

**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 alternately, 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.

MATTHIAS

Oh.

A beat.

MATTHIAS (CONT'D)

Well, Sally, would you want to meet for  
dinner or something, sometime?

SALLY

Um. . .

(pause, thinking)

Okay. I guess that's all right.

MATTHIAS

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

SALLY

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.

A beat. Zack gives him a look.

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.

PHONE 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.