

Sunset with a Stranger

written by

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INT. SUBWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

We open with a melancholic classical song by a string orchestra.

LUCY(25) sits on a subway as the world passes by in the windows behind her. She wears scrubs and looks completely exhausted.

EXT. STREETS OF BOSTON - LATE AFTERNOON

Cut to a telephoto shot of Lucy walking on a crowded street at rush hour. She is surrounded by people but the lens compression casts everyone else out of focus.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LATE AFTERNOON

Lucy climbs up the stairs/elevator to her apartment, walks up to the door and turns the key.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

The music fades as the door opens and Lucy is face to face with TOM(26).

TOM

Surprise!

Tom is dressed formally in matching slacks and a dress shirt. He has put an effort into his appearance for this night.

LUCY

Jesus! Don't do that!

TOM

Sorry... Are you coming in?

Lucy does and Tom shuts the door. She takes a few steps up to the living room table which Tom has eloquently set and placed a pasta dish in the center.

TOM (CONT'D)

I made dinner. Thought it would be a nice surprise.

LUCY

Okay.

TOM

Okay?

LUCY

No um- sorry. Thank you. It's nice.

Tom pulls out Lucy's chair.

TOM

Here, sit.

She sits and he opens a bottle of wine. He pours her glass and does the same for himself before sitting down.

They dish themselves up and begin eating in silence for a few beats.

TOM (CONT'D)

So, how was work?

LUCY

Long. I'm tired.

TOM

Yeah. I can tell. I mean you don't look tired. You look great. You just seem kind of rattled.

LUCY

Yeah well...

Beat. We hear the clinks of silverware over this awkward silence.

Tom takes a deep breath and a deeper swig of wine. He gets out of his seat and walks over to give Lucy a shoulder massage.

TOM

This is nice, right? I can't remember the last time we had a romantic dinner like this.

LUCY

Yeah. It's nice.

TOM

It's romantic, that's what it is.

LUCY

You said that already.

TOM

Well, maybe I'm feeling romantic tonight.

LUCY

Hm.

Tom stops rubbing her shoulders.

TOM

What?

LUCY

Nothing. I'm just tired.

Tom scoffs.

TOM

You're always tired.

Tom walks into the kitchen, frustrated. Lucy turns.

LUCY

What's that supposed to mean?

TOM

I don't know.

LUCY

No, what?

TOM

...it's just been a while... Since we've, you know.

LUCY

Oh. Well, I don't know, Tom. I'm just not ready yet.

TOM

I know, and I get that. I just think- well, when do you think you will be ready?

LUCY

I don't know.

Beat. Tom walks back into the living room and kneels down so they're on equal levels.

TOM

I just think maybe- I know you're hurting. And I am too. But maybe this would be good for us right? To try again?

LUCY
(Turns away)
Jesus, Tom. Is that what this is?

TOM
What?

LUCY
You really want to try again?

TOM
Well, can we at least talk about
it?

Beat.

Lucy stands and takes a few steps forward. Tom stands too.

LUCY
We can't just replace him.

TOM
I don't want to replace him.

Beat.

LUCY
I don't think we're ready.

Tom takes a step forward.

TOM
I'm ready.

LUCY
(Bluntly) I don't think you are.
Beat.

TOM
Why would you say that?

LUCY
Because we're not. We can't even
acknowledge what happened. I mean,
we go to counseling, and we listen.
But we don't even talk about it
anymore. I don't know, maybe it's
easier that way.

TOM
That's not fair.

Tom takes a couple steps closer.

TOM (CONT'D)

Nothing about this is easy, okay?
I'm in pain too. Maybe you don't
see that. Maybe I try to hide it,
but I am... I just think... we need
to do something. I don't know what.
But, we need a change. Please.

Beat. Tom slowly walks to the table and sits, defeated.

LUCY

I can't go through it again. I'm
sorry. I just can't.

Lucy looks at Tom who stares at the table. After a long
pause, she walks to the door and leaves the apartment.

Tom sits alone at the table continuing to stare at the same
spot on the table. He jumps at the sound of the door
slamming.

EXT. ESPLANADE - SUNSET

Lucy walks alongside the water. The sun is about to set and
the sky is an array of oranges and yellows. The wind blows
against her and she wraps her arms around herself. She stops
to look out over the water.

Lucy looks small on the path as people pass her. She begins
to cry and wipes the tear that falls making her way over to
the nearest bench.

Lucy brings her knees up to her chest and stares at the
ground, unmoving, deep in thought.

Suddenly, a woman (20) sits on the other end of the bench
with her phone to her ear. She is laughing at something the
person on the line said.

WOMAN

(Laughing)

So, anyways are you excited? It
should be any day now.

Lucy perks up, slightly sniffing as she lifts her head to
look forward.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

No, don't say that you're just
nervous.

Beat. The woman listens. Her face contorts into a concerned
look.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

C'mon Josh, you know mom and dad were pretty far from perfect. But we turned out alright, right? Maybe that's just what makes us, us, ya know? You're gonna be just fine. And hey, I can't wait to be an aunt, so if you really mess up she can always come tell me just how much you suck-I'm kidding I'm kidding.

Lucy listens to the conversation next to her intently. Her gaze softening as the woman talks.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Alright, I really should let you get going. You better text me when it's baby time. You hear me?

Beat.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

(smiling)

Yeah, that's what I thought. Alright, love ya too. Talk soon.

The woman hangs up the phone and looks forward at the sunset as it nearly crosses behind skyline. After some thought, Lucy turns.

LUCY

Congrats.

WOMAN

(Startled) Oh, thanks.
LUCY

Sorry, I don't mean to eavesdrop. But congrats.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Beat.

LUCY

Is he scared?

WOMAN

(Laughs) Oh god, yes. But, that's part of it, right?
Lucy gives a small nod and turns away.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
It's beautiful isn't it?

LUCY
Hmm?

A soft smile graces the face of the woman as she gestures the the Boston skyline.

WOMAN
The sunset. It's beautiful right?

Lucy looks back at the sunset tears filling her eyes once more and a small smile that doesn't quite reach her eyes.

LUCY
Yeah, I guess it is.

Lucy and the woman sit looking forward out at the view as the sun finally sets.