

Elements of Obsessiveness

by Ross

(rough draft only not the final shooting script)

INT. MATTERHORN THEATER - MAIN FLOOR - MORNING

VANESSA CRAVENS sits in middle of the theater holding a script while reading her lines. After reviewing her character's words, she closes her eyes and attempts to recite the scene in her head. After a few moments, she returns to the script realizing she did not get the words correct in her mental. She reacts in frustration.

VANESSA

(to herself)

Why can't I get these lines right? This is upsetting. Come on Vanessa the show is in two weeks. *Ok take a deep breath.*
Close your eyes and try again.

Vanessa's calm moment is interrupted by the sound of an ANGERED MALE voice.

MALE VOICE

Vanessa!

Vanessa turns her focus to the theater entrance to find CONNOR SAMUELS standing there. He doesn't look too happy. She is stunned at first but immediately goes into defense mode.

VANESSA

Connor? **What the hell are you doing here?**

Connor slowly moves towards Vanessa.

CONNOR

I've been calling you for three days and you wont return my messages.

Vanessa rises up as a way of having a standing advantage if Connor tries something.

VANESSA

That is because I am in rehearsal. And also due to fact that I have nothing left to say.

CONNOR

But I have plenty to say to you. Do you think its ok that you pack up and leave me with only a stupid note?

VANESSA

That's the way I wanted it. A simple, clean exit. *Drama free.*

CONNOR

And you think that's fair? After all I have put into our relationship you think I deserve a dry exit?? (slight breath)
Vanessa I love you.

VANESSA

I never doubted that at all. *Because you almost loved me to death.*

CONNOR

(shock; confusion)

What?

VANESSA

You smother me Connor. You drain the life out of my soul. I have tried to explain it to you over and over again but you don't listen.

CONNOR

You think protecting you is a form of smothering?

VANESSA

Protect me from what? Life? Everything I do outside of you comes with a question mark. Every move I make is covered in your eyes. This is supposed to be a partnership, not a parenting relationship.

CONNOR

I am sorry you took it that way. Its just love Vanessa..its only love.

VANESSA

I don't want that kind of love anymore Connor. I'm sorry.

CONNOR

Vanessa...

VANESSA

(interrupting)

I am at rehearsal. **Please go..**

CONNOR

I'm not leaving until we have a serious conversation. *Leave with me. Let's talk.*

Vanessa shakes her head. There is a little emotional guilt from hurting Connor but she knows this is what she wants.

VANESSA

No...Nothing will change my mind. Accept it Connor and live your life. Move on...

Vanessa turns to walk away when Connor grabs her arm. Vanessa is startled by the action. Anger is rising in Connor.

CONNOR

(matter of fact)

I told you. I am not going anywhere until we talk.

Vanessa is in a frozen state. She doesn't want to do anything to upset him more.

VANESSA

(calm)

Connor let go of my hand.

CONNOR

(aggressive; clinched teeth)

Come with me...come *With me right now.*

Connor pulls Vanessa closer and closer to his body. The closer she gets, the tighter her resistance

Connor manages to pull Vanessa close to his body. Vanessa is unable to hide her freak out.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

You know love me. This is just all a misunderstanding. *An overreaction.*

Vanessa is near tears.

VANESSA

Connor please let go of me.

CONNOR

Just tell me that you love me. Tell me we can work this out.

VANESSA

I can't...

CONNOR

Yes you can. Say it baby.. Say it.

Vanessa violently jerks away..

VANESSA

Connor I said NO!!!! Go!!!!

Connor is stunned by the velocity of Vanessa's scream. He stands there motionless as Vanessa stands before him defiant.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Get out of here now....

Connor reaches in to grab Vanessa's arm once but she jerks away before connection.

Director CAPRIZON appears in the wing.

CAPRIZON

Get the fuck out of here!!!

Vanessa and Connor turn to the Wings and focus on Caprizon. Caprizon moves towards the two keeping his focus on Connor.

CAPRIZON (CONT'D)

She asked you to leave and that's exactly what you need to do.

CONNOR

I am talking to my girlfriend.

VANESSA

I am not your girlfriend.

CAPRIZON

You heard that right? Now leave.

Connor locks eyes with Caprizon

CONNOR

(matter off fact)

You stay out of this.

Connor then turns his attention to Vanessa

CONNOR (CONT'D)

Just come with me for five minutes.

VANESSA

No...

CONNOR

Five minutes that's all..

CAPRIZON

(To Vanessa)

Why don't you go into my office. Let me have a few words with this fella.

Vanessa is visibly hesitant.

VANESSA
Caprizon I..

CAPRIZON
(interrupting)
Everything will be fine. I just want to
talk to him..

With hesitation still foaming on her surface, Vanessa turns and heads towards Caprizon's office. Caprizon watches her until she disappears into the wings. He then turns back to Connor, face with a different vibe.

The two men lock eyes. Connor then attempts to move in the same direction as Vanessa. Caprizon places his fist in the middle of Connor's chest.

CAPRIZON (CONT'D)
We have both asked you to leave. At this point, it becomes trespassing. That gives me every right to defend my space.

Connor aggressively pushes Caprizon's hand off of his chest.

CONNOR
I am not leaving here without Vanessa.

CAPRIZON
Yes you are, even if I have to make you.

CONNOR
What is it with people like you? You creative people. There is always a story of you interrupting relationships.

CAPRIZON
This is all your doing and I see exactly why. You are unhinged and out of control. I am surprised Vanessa stayed with you as long as she did.

CONNOR
You know nothing about our relationship. We were fine together. It was after she started working on this 'chitlin circuit' like production that things started to change. How did you do it? How did you seduce her? **What did you do to woo her to your side???**

CAPRIZON

I am not going back and forth with you.
Last time I am asking...leave....

The two lock eyes with Connor defiant and 'standing on business'.

Connor makes an attempt to push past Caprizon one last time. Caprizon grabs him by the neck and squeezes. Anger forms in Caprizon's eyes as Connor tries to remove his hands.

Caprizon's grip grows tighter. Connor begins coughing. Just as it looks as if Connor is going to pass out, Caprizon throw's him to the floor.

Connor is defeated. He lies on the floor doing his best to catch his bearings.

CAPRIZON (CONT'D)

Now you get your sorry ass out of here
right now!

Slowly, Connor rises to his feet. He then turns and walks towards the theater exit with Caprizon looking on. Connor disappears in the darkness of the hallway.

An emotional Vanessa emerges from the office.

VANESSA

I watched from the monitors. I am sorry
you were dragged in the middle of that.

CAPRIZON

I'm not. Women need people to stand up
for them against loose cannons like that.
Has he ever hit you?

VANESSA

No never. Its not about that.

CAPRIZON

Well he looked like that was the next
step. You need to get a restraining
order. You also look like you need a hug.

Caprizon pulls Vanessa close and gives her a big, tight bear hug.

WE PAN across the room and back to the dark Hallway where Connor stands watching Vanessa and Caprizon embrace. His breathing grows heavier and harder by the second and the look on his face is sadistic as hell...

TO BE CONTINUED