

DEFINE LOVE

By

Bernard Mersier

final draft

Bernardmersier8913@gmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. THE BEACH - AFTERNOON

The beach is packed with people having a good time.

Moving through the people we see BLAKE and DARRELL holding hands wearing matching trunks.

The sun has taken its toll on Blake's Caucasian skin, as water drips from his hair.

Darrell is a tall African-American with a chiseled body covered with tattoos.

As they move along the beach, some of the people stare at them disgusted.

BLAKE

(Sighs)

Being openly gay is legalized, and people still view us as if we're the cause of AIDS.

DARRELL

Who cares what they think?

BLAKE

I care. We're no different from them, yet we're viewed as outcasts.

Darrell releases his hand, wrapping his arm around Blake's waist.

DARRELL

As long as you know I love you, what these people think shouldn't matter.

BLAKE

You always pick me up when I'm down.

DARRELL

All we need is each other.

BLAKE

You're right. I won't let it happen again.

DARRELL

It's an expected reaction because we're only human. But, I would like

one thing.

BLAKE
What's that?

DARRELL
Make your famous meal tonight.

Blake glides his hand lovingly across Darrell's abs.

BLAKE
I'll make sure my man is full. I love
this delicious frame.

DARRELL
That's one of the many reasons why I
love you.

BLAKE
What do I get for this meal?

DARRELL
The satisfaction I give you every
night with a bonus.

BLAKE
Well, let's hurry up and get home.

DARRELL
I was thinking the same.

CUT TO:

INT. BLAKE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Blake and Darrell are snuggled under the covers.

BLAKE
Did you enjoy your meal?

DARRELL
As always. Did you enjoy yourself?

BLAKE
Every time we make love I enjoy
myself.

DARRELL
Good. I do my best to make sure you're
satisfied in more ways than one.

BLAKE

And I appreciate you for that. But,
I've been thinking.

DARRELL

About what?

BLAKE

I think it's time you move in.

Darrell closes his eyes, sighing deep, shaking his head.

DARRELL

Here we go with this again.

BLAKE

Don't you think we should take that
step?

DARRELL

You already know my situation.

BLAKE

Yes, I know all of this. And I told
you there's enough room for us and
your siblings. I don't understand why
you won't move in.

Darrell becomes aggravated getting up from the bed.

Blake sits up.

DARRELL

Here you go ruining a perfect day with
bullshit. If you know I'm faithful,
what's the big deal if I move in or
not?

Darrell grabs his phone, turning the screen on releasing a
hard sigh.

DARRELL (CONT'D)

Shit, I'm running late.

Darrell begins searching for his clothes.

Blake stares at him knowing their relationship is crumbling.

BLAKE

I'm sorry for bringing it up again,
but I just feel---

Darrell finds his boxers quickly placing them on, along with his jogging pants.

DARRELL

None of that matters right now because I neglected my priority.

BLAKE

I apologize if I'm the reason why you're running late, but...am I not a priority, too?

Darrell places his wife beater on, and then grabs his phone from the nightstand.

DARRELL

You're a man with insecurities. I think we should spend a few days apart.

BLAKE

Are you serious?

DARRELL

I gotta go.

Darrell walks out the room without looking back.

Blake sits on the bed with glossy eyes and his emotions all over the place.

INT. THE DENTIST OFFICE - AFTERNOON

The door comes open and out comes a satisfied patient, with Blake right behind him proud of his work, but the happiness quickly turns into disarray because he hasn't heard from Darrell all day.

He goes back into the room, closing the door, sighing, biting the side of his thumb, pacing back and forth.

Fed up with waiting, he pulls his phone out calling Darrell.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Darrell is sitting behind his desk looking over account files on his laptop.

His phone resting on the desk begins ringing.

Looking down with his eyes, he sees Blake calling.

As if Blake means nothing, he ignores the call.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE DENTIST OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Blake's heart sinks lower with each call continuously sent to voicemail.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Still hard at work, Darrell becomes annoyed hearing his phone go off.

He looks down seeing a text message.

Pausing from his work taking a deep breath of frustration, he picks up the phone reading the message.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

"We have a serious issue that needs a resolution. I'll be there in a minute."

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE DENTIST OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Blake places his phone back in his pants pocket walking out the room with determination, walking past RECEPTIONIST #1, who looks at him confused.

RECEPTIONIST #1
Is everything okay, Mr. Weis?

He continues making his way towards the door, not looking back.

BLAKE
Everything is fine. I'll be back.

He walks out the door.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Darrell comes into the office closing the door behind him, walking to his desk taking a seat.

Taking a deep breath cracking his knuckles, he prepares to get back to work, and then he pauses looking down at his phone.

He ponders on checking it, knowing it's more than likely missed calls or text messages from Blake.

