Dead Simple (second draft) Written by Sean Halket

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FADE IN:

INT.CAFE - DAY

KATE ANDERSON walks along the road and into a cafe. Sitting in the cafe is STAN CUNNING. He looks up and sees Kate walking towards him. They hug each other.

STAN

What did you tell him.

KATE

That I was going out to get some milk and that I'd be back soon.

STAN

Does he suspect anything?

KATE

I'm not too sure, I think he might think something's going on.

STAN

We can't keep meeting like this. He's going to find out sooner or later.

KATE

(Distraught)

I know, Stan, but I can't tell him anything about us. I don't know what he'd do.

STAN

Kate, think about it like this, who do you love? Him or me?

KATE

(Crying)

You.

STAN

Well then there it is, get rid of him!

KATE

(Sniffing)

You mean a divorce?

STAN

Yes! Divorce him, you don't love him!

CONTINUED: 2.

KATE

My parents couldn't handle a divorce.

STAN

Who cares about them, Kate. Just do what you want to do for yourself.

KATE

Okay, I'll divorce him. You're right, I can't do this anymore. Thank you, Stan.

Stan and Kate hug each other tightly.

CUT TO:

INT.RICHARD & KATE'S HOUSE - DUSK

Kate enters through the front door of her house. She is greeted by the family dog. It jumps up and licks her. Kate pats it on the head as it follows her to the living room.

RICHARD ANDERSON is sitting on the couch. Kate looks at him. They exchange an awkward silence.

KATE

Richard. Did you cook dinner?

RICHARD

Yes, yes I did, Kate. I cooked it for us.

(Angry)

I cooked it for us three hours ago!

KATE

Okay, don't get snippy with me.

RICHARD

(Shouting)

DON'T GET SNIPPY!? WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN!?

KATE

Shopping-

RICHARD

(Shouting)

SHOPPING!? YOU'VE BEEN OUT BUYING THE MILK FOR THREE HOURS THEN?!

CONTINUED: 3.

KATE

(Scared)

Richard, you're scaring me.

RICHARD

(Shouting)

AM I, KATE!? AM I!?

KATE

Richard-

RICHARD

I know exactly what's been going on, Kate. I may be the stupid, but I'm not that stupid.

KATE

What are you talking abou-

RICHARD

(Screaming)

YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!?

Kate and Richard stare at each other. Kate is on the verge of tears.

CUT TO:

INT.RICHARD & KATE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Richard and Kate lie in bed. They are as far away from each other as possible and are not facing each other.

Kate rolls over onto her back and looks up at the ceiling.

KATE

I want a divorce.

Richard says nothing and Kate rolls back onto her side. Richard sheds one tear.

CUT TO:

INT.DIVORCE LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Richard and Kate sit in chairs inside a divorce lawyer's office. The desk in front of them is covered in paper work.

MR ALAN LEBRETSKI walks into the room and sits down at his desk. He is wearing a suit and has a jazzy tie on.

CONTINUED: 4.

MR LEBRETSKI

Okay then, Mr and Mrs Anderson. It's nice to meet you both.

Mr Lebretski stands up and shakes their hands.

KATE

It's nice to meet you too, Mr Lebretski.

MR LEBRETSKI

Okay, so, you two want a divorce. Well that can be arranged. It's dead simple these days to divorce from your other half, surprisingly simple.

KATE

So, what do we have to do then?

MR LEBRETSKI

Well you'll both have to answer some questions so that I can put them in the report.

KATE

Okay then.

MR LEBRETSKI

So what are your ages?

KATE

I'm-

RICHARD

Is that really necessary?

MR LEBRETSKI

Well, yes, I have to put it into the report.

RICHARD

Why our ages? Are they really that important?

KATE

Stop putting this off.

MR LEBRETSKI

I think I'll just leave that for now. Do you have any children?

CONTINUED: 5.

KATE

No.

MR LEBRETSKI

Okay.

Mr Lebretski writes down on the paper.

MR LEBRETSKI (cont'd)

What is the reason for your separation?

KATE

I'm in love with someone else.

RICHARD

In love?

Kate turns to Richard.

KATE

Yes...In love.

Richard turns away from her and crosses his arms as if he is in a huff.

FADE:

INT.DIVORCE LAWYER'S OFFICE - CONTINUED

TITLE CARD: One hour later...

Richard and Kate stand up and shake hands with Mr Lebretski.

MR LEBRETSKI

Okay then, I'll file a report and you will be sent your divorce papers in the mail.

KATE

Thank you so much, Mr Lebretski.

Kate and Richard leave the office.

CUT TO:

INT.DIVORCE LAWYER'S OFFICE - RECEPTION - CONTINUED

Richard and Kate appear at the reception. Kate goes over to the receptionist, a young woman, chewing gum. CONTINUED: 6.

