

28. Acceptance

(We are in an apartment. #1 is sitting on the couch reading. There is a knock on the door. #1 answers it. #2 is standing there.)

#1: You look awful.

#2: Can I come in?

#1: Yeah. Come on in.

#2: *(Enters and goes to the couch and sits.)* I'm sorry if I'm taking you from anything.

#1: I was just reading. What is it? What's wrong?

#2: *(Pause)* She's/He's gone.

#1: Who's gone?

#2: Who do you think? Jenny/Jerry!

#1: What do you mean, he's/she's gone?

#2: How many definitions of "gone" do you know? I couldn't get him/her at work all day and he/she wasn't at home either.

#1: So, maybe Jenny/Jerry took the day off. Went to a movie, took...

#2: *(Cuts #1 off.)* I thought that, too. When I got home, the house was empty.

#1: Maybe he's/she's still out.

#2: No, I don't mean no one's there. I mean it was emptied out. Everything was gone.

#1: Everything?

#2: Except the bed, my living room chair, the refrigerator...a few other things.

#1: Oh.

#2: I also called the bank and half our account was cleaned out. And if that weren't enough, I'm taking all this in and a guy comes to the door and serves me with divorce papers. They were filed two weeks ago but requested not to be served until today.

#1: I see.

#2: What am I going to do?

#1: Let me ask you this, what does Jenny/Jerry want from you?

#2: Nothing. He/She just wants me to sign the papers. You know, no fault divorce. He's/She's found somebody else.

#1: How do you know?

#2: *(Pulls out a letter and hands it to #1.)* I finally found this in the bedroom. *(#1 reads the letter. When done, #1 hands the letter back to #2.)* What do you think?

#1: I think that if you don't want anything back that he/she took, you should sign the papers.

#2: What?

#1: I think it's what's best. For both of you.

#2: *(Pause)* Wait a minute. You don't seem surprised. You knew about this, didn't you?

#1: Everyone knew about this.

#2: What are you talking about?

#1: All you had to do was look at you two and you knew it was going bad.

#2: Is this your definition of support?

#1: Hey, I'll give you all the support you want, but it won't change what I feel. You guys had a marriage in name only.

#2: And you're so sure of that?

#1: I probably shouldn't have said that. It really doesn't matter what I think.

#2: Sorry, you can't just drop a line like that and let it go. What do you mean that I had a marriage in name only?

#1: You really want to do this now?

#2: Yes!

#1: Why?

#2: Because I don't understand what's going on and if you think you have any ideas I'd really like to know.

#1: Fine. Let me ask you this. When's the last time you and

Jenny/Jerry actually had any fun?

#2: We went out a lot.

#1: That's not what I mean. When's the last time you two had fun alone. Just the two of you. Not at a party, but at home, having dinner, watching TV, renting a video, going to the movies. Just enjoyed being with each other?

#2: OK, I know what you mean, but we...we both were working ...a lot, we...

#1: I rest my case.

#2: Hold on! Just because we didn't cuddle on the couch every night, doesn't mean that we had a bad marriage.

#1: No, but the fact that you can't remember the last time you did is quite a symptom. But let's put that aside, your husband/wife left you. Shouldn't that drive the point home pretty loud and clear? Just because you didn't see it doesn't make it any less valid.

#2: And you don't see this as the coward's way out? Sneaking out when I wasn't around.

#1: How would you have it? Is a screaming battle in the middle of your apartment better? This is what he/she wanted. Re-read this letter. He/she wants to talk, but you both need time first.

#2: I don't need any time because I don't think it's over. I think we can be saved.

#1: But it takes more than you to make it a couple. Jerry/Jenny has to be in agreement. What are you really trying to save here? Your pride?

#2: No, it's not that.

#1: Then what?

#2: I need her/him in my life. We've been together since we were kids. We grew up together. If I think of any facet of my life, she's/he's there. I just can't dismiss that. Pretend that it never happened.

#1: No one's asking you to. Maybe everyone expected you two to get married when you should have just been friends. I

don't know. It seems to me that you grew up together and now you've grown apart. It's no one's fault. It happens.

#2: I just can't walk away from that.

#1: You don't have to, but you can't force something that isn't there.

#2: So what am I supposed to do?

#1: Sign the papers. If you really want to keep him/her in your life, you have to cut free the part that's dead and let what's left grow.

#2: *(Trying to hold it together.)* It's...hard. It's very hard.

#1: I know, but I think in the long run, it's really for the best.

#2: It's gonna take some time to convince me of that.

#1: I know. *(Pause)* Hey, why don't we go out and get you some groceries and stuff for your apartment.

#2: I'm not really hungry.

#1: You will be sometime. Besides, the walk will do you good.

#2: Why will a walk do me good?

#1: *(Pause)* I don't know. That's what they always do in the movies.

(They both chuckle a bit.)

#2: Well, far be it from me to contradict Hollywood. Let's go for a walk.

(#1 grabs a jacket and they head for the door and exit.)

29. Privacy

(In a restaurant. #1, a reporter, is sitting at a table. #2 enters, looks around, sees #1, goes over to the table, and throws a newspaper in front of him/her.)

#1: Usually I have this delivered to my house, but thanks.

#2: You want to explain this?

#1: *(Picks up the paper and looks at it.)* Well, it's a newspaper and they're black and white and read all over. I work for one. *(Pause)* This one, as a matter of fact. Does that clear it up? *(Holds the paper out to #2.)*

#2: I want to know where you got this story!

#1: Sorry, my sources are confidential.

#2: That's great. Some liar gets confidentiality and my life is all over this rag?

#1: Hey, you chose a profession that puts you in the public eye. You know that, so don't blame me if you can't handle the consequences.

#2: Oh, I can handle the public eye. What's abhorrent is printing bald-faced lies. That's obviously your job.

#1: Everything I wrote is the truth as far as I know.

#2: Yeah, well you don't know anything and that's the truth!

#1: Fine, then enlighten me.

#2: Go to hell! *(Starts to exit.)*

#1: This is why I had to rely on other sources for this story instead of you.

#2: What are you talking about?

#1: When I first heard about this, I tried to get in touch with you to talk about it.

#2: I never got a call from you.

#1: Well then talk to your publicist. I called her and she said that you had no comment and were too busy to talk. So, I was left to my own devices.