

LETTING GO

Written by

Davis DuBose-Marler

Orange, California

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX HALLWAY - DAY

KATIE (24, girl next door type) stands in front of an apartment, whistling to herself. She has a duffel bag.

No one is around. She experimentally reaches under the welcome mat. Nothing. Next, the potted plant.

Bingo. A key.

MILO (25, gangly and sheepish) comes down the hallway. He holds a huge teddy bear and a bouquet of roses.

They see each other and freeze.

KATIE

Morning!

She moves out of the way to let him pass, but he doesn't move.

MILO

Were you gonna... go in?

KATIE

Oh, yeah.

Milo looks at the number on the apartment. It reads #825.

MILO

Funny. I was gonna drop these things off for a friend. Pretty sure I got the apartment number right.

KATIE

Well, I'll just head in first.

MILO (CONT'D)

I'm just gonna run in for a minute.

They both jostle for the door. Katie has almost closed the door behind her when Milo shoves the teddybear into the opening.

INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - APARTMENT - DAY

Katie closes the door and the teddybear's head pops off.

Sniffles can be heard from Milo.

Katie opens it, finding Milo cradling the decapitated stuffy and sitting on the floor.

KATIE

Look. I'm not supposed to be here,
but I have something I need to do.
So if you could just leave and come
back in, say, thirty minutes then
that would be great.

MILO

(Overcome with emotion)
You don't understand. This means
everything to me.

She begins to shut the door again.

MILO (CONT'D)

Please, just let me do this for
Sarah and then I'll go.

She stops.

KATIE

Did you just say Sarah? Sarah
Mills?

He nods.

KATIE (CONT'D)

She's dating my boyf--my ex-
boyfriend.

MILO

Wait. You're Dave's ex? This guy?

He holds up his phone.

CLOSE UP of a photo of Sarah and Dave together, smiling.

MILO (CONT'D)

I look at this photo to push
myself. I wanna be better for her.
I wanna be her Dave.

He sobs.

KATIE

It would be better if you just came
later. I'm not trying to watch you
get your ex back.

MILO

How do you even know that's what
I'm here for?!

KATIE

Whatever you're trying to do? It's a lost cause. At least what I'm doing is gonna accomplish something.

MILO

I'm not going anywhere.

KATIE

Neither am I.

Milo looks around.

MILO

It looked so different on Facebook.

KATIE

Maybe they redecorated.

Milo begins scattering rose petals around the room as Katie scoffs.

MILO

What.

KATIE

I just think it's been done before.

MILO

Well, what would you suggest.

KATIE

Don't look at me.

She holds up a bag of moldy compost in one hand, and a bag of fish heads in the other.

MILO

What the hell is that for?!

KATIE

I've been marinating these babies for so long I don't even smell them anymore.

MILO

You're insane. You know that?

KATIE

I'm not taking that from someone who chained himself to his ex's car.

MILO
So we're stalking now, huh? I did
my research too, and you're not
exactly one to talk, Miss
restraining order.

Katie slaps the fishy bag onto the floor.

KATIE
That was revoked!

INT. BEDROOM - APARTMENT - DAY

Katie stuffs handfuls of compost into pillow cases.

Milo enters, holding streamers and a "Take Me Back" banner.

MILO
Can you do that in another room?

KATIE
Nope. This is where the magic
happens.

Milo leaves.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Thought so. Pushover.

He returns with a chair.

MILO
Do you think they have tape?

KATIE
Um...

MILO
I'll just look myself.

He starts rummaging through drawers. He takes out a Hitachi
wand.

KATIE
Ew, why would you pick that up?!

Milo starts crying again.

MILO
I've never seen this in my life.
She replaced the one I gave her,
just like she replaced me...

He cradles the Hitachi and sobs.

Katie smears her dirty hands clean on the sheets and then rummages in the drawer.

KATIE

Cheer up. I'm sure she still has it somewhere, lots of girls have more than one. (Pause) Is this what you were looking for?

She holds up a tiny bullet vibrator, 3 inches big. He smiles nostalgically.

MILO

At least she still thinks about me.

Katie keeps digging.

KATIE

Hold up, what is this?

Katie pulls out a ring box. Inside are two wedding rings.

KATIE (CONT'D)

(Bewildered)

What...? Dave doesn't even believe in marriage before 45.

MILO

Sarah said no to all five of my proposals. Even the one that went viral. This can't be real.

They sit in silence.

KATIE

Do we crash the wedding?

MILO

No, too desperate.

KATIE

This doesn't change anything. It happens to everyone, eventually.

