

INT. BAR - LATE AT NIGHT

Jessie (30, happy most of the time, struggles with depression) sips at a Martini and Brendan (28, kind, curious, supportive) sips a beer. Both are sitting at the bar having a discussion as others around them mingle.

BRENDAN  
So, how are you doing?

JESSIE  
(very sad)  
I'm doing great. I'm fine.

BRENDAN  
Jessie...

Jessie fixes her hair avoiding his gaze.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)  
You can talk to me.

JESSIE  
No, I can't.

BRENDAN  
YES you can. Stop using steel to build walls in front of your emotions. Try using straw, so your friend the big bad Brendan can blow those walls down.

Jessie laughs a little.

JESSIE  
Who says you're big and bad. I think it would be too hard, it's not been a good night.

Jessie stands up with her drink in hand.

BRENDAN  
Where are you going?

JESSIE  
Jukebox. Come.

INT. OLD DANCE FLOOR - SHORTLY AFTER

Jessie stands in front of an old Jukebox and skips through songs.

JESSIE

You know... I don't get reminiscent very often, but tonight I want some Johnny Cash on this thing.

BRENDAN

I Walk the Line?

JESSIE

No, Ring of Fire.

Brendan puts his beer down.

BRENDAN

Did you hear back from that firm yet?

JESSIE

No, they went with a blonde girl with a better resume. And bigger tits.

Jessie stops and takes a drink. She resumes flipping.

BRENDAN

They were stupid not to hire you. Is that why you're upset?

JESSIE

No. How's Charlie?

BRENDAN

Charlie's good. He'll get used to the apartment once all the boxes are unpacked. He hates the clutter. Stop changing the subject.

Brendan holds Jessie's shoulders like he's her father. Jessie stops and looks at him with sad eyes.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

Find ring of fire, and then let's get out of here and talk.

EXT. BAR STEPS - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Ring of Fire is heard playing inside: it soon ceases, and the people indoors clap. They put their coats on to bundle up.

Their breath comes out as steam.

JESSIE

I can think clearly out here.

BRENDAN

No drinking. It's less distracting.

The two keep walking down a path that leads them under street lights and around small taverns filled with light. The moon is out.

JESSIE

I've been thinking an awful lot about this person.

BRENDAN

That I know?

JESSIE

No, you don't know them. I met this person some time ago. It came as a shock, actually-

They stop at a stop sign. A car rolls by. They cross.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

-because she came out of nowhere, I met her a few months ago.

BRENDAN

It's a female, this person.

JESSIE

(playfully)

Why do you care, they're not your type.

BRENDAN

HAH! Real sweet. I just wasn't sure if this was a lost lover you were talking about by your tone.

JESSIE

A lover? Ew no. Lost, yes. She is lost.

Jessie breathes a sigh.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

This woman ran into me at work and we had a conversation and this conversation was like none other.

Jessie stops walking and leans on a lamppost.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

It was like everything we said to each other made sense.

(MORE)

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Like we could see that we understood each other without having to say it. She had everything in common with me. She was just a really nice person.

BRENDAN

(squinting)

She sounds like your best friend.

JESSIE

(smiles)

You're my best friend, you know that. But Brendan, she got fired.

Jessie stops and waits for a response.

BRENDAN

Like, you stopped talking to her?

JESSIE

I didn't have time to catch up with her or anything before that, and um...

Jessie looks up at the moon. The moon looks back.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

And... Brendan, I don't know why, but, she looked just like my mother.

Jessie collapses like a Jenga tower and sinks covering her face in tears as she wails.

BRENDAN

(startled)

Oh my god, honey, it's ok.

JESSIE

(crying)

She looked just like my mom.

Brendan picks her up off the ground and holds her for a while. Jessie talks through her sobs over his shoulder.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

(between small sobs)

I wish I had a sign, or something. My mom loved Johnny Cash. Loved him. I can't stop thinking about what she'd be doing if she were still around or how my life would look with her in it.

(MORE)

JESSIE (CONT'D)  
 God knows it would look much better. I just miss her so much. Her birthday's this week.

BRENDAN  
 Well, happy birthday to her, God rest her soul.

JESSIE  
 Thank you.

Jessie loosens the hug and the two stand there. Brendan wipes her tears with a nice handkerchief he has in his pocket.

BRENDAN  
 Your mom would be so proud of you, Jess. She always was so proud even when we were in high school, she'd brag and brag.

Brian finishes drying her tears.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)  
 (trying not to laugh)  
 You wanna go get some ice cream?

They share a laugh. Jess smiles.

JESSIE  
 Sure.

BRENDAN  
 Ice Shaker or Mo's Tavern?

JESSIE  
 Mo's Tavern has flies.

BRENDAN  
 Screw that, let's go to Ice Shaker.

The two walk around a corner past a record store with a display window. They stroll past the window without a care.

Suddenly, Jessie stops. She runs back.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)  
 What? What is it?

He follows. The first record on display in the window is *The Essential* Johnny Cash album. The moon stares quietly at them from the sky.