

## 37. The End

*(We are in a living room. #1 is laying back on the couch. There is a knock on the door.)*

**#2:** *(Off-stage)* It's me. Open up.

**#1:** It's open. Come in. *(#2 enters and walks over to the couch.)*  
Hi.

**#2:** Hi?! It's two o'clock in the morning and all you can say is, "Hi!"

**#1:** Well, I thought I'd start off with single words, see how it goes and work my way up to full sentences. *(#2 is clearly not amused. Crosses to the door and starts to leave.)* Where are you going?

**#2:** Home!

**#1:** No. Stay with me awhile.

**#2:** *(Turns.)* Why are you doing this to me?

**#1:** What?

**#2:** You call me up hysterical, and it turns out to be the same old stuff!

**#1:** Did it ever occur to you that I miss you and I'm not handling all this too well?

**#2:** That's not my problem.

**#1:** Then whose is it?

**#2:** Yours.

**#1:** I'm not the one who ran out on you.

**#2:** Oh, here we go again. We cannot keep doing repeat performances of this scene.

**#1:** Yes, we can because we haven't gotten it right.

**#2:** What haven't we gotten right? What haven't we discussed at least one hundred times?

**#1:** The why!

**#2:** No! We have discussed the why. You just refuse to accept it.

**#1:** Then explain it to me one more time.

**#2:** What's the point?

**#1:** Because all you ever say is, "It wasn't working." That isn't good enough.

**#2:** Nothing will be. Tell me, what do you want me to say? You want a minute-by-minute analysis of our relationship?

**#1:** No! I just want to know how we can be together one day and not the next.

**#2:** It didn't happen overnight and you know it!

**#1:** Then how did it happen?

**#2:** I don't know! *(Pause)* Do you think everything was perfect between us?

**#1:** No. We had our problems. I know that, but I wouldn't give up on us without trying to save what we had.

**#2:** That's just it. We didn't have anything anymore. Why live like that? It was no good for me OR you.

**#1:** So you left for my own good. Thank you for being so unselfish.

**#2:** I didn't say that. I left for our own good.

**#1:** I still love you. Don't you love me?

**#2:** Stop! Don't do this.

**#1:** TELL ME!

**#2:** No! I don't! *(Pause)* Not anymore.

**#1:** When did you stop?

**#2:** What difference does it make?

**#1:** I have to know.

**#2:** Fine. A year ago last July 18th. OK? Does that make it better now?

**#1:** Go to hell!

**#2:** *(Starts to exit, stops at the door and turns back to #1.)* You know, you're under some misconception that this is easy for me. What I did – was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life. When I started feeling it slip away, I did everything I could to stop it.

**#1:** Then why didn't you?

**#2:** Because a relationship is not like a cold. When it's not

well you can't give it an aspirin and wait for it to get better.

- #1: Then you should have talked to me then.
- #2: I know that, but I wanted to make sure I knew what I felt before we discussed it. When I was sure, I did talk to you.
- #1: You didn't talk. You left.
- #2: I talked. But you didn't understand. No, you wouldn't understand.
- #1: Oh, I understood. Look, I am not some obsessive psycho. Our relationship was very important to me and worth fighting for. Yes, you had problems with commitment, but it seemed like we we had gotten through those, so you'll excuse me if I was a little shocked when you bailed at the first difficulty.
- #2: It wasn't the first difficulty and I didn't bail..
- #1: Of course you did. Admit it.
- #2: No! It was my longest relationship ever. So how dare you say I "just" bailed out. Maybe if you stepped back and took an honest look you'd see the real reason why you won't let go.
- #1: And that is?
- #2: You're relying on something that got comfortable and...and convenient. You were so content to always have someone to go to the movies with, or share the holidays with that you overlooked the fact that there was nothing else, anymore. I didn't want a drinking buddy anymore. I wanted to move forward and we weren't.
- #1: *(Finally gets it. Pause)* I feel so stupid.
- #2: Come on, don't say that...
- #1: No, it's not me. It's you. We never had a chance.
- #2: What are you talking about?
- #1: If you see comfort and convenience as a detriment, then you're the one who doesn't get it.
- #2: Meaning?
- #1: Those are the best parts of being together. Not the movies

or holidays, but the comfort of having someone there who'll listen to you. The convenience of being in love with your best friend. The comfort of knowing someone will hold you...just because, and the convenience of sharing your life. In the whole scheme, the rest is all garbage and you don't see that, do you?

- #2: I...don't agree.
- #1: Of course you don't.
- #2: If you're done, can I go now?
- #1: Yeah, you can.
- #2: *(Heads for the door, stops, but doesn't turn around.)* I do care about you, you know.
- #1: No, you don't. You care about you, and that's the real tragedy, isn't it?  
*(#2 exits. #1 watches.)*