

SUSAN

Columbia? I thought that you were at the University of Texas, becoming a great writer.

EDWARD

I am. Becoming a great writer? I don't know. Are you still at Yale becoming a great artist?

SUSAN

Columbia graduate school. Art History.

They look silently at each other for a moment.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Do you know anyone here?

EDWARD

Just you.

SUSAN

Would you like to have dinner?

EDWARD

Absolutely.

SUSAN

Walk me home and I'll drop these off.

Edward takes her shopping bags.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Thank you. I miss Texas men.

45

FLASHBACK - INT. MR. CHOW RESTAURANT, NEW YORK. LATER THAT 45 EVENING.

START

Susan and Edward are finished with dinner and are having drinks. It is clear that they have already had a few as the atmosphere between them is warm and intimate.

EDWARD

You know, you were my first crush when we were at Hastings. I really only spent so much time with your brother to be around you.

SUSAN

And you were his first crush.

EDWARD

What? I had no idea Cooper was gay.

SUSAN

I don't think he did either. Then. But he was obsessed with you. If I hadn't caught you looking at me all the time I would have thought the two of you were sleeping together.

EDWARD

I feel terrible that I haven't spoken to him in a few years. I haven't been a very good friend. I hope that I didn't hurt him.

SUSAN

You're good you know. Most guys would be freaked out to find out that their best friend had been in love with them. Call him, he'd like that. My parents have basically disowned him. They don't really speak anymore.

EDWARD

Why?

SUSAN

Are you kidding? You know my parents. Religious, conservative, sexist, racist, materialistic, Republican, narcissistic.

EDWARD

What do you really think Susan?

SUSAN

It's true. They're pretty narrow. They look at us as just an extension of themselves. They can't accept Cooper for who he is. I'm not sure how I will fare.

EDWARD

Aren't you being a little hard on them?

SUSAN

No. I don't think so. They have a pretty antiquated idea about how I am supposed to live my life. My mother especially.

EDWARD

I've always loved your mother. She was great with me when my father died.

Edward looks at her.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

You both have the same kind of sadness in your eyes.

SUSAN

What?

EDWARD

You and your mother.

SUSAN

What a weird thing to say.

EDWARD

I'm sorry. I hope that doesn't offend you. But she has always seemed sad to me. She has sad eyes. I've thought that since I was a little boy. You have the same eyes. They're beautiful.

SUSAN

Please don't say that. I don't want to be like my mother.

EDWARD

I always envied your family. I felt like a complete imposter at school.

SUSAN

I thought I was the only one that felt that way.

EDWARD

You?

SUSAN

I tried so hard to seem perfect.

EDWARD

And you don't feel that way?

SUSAN

No.

Edward looks at her. He smiles.

EDWARD

But that's exactly what makes you so perfect.

SUSAN

You'll definitely make a great novelist. You've created a completely fictitious character in your head.

EDWARD

No. I don't believe that.

He looks into her eyes.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Why did you give up on becoming an artist?

SUSAN

I'm too cynical to be an artist. I think to be good, you have to create from some sort of place inside that I'm not sure that I have.

EDWARD

You really underestimate yourself you know.

Susan stares directly into Edward's eyes.

SUSAN

Would you come home with me?

EDWARD

Wow. That's is a bit forward. Not what I'd expect from a Texas debutante.

SUSAN

You know debutantes are all sluts.
(Pause) And you know, you were my first crush too.

Edward smiles at this.

EDWARD

I know.

END

She smiles at him. He smiles back.

Edward's face slowly morphs into that of Tony's as our flashback dissolves.

END FLASHBACK

46

INT. POLICE STATION, WEST TEXAS. LATER THAT DAY.

46

As Edward's smile fades in our flashback, Tony's stunned face becomes clear as he sits alone in the glass room.

Bobby Andes walks into the room.

ANDES

We got a report from Ozona. Someone else harassed on the highway last night just like you.

Bobby hesitates. He puts his hand on Tony's shoulder.

ANDES (CONT'D)

If you don't mind, we'll need your finger prints.

TONY

Mine?

ANDES

No offense, it's just that we found some prints on the trunk of your car.