

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

SAM (CONT'D)

Now if you'll excuse me, I need to lock up. But thanks for the kind words...I didn't get your name.

JACKSON

I'm Jackson Lewis and this is Margot Hammond.

SAM

As in the pianist, Margot Hammond?

JACKSON

The one and only.

Margot nudges Jackson.

SAM

And you're playing this concert?

MARGOT

Not if we can't find some other musicians.

JACKSON

Will you at least hear us out?

32 INT. LEWISBURG COFFEE SHOP - LATER SAME NIGHT

32

Jackson sets a cup of hot cocoa down in front of Sam who sits at a table across from Margot.

START →

SAM

...eight days is a pretty tall order.

JACKSON

Tell me about it.

SAM

(to Jackson, re:Margot)
How did you manage to land this one?

JACKSON

She owed me.

MARGOT

I didn't owe him.

SAM

(chuckles)
I think I'll stay out of this.

(CONTINUED)

MARGOT

So, are you ever in touch with the others?

SAM

Haven't talked to them in years. No, I think that chapter is closed.

MARGOT

If you don't mind me asking...

SAM

What broke us up?

MARGOT

I was going to ask if any of them are still playing, but since you brought it up.

Sam chuckles.

SAM

I started the group with Sarah.

MARGOT

Sarah Baxter...

SAM

That's right. We'd been together since college..

(Jackson glances at Margot)

She played cello. Best Pizzicato player you ever saw.

Sam's face betrays a thoughtful nostalgia as he thinks about her playing.

SAM (CONT'D)

Anyway, we started the quartet and it really took off. Began locally, eventually we played all over the world.

Margot and Jackson follow along closely, rapt with attention.

SAM (CONT'D)

Then one night, after we'd played a show at Radio City Music Hall, Sarah told me she wanted to get married and start a family together. And I... I didn't want to stop.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

SAM (CONT'D)

We were at the top of our game. I thought having a family would slow that down.

Sam gazes off with sadness.

SAM (CONT'D)

It was the worst decision I ever made. What I came to realize was that music, well, you can play music anywhere. Songs come and go, but the love of your life only comes around once in a lifetime. And that's if you're lucky...

Margot nods knowingly.

SAM (CONT'D)

Not a day goes by that I don't regret us breaking up. After that, I kinda lost my passion for playing. Without Sarah playing by my side, it just wasn't the same.

Jackson and Margot are quiet for a beat.

JACKSON

I can understand that.

SAM

Last I knew, she got married. Moved to Charleston and raised a family.

JACKSON

And the viola player...Len Mac?

Sam smiles.

SAM

Yeah, Lenny. He's still around. But like I said, it's been years.

MARGOT

I'm sure there's still plenty of fans who would like to hear you all play together.

SAM

Well that's impossible. Sadly, our second violin, Charlie, passed away a few years back. I've thought about playing as a trio, but it just wouldn't be the same.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (3)

MARGOT

Oh, I'm sorry to hear about that.

Sam takes a sip of his Coffee.

SAM

Well, I better get going. I wish you good luck with your concert. I wish you good luck with your concert. In all honesty it sounds fun, but even if I said yes, there's no way you could convince the other two.

← END

33 EXT. GREENBRIER HOTEL - NIGHT 33

Jackson brings his SUV to a halt.

34 INT. SUV - NIGHT 34

Jackson looks over at Margot.

JACKSON

Here we are.

MARGOT

Here we are.

JACKSON

Sorry tonight turned out to be a bust.

MARGOT

That's okay. It was worth a shot, right? It's a miracle musicians stay together at all.

JACKSON

I guess that's part of the allure of being a soloist.

Margot senses a hint of venom in Jackson's remark. It's time to talk about the elephant in the room.

MARGOT

Jackson, it was the opportunity of I couldn't turn down. Tell me you wouldn't have done the same thing?

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(CONTINUED)

JACKSON
Okay. What am I missing?

MARGOT
We always go for a Charlie Brown
Tree!

RENEE
When else to forgive a few flaws if
not at Christmastime?

JACKSON
Well then, I guess this is it.

RENEE
Yep. It's hard to deny the right
one when you see it.

TODD
Who's helping me cut it down?!

SIMONE
Me!

Jackson smiles as the others approach to begin cutting down
the tree. Margot sees this.

MARGOT
What are you smiling about?

JACKSON
I think your mom might be on to
something? It *is* hard to deny the
one when you see it...

Off Margot's confused look, we--

JACKSON (CONT'D)
Think Sarah would be willing to
meet us over in Lewisburg?

49 INT. STRING THEORY MUSIC SHOP - LATER (DAY)

49

Sam looks up from behind the counter as Margot and Jackson
enter looking determined.

START →

MARGOT
We were thinking about what you
said yesterday.

SAM
Which was?

(CONTINUED)

MARGOT

If we could get Sarah Baxter to play you would perform in our Christmas concert.

Sam looks at her thoughtfully. Smiles.

SAM

Yes. Though I should have said it would be a Christmas miracle if you got her.

JACKSON

Just wanted to make sure.

With that, Jackson and Margot step aside...and Sarah enters. A warm smile takes over her face as she sees Sam.

Sam is visibly moved. Speechless. But happy.

MARGOT

I believe you two have some catching up to do.

SARAH

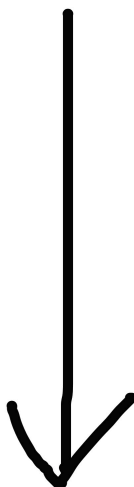
Hello, Sam.

As they approach each other, Margot leans in and whispers to Jackson.

MARGOT

Hard to deny "the one" when you see it.

END OF ACT 5



ACT 6

50 INT. STRING THEORY MUSIC SHOP - DAY

50

Where we left off. Sam stares at Sarah in happy disbelief. He slowly approaches her. Like school kids, they appear bashful and excited at the same time.

CONT

SAM

Sarah. You look...the same-beautiful.

SARAH

It's been awhile.

SAM

(nervous)

There's so much I've wanted to say to you over the years. I..

SARAH

I'm not going anywhere.

← END

They hug. Margot and Jackson watch, touched by the moment.

MARGOT

(sotto)

They look great together.

Jackson stares at Margot, unable to hide his affection.

JACKSON

Yeah, they do. What do you think?

MARGOT

I think after all these years they could use some time alone without us hovering over them.

Jackson steps back. Regards her for a beat.

JACKSON

You know, that's a great idea. And while they get reacquainted, I have the perfect way to pass the time.

She looks at him curiously.

MARGOT

What did you have in mind?

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