DEFINE LOVE

Bernard Mersier

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FADE IN:

EXT. THE BEACH - AFTERNOON

Walking on the beach holding hands happily in love wearing matching trunks is BLAKE and DARRELL, both in their early thirties.

Blake is a handsome tanned Caucasian and Darrell is a muscular dark skinned man with a chiseled body, covered with tattoos.

Blake is bothered by some of the people who look at them with their noses turned up.

BLAKE

(Sighs)

Being openly gay is normal and people still view it as odd.

DARRELL

Who cares what they think?

BLAKE

I care. We're no different from them.

Darrell wraps his arm around Blake's waist.

DARRELL

As long as you know I love you, that's all that matters.

BLAKE

You always pick me up when I'm down.

DARRELL

All we need is each other.

BLAKE

You're right. I won't let it happen again.

DARRELL

Can I ask one thing?

BLAKE

What?

DARRELL

Can you make your famous meal tonight?

Blake blushes, rubbing his hand across Darrell's abs.

**BLAKE** 

I'll make sure my man is full.

DARRELL

That's one of the many reasons why I love you.

BLAKE

And...what do I get for this meal?

DARRELL

The satisfaction I give you every night with a bonus.

BLAKE

Let's get home.

DARRELL

I was thinking the same.

CUT TO:

INT. BLAKE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Blake and Darrell are snuggled under the covers.

BLAKE

Did you enjoy your meal?

DARRELL

As always. Did you enjoy yourself?

BLAKE

Every time we make love I enjoy myself.

DARRELL

Good. I do my best to make sure you're satisfied in more ways than one.

BLAKE

And I appreciate you for that. I've been thinking.

DARRELL

About what?

**BLAKE** 

When will you finally move in with me?

Darrell sighs deep, closing his eyes.

DARRELL

Here we go with this.

**BLAKE** 

Don't you think we should take that step?

DARRELL

You know my situation.

BLAKE

And I told you there's enough room for us and your siblings.

Darrell becomes aggravated getting up from the bed, which causes Blake to sit up.

DARRELL

You had to ruin a perfect day with bullshit. You know I'm faithful, so why are you rushing me to move in?

Darrell grabs his phone from the nightstand and looks at it, releasing a hard sigh.

DARRELL (CONT'D)

Shit, I'm running late.

He begins putting his clothes on, while Blake stares at him with sadness in his eyes.

BLAKE

I'm sorry for bringing it up again. I just feel like---

DARRELL

You already got me running late neglecting my priorities, so what you're saying doesn't matter.

**BLAKE** 

I apologize if I'm the reason why you're running late, but...am I not a priority, too?

DARRELL

You're a man with insecurities. I think we should spend a few days apart.

BLAKE

Are you serious?

DARRELL

I gotta go.

Darrell walks out the room. Blake sits with glossy eyes and his emotions all over the place.

INT. THE DENTIST OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Blake is sitting in his office sad because he hasn't heard from Darrell all day.

Nervous that their relationship might be coming to an end, he pulls out his phone to call Darrell.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Darrell is sitting behind his desk looking over files on his laptop.

His phone begins ringing and using his eyes, he looks down at it seeing Blake calling.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. BLAKE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

The street is empty while he sits at a red light. Sad Darrell ignored his call, while he's waiting at the light, he notices a couple sitting on a bench deeply in love. The sight makes him recap on his relationship in the beginning, causing him to pull over once the light changes. Sighing, he pulls his phone out prepared to text.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Still looking over files, Darrell takes a break for a sip of coffee and his phone goes off.

Knowing it's Blake texting him, he sucks his teeth, takes a deep breath and then picks up the phone to read the text message.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

I can't believe you're treating our love like shit. That's okay. You'll explain yourself in a matter of minutes.

Placing the phone down, he sighs, shaking his head.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Blake comes into the office making his way towards the back ignoring the secretary.

As he approaches Darrell's office with the blinds closed, he can hear Darrell talking loud.

Prepared to walk in, he pauses when he hears...

SABRINA (O.S.)

All I need is an explanation!

Blake's emotions are running high as he snatches the door open and walks in.

BLAKE POV

Darrell has his hands up in fear standing behind his desk, hoping his wife SABRINA doesn't pull the trigger on the ninemillimeter she has aimed at his head.

She's a devastatingly beautiful caramel woman with a slim waist.

Sabrina and Darrell turn and look at Blake confused.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Can I help you?

**BLAKE** 

What is this?

SABRINA

None of your fuckin' business. You can leave.

**BLAKE** 

I can't do that.

Sabrina turns her aim on Blake.

SABRINA

Excuse me?

**BLAKE** 

I said, I can't do that.

SABRINA

Why is that? Matter a fact, do me one even better. Who are you?

BLAKE

I'm Darrell's---

DARRELL

Stay out of this. Sabrina, listen. I'm sure we can---

She quickly turns her aim back on Darrell.

SABRINA

This situation is about to get real fuckin' ugly if---

BLAKE

Get that fucking gun out of my man's face!

Sabrina looks at Blake, slowly lowering the gun with confusion spilling from her eyes.

Darrell sighs deeply, lowering his head knowing the gig is up.

SABRINA

Excuse me?

BLAKE

I won't repeat myself. Now tell me what this situation---

SABRINA

Wait, wait, wait. Did you just say my

husband is your man?

BLAKE

Your husband?

