

A HAPPY LIFE

by

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INT. PARENT'S HOUSE - DAY

MOTHER, 50s, hopeful, opens the door to Deep. Embraces him.

FATHER (O.S.)
Who's there?

MOTHER
Our son. He came all the way out to see you, isn't that nice?

DEEP
Hello, Dad.

FATHER, 50s, face furrowed, sits, his eyes glued to the TV.

FATHER
I don't have a son. Tell him go back to where he came from.

MOTHER
He came from us.

FATHER
He's a disgrace.

DEEP
It's no use, he's impossible.

FATHER
And who are you? A creep? A pervert?

MOTHER
Paven!

FATHER
No! We do not support this lifestyle. You'll have no children. No place in society. You're disgusting! I am ashamed. How can you not be?

DEEP
Dad.

Father stands. Walks away. Deep's shoulders sag.

MOTHER
Oh, Deep, I--

EXT. OFFICE - DAY

Distracted, Deep sits with JOHN LEMMER, 30's, on a bench, eating his lunch. John picks apart his sandwich.

JOHN
Bologna again.

Deep's phone rings. He does not seem to notice.

JOHN (CONT'D)
You going to get that?

He glances over at his phone lit up with Kiran and him cuddled up on it. John looks at it. Makes eye contact with him.

FATHER (V.O.)
I am ashamed. How can you not be?

Deep snatches his phone up.

EXT. HOUSE

Deep quickly gets out of the car. He's vulnerable, feels like hiding.

JOSEPH (O.S.)
Hi... neighbor?

Deep turns to see Joseph and Steve, dressed alike, their faces in a panic as they block him from his front door.

STEVE
We're looking for our baby. I think she got out of the house through the back door... she's able to fit through there since the hairstylist Joseph picked butchered her cut--

JOSEPH
It was supposed to be a pixie.

STEVE
It was a crew cut.

DEEP
I haven't... excuse me.

STEVE
We're just so completely devastated. Natasha is like a daughter to us--

They tango as they continue to block him. The tension builds.

JOSEPH

Almost like we gave birth to her
ourselves--

STEVE

Let me send you a picture of her.
It's my favorite one, she's got
this little pink tu-tu and crown.
She's--

DEEP

(explodes)

Get away from me you fuckin'
faggots!

Deep turns, running into the mailbox. Blood gushes out of his nose. He holds it as he tries to get passed.

JOSEPH

Excuse me?

STEVE

Did he say?

JOSEPH

Yes.

Deep rushes inside. Slams the door in their faces.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Deep swings open the refrigerator. Chugs a beer. Opens another one. Downs it.

KIRAN (O.S.)

Hey, baby, what are you... Are you
pounding beers? You don't even
drink beer.

DEEP

Well, that's who I am now.

KIRAN

Oh my god, you're bleeding. What
happened?

Kiran tries to blot his nose with a rag. He pushes him away.

DEEP

Enough. Stop treating me like we're a regular couple. You're not my wife.

KIRAN

How many of those have you had?

DEEP

Maybe I'll drink the whole twelve-pack, who knows?

KIRAN

Is this about your father? What did he say to you? God, he's such a hateful man--

DEEP

Don't you say another word about my dad.

Deep chugs another beer.

KIRAN

I don't know why you defend him. I knew you shouldn't have gone over there. He doesn't show up to the wedding, sends that long, nasty note, doesn't even answer the phone when you call. Now this. Come here, let me hold you.

DEEP

No.

(pushes him off)

Get off me! I just... I need to be alone.

Kiran watches as he goes out into the garage.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Deep closes the door behind him. Dials.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

NEENA, late 20s, speaks into the phone.

NEENA

What do you want, Deep?

INTERCUT: Deep/Neena

DEEP

Who am I?

NEENA

Oh god, not this again.

DEEP

We were married, right?

NEENA

And divorced.

DEEP

But we were happy--

NEENA

Hardly. What's this about?

DEEP

Maybe *that's* who I am. What I was with you. Maybe I thought that was a phase, but maybe this is.

NEENA

Are you kidding me? You were supposed to have worked through all this before you married him. You used *our* counseling sessions to work through it--

DEEP

But, we were married. Me and you, we were in a straight marriage--

NEENA

You're self-sabotaging.

DEEP

I'm disgusting.

NEENA

Stop! You know, deep down, I think I always knew.

Deep groans.

NEENA (CONT'D)

I'm serious. Who picked out all the furniture when we were together? Who decorated the whole house and wouldn't let me touch a thing?

DEEP

You're color blind.

NEENA

Who cried at the end of "Bridget Jones' Diary", the third one, all the way through the credits?

DEEP

I had just had eye surgery!

NEENA

Okay. Who left me for a man who he called the "love of his life"?

