

# **We Need To Have These Conversations**

by

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EXT. JACK'S APARTMENT. BALCONY- NIGHT

JACK BRICKS- early 30s, salesman, never sleeps.

The door slides. JACK steps out shirtless, dressed in sweatpants and a cigarette in hand. He walks over to the edge of the balcony, looks up at the sky and then across to the city.

A WOMAN in a silk robe enters. She pulls her hair up in a pony tail and walks up behind him, wrapping her arms around his torso.

SERENA HARMEN- mid 20s, saleswoman, always on the move.

She leans into his neck and kisses the back of his ear.

SERENA  
(whispers)  
Hey sexy...

Her lips touch the nape of his neck. He takes a moment and then reaches for her from behind, turning around and then kisses her.

JACK  
Hey beautiful...

SERENA  
Ready to talk?

He pulls her face into his, they take in each others breaths and then puts his cigarette out.

JACK  
(exhales)  
Let's....

He let's her go. Turns his back again and looks out to the sky.

JACK (CON'T)  
When do you go?

SERENA  
Seven days.

She stands beside him, her back against the balcony.

SERENA (CON'T)  
I haven't made a decision yet.

JACK  
(nods)  
What are you waiting for?

SERENA  
What do you think?

JACK

Me? I didn't matter when you decided to take the job.

SERENA

You hurt me... you gave me a choice.

She looks to him. He keeps looking out, nodding his head slowly.

SERENA (CON'T)

Besides, I didn't think it would be this soon..

She turns around and looks out with him.

SERENA

Me leaving.

JACK

(nodding)

You leaving...You're leaving... what do we have to talk about?

She turns to look at him, feeling her eyes on him he does the same.

JACK (CON'T)

Seems like you've already made up your mind, whatever I say wouldn't make a difference.

SERENA

Maybe you should start trying...

JACK

Trying...

SERENA

(whispers out)

Fight for me...

FADE OUT

CUT TO:7 DAYS AGO

INT.SERENA'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM- MORNING

Serena wakes up to Jack staring at her.

SERENA

How long have you been up?

JACK

Love you too

SERENA  
(smiling)  
Good morning

They lean into each other for a kiss.

JACK  
I'm going to miss this...

SERENA  
It's two days babe. You'll be fine.

JACK  
It's two less away from you.

SERENA  
It's good money.

JACK  
It's not you.

She turns her body away from him. He comes up behind her, tugging at her waist.

JACK (CON'T)  
You could come with?

SERENA  
I have... I need to see my boss  
about a position.

JACK  
On a Saturday?

SERENA  
It's business.

She turns to face him. He continues staring at her.

SERENA (CON'T)  
What?

JACK  
Last week you were talking about  
quitting.

SERENA  
I still am...

JACK  
Then what more business could you  
still possibly have with him.

SERENA  
He says he has a proposition for  
me. I want to listen.

CUT TO:PRESENT

EXT. JACK'S APARTMENT. BALCONY- NIGHT

Jack and Serena are on opposite ends of the balcony, both still looking out at the city.

JACK  
That Saturday, you knew then.

SERENA  
Yes.

JACK  
You could've told me.

SERENA  
I wanted it to be official...and we were in a good space, bringing it up right before you were about to leave would've tainted it. I guess I wanted one more good memory given...you know...

JACK  
Okay...

SERENA  
Okay...

Silence. He keeps nodding his head to himself.

JACK  
(whisper)  
Fight for you... I don't know what you think I've been doing lately.

SERENA  
I think...I think I've made it easier for you.

JACK  
Wow!

SERENA  
I think you think we're okay

JACK  
Aren't we?

SERENA  
No! So much has happened-

JACK  
And we came out on the other side-

SERENA  
As different people Winslow!

He looks at her. Takes a moment.

JACK  
Who are you then Serena? Why are  
you here...with me?

FADE OUT

FADE IN: 5 DAYS AGO

INT.WINGS CAFE- AFTERNOON

Serena grabs a table near the window. A waiter approaches  
her.

WAITER  
Apple pie and ginger-lemon tea.