KATE

Hi there, I'm Kate Anderson, I just had an appointment with Alan Lebretski-

RECEPTIONIST

(Texas accent, chewing gum) Hold on, let me look you up on the computer.

The receptionist types on the computer.

RECEPTIONIST

Found ye.

KATE

Right, well, he said we'd get the divorce papers in the mail and I'm not staying at the address that I stay at-

RECEPTIONIST

Hold on, let me look you up on the computer.

The receptionist types again.

RECEPTIONIST (cont'd)

Found ye.

KATE

Right, well can I write down the address I'm staying at so you can send my papers to there.

RECEPTIONIST

Sure thing.

KATE

Thanks.

Kate writes the address of Stan's house on a post-it note. She turns around and leaves with Richard.

CUT TO:

INT.STAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Stan sits in his house watching television. There is a knock at the door. He gets up and answers it, Kate is there.

CONTINUED: 7.

STAN

You were at the divorce lawyer's today?

KATE

(Smiling)

Yes.

STAN

So you're divorced?

KATE

Well, sort of, I need to get the divorce papers in the mail to sign them.

STAN

That's great! Come on in, we'll stay here for a while and then we'll move away! Far away.

Kate smiles and hugs Stan.

CUT TO:

INT.RICHARD & KATE'S HOUSE - DUSK

Richard sits in his house alone. Rage is on his face. He gets up of the couch and goes into the bedroom. The dog watches him leave.

INT.RICHARD & KATE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUED

Richard dumps himself on the king size bed and falls asleep without his wife beside him.

FADE:

INT.RICHARD & KATE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAWN

Richard awakens in the bed alone. He looks at the empty side that Kate used to sleep on.

He gets up out of bed to the sound of his dog barking.

CUT TO:

## INT.RICHARD & KATE'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

Richard goes into the porch to see that the dog is barking at the mail.

Richard picks it up. He looks through it and finally reaches the divorce papers.

A mix of anger and sadness spreads across his face as he opens the envelope.

He reads it and looks closely at the small line where he is supposed to sign his name.

CUT TO:

## INT.RICHARD & KATE'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

Richard picks up a packet of matches and lights it. He then lights the divorce papers on fire and throws it in the back garden.

The papers burn into nothing but a pile of ashes.

FADE:

INT.STAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Kate awakens in Stan's bed. She sits up to see that Stan is still asleep. She gets out of bed and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

INT.STAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Kate sees the mail at the front door. She picks it up and looks through it. She find the divorce papers and rips open the envelope.

Kate looks at the papers and puts them down on the coffee table. She signs them and smiles.

Stan walks down the stairs and into the living room. Kate turns to him.

KATE

Morning.

STAN

Morning.

CONTINUED: 9.

KATE

I just signed the divorce papers.

STAN

That's great! You want some breakfast.

KATE

No time. I need to get dressed and go to work.

STAN

Okay, I'll see you later.

KATE

Bye.

Kate goes back into the bedroom to get dressed.

CUT TO:

EXT.STAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

Kate exits Stan's house and walks along the street to go to work.

Richard is across the street from Kate, watching her. Kate does not notice him.

CUT TO:

EXT.STREETS - CONTINUED

Richard walks along the street to his house. He looks very annoyed.

CUT TO:

EXT.RICHARD & KATE'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

Richard finally gets to the outside of his house. He pauses for a moment then completely flips out, shouting and screaming. Punching walls and kicking cars.

Richard goes over to his car and bashes his head off the side of it.

A cat runs along the street and even it knows to avoid this character. Just as Richard is about to destroy his car, CHAD appears behind him.

CONTINUED: 10.

CHAD

(Cheery)

Hey there, Ricky. Whatcha doin' there?

RICHARD

I'm kicking my car, Chad, and it's Richard-

CHAD

(Fast, cheery)

Where's the Mrs on this fine afternoon, Ricky? You guys plannin' on doin' anythin' special, picnic, fair ground, visitin' the folks?

RICHARD

Actually-

CHAD

Just havin' a lazy day, huh? I get that. Every couple needs a me day, Ricky.

RICHARD

(Irritated)

It's Richard. And she's not here.

CHAD

Well where is the Mrs on this fine and beautiful day. My and Mrs Chad Vinburger are thinkin' we'll spend our time readin' our papers. There's some interesting stuff in them papers. Did you hear about that-

RICHARD

(Angry)

Look, Chad, I'm a little busy at the moment, can we talk some other time?

CHAD

Sure thing, Ricky! See ya later there chump!

Chad walks away with a big smile on his face.

RICHARD

(Angry, shouting)

IT'S Richard!

CONTINUED: 11.

CHAD

(O.S., laughing)

Bye, Ricky!

RICHARD

(Muttering)

Asshole.

