

Union

By:

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Story By

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INT. ANTIQUE SHOP - AFTERNOON

A couple KATIE and ALEX stand in an antique shop looking at jewelry.

ALEX 1

Are you sure this is the one?

KATIE slips the ring on her left hand, fourth finger and holds her hand up admiring the ring.

KATIE

Yes. It's perfect.

KATIE gives ALEX a kiss on the cheek. The two walk over to the counter and KATIE slips off the ring.

ALEX 1

We'll take this one.

The CLERK an odd looking older man inspects the ring

ALEX 1 (CONT'D)

Is there something wrong?

CLERK

No sir, just want to make sure you're certain. All sales in my shop are final.

ALEX and KATIE look lovingly at each other.

KATIE

We're sure.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

KATIE holds a framed picture of her and ALEX. The husband walks into the room dressed for bed.

ALEX 1

What are you doing with that?

KATIE

Do you remember that trip?

ALEX 1

Yeah I took you to meet Mike, the AC didn't work in the car, it was hot as hell and then the car broke down and I had no idea what to do

KATIE frowns. ALEX takes the picture out of his wife's hands

ALEX 1 (CONT'D)
and I loved every minute anyway,
because I was with you that's when I
knew I loved you.

KATIE
Yeah?

ALEX 1
Yes, and you know this because you
make me tell you all the time. Now
cane we please go to sleep? I've got a
huge day tomorrow.

KATIE
Or we could stay up all night watching
movies and forget about work.

He gives her a "are you serious look"

KATIE (CONT'D)
fine, but this weekend we need to do
something big. We need to celebrate

ALEX 1
You got it!

He kisses her on the forehead and sets the picture on the
dresser behind her, the camera lingers on the picture, the
camera racks out of focus.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

The camera comes back into focus, light seeps into the room,
morning has come. The picture on the nightstand has changed
the subjects are the same but the background has seemingly
been replaced.

KATIE reaches over to find the bed empty. She exits the bed
and goes to the closet. She sifts through the clothes a
puzzled look on her face. Finally pulling out an outfit.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

ALEX stands at the counter dressed for work pouring coffee
into a thermos. She approaches from behind and kisses him on
the cheek.

ALEX 2

Morning.

KATIE

Hey, do you know where all my clothes are a bunch of them are missing or something?

ALEX 2

No Idea.

KATIE

Well there's also a bunch of stuff in there I don't recognize.

ALEX 2

Doing too much shopping?

KATIE

No. I'm telling you it's like the whole closet's been replaced.

ALEX 2

Look, I don't know anything about your wardrobe. None of my business.

KATIE is stunned by ALEX's tone and changes the conversation.

KATIE

So what are we doing this weekend?

ALEX 2

I have to work.

KATIE

But last night...

He cuts her off.

ALEX 2

Last night I told you I have to work all weekend.

KATIE

I thought.

ALEX 2

Well maybe there's the problem

KATIE

What did you say to me?

ALEX 2

What Katie? what did I say this time?

KATIE stands in a stunned silence ALEX grabs his coffee and walks off.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

KATIE sits next to ALEX who is scrolling through his phone.

KATIE

Babe?

ALEX 2

What?

KATIE

Can you please talk to me instead of looking at your phone?

Alex puts his phone down.

ALEX 2

What?

KATIE

Can we talk about this morning?

ALEX 2

What's there to talk about?

KATIE

Last night you told me we could go out this weekend and celebrate and this morning you were talking to me like I was crazy.

ALEX 2

I never said that. You know I'm swamped at work.

KATIE

Why are you doing this?

ALEX 2

I'm not doing anything Katie you're the one making stuff up.

KATIE

Maybe we don't need to talk. Not until you stop acting like a jackass.

ALEX 2
I don't know what your problem is
lately.

KATIE
My problem?

ALEX 2
Yeah you're acting like a total bitch

KATIE
Don't you dare talk to me like that.

ALEX 2
Or what?

KATIE
Out!

ALEX 2
What?

KATIE
Out! Go sleep at a hotel or something
I don't care I just can't look at you
right now.

Alex grabs his phone and storms off the camera racks out of
focus and the picture shifts back to original look.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

KATIE wakes up in her bed. ALEX 1 kisses her on the forehead.

ALEX 1
Morning baby. Ready for our big
weekend?

KATIE
What are you doing?

ALEX 1
Saying good morning? What else should
I be doing?

An awkward silence fills the air.

ALEX 1
So this weekend, I was thinking...

KATIE
(INTERRUPTING)
I thought you had to work?

ALEX 1
Huh?

KATIE
You told me yesterday you had to work
all weekend, So go.

ALEX 1
I never work weekends. What are you
talking about?

KATIE
Why do you keep acting like this?

ALEX 1
Like what?

KATIE
Like I have no idea what I'm talking
about.

ALEX 1
You're the one that's trying to kick
me out.

KATIE
Alex, please.

ALEX 1
Fine, you want me to go I'll go.

