Look over there. I think there's
someone who'd love to talk to
you.

Lorraine's face lights up when she sees Bob, sitting at his
usual stool, holding up his beer with a nod.

LORRAINE

Good old Bob. He's always there
for me. I couldn't do this
without either of you.

Stacie keels down and grabs her purse out of the cabinet.

STACIE

You would do it for me.

Stacie reaches in the cabinet to get her purse.

LORRAINE

Absolutely.

STACIE

I'm outa here. See you later at
home.

Lorraine smirks.

LORRAINE

Hope you don't mind that I have
shit all over your apartment.
Didn't have time to clean up
before work.

Stacie puts her arm around Lorraine.

STACIE

Well you better get your ass home
right after work and clean you're
shit up.

They laugh. Stacie starts to leave but pauses, turning back
toward Lorraine just as Lorraine heads toward Bob.

STACIE

Lorraine.

Lorraine turns around. Stacie subtly points to a customer
whose back is turned. She leans in and whispers.

STACIE
See that guy right over there?
He's been asking about you all
day.

Lorraine glances over to see a greasy-haired, unkempt old man.

LORRAINE
(sarcastic)
I hope you put in a good word for
me.

They burst into laughter.

STACIE
(laughing)
All right I am leaving now. See
you later.

Stacie walks away, as Lorraine waves to her.

LORRAINE
(laughing)
Bye.

Lorraine grabs a beer from the cooler, pops the cap, and heads over to Bob. She sets the beer in front of him.

LORRAINE
I am sure you're about ready for
another one.

Bob slides his empty beer toward her. She tosses it into the trash.

BOB
Thank you. So, how have you been?

Lorraine leans on the bar, tucking a couple of stray hairs behind her ear.

LORRAINE
I'm sure Stacie told you what
happened last night.

Bob takes a sip of his beer, swallows, then nods.

BOB
Yeah, she told me. How are you
holding up?

Lorraine marks down Bob's beer on his tab, then tucks the pen back into her ponytail.

LORRAINE

I wasn't so good when I went to
our apartment, but I am better
than I thought I'd be.

Bob clasps his beer with both hands. Lorraine traces small
circles on the bar with her finger.

BOB

Look at me Lorraine.

She looks up at Bob.

BOB

No one ever said that it was
going to be easy. If they did,
they lied. The feeling your
feeling right now-it stays as
long as you let it. Time is the
only cure for a broken heart.

LORRAINE

I know. But I wish someone could
tell that to my heart.

Bob takes a drink of his beer and then sits it back on the
bar.

BOB

No matter what Stacie or I say,
we can't tell your heart what to
do. It has a mind of its own. But
I promise-you time will heal it.
Trust me.

Lorraine straightens up, fidgeting with Bob's bill.

LORRAINE

I'll be all right. It's just
still new. It's only been a day.
If it didn't bother me, that
would mean I never really cared.

Bob watches as she folds the bill into a tiny square. He
places his hand over hers. She looks up at him.

BOB

Lorraine, no one expects you to
be over him this soon. And no one
says you have to be. Just don't
let it take over your life.

Lorraine smiles softly.

LORRAINE
You're right. Moving on doesn't
mean I have to forget about him.

Bob finishes his beer and sets it on the bar.

BOB
So, are you all right now?

Lorraine tosses his empty into trash.

LORRAINE
Yeah, I'm fine. Thanks Bob. Want
another beer?

Bob checks his watch.

BOB
No, I think I'm going to head
out.

He slides his credit card across the bar. Lorraine slides
Bob's credit card back.

LORRAINE
No, don't worry about it. This is
on me.

Bob pulls out his wallet, tucks the card away, and hands
Lorraine a twenty-dollar bill.

BOB
Thank you. And you take this.

He closes her hand around the bill and walks away.

LORRAINE
I can't take this.

Bob waves behind him without turning back.

BOB
It's yours. Goodbye, Lorraine.

Lorraine smiles.

LORRAINE
Thanks Bob.

EXT. STACIE'S APARTMENT - A WEEK LATER - NIGHT - ECU

Michael stands by his car across the street, staring through
a rain-streaked window. Inside, Lorraine unpacks her clothes,
hanging them neatly in the closet.

Michael watches, unmoving, rain soaking his clothes. ("If You See Her, Say Hello" by Bob Dylan plays in the background.)

INT. MICHAEL'S APARTMENT - WEEKS LATER - DAY

Michael and Tony sit on the couch, watching a football with beers in hand.

TV COMMERCIAL(V.O.)
Have you wanted to be reunited
with a lost love or family
member? Well, now you can! Just
call one 1-888-SEARCH4. Tammy
came to us looking for a lost
love of seven years.

Michael sits forward, eyes locked on the screen. He grabs the remote and turns up the volume.

Michael suddenly slams his beer and remote onto the coffee table, startling Tony.

MICHAEL
That's it!

Tony gives Michael a weird look.

TONY
What's it?

Michael points at the TV.

MICHAEL
That's how I'm gonna get Lorraine
back!

