

ONE-SIDED

Written by

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INT. CLOTHING STORE - AFTERNOON

JULIE, a small, quiet woman in her late twenties, stands slouched in front of a rack in a small boutique filled with cheap, trendy clothing. She wears glasses and a cable-knit sweater. She looks distracted as she hangs up shirts.

HEELS CLICK on the floor. VANESSA, also in her late twenties, walks over, speaking giddily on the phone and trying to fix one of her false eyelashes. Julie listens.

VANESSA (O.S.)  
Babe, I gotta go...Okay...See you soon...I love you...No, I love you more!

Julie sighs sadly to herself.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
Julie, can you straighten up those shirts?

Vanessa motions to a display of t-shirts in front of a MALE MANNEQUIN.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
(Back on the phone)  
No, I love you more.

Julie turns and sees the mannequin. He's wearing a tight, striped t-shirt and tan pants that fit perfectly.

Her eyes go wide and stay glued on him.

JULIE  
We got a new one?

Vanessa finally hangs up the phone.

VANESSA  
Yeah I just set it up yesterday.

JULIE  
He's nice.

Julie stares at the outline of his abs through his shirt.

VANESSA  
Yeah, I guess so.

Vanessa walks off. Julie slowly approaches the mannequin and begins rearranging the shirts. She shyly looks up at him.

JULIE  
(whispering)  
Hey. I'm Julie.

She tenderly shakes his hand.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Daniel—oh okay, *Danny*, it's nice to  
meet you too.

Julie blushes and smiles.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
You look pretty nice yourself.

Vanessa walks back over, startling Julie.

VANESSA  
Alright, I'm off. See you tomorrow.

JULIE  
Bye, Vanessa.

The front door shuts behind Vanessa. Julie turns back to  
Danny and takes a deep breath.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Are you free tonight?

INT. DINNER TABLE - NIGHT

Julie sits at the dinner table in her cluttered, rundown  
apartment. She's now wearing makeup and a dress. On the table  
is a half-eaten plate of pasta. She takes a sip of wine. She  
looks ahead and awkwardly smiles.

Sitting across the table is Danny staring ahead at her. He  
has his own plate of pasta in front of him.

There's an uncomfortable silence.

JULIE  
Do you like it?

She motions to his full plate. She smiles widely.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Really? I don't think I'm much of a  
cook.

Julie loosens up, laughing.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Stop it. There's no way this is  
restaurant quality. You're lying.

She blushes, staring into his non-existent eyes.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Posters of romance movies cover the walls of Julie's musty, poorly lit bedroom.

Danny sits on Julie's bed with his arm around her as they watch a movie. She looks over at him.

JULIE  
It is? No way. This is my favorite  
part too.

She laughs and her eyes linger on him a little too long. She quickly looks away but then looks back again.

Julie slowly moves Danny's head to face her. She stares at him shyly, their faces barely centimeters apart. Julie leans in and kisses him.

INT. CLOTHING STORE - AFTERNOON

Julie sweeps the floor by the entrance. There's a bounce in her step, and she's smiling to herself.

VANESSA (O.S.)  
(on the phone)  
Yeah, she left the back door  
unlocked, and someone came in and  
stole it...I know...No, there's  
nothing else missing.

Julie continues sweeping, completely off in her own world.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny is sitting up straight on the bed.

JULIE (O.S.)  
Honey, I'm home!

Julie runs in and jumps onto the bed. She hugs him.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
I've always wanted to say that.

She kisses him on the cheek.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
I missed you too.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Julie and Danny are cuddled up in bed. The TV illuminates them. Julie brushes her hand against Danny's thigh.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Julie is now practically on top of Danny, kissing him. She runs her hand under his striped shirt.

The TV PLAYS in the background.

She pulls away for a second to admire him. Julie takes Danny's plastic hand and places it on her chest. She leans in to continue kissing him.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The lights are out. They lie on the bed underneath the blankets, facing each other.

JULIE  
I love you...No, I love you more...  
No, I love you more.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Another night. Julie rests her head on Danny's shoulder as the TV plays in front of them. She smiles up at him.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Another night. Julie massages Danny's shoulders as they watch a movie.

JULIE  
My turn!

Julie takes his hands and puts them on her shoulders. She sits there for a moment, disappointed. She sighs.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Never mind.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Another night. They sit next to each other, watching another movie. Julie begins to laugh at the TV and glances over at Danny, smiling. He continues to look ahead with his same emotionless expression. Julie looks back at the TV sadly.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Another night. They sit a bit farther apart than normal.

JULIE  
I forgot to tell you. Today at work-  
Danny keeps staring at the TV. Julie quickly looks away.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Sorry. Yeah, I'll tell you later.  
Julie lies down and turns around, facing away from Danny.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Another night. They are watching a movie again but are sitting as far apart as possible.  
Julie, clearly distracted from the movie, glances at Danny. Julie pauses the TV.

JULIE  
Can we talk?  
She turns to face Danny.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
We've been together for awhile now,  
and I just-I feel like you're not  
putting in the same amount of  
effort that I am. I know it's not  
completely your fault but-  
Julie sighs.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
No, please just listen. It's just  
that sometimes this just feels-I  
don't know. *One-sided.*

Julie grabs Danny's head and turns it to face her.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
 No, don't "babe" me. I don't wanna hear it. I'm tired of it. I'm tired of you acting like everything's okay when it isn't.

She can barely hold back her tears.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
 I can't just take care of you all the time. I need someone to take care of me too.

Julie picks up Danny and carries him over to her closet. She places him inside.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
 I was so stupid to think we could actually make this work. I'm sorry.

She slams the closet door. She gets into bed and turns off the TV, leaving the room dark. Julie begins to cry.

CLOTHING STORE - AFTERNOON

Julie stares at the empty space where Danny originally stood. Her eyes are red.

Vanessa walks over to her, carrying a large cardboard box.

VANESSA  
 Are you okay?

Julie nods but then thinks for a second.

JULIE  
 I'm going through a breakup.

VANESSA  
 I didn't even know you were dating someone. Sorry.

JULIE  
 It was for the best.

VANESSA  
 Yeah, I'm sure you'll find someone new.

Julie nods. There's an awkward silence.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

This came today. Can you set it up?

Vanessa motions to the box.

JULIE

Sure.

Vanessa walks off.

Julie opens the box and sees a MALE MANNEQUIN HEAD. Her eyes go wide. She almost smiles but stops herself.

Julie shakes her head and shuts the box.