ALEX 1 walks out of the door.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

KATIE lays on the bed holding the picture of her and ALEX 1, her face red, tears dripping across her cheeks, she blinks, her eyes becoming heavy. The picture falls out of her hand and on to the bed.

The camera racks out of focus, the picture warping again.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

KATIE awakens in a daze. She picks the picture up from the bed a puzzled look on her face.

INT. KITCHEN

KATIE stands at the counter the picture in front of her. Her phone rings. It's ALEX, she answers but doesn't say anything.

ALEX 2 (V.O)

You there?

KATIE

Yeah. Are you ready to start acting like yourself again?

ALEX 2 (V.O)

Excuse me?

KATIE

You've been acting crazy for days.

ALEX 2 (V.O)

What do you mean?

KATIE

You know what I mean.

ALEX 2 (V.O)

Look I'm coming home I'll talk to you soon.

ALEX hangs up the phone.

KATIE pulls the phone away from her face and looks at the phone and then back to the picture.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

ALEX 2 opens the door. KATIE rushes towards him

KATIE

Alex!

ALEX 2

What?

KATIE

Did you do something with the picture upstairs?

ALEX 2

What picture?

KATIE

The one from our trip last spring.

ALEX 2

We didn't take any trip.

KATIE

No, the one where we went and I met
your friend Mike.

ALEX 2

Who's Mike?

ALEX pushes past KATIE and goes to the fridge and pulls out a
bottle and pours a drink KATIE follows after him.

KATIE

Your, Your best friend from college.

ALEX 2

I have no clue who your talking about.

KATIE

Mike Barber

ALEX 2

I don't know anyone named Mike!

KATIE loses the last bit of composure she has left and she
screams at ALEX.

KATIE

Stop doing this to me! For days now
you've been lying to me, and moving my
stuff around and treating me like some
kind of lunatic.

ALEX 2

Katie, I genuinely have zero idea what
on earth you're talking about.

KATIE

It's been like this ever since you got
me this goddamn ring. If you didn't
want to get married you should have
just said so.

ALEX touches her gently trying to console her.

ALEX 2

Kate, I

He can't find the words.

KATIE
I have a question.

ALEX 2
What?

KATIE
When did you fall in love with me?

ALEX 2
Is this some kind of test?

KATIE
No. Please just answer the question.

ALEX 2
It was when we had that freak snow
storm in April, We were stuck in the
house and we spent the whole day
watching bad movies. There you happy?

KATIE
That's not what.

ALEX takes a swig.

ALEX 2 (CONT'D)
Is that not how it happened KATIE? Am
I gaslighting you again? Katie I can't
keep doing this. I can't keep going to
bed worried I'm not going to know the
person I'm waking up next to.

KATIE looks at her ring, her eyes widen, she has finally
realized the solution to her problem.

KATIE
You're right!

ALEX 2
Huh?

KATIE
We got engaged and I...I panicked but
it'll be ok. We'll go to bed, I'll
wake up totally myself again I
promise.

ALEX 2
I don't know.

KATIE
Just trust me.

INT. BEDROOM - NEXT DAY

KATIE awakens, no one in the bed next to her. She picks up the picture it's back to the original. She hears rustling downstairs and jumps out of bed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

ALEX is in the living room tape and moving boxes are spread around the space.

KATIE
Alex!

ALEX 1
Good, you're up we need to talk.

KATIE
You're right. We do.

ALEX 1
It's hard to live with you lately,
kicking me out one minute, loving on
me like you haven't seen me in weeks
the next. It's like being engaged to
two different people. It's too much.

KATIE
I know, I know. It's...it's this ring
we can take it back and this will all
be over.

KATIE takes off the ring.

ALEX 1
For days now you've been lying to me,
and accusing me of moving your stuff,
treating me like some kind of lunatic.
it's too late to go back and pretend
that all this didn't happen. I'm
leaving.

ALEX 1 picks up a box.

ALEX 1 (CONT'D)
I'll be back for the rest later.

ALEX 1 starts walking to the door and stops turning back

ALEX 1 (CONT'D)
Don't worry about the ring, you can
keep it.

INT. ANTIQUE SHOP - AFTERNOON

KATIE enters the antique shop.

CLERK
Ah, back so soon are we?

KATIE
I need to return this.

KATIE slaps the ring down on the counter.

CLERK
I am sorry ma'am but I was adamant
that all sales at my store are final.

KATIE
I know, but it's destroyed my life.
I've lost everything.

KATIE begins to speak but the CLERK cuts her off.

CLERK
Excuse me, but unless I'm wrong you've
really only lost one thing and in a
universe of infinite possibilities is
anything ever really lost?

KATIE
I'm sorry, I don't think I understand.

The clerk picks up the ring and puts it in KATIE'S hand.

CLERK (CONT'D)
I've told you all you need to know the
rest you will have to figure out.

KATIE grabs the ring and exits the shop.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

KATIE sits on the bed twirling the ring in her fingers. The

picture is beside her. She takes a deep breath puts the ring back on and lays her head down.

The camera racks out of focus, coming back in the picture has changed again this time a third picture fills the frame.

CREDITS: