

END GAME

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Draft 01

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EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

A woman, MEL, tall, brunette, in her late 20s early 30s walks across the bridge. She stops and looks over the railing at the running river far below her.

CU ON MEL

Mel looks conflicted, depressed, sad. She seems to struggle with a thought for a moment, then climbs over the railing of the bridge, and stands on a narrow ledge, which is the only thing separating her from a certain watery death.

Mel inches closer to oblivion, but that's when she hears quick, panicked breathing, no more than 5 feet to her left.

She backs up, so that her back is touching the railing, then sneaks a peak. In the darkness, she could see an older man, BEN, 40s or 50s, sitting on the ledge, feet dangling, obviously been crying.

MEL

I thought I would be the only one tonight.

BEN is startled by her. He was so zoned out in his thoughts that he didn't notice her presence.

He gets up in a hurry, almost tips over the ledge but grabs hold of the railing to steady himself.

BEN

Don't come any closer. I'll jump. I'll do it.

MEL

Whoa, buddy. Trust me, I'm not here to stop you.

Ben looks confused.

MEL (cont'd)

So, is this your first time? Ending it all?

Ben looks down at the river.

BEN

It'll be better this way, for everyone. And Yeah, first time. Last time.

MEL
(distant in thought)
I wish it would be my last time.

BEN
Why?

Mel is back from her trance.

MEL
What?

BEN
Why are you here?

MEL
I have no purpose.

BEN
You don't seem nervous.

Mel shrugs.

MEL
But you do. Why jump off a bridge?
Why not just...

Mel makes a gun with her hand and points to her head.

MEL (cont'd)
Boom. You know get it over with. Much
faster this way.

BEN
I thought about it.

MEL
Ah, but you're worried about what
someone will think? The kids? The
wife?

BEN
I just don't want them to see their
father with a hole in his head.

MEL
Good point.

BEN
At least this way I simply disappear.
No trace. No one will miss me.

Mel drifts off with her thoughts.

MEL
(to no one in
particular)
I miss my dad.

Ben looks at her.

MEL (cont'd)
I miss a lot of people. It's hard
seeing the people you love wither
away and die. Sometimes, I think it's
better if I was never born.

BEN
I remember the first time I saw my
daughter; a tiny bundle of joy. Big
blue eyes. Beautiful sight. Wish I
could see her one last time.

A tear rolls down his eyes.

BEN (cont'd)
I was never a good father.

Ben takes out his phone and looks at a picture. The
expression on his face twits into regret.

MEL
(sneaks a look)
Your wife?

BEN
My mistake.

Ben throws the phone down. It tumbles for a few seconds and
disappears with a splash in the river.

BEN (cont'd)
Whoa, that's a long way down.

Mel moves closer to him.

MEL
Let's do it. Both of us. At the same
time. At least we won't be alone the
last moments of our life.

Mel reaches out for his hand.

Ben looks at her in hesitation.

MEL (cont'd)
Come on. It's end game for us. Why
should we keep suffering?

Ben reaches and holds her steady hand with his shaky one.

MEL (cont'd)

Ready?

She steps closer to the edge.

BEN

Wait. Wait. If I do this, there are no second chances. I'll never see my kids again.

MEL

Why does it matter?

Ben is obviously conflicted.

MEL (cont'd)

You're taking too long.

Mel strengthens her grip on his hand and jumps off, dragging him with her.

BEN

No. Wait. Nooooo.

They fall and splash into the water.

FADE TO BLACK.:

INT. BED ROOM - DAY

It's a bright day. All the colors are bright.

Ben wakes up on his bed, staring at the ceiling. His kids, a boy and a girl, run into the room and jump on him.

GIRL

Dad, the park. You promised. Come on let's go.

Ben is disoriented. He looks around and sees his WIFE sitting on her wheelchair, frail and pale. She has an oxygen tube around her nose.

WIFE

It's okay. I'll be ok for an hour. Go take them. It's a nice day outside.

Ben gets up and gives his wife a long kiss on her forehead.

BEN
(still in disbelief)
I missed you.

EXT. PARK - DAY

It's a bright day. Bright colors.

Ben's kids are playing in the park. He watches them intently. A smile dances on his lips. He still can't believe he is here.

MEL comes and sits beside him.

MEL
Beautiful kids you have there.

Ben does a double take.

BEN
You? Are you an angel? Was any of this real?

MEL
(chuckles)
I'm no angel. But I found my purpose.

They share a moment just looking at each other.

MEL (cont'd)
(prods him with her finger)
Second chance.
(beat)
Don't mess it up.

Mel smiles and walks away.

Ben's phone rings. He pulls it out surprised to find it there after seeing it splash into the river. On the screen is displayed a picture of the woman he dubbed "His Mistake". His finger plays over the answer button, but then hangs up.

FADE TO BLACK