Tony stares blankly.

TONY
What, that search4 thing?

Michael smiles.

MICHAEL
Yes.

Tony continuing with his blank stare.

TONY
But Lorraine's not lost. I can
literally drive you to her.

Michael nods his head back and forth.

MICHAEL

No, you dumbass. You've got to look deeper. I'm not looking for her. I'm going to show my love for her by video.

Tony finishes his beer and stands up from the couch.

TONY

I'm getting another beer, I'd ask if you need one, but I think you've had enough. Because I have no idea what the hell you're talking about.

Tony walks to the fridge and grabs a beer.

MICHAEL

Yeah I'll take one.

Tony rolls his eyes, grabs another beer, and tosses it to Michael as he sits back down.

Michael opens his beer, takes a sip, and sets the beer on the coffee table.

MICHAEL

Ok maybe I don't make total sense to you, but it makes sense in my head.

(beat)

I'm gonna document her whole life—where she was born, the schools she went to, every moment up until we met. Then, I'll do my life too. The good times, the bad—everything leading to now.

His eyes intense.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Do you think that'll show her how much I love her?

Tony stares at Michael in stunted. Michael grins, taking a sip of his beer.

TONY

I think it's a great idea, and yeah, it'll show her you love her... but how the hell did you get all that from a stupid commercial?

Michael shrugs, amused, and takes another drink.

MICHAEL
It just came to me.

Michael smirks, raising his beer as if to toast.

MICHAEL
Glad you like the idea. Thanks
for volunteering to help.

Michael pats Tony on his back mid-drink causing Tony to spill beer down his shirt. Tony groans, wiping his shirt.

TONY
Yeah, no problem... friend.

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - NEXT DAY - 10:00AM - ECU

Michael is asleep, hugging a pillow as if it were Lorraine. The alarm clock turns from 9:59 to 10:00. A blearing sound of music explodes from the speakers. Michael springs up, dazed, releasing the pillow. He looks at the clock, then slaps the snooze button. Just as he starts to lay back down—He jolts upright again.

Michael stretches, yawns, then throws off the covers. He swings his legs over the bed, feet hitting the floor.

Michael reaches for the phone and dials. After 4 rings Tony finally answers.

TONY (V.O.)
(groggy)
Hello?

Michael grins.

MICHAEL
(cheerfully)
Hey, sleepyhead. Wake up.

Michael paces around the room, while on his wireless phone. He turns on the stereo.

TONY (V.O.)
What time is it?

Michael dances around as he grabs a shirt from the closet and throws it onto the bed.

MICHAEL
It's ten o'clock!

Tony groans.

TONY (V.O.)
Why are you calling me this
early? You know I don't wake up
before noon.

Michael laughs grabbing a pair of jeans from his dresser
and throws them on the bed.

MICHAEL
I know that's why I am giving you
a wake up call? I knew you'd need
it.

Michael walks back over to the stereo and turns it up
louder.

TONY (V.O.)
A wake up call! For what?

Michael stops dancing around for a moment.

MICHAEL
You're not serious. How could you
forget? Remember, the video. For
Lorraine.

TONY (V.O.)
You want to start that today?

Michael sits on the edge of the bed, running his hand
through his hair.

MICHAEL
What better day than today? It's
not like I have all the time in
the world. Lorraine's not gonna
wait forever.

(beat, softer)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Hell I don't even know if she
wants me back.

(determined)

MICHAEL
So time's wasting. Be here in an
hour. See ya bye.

Michael hangs up on Tony and sits the phone on the base.

INT. MICHAEL'S BATHROOM - SAME MORNING - 10:10AM - ECU

Michael finishes his shower and wraps a towel around his waist. He walks to the sink and wipes the mirror with his right hand. He looks down at the sink, then back up at the mirror. He only sees a faint reflection of himself. Michael stands there, dripping from his face and back, forming a puddle around his feet. He stares at himself, lost in thought.

Michael finally breaks out of his daze, closes his eyes, and lowers his head, gripping both sides of the sink. He raises his head, placing his right hand on the back of his neck, while his left hand holds the sink.

MICHAEL
(softly)
Give me the ability to have her
in the absence of my fear.

He looks back into the mirror as the steam covers the cleared spot. He gently places his right hand on the steamed mirror, smearing it down slowly. Michael's hand reaches the end of the mirror, and he slowly turns away, lifting his hand.

INT. MICHAEL'S LIVING ROOM - SAME MORNING - 11:30AM

Tony walks in Michael's apartment without knocking and throws a tape at Michael. Michael, sitting on the couch, catches it with quick reflexes.

MICHAEL
What's this?

Michael holds the tape up in front of Tony.

TONY
It's the songs you asked for,
remember?

Michael gets up from the couch and tosses the tape back to Tony. Tony catches it without warning. Michael walks over to his stereo and pulls a tape.

MICHAEL
With the songs you have and the
songs I have, we should be able
to recreate mine and Lorraine's
lives, from past to present.

