

"The Healing"

by
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FADE IN:

1 INT. BACKYARD - EVENING (FLASHBACK).

We open on a couple sitting on a blanket in the grass. A light wind blows through the trees, ruffling their clothes and hair.

They stare upwards, enjoying the breeze with closed eyes.

The woman (ANGIE) turns to her husband (MORGAN) with a smile.

ANGIE

This reminds me of old times.
Sitting out here. Just the two
of us.

MORGAN looks to her.

ANGIE

You ever think back to how
things used to be?

MORGAN shrugs.

ANGIE

When we used to live at the old
house.

MORGAN

Oh, when we were broke all the
time and ate most of our meals
from Chef Boyardee cans?

ANGIE laughs and nudges him with her elbow.

ANGIE

When all we had in the world was
each other. Simpler times.

MORGAN

We couldn't even afford a decent
can opener to open those cans of
Spaghetti-O's.

ANGIE

You had to use a screwdriver.

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED

MORGAN
It worked didn't it?

They both look at each other and smile.

ANGIE
Remember the garden we had at
the old house? I loved that
garden.

MORGAN
So did the deer. [You never grew
anything they didn't like.]

ANGIE ignores him and continues to reminisce.

ANGIE
If we are able to choose our own
heaven, that would be it for me.

Beat.

MORGAN
(Puzzled.)
The garden?

ANGIE nods.

ANGIE
What? You got something better?

MORGAN
Maybe I do.

ANGIE
You'd want a living room with a
big-screen TV hooked up to
surround sound and a plush
reclining chair. How is that
better?

MORGAN
There would also be beer.

ANGIE slaps him. MORGAN laughs. They settle and hold
each other in the light passing breeze.

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MORGAN
You're nervous about the morning.

ANGIE
I'm trying not to be.

MORGAN nudges her softly.

MORGAN
I'm sure the two bottles of Red
Vino helped.

Both smile.

ANGIE
I love you.

MORGAN
I love you too.

They settle onto their backs, laying down to look up at the sky. ANGIE rolls over so she is facing her husband.

ANGIE
Say it to me again.

MORGAN
I love you Angie.

She smiles.

ANGIE
You have honest eyes. They
always give you away.

MORGAN
And...?

Beat.

ANGIE
You do love me.

MORGAN pulls her close and as she closes her eyes, he plants a soft kiss on her closed eyelids.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. ROAD - DAY.

MORGAN opens his eyes. He's sitting against the base of a hill ten feet from a two-lane country road. Dusting himself off as he stands, he looks towards only one direction and begins to walk.

CUT TO:

3 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK).

MORGAN wakes up suddenly in a swirl of bed sheets and covers. Obviously he wasn't sleeping well. He looks to the other side of the bed and discovers it's empty.

CUT TO:

4 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK).

MORGAN quietly descends the stairs. Sitting in a plush reclining chair is ANGIE. She looks to be in a trance, sitting quietly, staring.

MORGAN kneels down in front of her on the floor.

MORGAN
What's the matter?

She doesn't respond.

MORGAN
Angie?

There's a slight flicker of response from her eyes.

MORGAN
What's wrong?

ANGIE
What would you do if you lost me?

Beat.

ANGIE
They say that sometimes we leave
lost things to be found. The
cliche is that you would never
get dressed ever again, hiding
out in the house. You'd end up
(MORE)

CONTINUED

4 CONTINUED

ANGIE (cont'd)
growing a long, shaggy beard,
and never go anywhere. You'd
never speak to anyone. You'd
just mourn.

Beat.

MORGAN
Angie...

ANGIE
But real people don't do those
things. What would you do if you
lost me?

Beat.

MORGAN
I'd walk.

She seems puzzled by his answer.

MORGAN
I wouldn't know what to do
without you. I'd go crazy being
alone. Everything in this house,
even its smell would be a
reminder of you. I couldn't
stay... I'd have to leave. I
would walk.

ANGIE
Where would you go?

Beat.

MORGAN
We're going to make it through
this. We didn't catch it early
enough, but the doctors were
very optimistic...
(Beat.)
Besides, you can't leave me...
(Beat.)
We both know how horrible I look
in a beard.

CONTINUED

4 CONTINUED

ANGIE smiles and gets [playfully] mad that he broke her sad expression. She even laughs a little.

