

16

CONTINUED:

16

SIMON

Yeah hi. I'm looking for a particular shirt. It was just a basic gray, short-sleeve button-up kinda... Hang on, I have a picture.

Simon pulls out his phone, shows her a photo.

SALES CLERK

Oh my god, yes, that's very old.

SIMON

Really?

SALES CLERK

Yes, we definitely don't carry that anymore. Here, let me bring you some selections from our current line. We have some really fun patterns.

The Sales Clerks walks off. Simon doesn't stop her, he's in too deep. Simon goes back TO CAMERA.

SIMON

Speaking of fun patterns, number three on the list...

17

INT. BEDROOM - SIMON'S APARTMENT - (FLASHBACK) - NIGHT

17

Simon is in his BEDROOM. He's perusing his vinyl collection and pulls out a record. It's "THE FINE ART OF SURFACING" by the Boomtown Rats. He walks over to his record player and carefully places the record on it. "DIAMOND SMILES" begins to play - when there is a KNOCK at the door.

SIMON (V.O.)

Benjamin... Cooper.

18

INT. LIVING ROOM - SIMON'S APARTMENT - (FLASHBACK) - NIGHT

18

Simon walks into the LIVING ROOM and opens the door. It's Ben, holding a giant bouquet of flowers.

Simon SLAMS the door in his face. How dare he?

BEN (O.S.)

(from outside the door)

START>>

Simon, come on!

(CONTINUED)

SIMON
(furious)
Fuck off, Benjamin!

BEN (O.S.)
Please open the door.

SIMON
You gave me chlamydia!

BEN (O.S.)
I swear I didn't know I had it.
I'm so sorry. Can we talk, please?

Simon is still angry but he relents, and opens the door.

SIMON
What are you doing here? Did you
come here to give me another
antiquated disease? Are those
flowers covered in polio?

BEN
You have every right to be mad at
me. I promise you that I didn't
want this to happen.

SIMON
What to happen? That I'd find out
you were sleeping around?

BEN
There was one guy... but I cut it
off the second we started hooking
up again. He didn't mean anything
to me.

SIMON
And I do?

Ben sets the flowers down, comes closer to Simon.

BEN
I wish I could go back and fix
this. I don't want to hurt you
anymore. And I really don't want
to lose you.

SIMON
How do I know that's true?

BEN
I'll do anything to prove it.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

Ben is inches away from Simon.

SIMON

Anything?

BEN

Yes, please.

SIMON

I want this to be a real relationship.

BEN

This is a real relationship.

SIMON

No, it's not. I'm too old to be confused. It isn't even about sex, or monogamy. You've never committed to me. To this. You could just disappear at any moment because I don't know what we are.

BEN

What do you want us to be?

SIMON

I want to be... your boyfriend.

BEN

(genuine)

Let me be clear then, nothing would make me happier than being your boyfriend.

<<STOP

Simon smiles, eyes full of emotion.

19 **INT. DIVE BAR - (FLASHBACK) - NIGHT**

19

Simon and Ben enter the bar holding hands like a real couple. Ben leads them to two open stools at the bar. Simon sits down. Ben pushes his stool to be closer to him.

SIMON (V.O.)

The next few weeks we spent every free moment together. Ben was finally my boyfriend. My first ever boyfriend.

Ben chivalrously orders from the BARTENDER.

(CONTINUED)