Michael softly kisses the tape, and Tony gives him a blank stare.

TONY

Michael, I think you've lost it.

Michael smiles as he stares at Tony.

MICHAEL

Only for her... Only for her.

Michael picks up his video camera and tripod, while Tony grabs the portable stereo.

MICHAEL

This is my ticket to true love.

Tony puts his arm around Michael, as the start to walk out the door.

TONY

I wish you the best Romeo.

They laugh as they walk out the door.

INT. STACIE APARTMENT - BATHROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT -
9:00PM - ECU

Stacie and Lorraine in the bathroom fixing their hair and makeup. Stacie playfully shoves Lorraine out of the way as she curls her hair. Lorraine shoves Stacie back in a playful manner while applying her makeup. They both laugh.

LORRAINE

I can't believe it. This is the
first time since I left Michael
that I don't miss him.

Stacie sets the curling iron down on the sink and picks up her lipstick. She puckers her lips, moves closer to the mirror, and begins applying her lipstick.

STACIE

Well it wouldn't have anything to
do with that cute guy Chad I
fixed you up with tonight, would
it?

Lorraine blushes as she applies her lipstick. She smiles and gently shoves Stacie.

LORRAINE

Stop it, I can't apply my
lipstick when you make me smile.

Lorraine resumes applying her lipstick.

STACIE

And you thought you couldn't live
without him.

Lorraine finishes her lipstick, then turns around and sits
on the counter with her legs crossed, watching Stacie
finish her makeup.

LORRAINE

I guess it's easy, when he
doesn't call.

Stacie puts down her makeup and places her hand on
Lorraine's leg. Lorraine lifts her head, and Stacie sees
tears in her eyes.

STACIE

Hey, what are you doing? You're
supposed to cry after the date.
Are you thinking of him again?

Lorraine softly wipes her eyes with the back of her hand.

LORRAINE

I just feel like I am doing
something wrong by going out with
Chad. I keep thinking that he
might come back.

Stacie wipes a tear from Lorraine's face.

STACIE

You've got to forget about him.
He's the one missing out. I'm
sorry to say this, but he's not
coming back. So enjoy yourself,
and have fun with Chad. Chad is a
great guy, but not as great as my
guy. At least Chad will respect
you, unlike...(pausing) that guy
that we won't mention. So let's
just forget about him and have
fun tonight. Suck up those tears,
and let's fix your makeup. The
guys will be here soon.

Stacie re-applies Lorraine's makeup.

LORRAINE

Thanks for understanding me.

STACIE
Well, no one else would
understand your weird ass, so
somebody has to.

Lorraine laughs.

LORRAINE
You are such a bitch. So what
does this Chad character look
like?

Stacie finishes Lorraine's makeup and stands back with a
serious look.

STACIE
You know what Jonny Depp looks
like?

Lorraine's eyes widen, and she smiles.

LORRAINE
(excited)
Yeah.

Stacie smiles.

STACIE
Well he doesn't look like him...
But isn't he cute?

Lorraine's smile fades as she gently slaps Stacie's arm.

LORRAINE
You bitch.

Stacie laughs.

STACIE
No but seriously, he is a very
nice guy.

Stacie fixes her hair in the mirror. Lorraine jumps down
from the counter and turns Stacie toward her.

LORRAINE
Tell me what does he look like,
come on I can take it.

Stacie grins.

STACIE
It's a surprise.

Lorraine throws her hands up in a joking manner.

LORRAINE
I hate surprises.

Lorraine turns and stomps out of the bathroom, frustrated.
Stacie continues fixing her hair with a big smile.

INT. STACIE - APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - 9:45PM

Stacie sits on the couch watching TV as Lorraine is in her room. The doorbell rings. Stacie jumps up and runs to Lorraine's bedroom doorway, poking her head in.

STACIE
There here, come on.

Stacie quickly scurries to the door, fixes her hair and then opens the door.

STACIE
Come on in guys.

MATTHEW walks in with CHAD behind him. Matthew hugs Stacie, and then break apart. Stacie turns as Lorraine walks around the corner.

STACIE
Lorraine, you know Matthew. And
this is Chad.

Chad steps up in front of Matthew holding out his hand.

LORRAINE
Oh, hi. I'm Lorraine.

Lorraine shakes Chad's hand

CHAD
It's nice to finally meet you.
I've heard so much about you. And
I must say you are much more
beautiful in person than I ever
could have imagined.

Lorraine beams, acting shy and timid.

LORRAINE
Thank you. That's very sweet.

Stacie heads to the kitchen as Lorraine stares at Chad.

STACIE

You guys can go ahead and have a seat. Lorraine, come here.

Matthew and Chad sit on the couch.

INT. STACIE APARTMENT - KITCHEN - ABOUT - 10:00PM

Lorraine follows Stacie into the kitchen. Lorraine wraps her arm around Stacie with a smile.

LORRAINE

(whispers)

You are such a bitch, you knew he was beautiful the whole time.

Stacie quietly laughs.

STACIE

(whispers)

Now do you like surprises?