(Laughs)

A gay man that's been gay his entire life would never be with a woman.

SABRINA

Gay his entire life?

(Turns to Darrell)

What is he talking about?

Darrell slowly lifts his head.

DARRELL

Baby, I can explain.

BLAKE

Baby? Why are you calling her the name you whisper in my ear when we make love?

Sabrina quickly covers her mouth ready to hurl.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

Explain.

Darrell tunes Blake out as he comes from behind the desk to comfort Sabrina.

DARRELL

Sabrina, baby, I can explain.

**BLAKE** 

Why are you catering to her, when you're always hugging, kissing and laying with me at night?

Darrell continues ignoring Blake, doing his best to try and comfort Sabrina.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you doing?! I know goddamn well you hear me talking?! I need you to---

Continuing holding Sabrina, he looks over at Blake.

DARRELL

Will you shut the fuck up, I'm tending

to my wife?!

Blake looks like a deer caught in headlights.

**BLAKE** 

Your wife?!

Sabrina gains a little bit of her composure back, standing straight, shoving Darrell back.

SABRINA

Get your fuckin' hands off me!

DARRELL

I can---

SABRINA

You can't explain shit! Can you explain how you have a whole woman... a WIFE at home, but you're fuckin' a man?!

Blake stands silent against the wall.

DARRELL

What can I say? I'm Bi-sexual.

With a disgusted look, she places her gun back in her purse, taking a step back.

SABRINA

You're Bi-sexual? You're telling me as a man, you're Bi-sexual?

DARRELL

Yes.

SABRINA

And you were Bi-sexual before we met, right?

DARRELL

Actually, I recently realized---

SABRINA

You're full of shit. That's what you realized?

DARRELL

I'm not arguing about my sexuality.

SABRINA

Because you can't!

DARRELL

I understand. I should've told you from the beginning.

SABRINA

Oh, it's fine, believe me. I'm not about to deal with it. You're not worth my energy or tears.

Darrell stares at her unbothered. She shakes her head disappointed, turning her attention to Blake.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

As for you, I'm not even mad at you. But, I'll tell you this much.

She pulls out a piece of paper from her purse.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

I don't know if you're naturally gay, something happened to you or if you're just like this one over here, but, you can explain to him what this paper says.

She walks over to Blake and shoves the paper in his chest before walking out, slamming the door behind her. Blake unfolds the paper and looks over it. Darrell stands with his head down, sighing.

Finished reading over the paper, Blake looks over at Darrell with a straight face.

BLAKE

So...that's the reason why you wouldn't move in. Everything you've been telling me was a lie.

Darrell keeps his head down.

DARRELL

I'm not in the mood for this conversation. You heard the truth.

BLAKE

If you would've told the truth from the beginning, we wouldn't be having this conversation. I see there's no way you can give me what I want. Your wife was right.

Darrell slowly lifts his head, breathing anger.

DARRELL

A gay man is siding with a heterosexual female because she had a gun and was yelling.

(Laughs)

Ain't that funny?

BLAKE

Not as funny as your life. Yes, I'm gay, and I'm proud of who I am. You on the other hand, you're a confused man who'll sleep with anybody that allows him.

DARRELL

(Laughs)

I heard the dramatic version and now you're delivering the settled version. What you two fail to realize is, I'll continuing fuckin' you both because this doesn't change a goddamn thing.

With a straight face, Blake stares at him for a few seconds, and then cracks a sly smile.

**BLAKE** 

That should be the outcome after what transpired. But since I can only speak for myself. I'll opt to be alone. This situation has taught me something I should've known from the beginning.

DARRELL

What?

**BLAKE** 

When you take in untamed stray animals giving them your undying love, it'll still resort to what it knows.

DARRELL

(Scoffs)

You loved every minute of it.

BLAKE

I sure did. And I'll keep it as a

constant reminder.

Darrell stares at Blake approaching him. Blake takes Darrell's hand and places the paper in his palm.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

This is the price to pay for love, and I gladly embrace it. One day you'll wish you could've been a man, instead of the coward you are.

Without further words, Blake turns his back walking towards the door.

Darrell looks down at the note and then back at Blake, laughing.

DARRELL

She added some incentive with these pregnancy results to make you side with her, but you're gay?

(Laughs)

I'll see you tonight, baby. Make my favorite meal.

Blake doesn't look back, walking out the door. Darrell continues laughing, making his way behind his desk. Interested in seeing what the paper says, he unballs it and begins reading.

DARRELL POV

The paper is the results of a positive AIDS test. Darrell's eyes are glazed, ashamed, picking up his phone calling Sabrina, instantly getting sent to voicemail. Shaking his head with remorse, he calls Blake getting the same response.

Knowing he has AIDS eats away at him, calling other people to inform them they probably contracted it as well. Oddly, everyone he calls sends him to voicemail.

Darrell places the phone down covering his face sighing, and that's when his phone rings.

Slowly pulling his hands down, he picks up the phone answering with tears coming down his face.

SIDE CHICK (V.O.) Hey baby, what's going on?

DARRELL

Nothing much. I need to tell you something.

SIDE CHICK (V.O.)

You'll be over in the next thirty minutes?

DARRELL

Nah, it's something important.

SIDE CHICK (V.O.)

I'm listening.

DARRELL

When was the last time you had a check up?

SIDE CHICK (V.O.)

What?!

FADE TO BLACK:

END CREDITS