He quickly hangs up. Kiran knocks on the door.

KIRAN

Deep, are you alright in there?

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Deep looks at Kiran sleeping on the couch. He looks at him lovingly for a moment. He grabs a blanket.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Deep awakens on the couch a mess, his shirt still bloody. John pops his head in.

JOHN

Jesus, what happened to you?

DEEP

Got drunk and got into a fight.

JOHN

Sounds like a hell of a night.

DEEP

(spots Kiran out window)
Oh no, what is he doing here?

JOHN

Who?
(sees Kiran)
Ohhhh!

Deep runs past him. Goes into the men's room.

INT. OFFICE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deep sits on top of a toilet in a stall.

JOHN (O.S.)
I don't think we've met--

KIRAN (O.S.)
Kiran.

DEEP
Please. Please. Please. Please.

JOHN (O.S.)
Interesting.

Deep cringes. Hears the door open.

KIRAN
Deep? I know you're in here.
(looks under stall)
I can see you. You're wearing the
socks I bought you last year for
Christmas.

Deep pulls up his feet.

KIRAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I don't know what's going on with
you. Do you want me to leave? Is
this you, pushing me away? I cried
myself to sleep last night,
wondering what I did wrong, and now
here I am talking to a stall after
finding out that nobody from your
work even knows who I am. I think
maybe I should leave. I should
leave, right?

Deep hangs his head but stays silent.

KIRAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Got it. Enjoy your stall, Deep.

Kiran walks out.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Deep watches Kiran lugging a suitcase out of the house before
pulling away.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Deep eyes their wedding album open on the counter. It has a
note on it. It says, "Us".

He opens the album. Stares at the pictures of them together in their tuxedos.

Turns the page of them in the pool. Having dinner. Kissing. A whole wonderful life.

Deep's lip trembles as he collapses into a chair.

EXT. PARENT'S HOUSE - PATIO - NIGHT

Deep stares down at the photos in the photo album with his mother by his side on the porch. He stares at them dancing.

DEEP

What's wrong with me?

MOTHER

Oh, Deep, relationships are complicated. People are complicated.

FATHER (O.S.)

(from inside)

People are simple--

MOTHER

Your father is simple. That's his biggest problem. He still doesn't understand that people are different and that's what makes the world beautiful. You're beautiful, Deep. And Kiran--

FATHER

(comes out onto porch)

I say good riddance.

MOTHER

Perhaps I should've listened to my father and said "good riddance" to you as well?

(to Deep)

They said he was too old and that his family was "undesirable"--

DEEP

I never knew that.

FATHER

Thought they were better than me.

MOTHER

And how did that make you feel?

FATHER

At least we were normal people, not parasites of the community.

MOTHER

Actually, that is the exact word my father used to describe you.

FATHER

We did not raise him this way.

DEEP

(stands)

But, yet here I am, your son, in love with a man--

FATHER

Shame!

DEEP

Why must you always try so hard to make me hate myself? Make me question who I am? Who I'm *with*! You make me a liar in my own life... I love him--

FATHER

You call that love? Two men doing ungodly things--

DEEP

Why does it always have to be about sex with you? We laugh together. He understands my sense of humor, even though I barely have one. We dance. We comfort each other, he's stayed up hours listening to me go on about the silliest things.

His mother smiles at him, encouraging. Nods.

DEEP (CONT'D)

For breakfast, he always cuts around the yoke because he knows I hate the white part of the eggs. He never burns my toast because it scrapes the roof of my mouth. And he loves to surprise me, but always gives it away with this little crooked, side smile he does. He's everything to me.

KIRAN (O.S.)

And you're everything to me.

Deep turns to see Kiran coming up the walkway.

MOTHER
I called him.

DEEP
Kiran.

FATHER
Great.

MOTHER
Paven!

KIRAN
Deep.

Father goes inside. Mother follows, shutting the door.

KIRAN (CONT'D)
Did you mean all that?

DEEP
It's not the kind of stuff you say
to a father like mine if you don't.
I'm so sorry--

KIRAN
All I want to do is cut the whites
off your eggs for the rest of my
life.

DEEP
(caresses his hair)
You sure?

KIRAN
Yes, you silly silly man.

They go in for a kiss.

FATHER (O.S.)
The neighbors!

MOTHER (O.S.)
Not another word!

DEEP
I love you. All the worlds and
heavens could come down right now
and it would still be just us.

KIRAN
No more shame, okay?

DEEP
I'll work on it.

KIRAN
And in the meantime?

Slow music comes on from inside. Mother smiles from inside the window. Puts a "thumbs up".

DEEP
I guess we dance.

They fall into each other's arms and begin to dance slowly to the music in plain view for everyone to see.

THE END