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MELISSA

Short Film Screenplay

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OVER BLACK

A man mutters above the sounds of THUMPING.

NATHAN (V.O.)
The light of God surrounds us!

THUMP!

NATHAN
The love of God enfolds us!

THUMP!

NATHAN (CONT'D)
The power of God protects us!

KABOOM! CRASH! THUMP! SCREECH!

FADE IN:

EXT. COLORADO HIGHWAY - DAY

The sun shines brightly as a lone used car winds its way down the highway.

INT. NATHAN'S CAR - DAY

A bouquet of pink roses and a bottle of fancy champagne in the passenger seat as NATHAN, good looking blonde, 32, drives wearing a blue suit and a big smile.

The SOUND of a SUNDAY CHURCH BELL is heard.

EXT. COLORADO HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

Nathan's car drives past the church.

INT. NATHAN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

The smile disappears from Nathan's face. He closes the car's window and switches on the radio.

EXT. NATHAN'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Nathan's car pulls up to a charming house on the edge of a forest.

INT. NATHAN'S LIVING ROOM - THE SAME MOMENT

MELISSA, a beautiful brunette (34) in a long red dress, reads a book with a gold engraving "PRAYERS."

She hears the SOUND of CAR and quickly hides the book under the sofa pillow.

MOMENTS LATER

Nathan enters, carrying roses and champagne. He spots Melissa in her party attire and stops in awe.

NATHAN

Wow!

(beat)

How pretty you are, Mel!

He sets the bottle on the table and approaches her with the roses, which he hands to her.

MELISSA

My favorite! Thanks, Nat!

She admires the flowers.

NATHAN

Beautiful flowers for my gorgeous queen!

Nathan gently hugs Melissa and inhales her hair's smell.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

(whispering in her ear)

There's more...

He reaches in his jacket pocket, pulls out a small velvet box, and hands it to Melissa.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

For you, darling.

MELISSA

What is it?

She opens the box. Inside is a golden medallion in the shape of a heart, adorned with diamonds on one side and rubies on the other.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Wow! Is it for me?

Nathan nods with smile.

MOMENTS LATER

Melissa admires her reflection in a mirror as Nathan stands behind her.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
Very pretty! Thanks, Nat!

She gives him a light kiss on the lips.

NATHAN
Happy anniversary, darling!

They kiss deeper and hold each other in an embrace.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Colorful balloons, candles, and party streamers decorate the room. A banner reading "NATHAN + MELISSA = 10 YEARS OF LOVE" hangs on the wall. ROMANTIC MUSIC plays.

Nathan with aperitif wine in his hands speaks with Melissa's suntanned brother JACK (30s).

JACK
Are you renewing your vows tonight?

He sips his wine.

NATHAN
Hm... We need neither God nor
priests to validate our marriage.

JACK
Nat...

A SOUND of incoming message in Nathan's pocket.

NATHAN
Sorry, Jack.

JACK
Talk to you later, pal.

Nathan nods and steps aside.

MOMENT LATER

He opens his phone. There is a text message: "My best congratulations to you and Mel, son! Have a nice party Mom."

Nathan notices that Melissa is watching him. He mouths the word "mom". She smiles and nods.

MOMENTS LATER

Well-dressed guests gather around a buffet table with finger food.

MONICA (33), a plump, red-haired woman with false eyelashes and an expensive necklace, chats with Melissa as she fills up her plate.

MONICA

So, you've been married for ten years?

MELISSA

Well, actually today we celebrate ten years since the day we first met.

MONICA

Oh really? Interesting.

MELISSA

Yep, Nathan's idea.

She smiles.

MONICA

(screwing up eyes)

He is romantic! Any kids?

MELISSA

No... Not yet.

MONICA

Really? What are you waiting for?

She bites the next snack with great appetite.

MELISSA

Well... We're waiting for Nat's big break...

MONICA

Big break? Hmm... And what he is doing?

She looks up at Melissa.

MELISSA

Some experiments in his lab.

MONICA

Experiments? Which kind of experiments?

MELISSA

Well... I'm not really sure.

(beat)

And you? How is your life?

MONICA

Well, no big breaks, three kids,
two marriages, and divorced again.

She answers with a broad smile.

MELISSA

Three kids? Amazing!

MONICA

Aha.

She switches to her wine.

MOMENTS LATER

MARK BROWN (40), with large glasses, raises his glass. His date, green-haired GERA (25), also raises her glass.

MARK

Happy Anniversary!

GERA

Happy Anniversary, Mel and Nat!

ALL GUESTS

Happy Anniversary!

Everyone drinks their champagne.

MELISSA

Nathan, this is for you!

She nods to Jack, who switches off the music device as she glides over to a beautiful piano and sits down.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

(to Nathan)

I composed it just for you, Nat.

It's called My Love Forever Yours.

MOMENT LATER

PIANO MUSIC.

Nathan's eyes fill with tears as he listens to the piano piece.

LATER

Everyone APPLAUDS.

As Melissa bows, Nathan approaches her. He gives her a hand and kisses her.

APPLAUSE.

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

With glasses of brandy, Nathan and Mark descend the stairs leading to a door with a sign: NO ENTRY!

INT. LAB - CONTINUOUS

The lab is filled with mouse cages, plants and cereals surrounded by high-tech equipment. They are doing the tour.

MARK

I think you're the only guy on the planet that has this type of basement.

NATHAN

There are two basements here, in fact.

MARK

Wow! Cool.

NATHAN

Yeah. It was part of the original design.

He points to a dimple on the floor.

Mark passes his glass to Nathan and tries to open the basement door. It's stuck.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

There is nothing there now except the coldness, but over time I can expand.

MARK BROWN

Super!

MOMENTS LATER

They approaches the operational table. Mark touches the device fixed above it.

MARK
EM-transmitter?

NATHAN
Yeap!

MARK
Expensive?

NATHAN
Good value for the price.

He points to the sofa. They sit down.

MARK
So, what are you working on these days?

NATHAN
On research...

MARK
Research?
(beat)
Seriously?

He grins.

NATHAN
What?

Nathan puts his drink away.

MARK
With your brains, you could easily write a couple of books and gain the fancy professor's title.

NATHAN
And?

MARK
You could enjoy an endless cash flow for the rest of your life.

NATHAN
That's not my goal.

MARK
Huh! And what is your goal?

Nathan sips his drink.