Two Wrongs

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. PHIL AND JUSTINE’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Establishing shot of Phil and Justine’s house, a split level in a quiet neighborhood.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Vegetables boil away on top of the stove. A pair of hands open the oven door and pull out a roast. The roast is placed on a dinner table set for two cluttered with serving dishes.

The clock on the wall reads 6:00pm.

A cell phone laying on top of the kitchen counter buzzes. JUSTINE, an attractive yet slightly dressed down thirty year old, picks up the phone. The screen displays a text message from her husband Phil: "Will be home in another couple of hours. Start dinner without me." Justine stares at the message and frowns.

A dinner knife cuts into a piece of beef. Justine brings the meat to her lips and takes a bite. Across from Justine is an empty seat and an empty dinner plate.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Justine is sprawled out on the couch watching a movie.

    V.O. TV ACTRESS
    Admit it. You’re having an affair.

    V.O. TV ACTOR
    Of course I’m not! What on earth gave you that idea?

    V.O. TV ACTRESS
    You’re never home on time and you never pay attention to me.

The door opens and PHIL, a thirty-three year old dressed in business casual attire, walks through the door and up the stairs.

    PHIL
    I’m home.

(CONTINUED)
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JUSTINE
How was your day?

PHIL
Busy.

JUSTINE
It’s Nine O’clock.

PHIL
Well, I texted and said I was going to be late.

JUSTINE
Yeah, I got it. Your dinner is in the fridge.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A fork stabs into a piece of meat. Phil scarfs down his food. Justine takes the seat next to him.

JUSTINE
So, this big project you’re working on. Is it almost finished?

PHIL
Still have a lot of coding to work out, but it’s getting there.

JUSTINE
This is has been going on for three months now. Would just be nice to have you home by six again.

PHIL
Well, this job demands a lot of my time.

JUSTINE
Do you think you can get out early on Friday?

PHIL
Why? What’s going on then?

JUSTINE
(shocked and hurt by his response)
It’s our anniversary.

(CONTINUED)
PHIL
(talking while chewing his food)
Oh, right. Sorry. Can’t keep track of time these days.

JUSTINE
I was thinking of making a reservation at that place where you proposed to me.

PHIL
(talking while chewing his food)
What time?

JUSTINE
Can you please not talk with your mouthful?

PHIL
(takes a minute to swallow his food)
Sorry.

JUSTINE
How about 7:00?

PHIL
Sure, I’ll get home at 6:00, get ready and we’ll leave at 6:30.

Phil takes a sip of water and then picks up a piece of food with his fingers and puts it in his mouth. Justine notices this.

JUSTINE
You have utensils.

PHIL
Really, you’re going to nitpick how I eat?

JUSTINE
Nevermind.

Phil takes the last few bites of his meal and then gets up and puts the dishes in the sink.

JUSTINE
You’re not going to leave those in the sink are you?
PHIL
What’s the matter?

JUSTINE
I don’t like when the dishes pile up.

PHIL
So, I have no manners and I am a slob.

JUSTINE
I didn’t say that.

PHIL
That’s what it sounded like.

JUSTINE
I just want you to help out a little more.

PHIL
You do realize I just got home and I’m tired.

JUSTINE
I work too and I’m tired.

PHIL
(Takes the dishes out the sink and puts them in the dishwasher, slamming the door shut)
I’m going to bed.

Phil leaves Justine by herself in the kitchen looking dejected.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Phil and Justine read while lying in bed. Several seconds go by before either one says a word.

JUSTINE
Phil, I’m sorry about earlier.

Phil turns his head to Justine and gives her an accepting smile and then returns to his book. Justine leans closer to him.
JUSTINE
You’re a very hard worker.

Justine starts kissing his face. He turns away from her.

PHIL
Justine, not now.

JUSTINE
Oh, come on.

She continues to kiss him. Phil sits up.

PHIL
I’m serious, Justine. I’m tired and we have to get up.

JUSTINE
But when was the last we...

PHIL
Not tonight.

JUSTINE
Fine.

Phil turns off his light. Justine starts to reach over to turn off her light.

PHIL
Make sure the alarm is set for five.

JUSTINE
What time are you going in?

PHIL
The usual time but I’m going to the gym before work.

JUSTINE
Since when did you start going to the gym?

PHIL
Signed up a week ago but haven’t gone there yet.

JUSTINE
When were you going to tell me?
PHIL
I just told you now.

Justine resets the alarm, turns off the light and settles her head onto the pillow. Justine and Phil’s bodies lay turning away from each other.

JUSTINE
What gym is it?

PHIL
Uh...JMD Fitness Center.

JUSTINE
Oh, right by the shopping center?

