

Jaded

By

Steve Meredith

Draft
5.22.09

Steve Meredith
StevenEMeredith@gmail.com

INT-ICE CREAM SHOP-NIGHT

It is near closing time as MOLLIE DAYTON, 18 years old, walks over to the front door of the shop and locks the door. SHE then flips the "open" sign over so that it now reads "closed."

A few stragglng customers walk up to the door as she does this and scoff at the "closed" sign.

MOLLIE:
 (to the customers outside
 the door. Apologetically)
 Sorry. We gotta close sometime.

Mollie then walks back over to the counter. In front of the counter, a man named AARON, 26 years old, is standing on a ladder. HE is nailing a plaque to the wall above the counter. He is the owner of the ice cream shop.

AARON:
 (coming down from the
 ladder)
 There are always a few stragglers.
 Especially now that the weather's
 getting nicer.

MOLLIE:
 Well from what I see, it looks like
 it's going to rain in a little bit.

AARON:
 (picking up the ladder,
 walking to the back of the
 store)
 Good, it's been hotter than hell
 the last couple of days.

MOLLIE:
 (following AARON to the
 back room)
 So what was that?

AARON:
 (setting the ladder down)
 What was what?

MOLLIE:
 What were you nailing to the wall?

AARON:
 Oh, just another award. We were
 voted Best Ice Cream in Delaware,

for the tenth year...in a row.

MOLLIE:
Wow, that's pretty cool.

AARON:
Yeah, I thought so too for the first three or four years that we won. After awhile it loses a little bit of it's meaning. You start to question the level of competition in the state.

MOLLIE:
That's true.

Aaron walks over to a fridge, grabs a coke for himself and one for Mollie. They sit down on a couple of chairs in the back room and crack open their drinks.

AARON:
Did you clean everything out?

MOLLIE:
Yeah. Just waiting for Ben to get here.

AARON:
So, what's next for you. Have you graduated yet?

MOLLIE:
Nah, in a week. Commencement is next Thursday.

AARON:
Did you go to the Prom yet?

MOLLIE:
That's in a couple of days. Ben and I are going in a big group. We've got a limo and everything.

AARON:
Good call. Have fun that night. It's the only thing that it's supposed to be. Don't sweat the small stuff, just have fun.

MOLLIE:
I plan to. We're having it in the ballroom of a hotel instead of the gym this year.

AARON:
Nice, what hotel?

MOLLIE:
Oh, I don't even know. It's one of the ones along Route 1. I don't really care either, I'm going to have fun with Ben. It's nice being taken around the time of Prom. You don't have to worry about things being awkward. You can just enjoy being with the one you love.

AARON:
So this Ben character has really made an impression on you. You really love him?

MOLLIE:
Yeah. Yeah I really do.

PAUSE. Mollie takes a drink

AARON:
(sighs)
I wish I was your age again.

MOLLIE:
(chuckling)
I don't. I can't wait to get the hell out of high school. Why would you want to go back to that?

AARON:
(chuckling)
Spoken like a true 18 year old. I remember feeling the same way.

PAUSE. Aaron takes a drink.

AARON:
Nah, I mean I wish I knew what it was like to feel what your feeling, without having to worry about the future.

MOLLIE:
(slightly offended)
I'm not quite sure what you mean.

AARON:
I don't mean it as anything against

you, Mollie. It's just that you get to college, and you start to find out that life is a hell of a lot crueller than you knew.

MOLLIE:

What's that got to do with feeling though?

AARON:

Well, when I was in college, I can remember being absolutely enamored with this one girl that I'd been dating. And along the way, we eventually said our I love you's, and all that stuff. But then one night at dinner, we were talking about our futures...

Aaron lets this thought trail off. He takes a drink.

MOLLIE:

What happened, Aaron?

AARON:

Well, I told her that the reason I was a business major was because my family had run this ice cream shop, and that I was being groomed to take it over. And she looked at me, and she said in this absolutely disgusted tone, "so you want to manage a small town *ice cream* place for the rest of your life?"

MOLLIE:

Ouch. I'm sorry Aaron. That's one of the things about my gender, we often open our mouths without thinking.

AARON:

It's not just girls, it's everybody. But thank you.

PAUSE. They both take swigs of their drinks.

AARON:

I broke up with her a week later, but it really made me think about things. And it made me afraid to talk to any other girl that I'd dated about my future. I just feel

like there's no one out there, you know? Who's gonna want to come back and support me? After that, I felt so stupid for ever feeling like I ever loved her.

