

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

Two Birds, One Stone

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EXT. STREET, NIGHT

Two birds pecking at the ground. They look up when a car passes by then continue to peck.

INT. CAR, NIGHT

SEAN (32) is silent. Everything is silent. It's just him, his grey, loose shirt, messy hair and tired eyes. He slowly pulls up the handbrake and sighs. His eyes close for just a moment. The noise of his world is returning, and in it - SARAH (30) in her colourful 70s hipster ensemble which is as expressive as she is.

SARAH  
You'll never guess what she said  
next!?

Sean doesn't respond.

SARAH (cont'd)  
No, seriously, guess.

Sarah playfully nudges Sean. With glazed eyes, he looks at her.

SEAN  
You're right. I couldn't possibly -

SARAH  
She said she's never even seen  
Kourtney blonde!

SEAN  
Kourtney?

SARAH  
Kardashian!

SEAN takes the keys out of the ignition. Sarah continues to stare at him.

SARAH (cont'd)  
I literally couldn't.

SEAN  
Couldn't, what?

SARAH  
Believe that she hadn't seen it! Who  
seriously hasn't seen the  
Kardashians!?

(MORE)

SARAH (cont'd)  
They've been on TV 15 years! What  
rock has she been living under!

SEAN closes his eyes and grips the steering wheel.

SEAN  
If you find out, let me know. I'd  
like it to crush me.

SARAH  
And now she's marrying that drummer  
from the punk band.

SEAN doesn't move. Sarah starts playing with the fake  
crystal hanging off an old piece of string tied around her  
neck.

SARAH (cont'd)  
Oh you know him! There's three of  
them.

SEAN  
Husbands? Not surprised.

SARAH  
Blink One Eighty Six! The drummer.  
She's married to him now.

Sean turns his whole body to Sarah and releases his seat  
belt.

SEAN  
Your mate is married to Travis  
Barker!?

Sarah takes a deep breath and releases her seat belt.

SARAH  
Kourtney.

SEAN  
Kourtney?

Sarah slams herself lower into the car seat and turns  
towards the window.

SARAH  
You haven't been paying any  
attention. At all. Again.

There's an awkward silence. Sean's lips just begin to move.

SARAH (cont'd)  
They're going to be having a baby soon. I've been doing my research and I really don't think it's harmonious for me.

SEAN  
Research isn't for everyone Sarah.

SARAH  
You know what I'm talking about. It ruins your body. You never get lie ins. You can't just, fly of to Paris.

SEAN  
You want to go to Paris?

SARAH  
Correction. My body. And No. But I'd like the option. I'm a free spirit, a wanderer.

SEAN  
Yeah, I'm starting to wonder too.

SARAH  
Don't you have anything of worth to add? We should probably talk about all of this. And, I don't want to be one of those women who are all "as a mother..." as if being a mum makes you better than those who don't want or can't have them.

SEAN let's out a sigh and his face is expressionless.

SARAH (cont'd)  
Well?

SEAN  
I just think you might change your mind.

SARAH  
Don't even go there. It's not a phase I'm going through. And you know what, it's ok if I do change my mind but don't belittle me about it just so you can say "I told you so" the moment it pops out.

SEAN  
I'm not trying to belittle you. It's just -

SARAH  
What happened to you Sean? You were  
always so happy and positive.

SEAN  
(Unhappy)  
I am happy.

SARAH  
The positive vibe has gone.

SEAN  
Because I don't know the Kardasee-  
ums?

SARAH  
The Kardashians Sean! The  
Kardashians!

SEAN  
I'm sorry.

Sean looks towards his window. They are facing away from  
each other. Sean watches a raindrop slide down the glass.  
More raindrops start tapping against the car.

SARAH  
This isn't just about the  
Kardashians. When we first met. You  
know what you said to me?

Sean turns back to Sarah.

SEAN  
Happy new Year?

SARAH  
After that.

SEAN  
I'm sorry, that doesn't usually  
happen so fast. It's just that you're  
so beautiful and -

SARAH  
Before that!

SEAN  
... I need a clue.

Sarah turns to Sean. Sean looks away.

SARAH

You told me that life is about living. Putting positive energy into the world. Two Taurus's creating beautiful moments. Solar vibrations, resonating in cosmic connection.

Sean squints.

SEAN

I did. Didn't I.

SARAH

It's just, I don't even know now. Have we even had many beautiful moments? Have our energies combined? Like you promised me.

SEAN

I can think of at least one or two examples.

SARAH

These little jokes all the time, using them to hide how you feel. You're not happy. These last eight months. Can you honestly tell me you've been happy?

SEAN

It feels longer.