They quietly laugh together. Lorraine removes her arm from around Stacie's shoulders as Stacie turns around and yells out to the guys in the living room.

STACIE

Do you guys want a beer?

Matthew yells from the living room.

MATTHEW (V.O.)

Yea will take a couple, thanks.

Stacie opens the refrigerator and grabs four beers, setting them on the table. Lorraine takes a bottle of vodka and two shot glasses from the cabinet, filling the glasses to the top. Stacie smiles at Lorraine.

LORRAINE

Let's do a shot before we go out there.

They clink their glasses together.

STACIE

To us and to tonight.

They take their shots and slam the glasses on the table. Lorraine uncaps all the beers and hands two to Stacie, taking the other two.

INT. STACIE AND LARRAINE'S LIVING ROOM - 10:10PM

Stacie hands a beer to Matthew and sits next to him on the couch. Lorraine does the same for Chad, then sits next to him.

STACIE

What do you say we go to The
Room?

Lorraine frowns.

MATTHEW

That sounds cool, what do you
think Chad?

Chad nods and takes a drink, then sits his beer on the coffee table. Lorraine sits quietly while rapidly drinking her beer.

STACIE

Lorraine, what do you think? Is
that all right with you?

Lorraine glares at Stacie and shrugs.

LORRAINE

Sure, why not.

Lorraine finishes her beer, and stands.

LORRAINE

Does anyone else need a beer?

Stacie and Matthew hold up their beers.

CHAD

Sure I'll take another one.
Thanks.

Lorraine glares at Stacie and heads to the kitchen.

INT. STACIE AND LORRAINE'S KITCHEN - 10:30PM - ECU

A few seconds later, Lorraine grabs beers from the refrigerator, Stacie approaches.

STACIE

What is your problem?

Lorraine retrieves the beers and shuts the door while Stacie's leaning on it, and walks to the table.

LORRAINE
You know what my problem is?

Stacie rolls her eyes.

STACIE
Don't tell me you're afraid
Michael will see you with Chad.
You should hope he does see you
with him. Maybe he'll realize
what he's lost. Remember, he left
you.

Lorraine looks up at Stacie.

LORRAINE
Maybe you're right.

Stacie grabs her beer of the table.

STACIE
What's wrong with showing off
Chad? He is adorable.

Lorraine smiles.

INT. STACIE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - 10:40PM

Matthew and Chad sit on the couch while the girls are in
the kitchen.

CHAD
(whispering)
So what's Lorraine's story?

Matthew takes a drink.

MATTHEW
(whispering)
I guess her and her boyfriend
dated for a while and they just
broke up.

Chad smiles.

CHAD
(whispering)
Perfect. Vulnerable and hot.
Thanks, Matthew.

Matthew smiles and softly punches Chad's in the arm.

MATTHEW
(whispering)
I look out for my friends.

Stacie and Lorraine walk into the living room and hand beers to Matthew and Chad.

STACIE
Let's drink these beers and then go?

Matthew pulls Stacie onto his lap, spilling some beer.

MATTHEW
(laughing)
Sounds good to me. We're ready whenever you ladies are.

Matthew kisses Stacie cheek. Lorraine smiles at Chad and takes a drink.

INT. THE ROOM - FRONT DOOR - 11:15PM

Matthew and Chad enter and pay for the girls. The girls break away from the guys to the bathroom. Stacie kisses Matthew on the cheek.

STACIE
Will be right back babe.

Lorraine pulls on Stacie's arm.

LORRAINE
We'll be back.

Matthew and Chad walk toward the bar.

INT. THE ROOM - BAR - 11:20PM

Matthew and Chad wait in line, taking in the music and scenery. They order four beers and four shots. Stacie and Lorraine join them, and they take their shots.

LORRAINE
Lets dance.

Lorraine grabs Chad's hand and leads him to the dance floor. Chad turns and grabs his beer while smiling at Matthew.

STACIE
Come on, Matthew, let's dance.

Stacie pulls Matthew to the dance floor.

INT. THE ROOM - DANCE FLOOR - 11:30PM

Lorraine dances seductively with Chad. They become more intimate with each song, while Stacie and Matthew dance nearby. Stacie shouting over the music to Matthew.

STACIE

(shouting)

God did Lorraine need this. Maybe she'll forget about Michael for a night.

MATTHEW

(shouting)

By the end of the night she wont even know his name anymore.

Stacie smiles, watching Lorraine and Chad dance.

INT. THE ROOM - BAR - 12:00PM

Michael and Tony walk in and order beers. They lean against the bar, surveying the dance floor.

MICHAEL

Thanks a lot for helping with the video for Lorraine. I really think it turned out well.

TONY

I still think it's crazy, but I hope it works. It'll either touch her or scare the hell out of her.

Tony laughs and nudges Michael.

TONY

Just kidding. She'll love it.

Michael finishes his beer.

MICHAEL

Want another beer?

TONY

Sure, if you're buying.

Michael pulls money out of his pocket and turns around to the bartender.

