

FALLING OUT OF LOVE

by
Paul Lambrecht

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Paul Lambrecht
50a Williams St.
Brookline, MA 02446
617-905-2613

FADE IN:

INT. "THE SPACEBAR" -- PUB NEAR MIT, CAMBRIDGE, MA

BILLY PAGE sits at a bar table with a clear yellow draught beer in front of him. He's had one too many. A girl, MARIA MALKATIDES, sits on the other side of the table from him.

MARIA

You got your puke face on.

BILLY

(scowls)

I'll be fine.

MARIA

You know, you don't have to finish it.

BILLY

You know they didn't have to storm Normandy, either.

Maria looks away. She locks eyes with a clean-cut, seemingly more normal man. For a moment she almost appears wistful. Billy can't be troubled to notice. His mind is far far away.

EXT. "THE SPACEBAR" -- SAME

Billy staggers out the door. Eyeing an inviting shrub, he deposits his guts into it. Maria takes him by the arm when he's finished and together they walk down the street.

INT. THEIR APARTMENT -- LATER

Billy lurches into the bedroom, and plops down on the bed with his shoes on. Maria flips on the TV, and pours herself a bowl of cereal. She crunches away on it while watching a late night talk show.

BILLY (O.S.)

Maria, come in here.

MARIA

(yells back)

No!

BILLY (O.S.)

Come on! I want you!

MARIA

No, asshole.

BILLY (O.S.)

Come here and jack me off. I need it!

Maria turns up the volume. Then she walks over to the computer. She goes to her email account.

She clicks on an email from a "Matt Thick."

She begins to read.

MARIA (V.O.)

When are you going to leave this jackass? All you do is complain about him. He's probably passed out drunk in the bed, right now, isn't he?

Maria begins typing her reply.

MARIA (V.O.)

I'm officially fed up with Billy's bullshit! Meet me at the Thousand Veils in twenty minutes. I'll be drinking a giant G & T.

Maria sends the message and puts on her coat. Billy looks up.

BILLY

What were you typing?

MARIA

Nothing. I'm going out.

BILLY

What the hell are you going out for?

MARIA

We're out of eggs.

BILLY

So get some tomorrow.

The door has already slammed shut behind Maria. Billy lumbers out of bed. He goes over to the computer. He logs in to Maria's email. Somewhere along the way he has picked up her password.

He checks her sent messages. He reads the email to Matt. Now he puts his coat on and slams the door behind him.

EXT. THE THOUSAND VEILS -- LATER

Billy pulls his hood close around his head. It's cold but he also doesn't want to be seen. Billy looks through the window and sees Maria at the bar, talking with a clean-cut guy. He sits down in an alley with a view of the bar entrance.

He looks up at a bank clock which reads 11:30.

When they finally come out together, the clock reads 12:30. They stand facing each other, their fumes of breath hanging like icicles. He leans in for a kiss, but she isn't yet ready. She starts walking back to the apartment. Matt walks across the street to his car. Billy is huddled in the alley, the tip of his nose is blue, and he is shaking from the cold. He stands up. Running as fast as he can, he comes up behind Maria. She turns around terrified. He shoves her into the side of a building and runs at light-speed back toward the apartment.

INT. BEDROOM -- LATER

Billy lies in bed chest heaving. He hears some noises outside of the door. He tries to control his excitement as the key turns in the lock. There is the sounds of Maria sobbing. She walks into the bedroom. Billy sits up.

BILLY

Why are you crying?

MARIA

I was attacked by a bum.

BILLY

Oh my god. Are you all right? Do you want me to call the police?

MARIA

(blubbering)

He didn't take anything. He just pushed me to the ground and ran off.

BILLY

That's really weird. Where were you?

MARIA
I was coming home from the
supermarket.

BILLY
Maybe he wanted your eggs.

MARIA
(after a second)
Maybe.

BILLY
You were out a long time.

MARIA
Is that all you fucking care about?

BILLY
(holding her)
No, sorry. I'm sorry that happened
to you.

She allows herself to be held.

MARIA
It was so scary.

Tom holds her on the bed, caressing her hair. After a few moments, Maria stops shuddering and allows Tom to caress her back. She turns to him.

MARIA
I love you, Billy.

BILLY
I love you, too. You know we
should move out of this
neighborhood. Leave this rotten
city behind and everyone in it.

She allows him to kiss her.

BILLY
I'll always protect you, Maria.

"THE NUPTIALS"

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT -- 1 YEAR LATER

Maria is seated before a dressing room mirror with innumerable GREEK SISTERS AND FEMALE COUSINS running madly around.

There is the glow of imminent matrimonial bliss written on her features. Her plump mother, GRACE, is making a last-minute fuss with her hair.

GRACE
Dear, you look radiant.

Maria looks at herself in the mirror.

MARIA
Thank you, Mother. This is the
best moment of my life.

There's a loud rap at the door. The voice of DMITRI, Maria's father.

DMITRI
It's almost time.

Maria tries to swallow her butterflies.

GRACE
You'll do wonderful, dear.

INT. CHURCH HALL -- WINGS -- MOMENTS LATER

The sounds of Pachelbel's Canon. Grace takes the arm of her tuxedoed twelve-year old, and they march down the aisle together. A proud Dmitri reaches for Maria's arm. Her eyes misting.

They enter the hall...

INT. CHURCH HALL -- CONTINUOUS

Standing before the priest on the risers is a brimming Matt Thick. Maria walks up to him, and Dmitri hands her off to this man with whom she'll soon inexorably vow to spend the rest of her life.

EXT. CHURCH -- SAME

On the church letterboard, it reads "Malkatides--Thick, June 12th, 2007, 1pm."

Billy is looking at the sign through the windshield of his car. He takes a swig of whisky from his flask, and then drives away.

THE END