

not the first man who has suddenly found himself alone because mundane things have pulled his attention away.

(It's not a place he wants to remember or revisit and so he runs back quickly to now. The music stops abruptly as he shakes it off.)

But I will not burden you with this story. That man learned to appreciate the here and now and you should do the same.

BEN. I'm nothing like the guy in your story, I came here to be with May. I came here to do the things that guy didn't.

TOBY. You are funny, my friend.

BEN. Fuck you.

TOBY. Ah, I see.

BEN. Listen, if I need a life lesson from someone, I can guarantee it's not you. It's definitely not you.

TOBY. Because I seduced your wife.

BEN. Yes.

TOBY. But you see, it did not happen as you imagine. She seduced me. And she did it well. With her laugh, with her smile, with the way she looks right into my eyes and asks for what she wants.

(The percussive sounds return as BEN grapples at TOBY again and again TOBY subdues him, this time holding him down.)

I don't expect you to listen to me. Especially in this moment. But if you truly love May and she does not love you back, then why chase her? You will only grow to regret that choice. Instead, find another who will love you back and hold that woman close.

BEN. Can you please just shut your mouth?

TOBY. As you wish my friend. But you must take this opportunity to really see her. That is all.

(He rolls off of BEN, opens another blow pop, and puts it in his mouth. MAY returns with ice in a hand towel. She puts it on BEN's lip. He flinches.)

MAY. Toby, go do something somewhere else, please.

TOBY. He is a very stubborn man, May. And he thinks he loves you very much.

BEN. I do love her.

MAY. Toby, go.

TOBY. I know! I will get us all some flavored coffees. And I will make the flavor a surprise.

(He exits.)

MAY. I'm sorry.

BEN. That's the guy you're leaving me for?

MAY. No. Do you want some whiskey?

BEN. I can't believe you'd, ugh, "flavored coffee." You're leaving me for flavored coffee?

MAY. Don't be silly; I'm not leaving you for flavored coffee. I'll get some whiskey.

BEN. So you're not leaving me for him?

MAY. Is that all you can think about now?

BEN. I take time off from the office and show up here to surprise you because you seemed genuinely disappointed to come by yourself and because I love you and you're here with another guy, yes that's all I can think about.

MAY. I don't want to be cruel, but that one-track mind might be one of the biggest reasons I am, in fact, leaving you.

BEN. You just said [that you're...]

MAY. [I'm not] leaving you for Toby. Toby is fun and sexy and sees the world in a very unusual way. And that's good for me right now. But I'm leaving you for me, Ben. And it's not your fault. Exactly. We didn't really know each other when we got married and now you've changed, and me too. That's a thing that happened. We both changed into people that don't fit anymore.

BEN. I haven't changed.

(MAY laughs.)

I have not changed.

MAY. Ben.

BEN. May.

MAY. Ben.

BEN. May.

MAY. Ben, stop that. You've stopped being adventurous, okay? We were only together because of being adventurous.

BEN. Adventurous.

MAY. And not in a teenage girl, "I need danger" way. But we're just so predictable now.

BEN. I'm not fucking predictable.

MAY. I knew you would say that, so I beg to differ. You go to work, you come home, and that's all. You allow yourself to be completely overtaken by the smallest distractions, you bury yourself in work so you don't have to come home, and I know you don't do it on purpose, but I do know why you do it even if you don't. It's because you're bored and you don't know how to just be with me anymore. And I'm no better. I wander around our house all day doing God knows what, doing nothing, but... definitely not thinking of you.

BEN. Fantastic. How am I supposed to know you're unhappy? No seriously, don't scoff at that, how am I supposed to know?

MAY. Ben, I carve little figurines out of soap. That's not a normal hobby, that's how anxious people in prison whittle away their time.

BEN. I thought it made you happy.

MAY. Believe me, I know you thought that.

(Pause.)

BEN. Happy anniversary.

MAY. Happy anniversary.

BEN. I shouldn't have come here.

MAY. Why? So you wouldn't have known? That might have been easier for now, but then I don't know how long it would've taken me to get up the courage to tell you.

BEN. You can tell me anything.

MAY. To get up the courage to hurt you.

BEN. Oh.

MAY. And all that time we would have continued to be strangers in a house [together.]

BEN. [Why are you] telling me all of this now?

MAY. Because you came here and saw me and because, okay, because I don't love you anymore, Ben.

(Pause.)

BEN. May, I don't know how to be alone. You know I don't know how to do that. That's not a reason to stay, that's a terrible reason to stay, but I don't know what to do, the house will be so empty if it's [only me.]

MAY. [I said I don't] love you anymore and you're thinking about the empty house. You'll have to find something else that can hold your attention because I don't and I don't feel like anything does anymore.

BEN. How long have you been, I don't want to know. How long have you wanted to, I don't want to know that either.

MAY. Good.

BEN. When I saw your face, how disappointed you were that I couldn't come on this trip, I hated myself for sending you off alone.

MAY. That wasn't disappointment. That's not the face I made.

BEN. I know you well enough at this point [to know...]

MAY. [Fine, fine, that] was disappointment. Happy? I was disappointed that you didn't tell me sooner because I didn't know if Toby would be available at the last minute to join me on the trip.

BEN. Glad it worked out.