PHIL
Yeah.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A tea kettle is steaming away on the stove. Justine stands over the kitchen counter pouring herself a cup of tea. She has the phone held against her ear with the other hand.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST
JMD Fitness. How can I help you?

JUSTINE
Hi, I was wondering if you have family membership plans.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST
Yes, we do.

JUSTINE
Great. My husband joined a week ago and I was wondering if I can get added to his plan.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST
What’s your husband’s name?

JUSTINE
Phil Wright.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST
One second.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST
I’m sorry did you say Bill Wright?

(CONTINUED)
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JUSTINE
No. Phil Wright.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST
Okay, hang on just a moment.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST
Sorry, we don’t have anyone by that name.

JUSTINE
Oh, okay. thank you.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST
No problem.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

It is the night of their anniversary. Justine zips up a black strapless cocktail dress, standing in front of a full-length mirror.

CU of Justine applying mascara.

CU of Justine applying lipstick.

CU of Justine putting on a heart shaped necklace.

Justine takes one last look in the mirror.

The doorbell rings.

JUSTINE
Home already?

INT. DOORWAY - NIGHT

Justine races down the stairs expecting to see Phil at the door. Instead, standing outside is her neighbor JOHN, late 20’s and has a slight resemblance to Phil.

JUSTINE
John?

JOHN
Hi, I’m sorry to bother you, but the mailman mixed up and gave me some of your mail by accident.

John hands Justine the mail.

(CONTINUED)
JUSTINE
Again? This is the third time that’s happened.

JOHN
Well, our addresses are only off by one number. And maybe they have a new guy working.

JUSTINE
Maybe.

John notices Justine’s dress.

JOHN
Wow, you look nice. Special occasion?

JUSTINE
It’s our anniversary.

JOHN
Congratulations! How many years?

JUSTINE
Two.

JOHN
Well, I am jealous of your husband.

An awkward pause.

JOHN
Alright, I’ll see you around.

Justine watches John as he leaves with a slight grin on her face. It’s the first compliment she has received in a long time.

INT: LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
The clock on the wall reads 6:00.

Justine peers down the street from the large picture window, hoping that Phil’s car pulls into the driveway at any minute.

The clock on the wall fades from 6:10 to 6:30.

Justine is sitting on the couch fidgeting. She reaches into her purse and pulls out her cell phone. She calls Phil’s number. The call goes straight to voicemail.

(CONTINUED)
PHIL’S VOICEMAIL
Hi, this is Phil. Leave a message and I’ll get back to you.

JUSTINE
Hi Phil, it’s me Justine. I don’t know why your phone is off but I’m assuming you’re on your way home. It’s getting late and we need to leave the house in ten minutes in order to make our reservation. Anyway, I’ll see you when you get home.

Three seconds later the cell phone buzzes. Justine answers it with anticipation. A text message from her mom reads "Happy Anniversary." Justine frowns.

The clock now reads 6:45. Justine is pacing.

JUSTINE
(starting to panic)
Phil, you are not doing this to me. Not tonight. Not on our anniversary!

Annoyed, Justine grabs her cell phone and calls Phil’s office. The phone rings and rings and finally the answering machine picks up.

PHIL’S OFFICE VOICEMAIL
Hi, you reached Phil Wright, extension 223. I’m out of the office so please leave a message...

Justine hangs up. And tries his cell phone one last time.

JUSTINE
Okay, please pick up this time. Pick up! Pick up!

PHIL’S VOICEMAIL
Hi, this is Phil. Leave a message....

JUSTINE
Son of a bitch!

Justine throws her phone.

The clock now reads 7:00.
INT. DINING ROOM – NIGHT

CU of red wine pouring into a glass.

Justine brings the glass to her lips and with a heavy heart takes a big sip.

JUSTINE
Well, it’s been a nice anniversary...alone.

Justine leans her body over the table and buries her face into her arms and cries.

The clock now reads 8:00.

EXT. DRIVEWAY – NIGHT

Phil’s car pulls into the driveway.

INT. DINING ROOM – NIGHT

Justine takes the last sip of her third glass of wine. Her hair is slightly disheveled and she is very tipsy.

The door opens. Footsteps are heard marching up the stairs. Justine gives Phil the look of death as he approaches the dining room.

PHIL
I am so sorry. I don’t know what happened. I just caught up in all this work. I forgot it was tonight.

JUSTINE
This is unforgivable, Phil. Unforgivable!

PHIL
I know. I screwed up.

JUSTINE
How could you? I reminded you last night.

PHIL
I was so tired then, I completely forgot by this morning. But it’s not the end of the world. We can go out tomorrow night.

(CONTINUED)
JUSTINE
No. I’m not going to waste another night waiting for you. All I do is wait. I wait for you come home from work. I wait for you to want to have sex with me.