ANGIE
You do look pretty bad with a beard!

MORGAN feigns being offended for a moment, then they both go quiet.

MORGAN
We're going to get through this.

She leans forward.

ANGIE
I can see it in your eyes.

MORGAN
And...?

She doesn't say anything. She reaches out for him and they embrace, holding each other in the silence of the house.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. ROAD - DAY.

Continuing to walk, MORGAN plays with his wedding ring. He twists it on his finger as he stares ahead. We start to see the weight of sorrow he carries.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. PORCH - LATE DAY (FLASHBACK).

A man (PAUL) sits on the steps of a back porch. A vehicle pulls into the driveway and MORGAN exits.

PAUL looks up.

MORGAN
Paul?

PAUL
I've been trying to call you.

CONTINUED

6 CONTINUED

MORGAN

My cell died just before I left work. I've had it on the past few nights waiting for the hospital to call with any news. I tried to race home so I could charge it... The damn car charger wouldn't-

PAUL

Morgan...

Beat.

MORGAN

What's happened?

PAUL wipes the tears from his eyes.

MORGAN

No, Paul...

PAUL

Angie passed. I'm so sorry.

MORGAN

When?

PAUL

It happened about half-an-hour ago. I've been trying to call you on your cell, at work, at home. All I could think to do was come and find you.

MORGAN finds his world completely shattered. Though his lips tremble, no words come out.

PAUL

Morgan...

Placing a hand over his mouth, MORGAN becomes so overwhelmed with emotion that he steps back and goes to the ground.

PAUL gets off the steps and kneels next to him in the grass. The two hold each other and cry.

CONTINUED

6 CONTINUED

CUT TO:

7 EXT. ROAD - DAY.

MORGAN gets caught up in his memories. He stops on his walk and begins to cry, crumbling on the side of the road.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. BACKYARD - LATE DAY (FLASHBACK).

PAUL and MORGAN sit in the grass, both in suits.

PAUL

It was a lovely funeral. I know Angie was there, listening to everything you said.

Beat.

MORGAN

I can't believe I never got to see her one last time.

PAUL

She asked about you.

MORGAN

Never got to say how much I loved her.

PAUL

She knew.

MORGAN

Never got to kiss her eyes one final time.

Beat.

PAUL

Don't do this to yourself Morgan. Don't blame yourself. You had no more control over it than she did.

MORGAN looks to PAUL.

CONTINUED

8 CONTINUED

MORGAN
I'm sorry about your sister.

Beat.

PAUL
I'm sorry about your wife.

A breeze passes over them.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. ROAD - DAY.

MORGAN begins to pull himself together. He reaches to grab at anything to help himself to his feet. Once upright, he forces himself to take steps forward.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. BACKYARD - LATE DAY (FLASHBACK).

A continuation from the previous FLASHBACK.

MORGAN
I remember the night before we found out she had cancer.
(Beat.)
She asked me if I thought of our lives back when we only had each other.
(Beat.)
She talked about the old home...

MORGAN ponders on his words. PAUL looks to him. MORGAN stands up.

PAUL
Where are you going?

MORGAN
For a walk.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. HOUSE - DAY.

MORGAN walks up to an aged house. It appears abandoned.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED

CUT TO:

12 EXT. BACKYARD - LATE DAY (FLASHBACK).

PAUL stands up.

PAUL
A walk? To where?

MORGAN stops briefly.

MORGAN
We had this garden out in the
back... It was her heaven.
(Beat.)
She once told me... sometimes we
leave lost things to be found...

CUT TO:

13 EXT. GARDEN - DAY.

MORGAN follows the length of the house. When he emerges
in the backyard we see a beautiful garden.

MORGAN looks around. He's searching.

MORGAN turns and finds what he's been looking for...
what he's been walking for...

ANGIE stands in the midst of the garden. She awaits him
with a smile. MORGAN stands still for a moment in awe.
Then he takes slow steps toward her. He puts a hand up,
eager to touch the side of her face... but is she real?
He hesitates.

ANGIE takes his hand and places it to her cheek. He can
feel her.

They embrace.

He kisses her closed eyes and whispers that he loves
her. They hold each other until he is finally ready to
let go. As they separate, his finger tips leave hers and
she fades away, leaving him in the garden, in her heaven.

FADE TO BLACK.