SERENA  
Aren't I predictable?

WAITER  
There's nothing wrong with that...

SERENA  
(staring out the window)  
Maybe...

WAITER  
You okay?

SERENA  
Shouldn't I be? It's part of the  
pattern is it not?

WAITER  
What pattern?

SERENA  
Being predictable, making the same  
choices over and over again just  
because they seem... safe. .I think  
I'm tired of being safe, it hurts  
all the same...Never mind.Just the  
tea please.

WAITER  
Coming right up.

Waiter walks away. Serena takes a deep breath and then runs  
her hand through her hair in frustration.

SERENA  
(talking to self)  
What am I doing?

The phone rings. Jack's name pops up.

CUT TO: 5 DAYS AGO

INT.JACK'S OFFICE- AFTERNOON

The phone's ringing, nobody answers. He waits and then decides to hang up, tossing his phone on his desk.

A woman opens the door, catching his frustration.

RINNA BRINKS, mid 20's, receptionist, known to turn heads

RINNA

Bad time?

JACK

What do you have there?

Rinna struts over to his desk with a file in her hand. It exchanges hands.

JACK (CON'T)

What's the account?

RINNA

Me...

JACK

What?

He opens the folder, eyes the document, it appears foreign at first and then it starts to register.

RINNA

Congratulations...

CUT TO:6 WEEKS AGO

INT.BAR ONE- NIGHT

Jack signals the bartender from the bar. He and the bartender exchange words and within seconds he has two lemon vodka shots in his hands.

He travels with the shots across the room, bumping and squeezing past a few bodies before he gets to his table at the corner. Rinna is present in figure hugging black dress and a little tipsy.

RINNA

More for moi?

He sinks into his chair and slides the shot over to her.

RINNA (CON'T)

Careful handsome, I'm beginnning to think you want to take advantage.

JACK

Me... Never!

They laugh and cheers to each other, downing the shot.

RINNA

Fuck me!

JACK

Not bad...

Jack's phone rings. He pulls it out of his pocket, Serena's name pops up. He contemplates answering and then sends it to voicemail.

RINNA

The wife?

JACK

I wish.

RINNA

I thought you would've popped the question by now.

JACK

I did.

RINNA

No!! She said no...

JACK

(he scoffs)

That would've been a lot easier to hear.

RINNA

What-- you know what, let's not talk about it. We're here to unwind.

The phone rings again. He stares at the caller ID and then hangs up.

RINNA (CON'T)

Well you're killing your chances being out here with me.

JACK

Chances?

RINNA

At being the husband?

JACK

We're just friends.

RINNA

You're my friend. I never said anything about being content with just being yours.

JACK

Don't you have that guy--



RINNA  
We broke up.

JACK  
Sorry.

RINNA  
Don't be. He got sick of sharing me  
with another man.

JACK  
I'm work....

RINNA  
Sometimes.

JACK  
You're drunk.

RINNA  
My heart's sober .

She reaches across the table, brushes her hand over his,  
eyeing him lustfully.

RINNA (CON'T)  
Do you love her?

JACK  
Every day more than the last...

RINNA  
Then what are you doing out here  
with me?

CUT TO:

INT.SERENA'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN- MORNING

Serena pours herself a glass of wine, staring at her phone  
in the meantime. She dials Winslow again. It rings once...

JACK (V.O)  
This is Winslow, can't get to the  
phone right now. I'm too busy  
living...

SERENA  
(whisper)  
Great...

She pulls open the drawer and lying there is a positive  
pregnancy test. She slams the drawer, grabs the bottle and  
slams it against the kitchen counter. She takes a moment,  
picks up her glass and then nicely places into the kitchen  
sink, walking away.

BACK TO:

INT.BAR ONE- NIGHT

Jack and Rinna are pushing and squeezing past a few bodies, heading towards the exit. A MAN grabs Rinna by the wrist...

MAN

Hey sweetie, why don't you say you and I go for a spin...

RINNA

I don't think my boyfriend would like that...

Jack comes up beside the MAN.

JACK

Let her go....

