YOU’RE THE ONE FOR ME

A SHORT FILM SCREENPLAY

BY

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FADE IN:

CLOSE ON MAN’S SHOCKED FACE.

PULLING BACK, the man is lying on the ground. He is dead. He died with this expression.

CONTINUE PULLING BACK, we see some people gather in surprise. This has just happened.

This is happening on the sidewalk just outside a large apartment complex.

A couple of guys walk over and tap the man, asking if he is all right. They realize his condition, and proceed to pull a blanket over his face.

MATTHIAS FREDRICKSON (VO)
I am Matthias Fredrickson. That’s me, lying on the ground there. I’m dead, but I’ll never know exactly why. It was the happiest day of my life, so I guess that’s better than dying in deep depression.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK – DAY

MATTHIAS is walking with purpose. He wears a backpack.

MATTHIAS (VO)
This is me at the beginning of the end, just living a normal day in my average life.

SUPERIMPOSED:
NINE MONTHS EARLIER.

Matthias walks up a flight of stairs outside the building.
MATTHIAS (VO)
What I didn’t know was that the normality of my life was about to change forever.

INT. ACADEMIC BUILDING HALLWAY - DAY

He walks down a hallway.

MATTHIAS (VO)
I was about to meet my match - “the one,” some people call it.

Matthias opens a classroom door and enters.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Matthias walks to a seat near the back.

PULL BACK to REVEAL SALLY MALINO, a very attractive girl, sitting next to him. Matthias looks over, checking her out.

He hesitates for a few moments, and then overcomes his fear. He leans toward her.

MATTHIAS
Excuse me.

SALLY
Yes?

MATTHIAS
Do you have a spare three-by-five?

SALLY
Yes.

She leans forward and digs in her bag. She pulls out a three-by-five index card and hands it to him.

MATTHIAS
Thanks. By the way, what is your name?
SALLY
Sally. Yours?

MATTHIAS
Matthias.

SALLY
Nice to meet you, Matthias.

MATTHIAS
You too. Say, would you be interested
in meeting up for lunch some time?

SALLY
Well...

MATTHIAS
Common Grounds, two o’clock, next
Tuesday?

SALLY
Okay, sure.

Matthias smiles at Sally, she smiles back. They look at
each other alternatingly, ending on him staring at her and
her studying her book.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOCIAL CENTER (COMMONS) - DAY

Establishing shot. It’s a building with a nice glass-
windowed front, surrounded by larger buildings.

Matthias walks toward the Social Center from across the
street.

Matthias enters the Social Center front doors.

INT. COMMON GROUNDS CAFÉ - DAY

Sally is sitting at a table with a guy named HARRY.
They’re completely engaged in a conversation. Harry tells
a story, and Sally is laughing hard.
HARRY
I’m serious, that was the last time I would ever give coffee to my niece! She, like, spilled it all over the place, all over the carpet, and yeah, on me!

SALLY
(breathless from laughing)
Wow! I’d say don’t give her any more!

HARRY
Oh, you better believe I won’t!

FROM A DISTANCE, we see Matthias coming toward the table. As he approaches, he gives Harry a bad look.

Sally sees him coming and greets him.

SALLY
Oh, Matthias! Hi.

MATTHIAS
Hi.

Matthias is still giving Harry a cold shoulder.

MATTHIAS (CONT’D)
(to Sally)
So, do you want to find a different table?

SALLY
Oh, well, we thought this one might be fine.

Matthias is bothered by the we.

Sally sees it on his face.

SALLY (CONT’D)
Oh, yeah. Matthias, this is my boyfriend, Harry. Harry, this is Matthias, one of my classmates.
HARRY
Hey, man, what’s goin’ on?

MATTHIAS
Hey.

Matthias glares at Harry slightly, but you can tell he’s holding back a lot of tense emotion.

SALLY
Yeah, sorry. I’m kind of bad at introducing people.

HARRY
No, no, baby, you’re just fine!

SALLY
(flirtatious to Harry)
Stoppit.
(to Matthias)
Hey, you can sit here if you want.

Matthias pulls a chair out and sits down. He continues looking at Harry.

HARRY
So, what do you do?

MATTHIAS
I go to school here. What do you do?

Harry tries to be polite still.