CUT TO:

INT.STAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAWN

A noise is heard from downstairs. Kate awakens and looks around.

KATE

(Whispering)

Stan, did you hear that?

Stan snores. Kate gets out of bed and goes out of the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT.STAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

Kate goes out the room and down the stairs. She creeps down the stairs slowly. She reaches the bottom of the stairs and picks up a cricket bat that is sitting at the front door.

Kate creeps into the living room. There is no one there. She goes into the kitchen and sees that it too is empty.

Kate sighs and takes a glass out of the cupboard. Kate then takes the milk out of the fridge and pours it. She downs it and leaves the kitchen.

Just as Kate is making her way upstairs the radio in the kitchen turns on. It is blaring. Sam & Dave's "Hold on, I'm Coming" plays.

Kate is confused. She runs into the kitchen and looks around everywhere in confusion.

She goes to turn off the song but suddenly a hand grabs her and covers her mouth from behind. She drops the cricket bat.

Kate tries to scream for help but the hand and the music stop Stan from hearing her screams.

We see that it is Richard's hand. Kate's eyes widen when she sees that it is Richard.

CONTINUED: 12.

Kate elbows Richard in the stomach. Richard falls to the ground in pain. He looks up at Kate.

Kate kicks him in the face. Blood spurts out his mouth and there is a loud crunch as he falls over. Richard lies on the floor in pain.

Kate runs up the stairs as the music plays.

RICHARD

(Angry)

GOD DAMN IT!

Richard stands up and goes into the kitchen. He picks up the radio and unhooks it. He throws it across the room.

Richard runs up the stairs. We pan over to see Kate hiding from Richard. She is panting. We pan over again to see Stan mimicking for Kate to wait there as he goes to hide in another room.

Richard gets to the top of the stairs and turns the corner to see Kate crying in a heap there. Richard takes out a gun and leans down to Kate.

RICHARD (cont'd)

(Whispering)

If I can't have you, he can't have you.

KATE

(Shouting)

STAN!

Richard stands up fully.

RICHARD

Oh, I forgot about him. I'll take care of him first so that he can't disturb me when I <u>kill</u> you! Trust me, your death won't be slow.

Kate whimpers as Richard goes into the bedroom. Kate watches with an intense look and a tear running down her cheek.

RICHARD (cont'd)

(Laughing O.S.)

Looks like your boyfriend doesn't care as much as you think. He's gone out the window.

As Kate watches for Richard to appear out of their bedroom Stan appears beside her out the other room. They both have anger on their faces. CONTINUED: 13.

Richard appears from the bedroom to see Stan. Stan runs toward him and punches him. Kate smiles. Richard falls back and hits the wall but rebounds and hits Stan with his gun handle.

Stan quickly jumps back and throws Richard down the stairs. Richard lies in a heap at the bottom of the stairs.

Stan slowly walks down the stairs. Kate appears at the top behind him. She follows. Richard is covered in blood and Stan's nose is bleeding.

As Stan walks down the stairs he notices the gun next to Richard. Richard starts laughing and grabs the gun. He fires at Stan. It hits his arm.

Stan falls over on the stairs but doesn't fall down them. Kate looks shocked. Richard mumbles something that cannot be made out.

Kate runs down the stairs and kicks Richard in the stomach. Richard coughs in pain. Kate runs out the back door from the living room.

Richard stands up, glancing at Stan. He runs out the hall and into the living room. He leaves his gun behind. Richard runs out the back door.

CUT TO:

EXT.STAN'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - CONTINUED

Richard walks out back and looks at Kate. Kate turns around. She is very angry at this point. Richard grunts and makes his way towards her slowly. Kate gets ready to fight.

Suddenly, Kate is no longer helpless. As Richard runs up to her she smashes him in the face with her fist. Richard is shocked.

She then kicks him in the groin. Richard falls to the ground in pain. Kate leans down to Richard.

KATE (Whispering)
I...never...loved you.

Richard is angry now. He stands up ready to hit Kate. Stan appears behind him. Just as Richard goes to hit her Stan taps his shoulder.

Richard turns around. Stan punches him in the face. He falls back and turns his head. Kate holds him by the chin and does the same.

CONTINUED: 14.

Stan grabs him this time and hits him in the stomach and it becomes a two-way bully circle for Richard between Kate and Stan.

After beating on Richard for a while, Kate grabs him, ready for the final punch.

KATE (cont'd)
 (Smiling)
Till death do us part.

Kate smashes her fist into Richard's face. Richard falls back as we freeze frame.

A mixture of blood and a few teeth fly out of his mouth. His eyes are crosseyed and his face is bloodied and dirty. His white shirt is now almost red.

This final blow has killed Richard. We go out of the freeze frame. Richard falls over dead.

Kate smiles.

THE END