MICHAEL

I'll take two Beck's.

Michael orders two more beers. Tony spots Lorraine dancing with Chad. He nudges Michael, who turns around.

MICHAEL

What?

Tony points at Lorraine on the dance floor.

TONY

It's Lorraine, dancing with some
guy,

Michael sees Chad kiss Lorraine on the cheek and whisper in her ear. In a blind rage, Michael finishes his beer and storms toward Lorraine. Tony tries to hold him back, but Michael shoves him aside.

INT. THE ROOM - DANCE FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Michael grabs Lorraine's arm, turning her around.

LORRAINE

(surprised)
Michael.

MICHAEL

(yelling)
What the hell are you doing with
that guy?

Stacie steps between Michael and Lorraine.

STACIE

(yelling)
She is on a date, you asshole!
What does it look like?

MICHAEL

(yelling)
Stay out of this. It has nothing
to do with you.

Lorraine intervenes.

LORRAINE

Stacie just go to the bathroom,
I'll be there in a minute. Let me
talk to him for a minute.

Stacie walks off, muttering.

STACIE

(under her breath)
Freaking creep.

Lorraine turns toward Michael, putting her hair behind her ears, and then folds her arms.

Michael folds his hands together, as he points them from his chest then toward her.

MICHAEL

What are you doing to me? What
are you doing to us?

Lorraine shakes her head.

LORRAINE

First of all there is no "us".
And what am I doing to you? Look
what you did to me. You haven't
even tried to call. It's been
weeks, and no sign of you or even
a call. I want to have a life
again. I am tired of crying
myself to sleep. It hasn't been
easy, in fact it's the hardest
thing I've ever had to do, but I
am finally getting over you. Now,
please move on.

A tear begins to fall down Lorraine's face.

LORRAINE

Michael, you had love. I gave you
love. And you took it for
granted, and now it's just over.

Michael drops his head.

MICHAEL

Please, Lorraine, I love you. It
was hard to see you smile tonight
when I knew I wasn't the one to
put that smile on your face. All
I ever wanted was something to
do, something to love, and
something to hope for. And that
is you.

Lorraine with her right arm across her chest and left elbow
resting on against her right arm, wipes her tears.

LORRAINE

What do you want from me? Why do
you keep playing with my
emotions? Is this fun to you?

Michael gently tucks Lorraine's hair behind her ear as it falls into her face.

MICHAEL

I am not trying to play with your emotions. I'm trying to make things right. I've done a lot of thinking the past few weeks, and I realized that I can't and don't want to live without you. Anyone can catch your eye, but only one can capture your heart. You have my heart, now I just want to make the difference so you'll let me back into yours. If you give me one more chance I will make things right.

Lorraine hesitates, looking away as she notices Chad and Matthew approaching.

LORRAINE

I don't know Michael. Let me think about it. But I have to go now.

Chad and Matthew walk up and stand in front of Michael.

MICHAEL

Excuse me guys, but if you don't mind I was talking to Lorraine before you guys rudely walked in front of me.

Chad smirks, turning to Michael.

CHAD

Well I think your conversation is over.

As they turn back to Lorraine, Stacie joins them. Michael taps Chad's shoulder, prompting him and Matthew to turn back.

MICHAEL

I don't think that's your decision to be made. Seeing I wasn't talking to you.

Chad steps up to Michael as Matthew squares up with Tony, who noticed the confrontation from across the bar and rushed over.

LORRAINE
Come on guys, this is stupid.

Lorraine pushes Michael and Chad apart, while Stacie does the same with Matthew and Tony.

CHAD
You're right. I am not going to
waste my time on this asshole.

As Chad turns to leave, Michael rushes him, tackling him to the ground. Matthew and Tony lunge forward, but the BOUNCER intervenes, pulling Michael off Chad and shoving them apart. The bouncer points at Chad and Matthew.

BOUNCER
You guys need to get the hell out
of here.

Chad glares at Michael, pointing at him.

CHAD
This isn't over.

Michael and Tony sarcastically wave to Chad and Matthew.

MICHAEL
Yeah, see you later, jackass.

As Chad and Matthew leave with Stacie, Chad flips Michael off.

Lorraine runs up to Michael.

LORRAINE
Are you all right? I'm sorry
about all that.

From the doorway, Stacie calls out.

STACIE
Come on Lorraine.

Tony hands Michael a beer.

LORRAINE
I'd better go.

MICHAEL
Don't leave. I have so much to
say, so much to show you. Don't
throw me away for him. Lorraine,
you make me better than I am.

Michael gently cups Lorraine's cheek.

LORRAINE
It's not about choosing him-I
have fix things with Stacie
first.

Michael lowers his hand.

MICHAEL
I guess you think their just
words again? But this time I have
something real to back them up.

Lorraine grabs a hold of Michael's left hand with both of
her hands.

LORRAINE
I'm not saying that Michael.
Trust me. I just... I have to go
now.

Lorraine slowly releases Michael's hand.