HARRY
I go to school here, too. I meant what is your major, stuff like that. Tell me about yourself.

MATTHIAS
I am a history education major. What are you?

HARRY
(proudly)
I’m a studio art major.
MATTHIAS
What’s that going to do for you?

Sally hears this.

SALLY
So, um, well. . .

HARRY
No, it’s fine, Sal. I plan on doing murals and portraits, maybe some landscapes, stuff like that.
  (getting factual)
You know, surprisingly, the profession still makes a lot of money.

MATTHIAS
You know how you’d make a lot more money?

HARRY
What’s that?

MATTHIAS
If you died.

Sally gasps. Harry gives a look of surprise, then chuckles it off.

HARRY
You know, you’re right. I could die after I painted a few hundred, and have all the profits given to her. Wouldn’t that be nice, Sal?

SALLY
Well, not anytime soon!

HARRY
Oh, no, of course not, but sometime after the kids are grown up and out?

MATTHIAS
I read once that most artists whose works sell best are the ones who disappeared of unknown causes at a young age.
HARRY
Or of depression, or something like that, right, but we plan to live happily, and then I’ll disappear, and she’ll have it all.

MATTHIAS
If you want to make her really rich, die miserable and alone.

SALLY
Matthias?

Matthias checks his watch.

MATTHIAS
Is it really two-o-five? I have to go study for my next quiz. Second Amendment, you know.
(to Sally)
Hey, I’ll see you in class, Sally.

He gets up and walks away.

LINGER ON TABLE: Harry and Sally watch him leave. After a time, indicating Matthias is out of range, Harry looks at Sally.

HARRY
What kind of friends are you making in class? Should I be concerned?

ON MATTHIAS as he walks away from the table:

He is dejected and angry. Fists clenched, he walks down the stairs stiffly.

Matthias pushes exits the building, pushing the door open hard.

Matthias walks OUT OF FRAME.

DISSOLVE TO:
EXT. STREETSIDE FLOWERBED – DAY

Some LANDSCAPE WORKERS are doing a walk-around.

PEDESTAL DOWN BEHIND BUSHES to REVEAL a shoulder. Someone is lying here in secrecy.

One of the Landscape workers comes near the bush and looks down into. His surprise is evident.

    WORKER 1
    Hey, Tommy, come here!

    WORKER 2 (OS)
    What’d you find?

CUT TO:

TRUNK OF VAN – MOMENTS LATER

They carry Harry’s corpse to the back of a van and lay him in it. They close the trunk, and the van drives away. The two workers stand watching as it shrinks in the distance.

    WORKER 2
    Did you know him?

    WORKER 1
    No. Did you?

    WORKER 2
    Nothin’ to worry about, then.

They turn and walk OUT OF FRAME, back to work.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLASS BUILDING LOBBY – DAY

CLOSE ON SALLY: She looks very stressed out and tired.

BACK OUT to see lobby area. It is void of people.

Matthias enters the doors to her left. He notices her as he passes where she sits.
MATTHIAS
Oh, hey, Sally.

She looks up.

SALLY
Hey.

MATTHIAS
How are you doing?

SALLY
I’m doing all right.

MATTHIAS
Suppose you’re waiting for Harry, huh?

SALLY
No.

MATTHIAS
No?

SALLY
(surprised)
Oh, you didn’t hear?
(sad to recall)
He died.

Matthias looks surprised.

MATTHIAS
What?

SALLY
Yeah, last week.

MATTHIAS
I’m sorry.

SALLY
Thanks. I’m surprised you didn’t hear.

MATTHIAS
Yeah, no, I’ve been busy.
SALLY

Oh.

Matthias is not sure what else to say.

MATTHIAS

Well. . . now you can live off his money from his paintings, I guess.

She giggles a little, still sad.

SALLY

He never painted anything that could sell.

Matthias is out of ideas.

SALLY

Um. . .

(pause, thinking)

Okay. I guess that’s all right.

MATTHIAS

Okay. Four Winds, five o’clock, next Monday?

SURE

MATTHIAS

Nice. I’ll see you then.

Matthias nods to her and walks on his way. He’s smiling as he walks OUT OF FRAME PAST THE CAMERA. LINGER on her sitting on the bench. She watches him walk onward, then turns her attention to straight ahead, as if entering a pensive mode.

