

PRESENT.

written by

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CUT IN:

INT. JOHN'S APARTMENT - EVENING

SOUND CUE: Faint sounds of chaos: sirens, ringing phones, and distant voices. THEA is yelling JOHN's name which gets louder until the breaking point. JOHN is internally freaking out in the kitchen and is staring at the wall. As the chaos intensifies, the camera zooms in on JOHN's face.

JOHN is pulled out of his fog by THEA'S entrance.

THEA

(Un-bothered)

John?

JOHN

Oh... Hi. I didn't know if I was going to see you today.

THEA

Is this a bad time? I can go-

JOHN

No... no... I just wasn't sure you'd be back.

JOHN turns his back to Thea and proceeds to get ready to meet his dad for dinner. He pours himself a cup of coffee that is days old and takes a sip. He is dissatisfied with the taste. He spits what's in his mouth into the sink and dumps the rest out over a pile of dirty dishes.

THEA

Are you going over to your dad's house?

JOHN

Despite my wishes...

JOHN becomes visibly frustrated. He turns to put his shoes on and stumbles over several pairs scattered across the floor. THEA meets him by the door and rubs his back.

THEA

Do you want me to come with you?

JOHN

Yeah...

THEA

This will be good for you.

JOHN

I don't want to see him.

THEA

How long has it been since you've talked, two weeks?

JOHN

(getting more
frustrated)

Thea, you know how I feel about this.

THEA

It's not that bad...

JOHN

(bursting out)

I don't want to fucking talk to him!

THEA stops for a moment, not jumping back at his outburst, instead pausing.

THEA

....First of all, language.

JOHN

...Yeah, sorry.

THEA takes his hand.

THEA

You know I will be right here with you every step of the way.

JOHN and THEA share a glance and JOHN takes a moment to soften his expressions and relax his shoulders. THEA smiles. JOHN gets up and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. JOHN'S CAR - DAY

JOHN breaks the silence.

JOHN

....Three weeks.

THEA

What'd you say?

JOHN

It's been three weeks since I've seen him.

THEA

Oh.. Is that because...

JOHN

Because it's been a month since everything happened?... Yeah.

THEA

You haven't even called him?

JOHN

No.

(PAUSE)

I just wish he didn't try and fix something that doesn't need fixing. You know?

THEA

He's just looking out for you. Imagine if you were in his shoes. You aren't even answering his calls to let him know you're okay...

JOHN cuts THEA off.

JOHN

(Tense)

But I am okay. I just have a lot on my mind right now and need space. He's smothering me these days.

(PAUSE, CHOKED UP)

I just wish I...

THEA

I know... I know.

JOHN and THEA ride in silence. They pull up to their destination. JOHN hesitates to put the car in park. They sit in the empty silence for a moment, JOHN staring into space. He looks over at THEA.

JOHN

Every step of the way?

THEA

Every step.

THEA puts her hand on top of JOHN's and helps him move the car into park.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. FRANK'S HOUSE - EVENING

JOHN and THEA walk up to the front door. JOHN hesitates to knock at first. After knocking, the crescendo of audio starts to kick back in, and is cut off when FRANK opens the door JOHN sheepishly knocks on the door with THEA behind him. FRANK opens the door.

JOHN

... Hey dad.

FRANK's expressions crack a bit, he has clearly missed his son. He hesitates a moment before embracing JOHN in a big hug. JOHN seems a bit surprised at first, but then hugs him back.

FRANK

Please, come in, come in.

JOHN enters the house with THEA behind him, and FRANK closes the door. JOHN and THEA walk to the dining table and sit down.

FRANK moves to the kitchen and pulls out two coffee mugs.

FRANK (CONT'D)

You want a coffee? Tea?

JOHN

I'm alright.

THEA does not respond to the question. FRANK puts a mug back in the cabinet and pours himself a cup of tea. As FRANK makes himself Tea, he continues the conversation from the kitchen, a physical and emotional wall between him and JOHN.

FRANK

So, how's the business?

JOHN

Good.

JOHN and THEA sit and don't say anything. FRANK walks over and joins THEA and JOHN at the dining table. They sit in silence for a few beats.

FRANK

Well, if you're not gonna say anything, I'm not gonna say anything, either! I'm no good at this small talk crap...

JOHN

...Sorry, dad.

FRANK'S agitation eases up and breathes a sigh of relief. He cracks the tiniest of smiles.

THEA

Tell him about that new contract.

JOHN

Well, I did just get this big contract for a major home remodel that should be really good for the business.

FRANK

Wow. Proud of You.

THEA

Proud of you.

JOHN looks over at THEA with a smile. FRANK raises an eyebrow and glances in the direction of THEA as well.

FRANK

Can you still see her?

JOHN

What?

THEA

He's talking about me.

Immediately after Frank says his next line.

FRANK

I'm talking about Thea.

The camera pans and THEA is no longer visible to us. She still is to JOHN. Another slow awkward pause.

FRANK (CONT'D)

It's okay John.

The crescendo begins again, slightly louder. It builds and builds, and only stops when JOHN speaks again.

JOHN

(getting emotional,
slightly agitated)

...I know how crazy it sounds.
But after what happened I see her
everywhere. I can feel her. I can
talk to her. And it's not just
that I can see her, she can see
ME.

JOHN looks up at his dad on the last sentence. He wants his dad to feel his truth.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(Aggressive)

How am I supposed to deal with
people like you who don't believe
me when she is always right here!

FRANK just breaths out a sigh trying to keep his composure. JOHN looks over to THEA, who we now see for a moment. She smiles sadly. We cut back to the two of them, JOHN looking over at an empty chair. FRANK glances over at that same chair. JOHN'S anger fades.

FRANK

... It's not that I don't believe
you. She can still be here for
you every step of the way.

FRANK reaches over and takes his hand. THEA reaches over and holds JOHN'S other arm.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I just don't want you to forget
those of us who are present.

FADE OUT.

END.