MICHAEL
Whatever

(I Believe In You by Bob Dylan) plays in the background.
Lorraine slowly walks backwards as she looks at Michael.

INT. MATTHEW'S CAR - DRIVING - 1:00AM - ECU

Silence fills the car as Matthew drives toward Stacie
apartment. Chad, sitting in the back seat, glances over at
Lorraine, who is leaning against the door, looking out the
window.

Chad slowly moves closer to Lorraine, putting his right arm
around the back of her seat. He inches closer to her neck
with his lips and slides his left hand toward her leg. Chad
starts kissing Lorraine's neck.

Lorraine quickly turns and shoves Chad back into his seat.

LORRAINE
(screaming)
You fucking asshole! Don't
fucking touch me!

Chad raises his arms defensively.

CHAD
What's your problem?

Lorraine glares at Chad.

LORRAINE

You know what my problem is? My problem is that I am in love. And I left him at the bar to come with you all of you. All because I didn't want to ruin my friendship with Stacie. So leave me the hell alone.

Lorraine returns to looking out the window and Chad silently sinks deeper into his seat.

MATTHEW

(whispers)

Your friend is kind of psycho.

Stacie glares at Matthew why he is driving.

STACIE

That's my best friend your talking about. And you're just as big of an asshole as your friend, if not more because at least he knows when to shut up.

Matthew glances over at Stacie.

MATTHEW

What's your problem?

Stacie looks at Matthew in disgust.

STACIE

You! Just drop us off.

Matthew quickly pulls over in front of Stacie's apartment. Stacie and Lorraine quickly jump out of the car. Matthew pulls away in a rage.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF STACIE AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - 1:25AM

Stacie puts her arm around Lorraine, as Lorraine put her head on Stacie's shoulder. They start walking toward their apartment.

STACIE

Lorraine I'm sorry for everything tonight.

EXT. MICHAEL'S APARTMENT - NEXT DAY - 3:00PM - FULL SHOT

Lorraine walks up to Michael's apartment. Fixes her hair, and then takes a deep breath. She knocks on Michael's door. No answer. She knocks again, harder this time. Still nothing. Sighing, she turns and walks away as Michael slowly approaches the door from inside. By the time he opens it, she's already gone.

INT. BAR CENTRAL - SAME DAY - 6:00PM - ECU

Michael sits at the bar, staring at his beer. Tony walks in and calls out to the bartender.

TONY

Hey Mike can I get a beer?

Tony looks at Michael and points at the seat next to him.

TONY

Is this seat taken?

Michael doesn't look at Tony.

TONY

Alright then.

Tony sits down next to Michael.

MICHAEL

How did you know where to find me?

Michael smirks slightly taking a sip of his beer.

TONY

It wasn't hard. I saw you weren't home, so I asked myself. Self, where would my best friend go to get away? Boom-here I am.

Michael turns toward Tony.

MICHAEL

So, why are you here?

Tony slams his beer on the bar.

TONY

Because I'm your friend.

Michael exhales sharply, setting his beer on the bar.

MICHAEL

Sorry, man. I'm just pissed about Lorraine. I gave her my heart and she left with another guy.

Tony grabs a napkin and starts wiping up the beer that splashed out of his bottle when he slammed it on the bar.

TONY

I understand. I also understand Lorraine's side.

Michael turns to Tony.

MICHAEL

Whose side are you on? I thought you came down here as my friend?

Tony throws the dripping napkin behind the bar and into the trash and then turns to Michael.

TONY

I did. She only left with them because of Stacie. There's no way she's into that Chad guy. I know she still loves you, man. But the only way to know for sure is to talk to her.

Michael finishes off his beer. Michael then raises his hand to Mike as he yells down the bar to Mike.

MICHAEL

Mike can I get another one?

Michael turns toward Tony as he pushes his empty beer out of his way.

MICHAEL

What makes you think she'll talk to me?

Tony calls out to Mike.

TONY

Can you make that two?

Mike sits two beers in front of them.

TONY

Come on Michael, I think it's obvious she still loves you. You just have to talk to her. You know what this is Michael?

(MORE)

TONY (CONT'D)

This is just a bend in your road to
her, and a bend in the road doesn't
mean it's the end of the road
unless you make the wrong turn.

Michael stands from the bar, garbing his beer. He takes a
big drink and then slams the empty bottle down. With a
determined look, he pats Tony on the back.

MICHAEL

Thanks Tony.

Tony turns in his barstool and calls out to Michael.

TONY

Michael... Where are you going?

Michael turns back, determination in his eyes.

MICHAEL

I'm going to make the right turn
for once in my life. I'm going to
get the girl who makes my heart
smile.

INT. MICHAEL'S CAR - SAME DAY - 7:00PM

Michael recklessly pulls up in front of Stacie's apartment.
He quickly puts it in park, and then he looks in the
rearview mirror, trying fix his hair. Frustrated, he gives
up and rummages through the back seat, finding his hat
under a pile of trash. Michael puts on his hat and gets out
of the car.