DISSOLVE TO:
INT. WORKOUT GYM – MORNING

Matthias is on a chest press, breathing heavy as he pushes the bar up, red-faced. His friend, ZACK, is spotting for him, shouting encouraging yet harshly at him.

ZACK
Come on, Matt! Push it! Come on!
You’re worthless! Prove that you’re not! Not that it’s gonna make a difference in my eyes, but try anyway!

Matthias finally lifts the bar fully extended. He puts the bar on the support and sits up. He checks his arms out. He’s breathing heavy and sweating hard.

ZACK
All right, man, that’s pretty good.
Six. That’s all right. We’ll try to bring it up next week, try for at least seven.

MATTHIAS
(heavy breathing)
I don’t know, Zack... (gulping)
If I should do that much next time!

ZACK
Oh, give it a week, you’ll be dying to get back in here and press the bar on Friday, I guarantee it.
(catching himself)
No pun intended.

Zack slaps Matthias on the shoulder.

ZACK (CONT’D)
Let’s go get ready for the day.

Zack walks off camera, while Matthias continues to catch his breath; he gets up, the strength having left him a few reps ago, he stumbles, then walks off camera.
INT. WORKOUT GYM - LOCKER ROOM - MORNING

Zack and Matthias enter the locker room. They go to their lockers and start putting on their proper-code attire.

ZACK
So, what do you have today?

MATTHIAS
Um, let’s see... (looks up, contemplating) I’ve got History since 1900, Economics, and Teaching Lab. How about you?

ZACK
This is my easy day, I only have one class. Marketing. And then tonight, my girl has me coming along to meet some guy with her for dinner.

Matthias stops for a moment.

MATTHIAS
Wait, I didn’t know you had a girlfriend.

ZACK
Yeah, it just happened this weekend.

Matthias gets suspicious.

MATTHIAS
What’s her name?

ZACK
Why, you going to try to hit on her?

MATTHIAS
No, I was just curious. Thought I might know her.


ZACK
Her name is Sally Malino.
Zack doesn’t think anything of it as he walks out of frame. The friendly look disappears from Matthias’ face as he watches him go.

MATTHIAS
(silently, out of earshot)
Go crawl in a hole and die...

We hear a ring tone...

CUT TO:

EXT. COVERED SIDEWALK – DAY

Matthias exits the gym door. He has his cellular phone in hand as he walks.

Through the phone, we hear Sally’s voice message:

SALLY (VOICE MESSAGE)
(on phone)
Hey, it’s Sally. I’m really sorry, but I’m not able to pick up my phone right now. If you leave a message with your name and number, I’ll get back to you as soon as I can. Thanks!

Matthias gets a little nervous, prepares to leave a message. Clears his throat.

TONE ANNOUNCER (FEMALE)
(on phone)
At the tone, please record your message. When finished, you may hang up the phone.

The Beep.

MATTHIAS
Um, hey, uh, yeah.
(getting his mind straight)
Hi, Sally, this is Matthias... we were supposed to meet tonight at five (MORE)
MATTHIAS (CONT’D)
for dinner. Uh, something came up, so
I’m not going to be able to make it.
I’m sorry to make it kind of short
notice, but yeah. . . Sorry.

He hangs up, relieved it’s over.

MATTHIAS (CONT’D)
(to self)
I hate leaving voice messages!

Matthias keeps walking until he is OUT OF FRAME.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ZACK’S ROOM – AFTERNOON

Zack is on his cell phone. He smiles, indicating to whom
he is speaking.

During the conversation, we BACK OUT to reveal the desk at
which he sits. In front of him, he has his computer open.
The room window is behind him, blinds open, light pouring
into the room.

ZACK
I have to do some stuff for tomorrow,
okay? I’ll see you at five.
(pause, listening)
Oh, wait, really? He cancelled?
(listening)
Oh, okay. So, I’ll see just you at
five, and no competition. Fine. I’ll
see you at five.
(listening)
Bye.

Zack hangs up the phone and puts it down on the desk. He
gets right into working on his computer, typing vigorously.

He stops for a moment, getting a look of suspicion. Then.
. .

