

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

INT. LOUNGE ROOM- SUNSET

Nicky and Rachel sit across the room from one another, both equally frustrated. It's their wedding night, and they both just stormed away from the altar.

RACHEL

Why'd you even propose to me then? I've always said I didn't want to get married, and all it took was you finding out that your parents' marriage isn't perfect. I could've told you that an hour into knowing them, Nicky. Your mother is lovely, yes, but she's also a narcissist. And your father is a broken romantic who's looking for something to stuff the rest of himself into. He's completely consumed by her, and he's still not enough for her. So they're both empty, and it's depressing to watch.

Nicky stands, taking off his blazer and pacing the room.

NICKY

Thanks, Rachel. Thanks. Thank you for that.

RACHEL

So, I guess we both don't wanna end up like your parents.

NICKY

And, just to be clear in that scenario, I'm the romantic, and you're the narcissist.

RACHEL

Oh. That's nice. Thanks.

NICKY

That does make sense, actually because our whole relationship revolves around you. I'm always reassuring you, even when there's literally nothing going on! Because you think something's always out to get you, so I'm always tiptoeing around your sensitivities because you can't handle anything.

RACHEL

Okay. I get it. I get it, Nicky.

NICKY

Every little thing is an exhausting puzzle with you. Nothing is easy. You're a really hard person to love!

RACHEL

I know! Okay? I know. Is that what you want to hear?

NICKY

When I proposed, why'd you say yes?

RACHEL

Because I knew how much it meant to you, and I...I loved you, and...

NICKY

You loved me? Do you not love me anymore?

RACHEL

Yes, Nicky, of course I love you still, okay? And one of the things that I love the most about you is that you are a rock, you are stable, and you don't do things like dump me at the altar.

NICKY

I wasn't breaking up with you! I was saving us!

RACHEL

Oh, good. Yeah. Do you think it worked? If you really wanted to save us, you would have said "I do" out there while I had everything under control. I went through a lot to get up there and say yes with confidence. And if you don't marry me by sundown, the curse spreads to you and your family. So, actually, I was saving you.

NICKY

Oh my God, Rachel. What?

RACHEL

Why are you acting shocked?

NICKY

You've been extra on edge since we got here. And then you told me something bad was gonna happen.

(MORE)

NICKY (cont'd)

And then you started talking about curses. So can't you see why it made sense to me that you wouldn't want-

RACHEL

Nicky, stop. Do you not believe in the curse?

NICKY

Marriage is the curse. I'm absolving us from that.

RACHEL

No, the curse is the curse. The absolution was us getting married. Do you think that I, like, made this up?

NICKY

I don't think you made it up. I think both of us have been cursed in our own ways by the systems that raised us.

RACHEL

Oh my God.

NICKY

And by not getting married, we are fixing that.

RACHEL

So when I say that I will die if you and I are not soulmates, you don't believe me?

A beat.

NICKY

Yeah, I don't think that would happen.

RACHEL

You literally just told me you believe me. Right before I walked down the aisle. This is crazy.

Rachel heads for the door.

NICKY

Wait, wait. Hold on...

Nicky grabs Rachel's arm, stopping her.

NICKY (cont'd)
I didn't mean for it to get like
this. I'm sorry.

RACHEL
I put my confidence in us because I
thought that you saw me! I thought
that we saw each other!

NICKY
You don't accept it when I don't
share your exact perspective! I can't
change what I believe in!

RACHEL
But you can't believe me!

NICKY
Rachel, I don't believe in
supernatural shit or, like, cosmic
retribution or curses. You knew this
about me. This isn't new information.

RACHEL
Okay, well I don't believe in fucking
aliens, but if you told me, with
certainty, that you saw a fucking
alien, I would believe you.

NICKY
I don't know what you want me to do.

RACHEL
When you love someone, Nicky, what
you do is you believe them. That's
what trust is. And you don't do that
for me. You chose a version of me a
long time ago, and then you get
frustrated when I'm not it, and you
know what? It's bad, Nicky. It's a
bad fucking quality, because you
have made it impossible, impossible
for me to exist!

NICKY
Can we just...Can we just go back to,
like, four hours ago? Please.

She shakes her head no.