

STAY CLOSE TO ME

By

LUKE MEPHAM

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**INT. CAFE - DAY**

MELISSA, 24, sits slowly stirring her cup of coffee.

She stares blankly at it before snapping out of it and realizing a WAITRESS is speaking to her.

**MELISSA**

Sorry?

**WAITRESS**

It's fine, I just asked if everything was okay with your drink.

**MELISSA**

Yes, yeah everything's fine, thanks.

She manages a weak smile and continues to look back at the drink.

The Waitress leaves and Melissa glances at her watch. She lets out a huff.

A MAN drags himself across the Cafe and looks as if he's having a bad day - like he's just ran the London Marathon.

He stands in front of Melissa.

**MAN**

Melissa Stewarts?

Melissa shakes his hand.

**MAN / TOM**

Tom Renford, pleasure.

He takes a seat and sits opposite her. He brings forth his folder containing loose bits of paper and unorganized works.

**MELISSA**

Anything?

**TOM**

Plenty.

**MELISSA**

Thank God.

He hands Melissa a pen.

(CONTINUED)

**TOM**

I just need to get a signature and then the payment.

Melissa places the pen down.

**MELISSA**

You'll get your money when you tell me where my sister is.

Tom looks at her and sees the hostility surrounding her. He didn't want to aggravate her too much.

**TOM**

Alright, I saw her.

**MELISSA**

Where?

**TOM**

A little village called Henfield Falls.

**MELISSA**

Where's that?

**TOM**

About two hours from here. It's a nice quiet village. Any idea why she went?

**MELISSA**

She met this real charmer at her acting classes and they fell in love. She changed after seeing him, like she was under his thumb all the time. They got married and then disappeared without a trace. That was about a year ago.

**TOM**

Well I've got some good news. She's been found.

He slides a photo across the table and Melissa takes it and looks it over.

Her sister - tall, long blonde hair - is seen standing by a lamp post wearing a leather jacket, black jeans and sunglasses.

(CONTINUED)

**MELISSA**

Oh Lucy, you're okay.

**TOM**

I took those every night I saw her.

**MELISSA**

The *night*?

Tom nods.

**TOM**

Yep, every night, stood under the lamp.

**MELISSA**

Why is she wearing sunglasses at night?

**TOM**

Maybe she's developed a sensitivity to streetlights?

Melissa rolls her eyes at that.

A Waitress arrives at the table and asks if Tom wants anything. He shakes his head and she leaves them alone.

**TOM (cont'd)**

Or she just entered a weird broody stage in her life.

**MELISSA**

Look, man, she was never like this.

**TOM**

People change, Melissa. Now look, you didn't hire me for an opinion on your sister's new personality, you hired me to find her, I did, so let's just let it go. You wanna go to her? Go to her. My bits done, now if I can get my money?

Melissa hands him an envelope and he takes it. He opens it and fingers through the notes.

**MELISSA**

It's all there.

**TOM**

I always double check.

(CONTINUED)

She looks back at the picture and sees her Sister's wedding ring finger is bare.

**MELISSA**

Oh.

**TOM**

What?

**MELISSA**

Maybe she left him?

**TOM**

Huh?

**MELISSA**

She doesn't look to be married anymore. Had a big enough ring before but now...nothing.

**TOM**

So why didn't she come home?

Melissa looks at him then back down at the photo and shrugs.

**MELISSA**

I've no idea.

The photo takes her full concentration.

CUT TO

**EXT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Her house sits in the middle of a cluster of houses down a newly built estate in the countryside.

**INT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Melissa is walking through from the kitchen to her living room and lays down on the couch whilst speaking on the phone.

**MELISSA**

(on phone)

Other than that, nothing more.

...

I know. He was out there for two weeks. Plus he was late in showing up. I nearly gave up on him.

(CONTINUED)

She spots something out the window and holds her sight on it.

POV: MELISSA - Tom is standing under a street lamp and waves to her.

**MELISSA**

(on phone)

Mum, he's standing outside my house. Let me see what he wants. I'll call you back if he has any other updates.

Okay I'll call you regardless. I love you. Bye.

She hangs up and watches Tom walk towards her door. She opens it just in time for Tom to reach for the door bell.

**TOM**

That was good timing.

**MELISSA**

Yeah it was...what's the problem?

**TOM**

I went back to Henfield Falls after our meeting -

**MELISSA**

I never told you to.

**TOM**

I know, I know, I just thought I could get more for you. Luckily I did.

He stands and looks at her. She waits.

**MELISSA**

What is it?

**TOM**

You're not gonna invite me in?

He's radiating a poisonous atmosphere and Melissa is slightly concerned for her life here.

She looks at the floor then up at him.

**MELISSA**

I'm barefoot.

(CONTINUED)

**TOM**

It'll only take a minute.

Melissa options to go outside despite the cold air.

**MELISSA**

Okay, what have you got for me?

**TOM**

Your sister has asked me to pass on a message.

**MELISSA**

You spoke to her?

**TOM**

Oh yes.

**MELISSA**

What did she say?

Tom becomes unglued and borderline perverted. He begins breathing heavier and looking at Melissa in a way that would make any woman shake with fear.

