

RECESSIVE

Written by

Joe Simile

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - NIGHT - 2012

A cramped studio apartment, clearly decorated by a woman. Vintage and abstract ART line the walls.

NATHAN (early 20s, well groomed) studies LAW TEXTBOOKS at the kitchen counter.

NATHAN
(projecting)
You doing okay, PP?

No response.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
(concerned)
Penelope?

He gets up and walks to the bathroom door. He knocks.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
You okay in there?

A beat passes.

The door creaks open. Nathan enters.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

PENELOPE (early 20s, boho-style alternative girl) lays sprawled out across the floor, crying. Nathan walks in and bends down beside her.

NATHAN
Hey. You okay?

She doesn't answer. Just looks at him. He notices the PREGNANCY TEST in her hand.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
What's that?

She hands it over. He examines it - negative. He plops down on the floor beside her. He throws an arm around her, she rests her head on his shoulder. She cries a little harder.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
(comforting)
It's okay. It's okay.

EXT. OUTSIDE ARENA - DAY - 2013

Just after a graduation. Nathan, wearing a CAP AND GOWN, walks through a crowd of GRADUATES and FAMILIES beside DAN (early 20s, fit, wearing a cap and gown).

Dan points ahead at GLORIA (50s, quintessential mom) and STEVE (50s, blue collar dad).

DAN
 There's your parents.
 (beat)
 Where's Penelope?

A beat of awkward silence.

NATHAN
 We, uh,
 (pause)
 She's not here.

DAN
 Oh... Did you guys-

NATHAN
 It's over, Dan.

DAN
 Oh.
 (beat)
 Was it... amicable?

INT. APARTMENT - DAY - PRESENT DAY

A small, 1 bedroom apartment. Someone clearly sleeps on the couch. CHILDREN'S DRAWINGS line the fridge. A FAMILY PHOTO (Nathan, Penelope, and a green-eyed infant) serves as the centerpiece of one wall.

Nathan (now in his 30's, with a five o'clock shadow) packs a SANDWICH into a LUNCHBOX while EGGS cook on the STOVE. He zips up the lunchbox and turns back to the eggs.

NATHAN
 (shouting)
 Faye!

A beat passes. Feet shuffle offscreen.

When FAYE (12, exhausted) enters, Nathan's eyes light up with paternal bliss. She pulls up a chair and slumps into it.

Nathan shovels the eggs onto a PLATE. He brings them over to Faye. Behind him, the TOASTER smokes, but he doesn't realize.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Comin in hot!

He puts the plate down in front of Faye. She points over his shoulder at the toaster. The smoke thickens, he finally turns and notices it.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Crap.

Nathan rushes over to the toaster and struggles to pop the BURNT TOAST out. Faye laughs at his struggles. He finally ejects the toast and picks up a piece.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Y'know, this is *almost* as burnt as your mother used to like it.

Nathan takes a bite from the toast and cringes. Faye laughs again and smiles.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
(sarcastically)
Am I hearing laughter and joy in this house before eight o'clock?

FAYE
You know I'm not a morning person. I must get that from Mom.

Nathan takes a beat and looks at the family photo.

NATHAN
(unsure)
Uh, yeah, maybe.

Nathan puts the lunchbox next to Faye.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
And don't forget,

FAYE
You have an appointment at the bank. I know, Hailey's mom is giving me a ride.

NATHAN
That's my superstar.

Nathan checks his watch.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

I'm gonna go warm up the car. Don't want the kindergarteners eating cold tots again.

Nathan gives Faye a quick peck on the top of her head and walks out.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER THAT DAY

An elementary school cafeteria. Lunch rush. CHILDREN line up at the counter. Nathan, wearing GLOVES and a HAIRNET, scoops and serves food. HENRY (30s, scruffy, not quite put together) mans the register.

JOHNNY (9) approaches and smiles at Nathan.

NATHAN

Mornin' Johnny! How'd that math test go for you yesterday?

JOHNNY

It was good. I've got my prime numbers down.

Nathan gives Johnny a fist bump.

NATHAN

My man, have a good day!

We follow Johnny walk his way over to Henry.

NATHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Good morning Amelia!

Johnny punches a number in to a KEYPAD.

HENRY

(lethargic)
Alright Johnny, you're good.

JOHNNY

Thanks!

Johnny exits. Henry rubs his face. He doesn't notice Nathan approaching.

NATHAN

Henry?

Nathan puts a hand on Henry's shoulder.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
You alright?

HENRY
Yeah, yeah. Just tired.

NATHAN
You're not, uh-

HENRY
No.

Henry rolls up his sleeve revealing SCRATCH MARKS.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Just uh, I get the itch sometimes,
y'know? At night.

NATHAN
Yeah.

Nathan turns around and opens a FRIDGE. He pulls out an ENERGY DRINK.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Can you have this?

Henry inspects the label.

HENRY
Yeah. Thanks, Nate.

INT. HOMEROOM - SAME

STUDENTS sit scattered across a classroom. MRS. DALEY (40s, sweet-looking) sits at the front of the classroom. Faye enters.

MRS. DALEY
Faye, would you come here a minute?

Faye crosses to the teacher's desk.

MRS. DALEY (CONT'D)
We have a new student joining us today, and I was wondering if you would mind showing her around and getting to know her.

FAYE
Sure thing.