He sucks his teeth picking the phone up, turning the screen on, seeing there's a text message.

Shaking his head, he opens the message, and his eyes widen.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

"I can't believe you're treating our love as if it ain't shit. That's okay. You'll explain yourself in a matter of minutes."

Lost in thought, he stares at the message for a few seconds, nodding his head side to side, finally placing the phone in his pocket leaving the room.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. INSIDE BLAKE CAR - CONTINUOUS

Blake places his phone back in the cup-holder and you can tell by his expression he's not in the best mood.

While he's waiting, he looks to the right, and he notices a couple sitting on a bench appearing deeply in love.

The sight makes him recap on him and Darrell in the beginning of their relationship, but he quickly blocks out the emotions of love becoming engulfed with rage again.

CUT TO:

INT. THE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Blake comes into the office and RECEPTIONIST #2 looks up at him ready to speak, but he continues making his way towards the back paying her no attention.

As he approaches Darrell's office, he notices the blinds on the windows are down, and he hears Darrell talking loud.

Walking up grabbing the knob ready to open the door, he

pauses when he hears...

SABRINA (O.S.)

All I need is an explanation for the
bullshit! This mumble mouth shit ain't
working!

Filled with his own emotions, Blake turns the knob, snatching
the door open, walking in.

BLAKE POV

We see Darrell standing behind his desk with his hands up in
fear because his wife SABRINA is aiming a nine-millimeter at
his head.

She's a devastatingly beautiful caramel woman with a slim
waist.

BACK TO THE SCENE:

Darrell keeps his hands up looking over at Blake.

Sabrina keeps her aim on Darrell, looking over at Blake
confused.

SABRINA

Can I help you?

BLAKE

What is this about?

SABRINA

None of your fuckin' business! You can
go!

BLAKE

I can't do that.

Sabrina turns her aim on Blake.

SABRINA

Excuse me?

BLAKE

I said, I can't do that.

SABRINA

Why is that? Matter a fact, do me one
even better. Who are you?

BLAKE
I'm Darrell's---.

DARRELL
Blake, stay out of this. Sabrina,
listen. I'm sure we can---

She quickly turns her aim back on Darrell.

SABRINA
This situation is about to get real
fucking ugly if---

BLAKE
Get that fucking gun out of my man's
face!

Sabrina lowers the gun, looking at Blake with confusion
spilling from her eyes.

Darrell sighs deeply, lowering his head knowing the gig is
up.

SABRINA
Excuse me?

BLAKE
You heard me just fine. Now as far as
this situation you're talking about,
just tell me---

SABRINA
Wait, wait, wait. Did you just say my
husband is your man?

BLAKE
Your husband?
(Laughs)
You're delusional. A man that's been
gay his entire life would never be
with a woman.

SABRINA
Gay his entire life?

She turns looking at Darrell.

SABRINA (CONT'D)
What is he talking about?

Darrell slowly lifts his head looking at her.

DARRELL

Baby, I can explain.

BLAKE

Baby? Why are you calling her the name
you whisper in my ear when we make
love?

Sabrina quickly covers her mouth ready to hurl after hearing
what Blake said.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

Explain.

Darrell immediately tunes Blake out, coming from behind the
desk to comfort Sabrina.

With her mouth still covered, she uses the gun signaling him
to keep away.

DARRELL

Sabrina, baby, I can explain.

BLAKE

Why are you catering to her, and I'm
the one you lay with at night.

No longer able to hold it back, Sabrina releases a hurl that
can be heard from miles away.

Darrell quickly wraps his arms around her.

Blake folds his arms across his chest.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you doing?!

Darrell continues ignoring him, trying to get Sabrina to
catch a breath.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

I know goddamn well you hear me
talking?! I need you to---!

Darrell continues holding Sabrina, turning back looking at
Blake.

DARRELL

Will you shut the fuck up?! I'm
tending to my wife!

Blake's eyes look like a deer caught in headlights.

BLAKE

Your wife?!

Darrell continues ignoring him, focused on Sabrina, keeping his arms around her.

Sabrina slowly gathers her breathing, calming down.

Realizing Darrell is holding her, she instantly stands straight shoving him back.

SABRINA

Get your fuckin' hands off me! How the fuck could you do this to me?!

DARRELL

I can---

SABRINA

You can't explain shit! Can you explain how you have a whole woman, a WIFE at home, but you out here fuckin' a man?!

Blake stands silent against the wall digesting the conversation.

DARRELL

I'm Bi-sexual. What can I say?

You would think she bit into a lemon the way her face frowns up, placing the gun in her purse, taking a step back, staring at him.

SABRINA

You're Bi-sexual? You're telling me as you stand here in front of me as a man, you're Bi-sexual?

DARRELL

Yes.

