

CHEMICAL ACQUAINTANCE

by

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FADE IN:

INT. BATHROOM - EVENING

WE OPEN on ANTHONY, 20s, gripping the sink.

His reflection stares back: eyes heavy, water dripping from his face. He breathes deep.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He walks towards the prepared table for two, anxiously looking at the clock and making a few adjustments, fumbling.

ANTHONY

(To himself)

Hey Ellie, you look awesome. No. Beautiful. Incredible. I wanted to thank you personally for coming.

A **doorbell** startles him; he hurries to the door and opens to ELLIE, 20, dressed beautifully, standing outside.

ELLIE

Hi Anthony.

Anthony's face lights up.

ANTHONY

Hey... wow Ellie you look great. Come in.

He steps aside, letting her in.

They move towards the table, Anthony reveal a delicious pesto penne dish.

ELLIE

Is that... pesto penne?

ANTHONY

A specially, my personal favourite, it's a family recipe.

ELLIE

Maybe we have more in common than we thought.

ANTHONY

Yeah... let's eat!

They sit, Ellie takes a bite, slowly processing it and becoming enthusiastic.

ELLIE

Mmmm, Anthony this is incredible, maybe you can open a restaurant in old port.

He blushes, eyes locked on her.

ANTHONY

Thanks... not sure about the restaurant thought.

ELLIE

I was thinking... the name should be called Anthony's.

ANTHONY

Ha, that's funny. But what's happening in life with you?

ELLIE

Well, yesterday I was going to...

Her voice fades, the light slowly fades, Anthony smiles, mesmerized, as Ellie continues.

ANTHONY

That's great.

ELLIE

About my wallet getting stolen?

Anthony becomes anxious, sweating.

ANTHONY

(Whispers to himself)

Shit.

Suddenly, an upbeat jazz tune plays, the brightness of the light increases as Anthony gets up and approaches Ellie.

ANTHONY

Shall we?

Ellie rises, laughing. They dance.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They spin together, faces close, we barely see Ellie's face. Moments later, in a slow tone music, while holding arms, Anthony leans into Ellie's ear, nervously.

ELLIE

This is nice.

ANTHONY

Ellie, I... I wanted to say that I love-

Suddenly, Ellie is gone, Anthony is confused.

ANTHONY

Ellie?

He searches every corner in a confused, hyperventilating.

DISSOLVE:

INT. BATHROOM - EVENING

We return to ANTHONY's hand gripping the sink.

His breaths come heavy and uneven. He leans toward the mirror, face drenched, struggling to steady his breathing.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He walks to the table, grabs a snack, then heads to the door - peeking through the peephole.

A beat. He sits alone at the dinner table, scrolling on his phone, the silence stretching.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

After a moment, he rises and walks back down the hallway - the same path he took when looking for Ellie. Calm now. He lingers by the door, staring at it for a few seconds, then quietly returns to the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. ANTHONY'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

We are in reality. Muted daylight filters in through half-drawn blinds. Silence.

The table sits with a single plate of **unfinished pasta**. Ellie's chair is empty.

Anthony sits slanted, staring at the chair. Outside, the city hums beneath a **gloomy, clouded sky**.

Anthony lowers his head, as the space around him is empty and quiet. We hear the same breathing from his fantasy and reality, one deep breath.

FADE OUT:

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