

FORWARD THEN BACKWARDS

By

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FICTION

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FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

MARTIN TUNNEL- negro tall, mid-20s- is standing in the middle of the room with his girlfriend, a beautiful, feisty and heavily accented Latina with nice curves. Right now, she's pissed.

LA FEISTY

A wizard? That's what you're telling me, that you're a wizard? That's the best excuse you could come up with to break up with me?

MARTIN

No, I'm not trying to break up with you.

LA FEISTY

How gullible do you think I am?

MARTIN

I don't think you're gullible. I really am a

LA FEISTY

You are stupid to think I'm stupid. Martin, you're stupid and you're uncreative. I have been served many break up lies in my time and all of them have been more creative than yours. Do you know where Westalafania is?

MARTIN

No.

LA FEISTY

Of course you don't. Westfalania doesn't exist. However. I didn't know this at the time when my ex-boyfriend broke up with me on account of the fact that he was going to live there. I even drove him to the airport. Taking advantage of my ignorance of world geography to break up with me- that's creative.

Men have invented countries, diseases and spouses to break up

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LA FEISTY (cont'd)
with me or to get me to break up
with them. Am I hurt that those men
were dishonest with me? Yes. But I
admire their creativity. This
wizard stuff, not only does it lack
creativity, it doesn't suit you.
You are a wizard? What are you a
wizard at? You are not a wizard in
the bedroom, I'll tell you that.
You are not wizard with your
tongue. You are not a wizard with
your hands. You are not a wizard

MARTIN snaps his fingers and *poof* he disappears. LA FEISTY's
eyes-popping, jaw-dropping scared.. MARTIN really is a
wizrad. He's gone for five seconds then he reappears.

LA FEISTY
Friends? I would like for us to
remain friends.

MARTIN sighs disappointed.

EXT. PARK- DAY

MARTIN is picnicking with girl who is not the feisty one.

PICNIC GIRL
We're incompatible. We're like
bread and oranges.

INT. LIVING ROOM- DAY

MARTIN is watching sports with a girl.

SPORTS GIRL
We're like Kobe and Shaq.

INT. RESTAURANT- DAY

MARTIN is on a date.

RESTAURANT GIRL
We're like black people and
lactose.

INT. PARKED CAR- DAY

The car is parked in a lot. MARTIN is in the passenger's seat, a girl is in the driver's seat.

CAR GIRL

We're like North Korea and South Korea.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

MARTIN is with a goth girl.

GOTH GIRL

We're so gonna have to break up.

MARTIN

You're a goth. How can you have something against wizards.

GOTH GIRL

See I'm just going through a phase. Are you going through a phase?

MARTIN

No.

GOTH GIRL

Then we're breaking up.

START BREAK UP MONTAGE

1. MARTIN has a door slammed in his face.
2. MARTIN gets thrown out of a moving car on the highway.
3. A girl takes refuge under a kitchen coffee table from MARTIN the wizard.
4. A girl throws a sofa cushion at martin and runs away. MARTIN picks up the cushion, crashes into the sofa and sighs. He's tired of being repeatedly disappointed.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE- DAY

MARTIN's shrink is a slim, grey-haired Caucasian who takes notes.

MARTIN

And I haven't heard from her since.

(CONTINUED)

SHRINK

Since you told her you were a witch.

MARTIN

A wizard. She stopped calling and she stopped taking my calls. I don't understand it.

SHRINK

You don't understand why she would have a problem with dating a witch. A wizard.

MARTIN

Honestly, I don't see why. I see why but I don't really see why. I don't know if she felt threatened or if she felt intimidated or .. I don't know. I don't know.

SHRINK

She is not the first woman to have left you after you told her you were a wizard, right?

MARTIN

No she's not. They all leave after I tell them.

SHRINK

In that case, have you ever considered not telling?

MARTIN

You mean lie?

SHRINK

No, not lie. Withhold. Some women can't handle all of your *er*, all of you. It's alright to withhold some information if the revelation thereof will put the relationship in jeopardy.

MARTIN

Withholding? I call that lying. I'm a wizard and I'm up front about it. I don't see why I have to suppress my person just to make another person feel comfortable. I'm proud of who I am. I'm a wizard, I'm a wizard, I'm a wizard.

(CONTINUED)

INSERT: THE SHRINK'S NOTEPAD.

He scribbles the word, CRAZY.

INT. PHARMACY- DAY

MARTIN walks up to the counter. The PHARMACIST looks like from E!'s THE SOUP.

