

AFTER EVER AFTER

Written by

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FADE IN:

1

INT. LIVINGROOM - MORNING

1

MAN (50's, tired-looking) sits on the couch in his ratty bathrobe and slippers alternately reading the paper and fingering his phone. The rest of the paper, a half-read book, an empty breakfast plate, a cup of coffee surround him.

CAMERA PULLS OUT SLOWLY

A blurry figure of WOMAN (40's, blurry) buzzes around behind him.

MAN (V.O.)
I don't understand.

WOMAN (V.O.)
What do you mean?

MAN (V.O.)
I don't understand.

She pauses behind him briefly. She picks up his plate and exits. He waves thanks to her without looking up.

WOMAN (V.O.)
I feel...

MAN (V.O.)
Stop saying that. Stop saying that,
"I feel..." Just talk to me.

Woman continues to buzz around, getting ready for her day. Picks stuff up, readies her purse/bag, she leans to kiss him.

WOMAN (V.O.)
What do you want me to say?

Man gives her a peck sideways. Woman exits the house.

2

INT. LIVINGROOM - AFTERNOON

2

Woman reenters still blurry. Man is still in his original position. More paper near him. Another dish. He reads a book.

MAN (V.O.)
Ok. I hear you. I hear that you're
frustrated.

Woman comes and sits near him.

WOMAN (V.O.)
Stop patronizing me.

He looks up from his book hiding his annoyance at being disturbed mid-chapter.

MAN (V.O.)
I'm not patronizing you. I want you
to feel heard.

He puts his hand on her leg and assumes his "listening" face.

MAN (V.O.)
(echoing the V.O.)
I hear that you are looking for me
to change.

WOMAN (V.O.)
(echoing V.O.)
It's not...

MAN (V.O.)
(echoing V.O.)
Fine. I hear that you aren't happy
with the way things are. That you
need more. Fair?

He nods at her and pats her thigh.

WOMAN (V.O.)
(echoing VO)
You're talking to me like I'm a
child.

MAN (V.O.)
(echoing VO)
No, I'm not.

She rises. Man returns to his book.

3

INT. LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

3

Woman enters, pauses, arms akimbo, clears away some clutter, dinner plates. She exits.

WOMAN (V.O.)
I *feel* like you're...

MAN (V.O.)
Look, my voice is even. I'm
speaking quietly. We are at the
same level. We are facing each
other.

Woman reenters in something very sexy and sits down next to Man. He look up and he kisses her for a minute. He scoops her legs up and over his and curls her body against his. He tucks her head under his chin and kisses her temple.

MAN (V.O.)
My arms arm relaxed, uncrossed, my
legs are uncrossed. I'm open.

Now tidily cuddled he happily closes his eyes and falls asleep. Woman sighs and stirs. He pats her leg as she goes.

MAN (V.O.)
You're getting a little upset.

4 INT. LIVINGROOM - DAY

4

Woman in nearly perpetual motion around Man.

WOMAN (V.O.)
Maybe. So?

Man thumbs his book. Checks his phone.

MAN (V.O.)
I don't think we're going to
accomplish anything until you're
calmer.

Around him piles of clutter accumulate. Woman clears them away, they re-accumulate. She goes to clear a pile of papers and books and he balks. He's using that stuff.

5 INT. LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

5

Woman enters. Man is paying bills. She sits next to him.

WOMAN (V.O.)
(echoing VO)
I'm perfectly rational.

He frowns because she's sat on some of the papers.

MAN (V.O.)
(echoing VO)
Ok...

WOMAN (V.O.)
(echoing VO)
We're in trouble and I'm so sad.
(MORE)

WOMAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I'm so frustrated that we have to
have this talk again. One more
time.

He's listening. Really listening.

MAN (V.O.)
(echoing VO)
I hear you. I do. And you're right.
I've been in a rut. A funk and it's
time that I do something about it.
That I lead. That I lead us. You
deserve better.

6 INT. LIVINGROOM - MORNING

6

Woman is ready to leave. Man is on the couch, computer on
lap, playing a game on his phone.

