

FREE

Screenplay by

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FADE IN:

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INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

1

A woman prepares breakfast. Eggs. Bacon. Coffee.

She spreads out a tablecloth on the kitchen table.

She sets up china for two places.

Finally, a large, fancy breakfast is laid out on the table.

VOICE

What's all this?

The woman turns towards the voice. TYLER, mid 20's, stands in the kitchen, surprised.

The woman, JESSICA, also mid 20s, walks up to greet him with a kiss.

She takes his hands in hers. Neither of them have rings.

JESSICA

Good morning.

TYLER

Morning, Jess.

Jessica smiles and pulls his chair out for him.

He walks to the table, still incredulous. They sit down.

He starts cutting his eggs. He takes a bite.

He looks up. Jessica is praying silently.

He takes another bite. Jessica crosses herself.

She bends to take a small box from her purse under the table.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Did I forget a holiday?

Jessica jumps up, hastily hiding the box behind her.

JESSICA

No! I mean- no.

Tyler finishes chewing, then pours some coffee into his cup.

TYLER

You never make breakfast, Jess.

Jessica is embarrassed. She shifts in her seat, and Tyler catches a glimpse of the box.

TYLER (CONT'D)
What's that?

JESSICA
Tyler-

TYLER
(playing around)
Come on, what is it?

He gets up and walks over to her. She stands up, panicked. Laughing, he reaches around her and grabs it. He examines it. A jewelry box. His smile fades. He opens it-
An engagement ring.
A beat. Tyler doesn't know what to think.
He sets it down. He walks over to his place at the table.
He picks up his coffee cup.

TYLER (CONT'D)
This coffee needs cream.

Tyler walks to the fridge. Jessica walks over with him.

JESSICA
Say something.

Tyler opens the fridge. The door forms a wall between them.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Tyler, we finally both have a steady job; we have this house. We can raise a family.

Tyler slams the fridge door. Jessica flinches.

TYLER
I'm not like you. I need to live.

JESSICA
This isn't living.

TYLER
I don't want this.

JESSICA
What do you want?

Tyler walks to the door.

TYLER
I'm going to be late for work.

JESSICA
(starts to cry silently)
I know you cheat on me.

Tyler freezes. He turns around slowly.

They look at each other.

TYLER
I'm so-

She glares at him. He sinks into his chair.

A beat. He gestures at the ring.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Why?

She wipes away her tears and sets the ring on the table in front of him.

JESSICA
I'm giving you one more chance.

He looks at the ring blankly.

She sits at the other side of the table, watching him.

A beat.

Another beat.

Slowly, he turns away from the table, looking at the wall.

A beat.

Slowly, Jessica turns the other way, looking at the floor.

The ring sits between them, untouched.

FADE TO BLACK.