MILO

I'm not going to give up on her. The ring isn't on her finger yet.

KATIE

That's just sad, man.

MILO
You know what's sad? Your whole
Kill Bill thing.

KATIE
At least I know how to be angry.

MILO
Hand me that.

KATIE
What, the compost?

MILO
I wanna do what you're doing. I can
be angry too.

KATIE
I don't think that's a good idea.
You're in shock.

MILO
You were right. I don't know how to
be angry. But these rings make me
feel something, and I can't just do
nothing.

KATIE
Forget I said anything, then.

MILO
No. Sarah can... go to Hell!

Milo picks up the compost and dumps it on the white duvet.

KATIE
They're back from pilates in less
than an hour.

MILO
Did you hack into their stupid
online planner too?

KATIE
Yes, but--

MILO
So come on! You've gotten this far,
why stop now?

KATIE
Are you sure this is what you
really want?

Milo tosses the ring box from hand to hand.

MILO
Want me to show you?

He walks out of the room. We can hear a toilet FLUSH and SPUTTER. Milo returns, empty-handed.

MILO (CONT'D)
Now do you believe me?

KATIE
(Reluctant)
You could've just said you were sure, but okay. Go get my duffel bag.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

SONG: WEST COAST by FIDLAR plays over montage.

INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

- A) Milo tears down streamers.
- B) Katie opens a bottle of wine and chugs it.
- C) Milo takes the teddybear stuffing and starts throwing it around the room.
- D) Katie pours red wine all over the white carpet.
- E) Milo draws obscene stick figures on the walls.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Water floods out from under the door. Toilet GURGLING can be heard.

INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

F) Milo holds his nose while he pours fish under the couch cushions.

END MONTAGE/SONG ENDS

MILO
What's that face for?

KATIE

I don't know. I thought this would make me feel better.

MILO

I feel great!

He throws a wet paper towel onto the ceiling. It sticks.

MILO (CONT'D)

You're being a bummer. Help me put the vibrator inside the teddybear head. I promise it'll make you feel better.

KATIE

He made me feel so crazy for wanting to get married. Like it was a big ask.

MILO

It's not your fault. They fucked us over.

KATIE

I don't know. Maybe it was us. Maybe we were the problem.

MILO

Don't say that. Pass me the lighter instead.

KATIE

No. I'm going to start cleaning up. I was dumb for coming here. I was even more stupid for letting you help me make this mess. I'm gonna go home.

MILO

So now you have a conscience?

KATIE

I guess so.

MILO

I didn't really flush the rings, you know.

KATIE

What? Then what was all that noise?

He takes the rings out of his pocket.

MILO

I flushed the box. I would never mess up her life like that.

We see the apartment: decimated, floor wet with wine and toilet water, fish heads sticking out of every pillow.

KATIE

You did the right thing.

MILO

I felt the same as you at first, seeing those rings. But now I feel like I get why Sarah broke up with me. I'm a mess.

KATIE

Don't say that, I'M the mess. I've been trying to ruin Dave's life for way too long. I'm basically a stalker.

MILO

Hey, you broke into one online planner. So you found their apartment number? You're just great at finding out information they basically told you themselves.

KATIE

Maybe you're right. Sorry I made fun of you for all your romantic ideas. I thought they were kind of sweet. In a corny way.

Both kneel to grab the vibrator off the floor. It shudders. Their hands touch. Milo turns it off.

MILO

Sorry.

KATIE

No, that was on me.

Katie registers a bowl full of kibble in the corner. The bowl reads FLUFFY.

KATIE (CONT'D)

What...? Dave's whole face swells up if he touches anything furry. Weird.

MILO

My whole face swells up when I--

KATIE
Shh. Just. Don't.

They lean in closer.

MILO
You have some compost in your hair.

KATIE
You're just saying that.

MILO
What if I am.

They lean even closer. A key TURNS in the lock.

An ELDERLY COUPLE opens the door. They look in horror at Milo and Katie.

KATIE
(Whispering)
Ohh my god. I thought you looked at
the apartment number...

MILO
(Whispering)
What?! I just followed your lead.

Katie pulls a slip of paper out of her pocket. It reads #925.

KATIE
We need to go. Now.

The elderly woman shakily walks up to Milo. She hits him with her cane and snatches the vibrator back.

The man points toward the open door. Milo and Katie shuffle out.

MILO
So sorry. You have a lovely home.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX HALLWAY - DAY

Katie and Milo stand in front of an elevator, stunned.

KATIE
You know, the real apartment is
upstairs.

Milo wordlessly hits the up button.

FADE OUT.