Sarah raised her palms.

SARAH

(Frustrated)

Do you hear yourself!?

SEAN slumps down. He puts the car keys into his jacket pocket.

SARAH (cont'd)

We are about to go on an incredible journey together. Our spirits have combined -

SEAN

But our energies haven't!? Do YOU hear yourself?

Sarah stares at Sean. He's staring ahead. His eyes dart to her direction and then just as quickly, dart back. There's only the noise of the rain.

SARAH  
(Simmering)  
And what does that mean?

Sean tenses up and exhales. Loudly. He starts flicking a switch on the dashboard.

SARAH (cont'd)  
No, come on. Let's hear it. You've clearly got something to say. It's your fault we're even here anyway! You might as well get everything else out while we're at it!

SEAN  
It's just -

SARAH  
What!

Sean pauses. The car doors unlock. The interior lights turn on.

SARAH (cont'd)  
See, you do this every time! The silent treatment. I can't keep doing this Sean! I never wanted this.

Sean grips the steering wheel. Tight. He's looking straight ahead.

SARAH (cont'd)  
Never anything significant to add.

Sean jumps to straighten himself up.

SEAN  
Add to what?! You, continually putting me down? Talking over -

SARAH  
When!?

Sean faces Sarah head on. They are looking into each others eyes.

SARAH (cont'd)  
(Wickedly)  
You've got nothing.

SEAN  
Last week. You called me emotionally unintelligent.

SARAH

I didn't say you were emotionally unintelligent. I said your actions were.

SEAN

That's the same thing!

SARAH

No it's not.

SEAN

Yes it fucking is! You're mean. Rude. Spiteful. And everything is about you! It's not much of a relationship for the future when your partner keeps telling you that they're a "free spirit" and you're a speed hump on their universal highway.

SARAH

I am a free spirit! You knew this! I have a shining confidence Sean! One day I hope you'll learn to harness one for yourself!

Maybe you can roll one of your little prison dice, and get a... a six, and pass the bravado test or whatever it is.

SEAN

It's called Dungeons and Dragons, you roll a D20 so a six would actually fail - and it's called a perception check. And you know what!? That's the first time you've said anything in the last five days that I nearly understood!

Sarah swiftly faces the window as far away from Sean as she can. Her bottom lip quivers.

SARAH

I don't want to talk about this now.

SEAN

You don't!? But we're talking about you now! And you're your favourite subject!

SARAH

You don't need to shout.



SEAN

Apparently for me to get any kind of word in, I do! ...

And there's two words, which for some God damn reason I wanted to say to you at one point.

SARAH

Please don't use His name in vein.

SEAN

Jesus Christ.

Sarah signs the cross over her chest.

Sean raises himself, turning his whole body to Sarah and his head is nearly touching the roof.

SEAN (cont'd)

Is there any cult or religion you don't subscribe to!? Do your chakra's hurt now?

Still looking away, a tear rolls down Sarah's cheek matching the pace of a raindrop on the window.

The rain starts beating hard against the car.

SEAN (cont'd)

Your an empath in that you'll tell everyone how you think they should feel. Sometimes I wish you'd nama-stayed back in Essex.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET, NIGHT

The birds outside fly away.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR, NIGHT

Sean is fully turned to Sarah, one arm on the steering wheel, the other on his headrest. He is leaning towards her. Sarah is slumped down, facing away from him hiding her soft crying.

SEAN

Where does it come from? You talk about me being this positive "vibe" that's evaporated into the ether, but what about you? You park in parent and disabled bays. Click at waitresses. Hate children - which I actually do want by the way, and I'm so tired of pretending that I don't. This morning, you screamed at my best mate to get out of MY house!

Sarah turns back to Sean, wiping the tears from her face.

SARAH

We were doing... this!

Sarah gestures at everything around her.

SARAH (cont'd)

And he'd been there for four days!

Sean lowers himself back into his seat and faces the windscreen.

SEAN

His mum died Sarah! Have some compassion! I want what we have and I want... this. But, I don't have a clue what we're going to do. I feel trapped.

Sean opens the car door.

SARAH

Better?

SEAN

A little!

Sarah grabs hold of Sean's arm.

SARAH

(Desperate)

I want us to be better.

SEAN

We've tried being better! And I'm over trying ...I'm over... us.

... you.

Sarah's eyes widen. She tenses. She lets out a guttural scream.

Sarah flings open the car door. The car is lit up with the lights of a passing ambulance.

SARAH  
It's happening!

SEAN  
Get out the car!

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL, NIGHT

SEAN holds SARAH up as they scurry towards the hospital doors. SARAH is in pain and cradling her lower stomach, pregnant.