

SPARKS

Written by

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Log line: A broken couple inevitably questions the meaning of their relationship while driving to an undisclosed location.

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FADE IN:

EXT. DRIVEWAY - HOUSE

A calm, mid-morning in Spring. The echoing sounds of gusting wind and chirping birds surround the area.

TITLE CARD:

"SPARKS"

CONNER, a casually dressed man, mid 20's, leans up against his 2014 Ford Focus parked halfway up the driveway. He's rested by the trunk, fully open.

He gazes upward, dazed in stressful thought.

SLAM

He suddenly comes back, looking over at AMY, an attractive woman around the same age, who has just slammed the front door shut. She wheels a considerably heavy case down the path toward the car.

Conner turns toward Amy. She avoids direct eye contact.

Amy dismantles the handle and swings the case into the trunk with a loud THUD. Conner stares, hypnotized at the case, until Amy closes the trunk, seemingly bringing him out of another trance. The weight of the situation has now settled in.

She makes her way toward the car door.

He reluctantly reaches for his.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

They are both sitting in silence. He looks straight ahead. She is on her phone. After a few seconds, she turns the heat on.

He glances at her, and then looks straight again.

CONNER

If I find anything of yours...

(looks down)

I'll just text you or something...

She looks up, straight ahead, and gives a subtle nod, taken aback from the comment.

Conner contemplates his choice of words before starting the engine.

She looks out the window, now in her own little world.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR (MOVING)

The vehicle treks out of their neighborhood, leaving all behind.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR (MOVING)

Conner makes several attempts to make eye-contact with Amy, who seems contempt on her phone. After a few seconds, Amy turns the heat off.

CONNER
Thought you were cold?

She focuses on her phone.

AMY
I'm fine.

He turns toward her.

She continues to look out the window.

Conner tightly grips the wheel.

Amy subtly rubs her hands.

CONNER (O.C.)
Anxious?

This time she turns to him, aggravated.

AMY
What?

He peeks at her again and then back at the road.

CONNER
You're doing that hands thing you
do...
(MORE)

CONNER (CONT'D)
(scratches his scruffy
face)

Rubbing them real hard... You
always do that when your nervous...

Annoyed, she looks back down. However, she is also saddened.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR (STOPS)

They arrive at a four way stop sign.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

He looks down, bracing to ask a question that he dreads.

CONNER
(hesitant)
Does she know?

She looks out her window, lightly sighing.

AMY
Not the specifics.

He glances at her, taking a sigh of relief.

She continues to look out her window.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR (STOPS)

They proceed en route.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

She takes a breath, looking down at her phone. She then looks straight ahead.

AMY
(awkward-hesitant)
Can I ask you something?

Conner gives her a perplexed look...

She continues to look straight ahead.

AMY (CONT'D)
(2 second pause)
Was it ever me?

He gulps as he keeps his eyes on the road.

She looks down, looking (almost) as if she is ashamed of her question.

AMY (CONT'D)
During sex, after sex...
(shakes her head- 2 second
pause)
Was any of it real?

The camera stays focused on her for another few seconds. She then turns to him.

He looks straight ahead, trying to hold it together.

She breathes softly and looks down.

CONNER (O.C.)
(awkward)
That-that first time...

She peeks at him...

Conner switches his glances from Amy to the road.

CONNER (CONT'D)
We were listening to that song.

She looks down, reflecting on their past.

CONNER (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Eating ice cream, drinking wine.

She adjusts herself in the seat.

He continues to look straight ahead, cracking a small smirk.

CONNER (CONT'D)
I spilled chocolate chip mint all
over your sheets.

She looks down at her hands, unable to resist smirking as well.

CONNER (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Remember that?

Her smile slowly dissipates: a visual pain from the memory.

AMY
Who else knows?

He still looks straight ahead, his face hardening.

CONNER
No one.

AMY (O.C.)
Not even your parents?

CONNER
(2 second pause)
Just you.

She quietly exhales, looking down again.

He scratches his face again.

CONNER (CONT'D)
(hesitant)
I never wanted you to find out like
that.

His eye line matches to her: she looks straight ahead.

He continues to look at her for a few more seconds, wanting some sort of acknowledgement for what he just said... But with defeat, he looks towards the road again.

They pull into a driveway.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE

They pull up to a quaint, brick house.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

Conner sits very stiff, staring at the house.

Amy looks straight ahead, her eyes wide.

He patiently waits for her to make the first move...

She looks unsure of herself.

AMY
"Sparks."

He turns to her, clearly confused.

AMY (CONT'D)
That song we listened too... it was
called "Sparks."

He looks at her a moment and then looks straight down, giving a subtle nod.

CONNER
(2 second pause)
Ready?

Slowly, he looks at her again.

She continues to look straight ahead.

They sit in silence for a few seconds. He then turns the car off, but they continue to sit there, unsure of what to do next... With hesitation, he grabs her hand (she does not resist), and they continue to sit in silence.

"Sparks" by Coldplay plays.

FADE OUT.

THE END