

MEMORY SURVIVAL

By

STEVEN BURTON

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Among the crowd is TED, a young handsome man alone with a drink.

His attention shifts to something in the distance.

FLASH on another section of the bar.

BEN, a young handsome man alone with a drink shifts his attention to something in the distance.

Ted with his drink starts to move across the bar with a voice over conversation.

BEN (OS)
How long have we been together?

TED (OS)
Thirty years.

BEN (OS)
Where did we meet?

TED (OS)
In a bar.

Ted continues to move across the bar until he approaches Ben with an introduction followed by a big smile from Ben.

TED (OS)
Love at first sight.

BEN (OS)
Yes.

TED (OS)
And the two opposites of fiction writer
and a computer programmer.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The thirty years older Ted and Ben affectionately lay next each other in bed.

BEN
What day is it?

TED

Friday.

BEN

What month?

TED

May.

BEN

Thanks, oh by the way, I love you!

TED

And I love you.

They embrace into a kiss.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

A frail Ben moves slowly as Ted guides him with a shopping cart. They walk around pointing and commenting.

BEN

What day is it?

TED

Tuesday.

BEN

Oh right, sorry to ask you again.

TED

That's OK, don't worry about it. Let's go get those cinnamon buns that you like.

BEN

Yeah, sounds good.

INT. CAR - DAY

Ted drives with Ben in the front seat.

TED

Yeah know, all the time we've been going to that store, I don't remember ever seeing any cute guys.

BEN
Oh, I have.

TED
You sure?

BEN
Yeah.

TED
OK, well the next time you see one,
let me know so I can enjoy.

BEN
It's a deal, I'm willing to share.

TED
I'll hold you to it.

BEN
And, I'd like to hold something else
to you later.

TED
OK, anything to please my favorite
pervert.

BEN
So, that's what you think I am?

TED
Yes.

BEN
Thanks, that is a compliment.

TED
How about sailor-pervert?

BEN
Oh, my God that's beautiful! That's me!

TED
I aim to please.

BEN

And your aim in my direction hits the target most times.

TED

Well, this all brings me happiness and wish the same for you.

BEN

Yes, indeed.

EXT. OCEAN BEACH - DAY

Ted and Ben walk slowly together.

Ted looks out in a memory.

FLASHBACK - A FEW YEARS AGO

A younger Ted and Ben are passionately making love.

End of Flashback

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Ted with Ben sit quietly with a meal.

BEN

Very good!

TED

Thanks, my pleasure.

BEN

I'm so glad you are here and us together.

TED

We were meant to be together.

BEN

Yes, and now you more burdened with my health and memory problems. But, I still remember who you are.

TED

And that is most important. That we remember each other.

BEN

Even if someday I don't know who you are, please know that I will always want to.

TED

We'll figure that out if we have to, but now is to be cherished.

BEN

Yes, I'll drink to that.

They click glasses.

Ben goes off into a memory.

FLASHBACK - A FEW YEARS AGO

A younger Ben and Ted are passionately making love.

End of Flashback

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ted and Ben sleep closely together in a loving way.

Ben wakes up to notice Ted sound asleep.

Ben quietly gets out of bed.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Ted wakes up to notice that Ben is gone.

EXT. ROAD

Ben walks slowly in a daze as a POLICE CAR pulls up.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - MORNING

Ted opens the front door to find Ben escorted by a police officer.

Ted rushes to embrace Ben.

TED

Why did you leave?

BEN

I went out to find the car.

TED

But, it's right here in the drive way.

BEN

Oh, that's good to know.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Ted with Ben walk into the store. Ben wears his Navy veterans cap.

A surprised Ted notices something in the distance.

Two handsome men shopping together.

TED (Quietly to Ben)

Look over there.

BEN

Where?

TED

The produce section. Two cute guys.

BEN

Oh yeah.

INT. PRODUCE SECTION

Ted and Ben continue to shop.

A handsome young man approaches Ben.

MAN

Thank you, for your service.

BEN

Well, you're welcome.

Ted moves away to let them engage in a conversation with an enthusiastic Ben.

Later in another section Ted spots another cute guy and alerts Ben.

TED

Oh, my God there's another one. I don't believe it!

BEN

Where, I don't see him.

TED

Oh, never mind.

A MONTAGE of several other discoveries in the store of cute guys by Ted with futile efforts to alert Ben.

A MONTAGE of several other strangers that stop to talk with Ben about his naval service.

INT. CHECKOUT COUNTER

Ted and Ben are finished checking out their groceries. Ben struggles with his card in the machine.

TED

What's the matter?

BEN

I can't see the numbers. They are blurry.

TED

OK, don't worry. What is the pin code?

Ben quietly tells him and then Ted punches in the code which works to the relief of them both.

INT. CAR

Ted drives with Ben on the passenger side.

BEN

I was really having a hard time focusing.

TED

Then, you weren't kidding when you didn't see all the cute guys?

BEN

No.

TED

That's too bad. It was a smorgasbord of beauties like I've never seen before in that store. Like a fantasy!

BEN

Well, I'm glad you had your fantasy, but I couldn't see it.

TED

Sorry about that. I'll get an eye doctor's appointment when we get home.

BEN

Thanks. I always feel awkward when somebody congratulates my service.

TED

I think it's great. You deserve recognition along with all the others.

BEN

Yes, but I still feel weird because there were so many others that didn't survive.

TED

Like survivors guilt.

BEN

Something like that.

TED

Well, I celebrate that you are still here, and I can tell you about all the cute guys out there even if you can't see them.

BEN

OK, cheers for your service that helps me see all the important things.

TED

My pleasure!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ted and Ben lay in bed.

TED

Good night.

BEN

My time is almost up.

TED

What?

BEN

We all have to go sometime.

TED

Yes.

BEN

My time is near. My memory is shot,
I can't perform in bed like I used to,
and I might be going blind.

TED

Nobody knows exactly when they are
going to die including you and we
don't know about your eyes yet.

BEN

Stop trying to put a rosy picture
on it! The end is near!

TED

No, stop talking like that!

BEN

I won't! I'm facing reality.

TED

Well, the reality is that you are
tired and need a good night's
sleep.

Ted switches off the night table lamp followed by a pause between them.

TED

I still want you here with me.

BEN

And I want the same.

TED

Your memory problem is about now short term things. But, you remember us over the years. The many many sexy times we've had together and all the fun. Those memories are just as real as anything happening now and they can't be taken away.

BEN

And I don't want to be taken away yet.

TED

And I don't either. I hope you remember the time we met when I stalked you and then molested you in the back of a cab going to my place.

BEN

Ah yes. The cab driver got a good show.

TED

And a good tip. My tip now to you is stay around so that you can keep molesting me.

BEN

OK, Sounds good.