EXT. STACIE'S APARTMENT - 7:05PM FULL SHOT

Michael shuts the car door walks briskly towards the front
door. He almost reaches it when he trips over his own feet
and falls to the ground. Quickly recovering, he gets up and
knocks hard on the door, shouting in between knocks.

MICHAEL

(shouting)

Lorraine... Lorraine...

Stacie finally opens door.

STACIE

What the hell is your problem?

Michael, out of breathe, from racing up to the door and
falling down, looks at her.

MICHAEL
Is Lorraine here?

Stacie smiles at Michael, noticing his breathlessness.

STACIE
No.

Michael folds his hands together, pleading.

MICHAEL
Could you please tell me where
she is?

Stacie's smile fades as she responds sternly but kindly.

STACIE
Yeah Michael, she's at work.

Michael leans in and kisses Stacie on the cheek.

MICHAEL
Thanks, Stacie.

Stacie smiles as Michael turns around and run to his car.
Stacie yells to Michael.

STACIE
(yelling)
I am sorry about last night.

Michael waves to Stacie as he jumps in his car and quickly
drives off.

INT. TAVERNS CORNER - SAME DAY - 7:30PM - FULL SHOT

Michael rushes inside, scanning room for Lorraine. A co-
worker 'JANIS' nudges Lorraine.

JANIS
Lorraine, don't look now, but
guess who just walked in.

Lorraine turns and sees Michael. A radiant smile spreads
across her face. Michael, still searching, finally spots
her. The moment their eyes meet, he smiles too. She quickly
walks over to him.

LORRAINE
Michael, what are you doing here?

Michael puts his right hand on his chest and taps his
chest.

MICHAEL
Lorraine, I need you in my life.

LORRAINE
What? You need me?

Lorraine notices everyone staring at them.

LORRAINE
Let's step outside.

She nods at Janis before leading Michael out the door.

LORRAINE
Janis, I'll be right back.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF TAVERNS CORNER - SAME DAY - 7:45PM - ECU

Lorraine tucks her hair behind her ear, turning to face Michael.

LORRAINE
I thought you hated me after last night.

Michael takes her hands in his.

MICHAEL
How could I hate you? I understand why you left with them. And I know you don't like that guy. Right?

Lorraine wrinkles her nose in disgust.

LORRAINE
Absolutely not.

A strand of Lorraine's hair falls down in her face, Michael swiftly brushes it behind her ear.

MICHAEL
Lorraine, there is not another person in this world that has made me even half the person that I am when I'm with you. When you smile I want to be the one who made that smile. I can't even stand next to you without wanting to hold you. I have so much love to show, and without you I have no one to share it with.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
What I'm trying to say is the
difference in me is that I want
to show how much I love you.

A tear falls from Lorraine's face.

LORRAINE
I've missed you so much Michael.

Michael gently wipes her tear with his thumb.

MICHAEL
You don't have to miss me. Be
with me.

She nods through her tears before kissing him.

LORRAINE
Yes Michael, yes.

As they embrace, he whispers in her ear.

MICHAEL
(whispers)
Because of what you are, you are
essential to my life and
happiness.

Lorraine slowly lifts her head from Michael's shoulder as
she gazes into his eyes.

LORRAINE
I love you so much.

Michael bushes Lorraine's hair behind her ears while wiping
her tears. Michael softly kisses her then stares into her
eyes.

MICHAEL
I love you Lorraine Wagner. You
make my world happy.

Months went by and Michael and Lorraine became closer and
closer together, as they fell more and more in love.
Lorraine moved out of Stacie's apartment and back into
Michael's apartment. Stacie and Michael became friends
again. Then Valentines Day rolled around, as Michael still
hadn't shown Lorraine the video that he made for her.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - VALENTINE'S DAY -
3:00PM

Months have passed, and Michael and Lorraine have grown closer, falling more deeply in love. Lorraine has moved out of Stacie's apartment and back into Michael's. Stacie and Michael have also mended their friendship. As Valentine's Day approaches, Michael still hasn't shown Lorraine the video he made for her.

Michael slaves over a hot stove making a Valentine's Day dinner for Lorraine. He arranges a dozen red, white, and pink roses in a vase on the table, accompanied by candles, setting the scene for a romantic evening. He wraps the video that he made for Lorraine in red wrapping paper with a white bow and places on the coffee table next to her card.

While the food cooks, Michael takes a shower. He then dresses in nice pants and a shirt, adding a tie as he walks to the phone and calls Lorraine at work.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
Taverns Corner, how may I help
you?

Michael turns his head to the side as he holds the phone with his ear and shoulder, as he ties his tie.

MICHAEL
Yes. Will you be my Valentine?

Lorraine laughs.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
Yes I will sweetie.

Michael grabs the phone with his right hand as he finishes tying his tie.

MICHAEL
Are you almost off work?

LORRAINE (V.O.)
I'll be off in about five
minutes.

Michael glances at the table, noticing everything but the wine.

MICHAEL
Okay, I'll see you soon.

Michael gets ready to hang up.