MAN

Fine, whatever!

Rinna snatches her hand from him.

RINNA

(under her breath)

Jerk

Jack puts his arm over her shoulder, she wraps hers around his waist and they strut out like a couple.

CUT TO: 5 DAYS AGO

INT.JACK'S OFFICE- AFTERNOON

Jack drops the document on his desk and sighs in distress.

JACK

What are you going to do?

RINNA

That's not what I expected.

JACK

Sorry, it's....

RINNA

This is what you wanted.

JACK

Yes with...

They exchange a look, knowing the inevitable.

RINNA

I want a family.

JACK

And you can have one it just doesn't have to be mine.

He realises he's put his foot in his mouth.

JACK (CON'T)

I didn't mean it...

She storms out, he slams his desk, picks up the document and slams it against the table too.

FADE OUT

FADE IN: PRESENT

EXT.JACK'S APARTMENT. BALCONY- NIGHT

JACK

Why are you here Serena?

SERENA

I love you... and I have this irrational fear of losing you. And it's irrational because I realised in fearing that I've given you room to hurt me. Let...let me finish...

(she takes a deep breath and then starts again)

Since we got together I've been careful, careful with who I am around you, with you, constantly walking the line with you with us, even when I don't have to, even when it's not my fault, and you've never really done that with me. You've thrown caution to the wind, everytime! You've risked us with your... Your habits, your mistakes and somehow me not being ready for when you want throw caution to the wind is my fault.

JACK

That's how you feel--

SERENA

That's how you make me feel Jack. Me, not wanting to marry you wasn't my fault, I couldn't trust you. You blew our savings on your... You were reckless!

JACK

That deal wasn't meant to go sour, I was making an investment for us.

SERENA

You were doing it for you. I had no part in the negotiation just the end, when you needed more money.

JACK

I'm paying you back--

SERENA

And you resent me for it. You wouldn't have to if we were married, would you?

JACK

That's what you think?

SERENA

Yes. I do... And my miscarriage, that's not my fault either.

JACK

I did not--

SERENA

You treated me like shit because of it and all because I didn't cry enough for you! You didn't carry shit, I did! Your body didn't go through shit, mine did! And if I decide how I want to grieve that's my choice not yours! Because guess what Jack? I wanted that child as much as you did but I guess it didn't want me... and... it's not my fault--

JACK

I'm sorry.

SERENA

I've been feeling like I've been doing a lot wrong with you because I'm obsessed and afraid. And I wish you could say the same about me. And I guess I've never felt that from you and it scares me... And then there's Rinna, you let someone come between us and somehow when you stepped out it was my fault.

JACK

I'm not in love with her.

SERENA

And I convinced myself it should make me feel better, that I still have your heart at least, until I realised I was always honest with you and all you've done is throw it back in my face. And the worst part is... I still love you and that's enough to make this work. That's why I'm here. And to keep making it

(MORE)

SERENA (cont'd)  
work I didn't tell you about the  
job, I didn't tell you about me  
going away because I didn't want to  
realise more things about you,  
about us. That you wouldn't fight  
for me--

JACK  
Serena that is not fair!

SERENA  
You haven't insisted to come with  
me or for me to take you with me!

JACK  
Of course I want to be with you  
Serena, why do you think you  
leaving is upsetting?

SERENA  
Because it's not you! It's not you  
that's leaving it's me!

JACK  
Don't be ridiculous! If I didn't  
want to be with you I wouldn't be  
so pissed about the Rinna thing!

SERENA  
You seem more sorry than you are  
angry about it. You seem to have  
forgiven yourself before I could...  
Did.

JACK  
I thought we're in a good place.

SERENA  
We're diffent people Jack.. and I  
have faith in us, I do, but...she's  
pregnant.

JACK  
What?

SERENA  
Rinna. She's pregnant. She told me  
and she told you.

Silence.

JACK  
How long have you know?

SERENA  
Long enough... To realise we need  
to have this conversation.

She walks up to the edge of the balcony looks out at the city and then walks out.

SERENA

Goodbye Jack.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END