PUM!
The window behind him suddenly has a hole in it, and Zack gets a look of surprise. He face-plants into the desk, then rolls from his seat to the floor, lifeless.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. PARK BENCH – DAY

Sally sits alone, weeping on a park bench.

Matthias is walking by in the background, on the other side of the street. He comes over to where she is sitting.

MATTHIAS
Hey, Sally.

SALLY
(through tears)
Oh. Hi. Matthias.

MATTHIAS
How are you doing?

SALLY
(sniffing)
I’m all right, I guess.

After a pause.

MATTHIAS
I’m. . . I’m sorry. About what happened.

She looks at him.

MATTHIAS (CONT’D)
Yeah, I heard about it this time.

Matthias makes a gesture asking if he can sit with her. She scoots over. Matthias joins her in sitting on the bench.

SALLY
Did you know him?
MATTHIAS
Yeah, I did.
(reminiscing)
He was my best friend, until that last day.

She looks at him. Matthias notices, catches himself.

MATTHIAS (CONT’D)
(adding quickly)
When he died. . .

She’s still looking. Matthias tries to explain:

MATTHIAS (CONT’D)
You know, he’s not alive anymore, so I can’t be friends with. . .

SALLY
(stopping this)
Yeah, yeah, I know.
(opening up)
It’s just that, it’s like, he’s there, he’s real. And then, he’s - he’s - he’s. . .

Matthias looks out into space.

MATTHIAS
(absent-minded)
A goner.

SALLY
(impressed)
. . . yeah.

They look at each other for a moment.

Matthias breaks the moment. He stands.

MATTHIAS
Well, I don’t mean to be rude, but I kind of have to go to class.

SALLY
(disappointed)
Oh.
MATTHIAS
I mean, I’d love to stay, but I’m already behind in this class, so I think I better start going to lectures.

SALLY
Yeah.

Matthias begins to walk away, but then feels the urge pulling him back. He gives in and walks back to the bench.

MATTHIAS
Uh, Sally? Would you be interested in meeting up for dinner tomorrow night?

She smiles.

SALLY
Okay.

Matthias smiles at her, then turns and walks to class. As he walks, he turns to look one more time.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COMMON GROUNDS CAFÉ – EVENING

CLOSE ON DRINK sitting on the table. A hand reaches out and picks it up.

TILT UP to reveal DUNCAN WATERBURY as he slurps the contents of the cup through a straw. He’s a quirky-looking man with glasses and a strange expression on his face as he looks to his right. . .

PAN LEFT to see Sally sitting and giving him a similar look.

PULL BACK to reveal Matthias sitting at the table with them.

CLOSE ON MATTHIAS: He has the “you’ve got to be kidding me” look on his face.
Duncan finally stops slurping on the straw and puts the cup down.

MATTHIAS
So how do you two know each other?

SALLY
We met just after you went to class, while I was sitting on that bench. (factual) Isn’t it interesting how people just come into your life, and they know the right thing to say off the top of their heads?

MATTHIAS
Yeah, sometimes. (to Duncan) What did you say?

DUNCAN
(dramatically) I said, “Mademoiselle, be not dismayed. How might I brighten thy day?”

MATTHIAS
I’m going to guess you’re a Literature fanatic?

DUNCAN
Nope. I wanna be a math teacher someday.

MATTHIAS
Oh.

SALLY
He said that, and it just made my day. We went to dinner, and that’s when I knew – this is it.

Matthias looks disappointed.

DUNCAN
Hey, how do you two know each other?
MATTHIAS
We’re classmates.

SALLY
We’re good friends.

They look at each other.

DUNCAN
Oh, so you guys know each other from a long time ago.

MATTHIAS
Longer than you’ve known her.

DUNCAN
Cool. I’m only a freshman.

SALLY
Me too!

DUNCAN
Really? Wow! Learn something new every day!

SALLY
Yeah!

They continue giggling at each other for a few moments, oblivious to Matthias’ presence for a moment.

Matthias clears his throat.

They look back at Matthias.

DUNCAN
What year are you?

MATTHIAS
Junior.

SALLY
Oh, something else new!

She’s starting to act like Duncan. Matthias is very visually disturbed.

MATTHIAS
I gotta... I gotta go.
He stands, as if he is getting sick.

