

Triple Word Score

By

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A FAMILY PICTURE

A YOUNG COUPLE, late twenties, smiling, happy. Between them an impossibly pretty LITTLE GIRL, about 2. This is SEAN and GABBY.

SEAN (O.S)
Of course it's a word.

GABBY (O.S)
It's not a word.

SEAN (O.S)
It is a word!

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

Sean and Gabby sitting on the floor playing Scrabble, the board between them. He has a beer, her a glass of squash.

GABBY
Make a sentence out of it.

SEAN
I don't need to make a sentence out of it, everyone knows it's a word.

GABBY
What do you mean you don't need to make a sentence out of it, of course you do.

SEAN
Causally.

GABBY
(beat)
Is that your sentence?

SEAN
That's my explanation.

Gabby laughs.

GABBY
That's not an explanation, you just said the word!

SEAN
You're making a drama out of this where there doesn't need to be. It's just Scrabble.

(CONTINUED)

GABBY
Make a sentence.

SEAN
It's just Scrabble.

Both laugh.

GABBY
I'm gonna be a bitch, if you can't
make a sentence you're not having
it.

SEAN
Oh God...your insistence on my
making a
sentence...is...causally...

Gabby cracks up.

GABBY
Absolutely no chance!

SEAN
It's like playing under Stalin.

GABBY
Come on, real word.

With a sigh, Sean fiddles with the tiles on the board.

SEAN
There, happy? Am I allowed 'cave'?

GABBY
(content)
Yes you are.

SEAN
Lovely.
(drains his beer)
You sure you don't want one?

Gabby thinks for a moment.

GABBY
Yeah, go on then. Can you stick a
lime wedge in it?

Sean gets up and heads for the kitchen. Gabby watches him go, a mischievous smile on her face.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Sean takes two beers from the fridge and opens them. Sets about cutting up a lime wedge.

SEAN
(calls out)
You better not be cheating.

GABBY (O.S)
You're the one using made-up words.

INT. LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Sean returns, hands Gabby one of the beers. Retakes his seat. Gabby looks nervous.

GABBY
I've had my go.

Sean studies the board. Takes a few seconds. Looks back up at Gabby. She looks back.

SEAN
Seriously?

Gabby nods. Sean takes a moment, lets it sink in. Smiles.

SEAN
Jesus.

Gabby smiles nervously.

GABBY
You ok?

SEAN
Yeah it's just...when did you find out?

GABBY
This morning.
(starts to cry happy tears)
I had so much to drink last week.

Both laugh. Sean's eyes well up. Looks at the board again. A hand goes over his mouth, eyes reddening. Something much deeper than the news he's just received.

Gabby reaches over and takes his hand. Her eyes full of tears too.

(CONTINUED)

GABBY
It's ok. It's ok.

Sean nods. Stares longingly at Gabby. Kisses her hand.

LATER

Sean and Gabby sit on the sofa, Sean holding the family photo we saw before. Gabby is cuddling a pink fluffy blanket with a teddy bear's face.

Both gaze longingly into the picture. Both still slightly teary-eyed. Sean kisses Gabby on the forehead, she cuddles into him.

SEAN
I love you.

GABBY
I love you too.

Sean kisses the photo. Then glances down to the Scrabble board still on the floor.

SEAN
You know you can't have that as
your turn, right?

Gabby laughs.

FADE OUT