MAN (V.O.)
Everything's going to be fine,
babe. It'll be different. Trust me.

She pauses for a longer moment before exiting. He blows her a
kiss over his shoulder without looking up from his game.

7 INT. LIVINGROOM - AFTERNOON

7

Same. Woman enters, pauses, picks up a pile of papers from
the couch and sits.

WOMAN (V.O.)
You mean it? I'm really...

She's got the same look from before. Man reaches over and
pats her leg without looking up from his computer.

MAN (V.O.)
I know. For real. Sushi? You look
thin. Italian.

Woman waits. Man doesn't look up.

Woman removes her wedding ring and puts it on the coffee
table near him. She rises, picks up a packed weekend bag and
exits.

After a long beat Man reaches for his coffee and comes away
with his wife's discarded wedding ring. He jumps up and runs
out the door.

The light from the open door washes everything out.

WHITE OUT.

WHITE IN.

8 INT. LIVINGROOM - EVENING

8

CAMERA PUSHES IN SLOWLY

Woman sits on the couch in the same position Man had been in. The room is extremely tidy. She looks defeated.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Yes, it's fine. Things are fine.

Man enters with a sandwich. He's clean, shaved, perky. He hands it to Woman.

MAN (V.O.)

Better, right? Better. Did I tell you I've dug out my novel?

She's not wearing her ring. She coaxes a smile.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Yes, that sounds great. I'm excited for you.

He buzzes the background out of focus the way Woman was.

9 INT. LIVINGROOM - AFTERNOON

9

Man enters and is a blur of coming home routine: hanging jacket, putting down messenger bag, going through mail. Woman is sitting on the couch.

MAN (V.O.)

I've got it all worked out and, wait...

10 INT. LIVINGROOM - MORNING

10

Woman takes the last sip from her coffee. She's wearing her wedding ring.

MAN (V.O.)

(echoing VO)

I'll get that for you.

Man takes her coffee cup, plants a kiss on her cheek and heads to the kitchen.

11 INT. LIVINGROOM - EVENING 11

Man enters with a gym bag. Buzzes around. Woman sits on the couch. No ring.

MAN (V.O.)
I think it's got real potential.
Legs.

WOMAN (V.O.)
I agree. It's great.

12 INT. LIVINGROOM - AFTERNOON 12

Man is tidying up, collecting papers. He carries a load of laundry past. He buzzes around more. Ring.

MAN (V.O.)
I feel so good. I feel awake. I
want to thank you for waking me up.

13 INT. LIVINGROOM - NIGHT 13

Woman is holding an untouched plate of food. On her lap are pages from Man's novel. Man enters expectantly. No ring.

MAN (V.O.)
(echoing VO)
Finished with that?

WOMAN (V.O.)
(echoing VO)
Yes, I think so. I'm not very
hungry.

Man exits with plate, reenters and sits next to her.

WOMAN (V.O.)
(echoing VO)
You're really so very talented.

He picks up one of her feet and starts to rub it gently.

WOMAN (V.O.)
It's wonderful to see you so
enthusiastic. It's been a long
time.

MAN (V.O.)

That's sweet of you to say. You are an amazing woman. Love of my life. I'm a lucky man. I see that.

MAN (V.O.)

(echoing VO)

Do you think..? Has there been any change in..?

MAN (V.O.)

No?

WOMAN (V.O.)

(echoing VO)

I'm really sorry, but no.

WOMAN (V.O.)

I just don't feel that way for you.

MAN (V.O.)

(echoing VO)

Do you think you might? Ever again?

WOMAN (V.O.)

(echoing VO)

I don't know.

WOMAN (V.O.)

No.

Man puts down her foot and joins her on the couch. He puts his arm around her shoulder.

MAN (V.O.)

Well, you know. Passion comes and goes. It's natural. Happens to a lot of couples.

MAN (V.O.)

(echoing VO)

Don't worry. It's fine. It'll all be fine. I love you, babe.

Woman leans into his chest and lets him hold her.

WOMAN (V.O.)

(echoing VO)

You're a very good man.

FADE TO BLACK.