Duncan notices and unintentionally urges him to leave.

DUNCAN
Okay, see you around Marcus!

SALLY
(flirting)
It’s Matthias, Duncan!

DUNCAN
Oh. Matthias, sorry!

EXT. COMMONS – EVENING

Matthias exits the building quickly. He stops and rests against the garden wall, exhausted and surprised. He breathes deeply.

MATTHIAS (VO)
It’s funny, sometimes you see something like that, and you know it’s time to let go.

MATTHIAS
(to self)
I can’t do this anymore. I gotta find better things to do with my time.

LINGER ON THE SPOT while Matthias passes OUT OF FRAME.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT – DAY

The view is from the back seat of a car. Through the windows, we see Duncan carrying groceries toward the car.

He walks to the trunk, pops the hatch, and places the bags within. He closes the hatch.

He fidgets with his keys and unlocks the doors. He stands outside for a minute to check a text he has just received. Seconds later . . .
POW!

Blood splashes on the car window. He collapses to the ground, out of view from the window.

The camera LINGERS ON THE ANGLE for a moment.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LIBRARY – DAY

Matthias exits the library and walks in his normal preoccupied walk, as we’ve seen him do before. He seems to have gotten over the shock of Sally’s new guy. . .

SALLY (O.C.)

Matthias!

He turns around, surprised. He rolls his eyes when he sees her.

She catches up to him.

SALLY (CONT’D)

Matthias, wait, I have to talk to you.

She knows he’s ignoring her.

SALLY

Matthias, I have to talk to you.

MATTHIAS

No, it’s okay, I understand. I’m not good enough for you.

SALLY

I never said that.

MATTHIAS

You didn’t have to. Actions speak louder than words. You’re always taken.

SALLY

I’m not taken right now.
MATTHIAS
Why? Did Duncan die too?

SALLY
Yeah, he did.

Matthias stops. Sally walks in front of him to face him.

SALLY (CONT’D)
Now, listen. I realize how much you want to date me, okay?

MATTHIAS
What? What are you --

SALLY
No, shh. I understand it all now. You wanted to date me.
(pause)
But why did you always wait until it was too late?

MATTHIAS
I wanted it to be a special moment. I didn’t want it to be a cheap ask-out or anything like that, I just wanted it to be . . . you know . . . special.

He gets stuck on his words. And so is she.

SALLY
(partly to self)
That’s so sweet.

They stare at each other for a moment.

MATTHIAS
So if I asked you out right now, you would say yes?

SALLY
(dreamily)
Yeah.

A beat.
MATTHIAS
So, Sally Malino. Would you go out with me?

SALLY
(happily)
Yes.

They smile at each other, and then Matthias keeps walking, and she walks next to him, both keeping eye contact, until they EXIT FRAME.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DAYROOM – DAY

A CLOCK is ticking on the wall.
TILT DOWN to reveal Sally in an armchair. She’s talking on her cell phone.

SALLY
Sure, that sounds like a good plan.
(pause, listening)
Yeah. . .
(listening)
Okay, sure, I’ll meet you outside in ten minutes.
(pause)
Yep. I’ll see you in ten. Bye.

She hangs up the phone and puts it down on the table. She looks bothered. She sits back.

A long pause. Deep concentration. She frowns and shakes her head.

SALLY
(to self)
No. . .

She picks up her computer and begins typing intensely.

Then she stops. She sits back for a few seconds, internal conflict completely distracting her.
A few moments, and then she leans forward and closes the lid of her lap-top, from which we . . .

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET – OUTSIDE SALLY’S APARTMENT – DAY

Matthias is dressed up in a suit. He carries a bouquet of flowers. A car passes on the street, and Matthias walks behind it. He walks with energy, pep in his step.

He walks to the plaza in front of Sally’s apartment. He finds a bench and sits down. We LINGER on him for a moment. He’s very happy – he’s just won a victory in life.

We hear a ZIP!, and Matthias is jolted for a moment. His face changes to that of surprise. We hold on the angle as he falls out of frame, crumpling to the ground.

CHANGE ANGLES, and it is the shot we were first introduced to at the very beginning – his face, the people checking on him, and the blanket being pulled over his face.

FADE OUT.

THE END.