MOLLIE:

Aaron, don't think that way, okay? I never really ask people if their religious because I feel like it's not my business. But, you don't have to believe in God to believe that everything happens for a reason. There is someone out there for you.

AARON:

And here's the kicker in all of this. That girl I was telling you about; she thought that all I want to do in life is to manage this store. Do you really think that I want to look out the window at that for the rest of my life?

Aaron points to the view outside the shop. They both chuckle.

AARON:

Don't get me wrong, the beach is a nice place, but it gets old after awhile. That's why people only come here to visit for a week.

MOLLIE:

Oh I hear you on that one. I guess that's one of the disadvantages of living in a coastal resort town.

AARON:

Yeah, it definitely is. But my point is this. I don't want to be here for the rest of my life, okay? That's why I have my degree. I recognize that this business puts out a really good product, and I want to expand this business into other states.

MOLLIE:

Oh, so you mean like a Ben and Jerry's type of deal?

AARON:

Kind of, but I don't want to sell the ice cream in grocery stores. I want it to be like a chain. Like competition for Dairy Queen.

MOLLIE:

Oh okay. But you see Aaron. That's why you can't lose hope. Okay, so maybe that bitch you dated in college saw a small minded townie in you, but it's her loss. The bottom line is, you're a business owner that wants to go national. And from what your telling me, you sound like you have a very successful plan.

AARON:

I know that, believe me I do. But Mollie. Look around us. We live in a vacation town. No one from my good ol' days ever comes back here. And you can't meet new people because most if not all of them are tourists.

MOLLIE:

Can I ask you something?

AARON:

Yeah, sure.

MOLLIE:

Do you feel that you need a girlfriend to be happy?

PAUSE.

AARON:

I don't know. Maybe. I try to focus on other things, and I try to draw my happiness from other places. It's just...

Aaron lets this idea trail off. Mollie completes the thought.

MOLLIE:

It's just that sometimes that's not enough. It's not enough to make you happy.

AARON:

Not fully happy anyway. It's like

I've lived my life since I got out of college in a world of mostly cloudy days. There's always a fucking storm on my horizon, and all I fucking want for it to be sunny, with blue skies.

PAUSE. A car horn is heard outside the ice cream place. Mollie stands up.

MOLLIE:
I'm worried about you, Aaron.

AARON:
Don't be. I'm just jaded.

MOLLIE:
That's why I worry about you.
You're what, 26?

Aaron nods.

MOLLIE:
You're too young to be jaded, okay?
In your eyes, you might see me as a naive 18 year old, but the bottom line is that you're not enjoying life. It's written all over your face.

PAUSE. There is a knock at the back door of the ice cream shop.

MOLLIE:
Would you do me a favor? Put me on more closing shifts with you. I mean it, I don't mind going home late like this. And you could use the friend.

AARON:
I'll try. Scheduling is pretty tight with everyone wanting off at different times.

MOLLIE:
Okay. I gotta run. Take care of yourself. I'll see you Tuesday.

Aaron nods.

MOLLIE:
You want the back door open?

AARON:
Yeah. Thanks.

Mollie goes out the back door and leaves it open. The sound of rain can now be heard outside. She gets into her boyfriends car and shuts the door. The camera stays on Aaron.

Aaron walks into a small office in the back. He puts his head in his hands. He then looks over at a closed drawer in his desk. He digs in his pockets for the keys to the drawer. He then unlocks the drawer and pulls out a gun.

AARON:
(to himself)
Sometimes it's just not enough...

INT-BEN'S CAR-NIGHT

Mollie pats her pockets.

BEN:
What is it, sweetheart?

MOLLIE:
Shit. I left my phone back a work.
Would you mind?

BEN:
Not at all, hun.

INT-ICE CREAM SHOP-NIGHT.

Mollie walks in the back door. She picks up her phone off of the table in the back room.

MOLLIE:
(calling to AARON)
Hey Aaron it's me, I just forgot my
phone.

Mollie has almost reached the door when she hears no response from AARON.

MOLLIE:
Aaron?

Mollie walks back to the office area. She makes a disgusted face as she notices a foul smell, she then sees a small stream of smoke coming from the office.

MOLLIE:

Aaron? You in there?

Still no response. Mollie peers her head into the office. A look of shock crosses Mollie's face as she screams in terror and sadness.

BEN comes rushing in the back door.

BEN:

Mollie, Jesus Christ you scared me,
what is it?

MOLLIE:

(to Ben)
Call 9-1-1! Do it now!

CUT TO BLACK

ROLL CREDITS

THE END.