

Irreplaceable You: Take Two

Written by

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Abbie walks towards the exit. She's tired and weak.

Stay on her face as it brightens; she's spotted Sam. They hug.

SAM

You okay?

ABBIE

Not really but then again I do have cancer.

Sam laughs awkwardly.

SAM

Stupid question, I know. Here, hold on to me.

Sam links her arm around his to steady her.

Abbie falls asleep in the passenger seat.

Ping. Sam gets a text from MICHELLE.

The sound rouses Abbie but Sam comforts her back to sleep while he checks his phone.

The text reads: **So where are you taking me tonight?**

Sam replies: **It's a surprise. Just be ready for 8.**

He hesitates then sends a wink emoji. He wonders whether that was too much. Then-

Michelle replies with a kiss emoji.

Relieved, Sam starts the car and drives away.

It's dark and quiet. Abbie lies in bed beneath the covers, asleep. Beside her is Sam, above the covers and wide awake. He looks at Abbie - lovingly but his heart is breaking.

The clock on the bedside table reads: 7:30.

Sam stands up slowly, so as not to wake Abbie.

On his way out of the room, he picks up his jacket, keys and phone.

He closes the door softly behind him.

Abbie's eyes open. She sees Sam's side of the bed is empty.

4 INT. THE BLUE SWAN - DAY

4

The tables are full and waiters bustle through the restaurant. It's warmly lit by candlelight and decorated with wildflowers.

Sam sits across the table from Michelle (30s), modest but confident.

Sam's phone rings in his pocket. He sees it's a call from Abbie and declines.

MICHELLE

This place is beautiful, I can't believe I've never come across it before.

SAM

I only know about it because a friend recommended it to me.

MICHELLE

Well, they've got good taste.

Michelle reaches across the table. Sam hesitates then reaches his hand out too. They almost touch.

5 INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

5

All the lights are on. Abbie sits on the sofa bundled under blankets. She has a book in her hands but she's staring into space.

She picks up the phone to call Sam. She wavers then thinks better of it.

There's the sound of keys rattling.

Abbie pretends to read as the front door opens. Sam walks in, surprised to see her.

SAM

What are you doing awake?

ABBIE

I called you.

SAM

I know. I was busy. It would have been rude to answer.

Sam kisses her on the cheek.

ABBIE
So, where were you?

She gives him an accusing look.

SAM
No, don't look at me like that.

ABBIE
Like what?

He sighs.

SAM
I was at The Blue Swan.

She pauses for a beat. Then:

ABBIE
Oh, thank God! I thought you were
going to take her somewhere stupid
like a bowling alley.

Relieved, Abbie stands and leaves the room.

SAM
I'm glad you have so much faith in me.

Abbie walks back in with a questioning look. In her hands is a thick notebook and a pen.

SAM (CONT'D)
Yes, okay. I did consider the bowling
place because I thought it'd be fun.
Different, even.

ABBIE
Eating anywhere family themed isn't
different, it's asking for trouble.

Abbie opens the notebook to a page with Michelle's picture and her details such as: height, characteristics, interests, phone number, job etc.

ABBIE
So, on a scale of 1-10 how well do you
think it went?

SAM
I'd give it a solid 8.

Abbie scribbles something down.

ABBIE

I knew you'd like her. See, this is why you should always trust my judgement. I know your type.

Sam rolls his eyes jokingly.

ABBIE (CONT'D)

Did you agree to a second date?

SAM

Yes, next week but she said she wanted to pick the place.

ABBIE

Assertive, I like that in a woman.

SAM

Oh really? Funny, so do I.

They kiss.

Sam looks at Abbie, seriously.

SAM

I have something to tell you.

ABBIE

What? I thought it all went well.

SAM

It did. It went so well I'm thinking of asking her to move in.

Abbie pulls away, amused.

SAM (CONT'D)

And you being here would make things awkward so...I'm gonna need you to move out.

She looks at him, slightly unimpressed.

SAM (CONT'D)

Too soon?

She gives him a look: *what do you think?*

SAM (CONT'D)

Too soon.