

Blood/Rose

By

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - DAWN

SHEL is setting a note and a rose on the pillow next to ERICA's head. She stirs, he freezes.

SHEL  
(whispers)  
Shit.

ERICA  
What're you doing?

SHEL  
Nothing, hon. Go back to sleep.

Erica sees the rose, then sits up and sees the note. She stares at it.

ERICA  
(wide-eyed)  
Oh, you FUCK.

SHEL  
Look, hon, I'm sorry. I just...

Erica rubs the sleep from her eyes. She sits up and reaches for a pack of cigarettes on the nightstand. Shel sits on the edge of the bed, eyes downcast.

ERICA  
You just what? Suddenly grew a  
fucking conscience, you two-timing  
piece of-

SHEL  
Don't talk to me like that.

ERICA  
Fuck you.

Shel viciously backhands her. The cigarette flies from her lips. She stares at him, and he looks away.

SHEL  
No, fuck you, you venomous  
BITCH! You put me here.

ERICA  
I did? I called you in the middle  
of the night from *my* house and  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ERICA (cont'd)  
gave you a hotel room number? I  
told you I needed you? You're more  
delusional than I thought.

Erica slowly picks the cigarette up and grabs her clothing.

ERICA (cont'd)  
(bitterly)  
Go home, Shel. Go explain to your  
wife what exactly it is that keeps  
you at work at all hours of the  
night.

Shel is silent. Erica is dressed.

SHEL  
What...what would you have me do,  
Erica?

Erica pauses. She sighs heavily and settles back onto the  
bed, putting her head in her hands.

ERICA  
I don't know, Shel. Years will  
pass again. We agreed to forget  
once. You did this, not me.

They exchange silent gazes.

SHEL  
(chokes up)  
I...

ERICA  
Just shut up, Shel. Go.

SHEL  
What do you think she'll say?

ERICA  
You'll tell her?

Shel is silent.

ERICA (cont'd)  
Yeah, tell her. Just like you told  
Mom and Dad.

SHEL  
(choking)  
Don't say that to me. I didn't  
know what to do with this.

ERICA

And if you had? It's the same response. This will never be alright, Shel. We're both fucked up, but at least I've accepted it.

She lights the cigarette, collects a pair of pill bottles from the edge of the bathroom sink, and heads for the door.

ERICA (cont'd)

Go home. Keep your home.

SHEL

How did this turn into you leaving me?

ERICA

The same way it began. My little brother needed help. And I helped. Goodbye, Shel.

Erica opens the door and Shel turns away. She looks at him for a minute, examining. Then she takes a drag and leaves. The door clicks, and Shel begins sobbing, holding the rose and crumpling the note.