PHIL
Justine...

JUSTINE
The last time we even tried was months ago. What is it? Am I suddenly repulsive to you? Or are you just too busy screwing someone else?

PHIL
What are you talking about?

JUSTINE
I just don’t believe you spend twelve hours a day working, not to mention weekends.

PHIL
But that’s what I’m doing.

JUSTINE
I think you’re having an affair.

PHIL
That’s ridiculous. Now you’re talking crazy!

JUSTINE
You won’t touch me. You hide stuff from me. You pick fights with me. And you lie to me!

PHIL
What are you talking about?

JUSTINE
I called that gym to get added to your plan and they said you never signed up.

PHIL
Well that was...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JUSTINE
And your cell phone was off tonight. You never turn it off. And if you were really at work you would’ve gotten my call.

PHIL
Look, the gym screwed up my information, but now I’m in their system. My cell phone fell out of my pocket. It was in the car the whole time. And I may have been in the bathroom when you called me at work.

Justine ponders this but remains unconvinced.

PHIL
But I cannot believe you would accuse me of cheating.

JUSTINE
It’s just that I’ve seen this all before with Frank my ex. I fell for every one of his lame excuses and then found him in bed with my best friend.

PHIL
Well, I’m not your ex.

JUSTINE
I’m going to bed.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Justine and Phil lie in bed with their bodies turned away from each other. Justine’s eyes are still open. She tosses and turns a bit.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The sun shines through the blinds. Justine wakes up. She turns over to find a note on Phil’s side of the bed. The note reads. "I’m going into work. Will be home by five."

JUSTINE
It’s Saturday!

Justine crumples the note and throws it on the floor and gets up.
INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Justine lays on the couch watching a movie.

V.O. TV ACTRESS
I don’t think I can do this.

V.O. TV ACTOR #2
He’s been making you unhappy for years. Of course you can.

V.O. TV ACTRESS
I don’t want to hurt him.

V.O. TV ACTOR #2
Don’t worry. He will never find out.

Justine pauses the movie. She stares at her phone and ponders it. Finally she picks it up, searches for a number and brings the phone to her face.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

A car pulls into the driveway. The driver’s side door opens and a leg steps out. We don’t see the face of the person getting out. He walks towards the house with a bouquet of flowers in his hand.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The alarm clock reads 3:00. Moaning is heard in the background. A pile of clothes have been thrown on the floor. We see Justine’s body on top of another person. We don’t see either of their faces.

Suddenly the door opens and Phil is standing in the doorway with a bouquet of flowers in his hand and a look of horror on his face. The flowers fall to the ground.

Justine and the man, who is now revealed as the neighbor John, turn around to see Phil angrily staring back at them. Their mouths drop open.

PHIL
Justine? What the hell!

JUSTINE
Phil, I...what are you doing here? You said you weren’t going to be home till...

(CONTINUED)
PHIL
Yeah, I came home early to surprise you. I felt bad about the other night. But this, is this your way of punishing me?

Justine is speechless. Phil turns around and storms out of the bedroom.

INT. LIVING ROOM - STAIRCASE - DAY

Justine follows Phil to the staircase. She is wearing a bathrobe.

JUSTINE
Phil, wait....

PHIL
I know you’re upset with me, but I didn’t think you had it in you to do something as low as this.

JUSTINE
I’m sorry.

PHIL
You’re sorry! You know what, I’m sorry. I’m sorry I can’t be the perfect husband. I’m sorry that my hard work to support us both doesn’t cut it for you anymore. I am very sorry I can’t pleasure you like that poor excuse for a human being that lives next door can!

JUSTINE
Phil...I.....

PHIL
You still thought I was cheating on you, right? So you went ahead and got revenge?

Speechless, Justine looks back at him with tears rolling down her face.

PHIL
Well, that’s just the lowest thing anyone could ever do. And for the record, I never had an affair.
JUSTINE
Why were you never home?

PHIL
I love my job. Is that a crime?

JUSTINE
And you don’t want to have sex with me anymore.

PHIL
And you always criticize me.

PHIL
Well I hope you and the pile of scum that lives next door have a great life together.

Phil turns around, walks down the stairs and out the door. The camera stays on shot of Justine and then slowly zooms out. FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. GROUP THERAPY MEETING ROOM - DAY

PHIL
My name is Phil and I’m a workaholic.

GROUP MEMBERS
Hi Phil.

PHIL
I love to work. I love ending the day knowing I made a real accomplishment. But I was afraid to fail. I was so afraid of failing that I ended up failing in my marriage. I neglected my wife and she ended up sleeping with someone else. Looking back, I now realize the fault was mine.

FADE TO BLACK.