PHARMACIST
Hi, how may I help you?

MARTIN
I have a prescription.

MARTIN hands his prescription to the PHARMACIST. The pharmacist nods.

CLOSE UP:

on a blue medicine bottle on the shelf behind the pharmacist. We read; PRONORM. FOR HALLUCINATION AND MENTAL DISTORTION. 25MG.

PULL BACK CAMERA to reveal

INT. PHARMACY- DAY

MARTIN's clothes have changed. He walks up to the counter.

MARTIN
Hi.

PHARMACIST
Hi. Nice to see you again. How're you doing?

MARTIN
I'm good. Ive got this.

Martin hands the pharmacist his prescription.

INSERT: THE PRESCRIPTION

We see the words: PRONORM. 50MG.

PHARMACIST
Mm hm.

INT. BEDROOM- DAY

The door opens and enter, martin and and his soon-to-be LANDLORD.

LANDLORD
And this is the bedroom
(beat)
where you will be making the magic
happen.

LANDLORD waits for MARTIN to get the joke then they both laugh.

LANDLORD
Was that inappropriate?

MARTIN
No.

LANDLORD
You sure? Some people would find
that joke inappropriate.

MARTIN
Not me.

LANDLORD
A sense of humour, that's a plus.
You are definitely getting this
place.

MARTIN
Thank you. Its a great apartment

LANDLORD
Do you own a pet?

MARTIN
No.

LANDLORD
If you did though, it would be
cool. I'm totally cool with having
pets in the building. Do you play
loud music?

MARTIN
I try not to be loud.

LANDLORD
Be loud, its cool. I'm cool with
loud music.

(CONTINUED)

LANDLORD

Do you smoke weed? That's cool to. I'm cool with everything. Stuff that other landlord's aren't cool with, I'm cool with. I'm the coolest landlord ever. The coolest landlord ever. I'm cool with everything.

INT. KITCHEN- DAY

There's no one in here. The answering machine beeps.

LANDLORD ON ANSWERING MACHINE

Some things are just not cool, bro and being a wizard is one of them. You're not getting the apartment, bro. I am not cool about having a witch in the building. Not cool.

INT. OPRF OFFICE- DAY

MARTIN is sitting across from old man in a suit.

OLD MAN

We sympathize with you, Mr. Tunnel but the organization for the promotion of religious freedom cannot help you. You see witchcraft is not really a religion. Its more of a practice.

MARTIN

What's the difference?

OLD MAN

The OPRF defends religious freedom, not practice freedom.

INT. HRI OFFICE- DAY

The woman MARTIN is sitting across from looks sixtyish. Her t-shirt says HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL

WOMAN

It would be wrong to call this a human rights case because it is not you who is being discriminated against, rather it is the supernatural forces that come with you.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

So what should I do? Go to a group that defends the right of supernaturals?

WOMAN

If such a group exists, I would urge you to contact them.

INT. COURT ROOM- DAY

We're in the middle of trial. MARTIN is in the dock. The LANDLORD and his lawyer are on the defendant's side.

MARTIN

(facing the jury)

And that's why I'm here defending myself. No one would defend me. In this day and age, I thought we'd be past all the isms. Racism, tribalism, nepotism, witchism. All I gotta do is tell people that I'm a witch and they pull away from me and it shouldn't be that way. Yeah, I'm a witch, but that doesn't mean I'm evil. Yeah I've got powers but I'm not gonna use em for wrong. I know that there's a general perception of witches but you should judge the individual. One man's letter opener is another man's murder weapon and one woman's snack is another woman's dildo. What I mean to say is, just because I can hurt you, it doesn't mean I will. I'm not a bad person.

MARTIN isn't so sure he has the jury convinced. Will he get to live in his home of choice?

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING LOBBY- DAY

MARTIN and the LANDLORD are getting their mail out of their mail boxes. The LANDLORD catches sight of an off screen subject and smirks.

LANDLORD

Hm.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

What is it?

LANDLORD

That Buddhist guy is moving in.

MARTIN AND LANDLORD'S POV:

The Buddhist guy walking up the steps with his bags. He looks normal.

BACK TO SCENE

LANDLORD

Its not like I have something
against Buddhists. I just hate the
smell of incense.

MARTIN

Well, there goes the neighbourhood.

LANDLORD

So not cool.

MARTIN

Not cool.

Ironic hunh?

FADE OUT

THE END