LORRAINE (V.O.)
I love you.

Michael puts the phone back to his ear.

MICHAEL
What?

LORRAINE (V.O.)
I love you.

Michael switches hands with the phone.

MICHAEL
I love you too.

He hangs up the phone, then quickly writes a note and places it on the coffee table. Grabbing his car keys, he heads out the front door.

EXT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - 5:30PM

Lorraine shuts her car door, looking around for Michael's car. Holding, she walks up to the front door and unlocks it.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - 5:35PM - FULL SHOT

Lorraine enters, seeing flowers and lit candles while Bob Dylan's music plays. She places Michael's present and card on the coffee table, then picks up the note and reads it.

MICHAEL (O.S.)
Lorraine, I had to run to the store to get a bottle of wine. So slip into something comfortable and relax. This night belongs to you, my Valentine. Love, Michael.

Lorraine leans in over the table and smell the flowers.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - 5:45PM

Lorraine takes a shower, then slips into a short silver dress and dries her hair. She puts her hair up, allowing a few strands to dangle down her neck. Hearing the front door open, she quickly checks herself in the mirror before heading out.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S APARTMENT- LIVINGROOM - 6:15PM

Lorraine slowly walks out as Michael sets the bottle of wine on the coffee table. He looks up and sees her.

MICHAEL
Wow. You look beautiful.

Lorraine smiles.

LORRAINE
Thank you.

Michael walks over, giving her a big hug and a kiss.

MICHAEL
Happy Valentine's Day.

Lorraine whispers in Michael's ear.

LORRAINE
Happy Valentine's Day to you.

Michael takes Lorraine's hand, leading her to the kitchen while picking up the wine.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S KITCHEN - 6:25PM - ECU

Michael pulls out Lorraine's chair as she sits down. He opens the wine and pours them each a glass.

Finishing dinner, Michael stands and picks up the bottle of wine. He extends his hand to Lorraine, who takes it and rises from her chair. She carries their glasses of wine as she follows him.

INT. MICHAEL AND LORRAINE'S LIVING ROOM - 7:15PM - ECU

Michael sits the bottle of wine on the coffee table, and Lorraine sits on the couch, placing their glasses on the coffee table. Michael sits next to her and hands her a card.

MICHAEL
Here, open this first.

Lorraine smiles and opens the card, reading the poem Michael wrote inside.

LORRAINE
If my heart could talk, what it
would say, is how I love you
every moment of each and every
day. You were my dream, my dream
that came true. From the day we
first talked, till I was blessed
with you. May we last so long,
for I have so much to share.

(MORE)

LORRAINE (CONT'D)
With you my everything. And I'll
always be there. My Love.

A tear slowly falls down Lorraine's face. She turns to Michael.

LORRAINE
That was beautiful. Thank you.

Lorraine hugs Michael, wiping away her tears. Michael then gives her the wrapped gift. She carefully unwraps it and finds a videotape inside.

LORRAINE
What is this?

Michael smiles.

MICHAEL
I don't know. Let's put it in the
VCR and see.

Michael takes the tape, turns off the stereo, and puts the tape in the VCR, turning on the TV. The room lights up slightly with the burning candles. Michael returns to the couch as Lorraine gives him a curious look. He pours them more wine, sits next to her, and holds her hand.

LORRAINE
Michael, what is this?

Michael gently shushes her.

MICHAEL
Shh... It's about to start.

On the TV, Michael begins speaking.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
(on the TV)
This is a video all about
Lorraine Wagner's and Michael
Taylor up till we met and after.
Through good times and bad. So
fasten your seat belt, because
its going to be the ride of your
life.

Lorraine looks over to Michael with a smile.

LORRAINE
You are the sweetest.

She kisses Michael on the cheek and holds him tight. Together, they watch the video as Michael recounts significant moments in Lorraine's life, from her birth to their meeting and beyond. He includes the hospital where she was born, the houses she lived in, the schools she attended, and even where she got her first kiss.

He also includes his own journey, with music from each year of their lives playing in the background. Michael covers their first meeting and key moments of their relationship up to the present. Lorraine laughs and cries throughout the video.

At the end of the video, Michael appears on screen, getting down on one knee.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

(on the TV)

Lorraine. If ever two were one,
than that is us. So, Lorraine
Wagner, would you please do me
the honor of becoming my
beautiful wife?

Tears stream down Lorraine's face as she turns to see Michael on one knee in front of her, holding a ring.

Lorraine looks at Michael covering her mouth with both of her hands in tears.

MICHAEL

Lorraine, there is no me without
you. Will you marry me?

Lorraine quickly removes her hands from her face, as she hugs and kisses Michael.

LORRAINE

Yes, Michael, yes. I always
dreamed of this day.

Michael slips the ring on Lorraine's finger.

MICHAEL

You're all I ever needed.

Lorraine looks at her ring, then back at Michael, embracing him. "The Wedding Song" by Bob Dylan plays in the background.

The camera slowly pulls away from Michael and Lorraine.

And

FADE OUT