

NEW BEGINNINGS

Written by

Jeff's Best Friend

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INT. LA CAPRESE - ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Stylish Italian restaurant.

Rustic music plays in the background as waiters in black tie hurry to serve diners.

Haunched and somewhat forlorn, SUE (30), large glass of wine in hand, rests at a corner table.

Opposite, a sympathetic FRIEND (30) wearily listens.

SUE

He's been so cold about it, and still hasn't explained why. Just said it was for the best, like five years didn't matter. I knew he was holding back, he could barely go near me. Now I'm the one held back, going nowhere.

FRIEND

Hey, take your time. Look at it as a new beginning. Fresh adventures awaits.

They clink glasses.

SUE

I hope so. There is one upside, I go to yoga now. You should see the instructor. Wow.

The two women share a laugh, until...Sue stops still, her eyes locked on the entrance as...

GERALD (30) pressed suit and tie, walks nervously behind a waiter to an adjoining room.

SUE

What the fuck! Look, there's Gerald. Our favorite restaurant and he waltzes back in.

FRIEND

All dressed up but...no one with him. What do we think?

They look at each other.

TOGETHER

Blind date.

Sue jumps up and storms after Gerald.

FRIEND

Sue, don't.

RESTAURANT - SIDE ROOM

Gerald thanks the waiter and takes a seat.

He checks his watch for the time and then adjusts his tie - notices his hand shaking.

His focus is broken as Sue drops down opposite.

SUE

Hello Gerald. Let me guess, long legs, probably blonde.

GERALD

Sue! Please, let's not do this. I've said sorry for everything. I've tried--

SUE

Yeah, yeah. Lots more fish in the sea, hey. Nice touch to bring her to our restaurant.

Gerald shuffles uncomfortably, gazes over toward the door.

GERALD

Please, can we do this another time. Let's meet for coffee.

SUE

Tell me, what's your Tinder profile, 'Quiet, repressed guy wants to meet new muppet to be callously dropped'?

GERALD

I'm truly sorry. I don't do--

Across the room, Sue spies a WOMAN (25), all dressed up.

SUE

Ooh, is this the one?

Gerald's head snaps round, but quickly returns as the Woman walks pass to another table.

SUE

That didn't take long. Christ, it's not someone we know? I always did wonder about you and my sister.

Gerald looks away, sighs.

SUE

Tell me it's not? You always liked her.

GERALD

Sue! Yes, I like your sister but--

SUE

Wow, now it comes out.

GERALD

Not that like. You know why I like her?

(off Sue's frown)

She reminds me of you when we first met. Carefree, alive. The things that we forgot.

SUE

So I'm old and boring.

GERALD

No. We were both what we needed at the time.

SUE

Yeah, available.

GERALD

Look, you were fun, and got me out my dark place. And I was your safe haven.

SUE

Were safe. You should've had therapy.

GERALD

That's what my therapist says.

He shrugs - a secret being revealed.

Sue sits up, stunned.

SUE

What? You do? I said go, but would you listen?

GERALD

I know, I'm sorry. I should've gone. You know what's been the most revealing thing?

(off Sue's confusion)

You were my best friend, the one I wanted to talk to most, but I still couldn't. Too scared.

SUE

And you paid for that wisdom.

GERALD

I so wanted to tell you--

HUGO (O.S.)

Sue! That's where you've been.

Standing above them is HUGO (40) wild long hair, bohemian attire with a beaded necklace.

HUGO

(to Gerald)

Sue's my star yoga pupil. Week after week, first to put her mat next to me. And then, out of the blue, I get ditched.

Gerald takes in the startled reaction of Sue.

GERALD

Ditched?

HUGO

(joking)

Yup, brutal.

SUE

Hugo, hi. Oh, you're so funny.

Sue jumps up, gathers herself - flustered. Puts a quick hand through her hair to make herself presentable.

SUE

Sorry, I couldn't make it this week. I will next. You should know me, I'm a loyal bunny.

Gerald studies Hugo and Sue's chemistry - frowns.

GERALD

I vouch for that, she's very loyal. But, Yoga? That's new.

SUE

Well, you've started therapy.

HUGO

Easy now, children.

SUE

Sorry, Hugo. Gerald's...an old friend. We were just catching up. Look, I've got to go, after all the night is young.

Hugo puts a friendly arm around Sue's shoulders.

HUGO

Go girl. And what does this fresh tonight bring?

Sue smiles - likes his enquiry. Throws Gerald a look.

SUE

Hey, join us, I'm with a friend--

Hugo gazes back at Gerald.

HUGO

Oh darling, I would love to but I have a date to attend to.

He puts his hand out to Gerald

HUGO

Hi Gerald. Your photo doesn't do you credit. Sue, I think it's my lucky night.

He turns to Sue.

HUGO

Any tips with Mr Handsome?

Stunned, Sue stares on, tries to work it all out. Her eyes dart between them.

Gerald mouths 'sorry'.

SUE

Err, I don't know. So, Hugo you're... Umm, well, Gerald, he's very discreet.

(Mouths at Gerald)

That's why?

Gerald jumps up, beckons Hugo to sit.

GERALD

Good to meet you Hugo, just give me a minute. I haven't seen Sue for, well...way too long.

Stunned, Sue shakes her head, turns and walks away. Gerald hurries after her.

GERALD

Sue!

She pauses, turns around - a face lost in confusion.

SUE

Please, leave me alone.

Gerald marches up and without hesitation hugs her.

GERALD

I wanted to tell you. I just never knew how.

Sue melts into the hug.

SUE

It all makes sense now. And you
carried that all alone. If only
you had...

(beat)

Look, I'd better go.

Sue gently lets go, backs off.

GERALD

Can you do one last thing for me?

She glances back - what is it?

GERALD

Please, go and have fun again.

Sue nods agreement, turns away.

Gerald heads back until a tap on his shoulder.

He spins to see Sue up close. She whispers into his ear.

SUE

And you, go and be free. I'm
jealous.

She kisses him on the cheek and heads back to her--

CORNER TABLE

Where her friend awaits.

FRIEND

And?

Still impacted, Sue wipes an eye, lifts her glass of wine.

SUE

Where to begin. But you know
what? I feel lighter.

They chink glasses once more in celebration.

SUE

Time for some fun.

FRIEND

What do you have in mind?

SUE

Err, Pilates?