The Talk

By

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The living room is decorated modestly. There are a few paintings hanging on the an eggshell colored wall. There is a couch with a coffee table between it and the medium sized television. A MAN and WOMAN sit on the couch, with a small space in between them, not quite touching one another. Occasionally the WOMAN glances over at the MAN, a brief smiles lingers on her face, but disappears the instant the MAN looks over at her.

WOMAN
This is nice. I was just feeling antsy.

MAN
Anytime. You know that.

They sit in silence for a few moments.

WOMAN
I had the strangest dream last night.

MAN
What was it about?

WOMAN
It was one of those dreams, those awesome dreams. Where everything just felt perfect. When you wake up from a dream like that, you just feel disappointed.

A beat.

WOMAN
Reality feels so empty. I just want to go back to sleep and be in my dreams.

MAN
Why don’t you change it?

WOMAN
(chuckles)
If only it were that simple.

A beat

MAN
You know what always helps me when I have that feeling? That feeling

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
MAN (cont’d)
of emptiness that you’re describing?

WOMAN
What would that be? One of your weird habits?

MAN
Throwing a blanket into the dryer for a minute, and then taking it out and wrapping yourself into it.

WOMAN
I’ve always liked that about you. The little quirky things that can just make you so content and happy.

MAN
So you think I’m content and happy?

WOMAN
Even if you’re not, you seem to find a way to make yourself feel better.

MAN
If only. I know that feeling of emptiness. And I can’t sleep because of it.

The MAN turns to look at the WOMAN.

MAN
Happiness is so close. I can feel it. It keeps me awake at night.

A beat. The WOMAN looks over at the MAN, as she does he abruptly looks away. They sit in silence for a few moments.

WOMAN
Hey do you remember that one bumper sticker we saw?

MAN
The one that said "Sharks can’t wield guns?"

WOMAN
(Rambling)
Yes! That one! It just doesn’t make any sense. Like no shit, sharks can’t wield guns. I mean they don’t

(MORE)
WOMAN (cont’d)
even have hands or arms. Just little fins that they use to swim. Or was the sticker suppose to be some sort of environmental message, like "save the sharks". Or was it a warning? Should we be prepared to be conquered by an army or gun-wielding sharks/

MAN
Stop avoiding the subject.

WOMAN
I’m not. I just don’t like the silence. It makes me uncomfortable. And what subject anyways?

MAN
What was your dream about?

WOMAN
What’s been keeping you awake?

A beat.

MAN
We have to talk about this.

WOMAN
No. There isn’t a "this" to talk about.

MAN
So you’re completely fine with it? Just being content with having these dreams of yours?

WOMAN
Well there’s nothing else I can do about it. Reality is what it is.

A beat.

MAN
I just don’t understand. When something is this close, why wouldn’t you be willing to risk it.

WOMAN
Because if something goes wrong. They wouldn’t forgive us, we wouldn’t be able to forgive ourselves.

(CONTINUED)
MAN
So we’re just going to sit here?
Pretend that everything is fine.
You go back to your dreaming, I lie awake at night.

WOMAN
What is it you want?

MAN
Something to change. I can’t keep just waiting for something to be different.

A beat.

WOMAN
I know what I have to do. What we should do.

MAN
No. It doesn’t have to be like that.

WOMAN
We’ve played with this idea, this dream long enough.

The WOMAN looks over at the man for a brief moment. The MAN faces forward.

WOMAN
I think it’s time, we woke up.

The MAN looks at the WOMAN.

MAN
Fine

The MAN gets up, and exits the room.

FADE OUT