SABRINA

And you were Bi-sexual before we met, right?

DARRELL

Actually, I recently realized---

SABRINA

You're full of shit. That's what you realized?

DARRELL

I'm not about to argue about my sexuality.

SABRINA

Because you can't! Do you realize saying you're Bi, means you're fuckin' confused?! That's what Bi means! Confusion!

DARRELL

I'm nowhere near confused. You're confused about what you just found out, and I understand. I should've told you from the beginning.

SABRINA

Oh, I'm confused about finding this out. But believe me, I'm not about to deal with it either. You're not worth my energy, tears or respect.

Darrell stares at her unbothered by what she said.

She shakes her head disappointed, turning to look at Blake.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

As for you. I can't even be mad at you. But, I'll tell you this much.

She goes in her purse pulling out a folded piece of paper.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

I don't know if you're naturally gay. Something probably happened to you as a child or if you're just like this one over here, but, you can explain to him what this paper says.

She walks over to Blake shoving the paper in his chest before walking out, slamming the door behind her.

Blake unfolds the paper looking over it.

Darrell stands with his head down, sighing knowing he's fucked royally.

Finished reading over the paper, Blake looks over at Darrell with a straight face.

BLAKE

So...that's the reason why you wouldn't move in with me? Everything you've been telling me was a lie.

Darrell keeps his head down.

DARRELL

I'm not in the mood for this conversation. You heard the truth.

BLAKE

If you would've told the truth from the beginning, we wouldn't be having this conversation. Aside from what I want from you, there's no way you can give me that. Your wife was right.

Darrell slowly lifts his head, breathing anger.

DARRELL

A gay man is siding with a heterosexual female because she had a gun yelling at the top of her lungs.

(Laughs)

Ain't that funny?

BLAKE

Not as funny as your pretend life. Yes, I'm gay, and I'm proud of who I am. You on the other hand, you're exactly what your wife labeled you as. You're a confused man sleeping with anybody who allows him.

DARRELL

(Laughs)

I heard the dramatic version of this bullshit, and now you're delivering the settled version? But what you two don't understand is...

Darrell takes a few steps towards him, and then pauses, folding his arms across his chest.

DARRELL (CONT'D)

I'll continue fuckin' both of you because this doesn't change a goddamn

thing.

With a straight face, Blake stares at him for a few seconds, and then cracks a sly smile.

BLAKE

That should be the outcome after what transpired. But since I can only speak for myself, I'll opt to be alone. This situation has taught me something I should've known from the beginning.

DARRELL

And what would that be?

BLAKE

When you take in untamed stray animals giving them your undying soul, it'll still resort to what it knows best.

DARRELL

(Scoffs)

And you loved every minute of it.

BLAKE

I sure did. And now...I'll keep it as a constant reminder.

Darrell stares at Blake approaching him, taking his right hand placing the paper in his palm, clutching his hand with a tight grip.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

This is the price you pay for love, and I gladly embrace it. You'll wish in the end you could've been a man, instead of the coward you are.

Without further words, Blake turns his back walking towards the door.

Darrell looks down at the note and then back at Blake laughing.

DARRELL

She added some incentive with what I guess is pregnancy results making you side with her, but you're gay?

(Laughs)

I'll see you tonight, baby. Make my favorite meal.

Blake doesn't look back, walking out the door.

Darrell continues laughing making his way behind his desk getting comfortable in his chair.

Keeping the paper in his hand, he grabs his phone off the desk prepared to make a call, and then he pauses, placing the phone down.

Interested in seeing what the paper says, he unfolds it beginning to read, and his joyous moment quickly goes left.

DARRELL POV

We see the paper is the results of an AIDS test, and the results are positive.

BACK TO THE SCENE:

Darrell's eyes are glazed with tears, ashamed of himself after what he read.

Placing the note on his desk, he picks the phone up calling Sabrina, and he's instantly sent to voicemail.

Shaking his head with remorse, he calls Blake getting the same response.

Knowing he has AIDS eats away at him, calling other people to inform them they probably contracted it as well.

Oddly, everyone he calls sends him to voicemail.

Darrell places the phone down covering his face sighing, and that's when his phone rings.

Slowly pulling his hands down, he picks up the phone answering with tears coming down his face.

SIDE CHICK (V.O.)

Hey baby, what's going on?

DARRELL

Nothing much. I need to tell you something.

SIDE CHICK (V.O.)

You'll be over in the next thirty minutes?

DARRELL

Nah, it's something important.

SIDE CHICK (V.O.)
I'm listening.

DARRELL
When was the last time you had a check
up?

SIDE CHICK (V.O.)
What?!

FADE TO BLACK:

"Greed can destroy you in more ways than one."

Bernard Mersier

END CREDITS