**TOM**

You want her message?

Melissa slowly backs into her house without laying an eye on Tom.

Tom steps forward slightly and notices something on Melissa.

A silver necklace with a crucifix at the end of it.

Tom immediately reverts back to normality.

**TOM (cont'd)**

You know what, I can't remember what the message was.

**MELISSA**

You can't remember?

**TOM**

No. I guess it wasn't that important.

**MELISSA**

Tom, what the hell?

Tom begins backing off down the driveway.

(CONTINUED)

**TOM**

I'm sure your sister will be in touch...soon.

He disappears around the corner leaving Melissa standing on her doorstep looking confused.

She walks briskly to the end of the driveway and doesn't see anyone.

FADE TO BLACK

**I/E. MELISSA'S CAR - DAY**

Melissa drives along the country roads.

**INT. MELISSA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS**

She parks up and gets her phone out and sends a quick text to tell her Mum that she's there.

She turns to the passenger seat and takes out the photo of her sister and gets out of the car.

**EXT. HENFIELD FALLS VILLAGE - DAY**

Montage of images.

- Melissa stops some people and asks them if they know where her sister lives.

- Some people point to a direction, some people shrug.

- She's not having much luck.

**INT. MELISSA'S CAR - LATER**

Melissa gets in her car and is visibly disappointed she's had no luck.

Then something catches her eyes.

POV: MELISSA - the street lamp from the photos.

**MELISSA**

Every night...

Melissa looks at her clock and then gets herself comfortable in the chair.



CROSS FADE

**INT. MELISSA'S CAR - NIGHT**

Melissa starts to wake up from her sleep. She regains herself and looks ahead of her to see nothing.

The lamp post is shining but her sister isn't there.

Melissa looks at herself in the rear view mirror and wakes herself up.

**LUCY**

(o.s)

You found me.

Melissa jumps out of her skin and turns to see her sister LUCY, 25 - sat in the back seat.

**LUCY**

Or I guess I found you.

Melissa calms down and becomes relieved.

**MELISSA**

Lucy.

**LUCY**

Yeah...

Melissa can't find any words to say, she's still in shock from the fright.

**LUCY (cont'd)**

Did Tom give you my message?

**MELISSA**

No.

Lucy shakes her head in annoyance.

**LUCY**

Idiot.

**MELISSA**

He went to but then he freaked out and disappeared. Quite literally.

**LUCY**

Why are you here?

(CONTINUED)

**MELISSA**

I had to see you. Even if you don't want to come back home, I'm just glad I'm seeing you now.

**LUCY**

I'm not welcome at home anymore.

**MELISSA**

Of course you are. What makes you say that?

**LUCY**

Where's Mum and Dad then?

**MELISSA**

They...they never agreed with your choice of husband.

Lucy looks out of the side window and wipes a tear away.

**LUCY**

You shouldn't have come.

**MELISSA**

I wanted to. I want you to come home. Look, you're not wearing a wedding ring, are guys over?

**LUCY**

Yes.

**MELISSA**

Then come home. Bury the hatchet with Mum and Dad and we can all get along again.

**LUCY**

Nothing is ever going to be the same again.

**MELISSA**

Sure it will.

**LUCY**

No it won't! I'm different now.

Melissa feels for her and turns back to face the front.

**MELISSA**

Look...I know, okay?

(CONTINUED)

**LUCY**

You know?

**MELISSA**

Yes I know. Tom showed me the photo. Said you wait there every night. Now am I to assume you're prostituting yourself for money?

Lucy smirks.

**LUCY**

No.

**MELISSA**

Don't laugh, Lucy. Why else would you dress sexy and wait under a lamp every night?

**LUCY**

For food.

Melissa feels sorry for Lucy.

**MELISSA**

I've got money...I can get you food.

Lucy looks long and hard at Melissa.

**LUCY**

Do you want to get food...together?

**MELISSA**

Yes. Yeah I'd love to.

**LUCY**

Did you want to stay with me?

**MELISSA**

I can stay for a couple of days.

**LUCY**

Stay...forever...

Melissa turns back to look at Lucy. She's got a pleasant and happy smile but as soon as she sees Lucy, her expression drops to one of nervousness.

**MELISSA**

What's happening with your eyes?

(CONTINUED)

**LUCY**

Melissa, can you remove your necklace?

Melissa does as she's instructed.

**LUCY**

Face the front.

Melissa does as instructed and Lucy leans forward and buries her fangs into Melissa's throat. Melissa gasps and faintly struggles free. Blood drips down her shoulder and Lucy wipes her finger up it.

FADE TO BLACK

**EXT. HENFIELD FALLS - LAMP - NIGHT - A LITTLE LATER**

Melissa walks underneath the lamp and Lucy joins her. They walk along past it with smiles on their faces and holding hands.

**LUCY**

It's gonna be so much fun with you.  
We can hunt together.

**MELISSA**

I'm still new to this.

**LUCY**

Don't worry...you'll get used to it.

**MELISSA**

What am I going to tell Mum and Dad?

**LUCY**

Tell them we'll be home for dinner.

They both laugh as they walk further down the road.

THE END