

Stuffed Love

By Casey Bond

FMX 312-1 Narrative Production

@CaseyABond2021

caseyabondfma@gmail.com

1. BLACK SCREEN - MORNING

A loud crash is heard followed by echoes of sirens filling up the scene as ambulances whiz by. The sound slowly fades away.

2. EXT. PARK - EVENING

BENJAMIN, a sweet, nerdy boy, and AVA, his preppy and loving girlfriend, are sitting outside at a park underneath some trees. They both have huge smiles on their face. Ava is hiding something in a bag behind her back.

BENJAMIN

Babe? What's behind your back?

AVA

It's a surprise.

BENJAMIN

What kind of surprise?

Ava grins.

AVA

I got you a present.

Benjamin looks at Ava in confusion and then begins to worry.

BENJAMIN

A present? Oh no did I forget something? I could have sworn our anniversary wasn't until next month.

Ava laughs and shakes her head.

AVA

No Benji, it's not anything special it's just something I found and thought of you.

Benjamin sighs in relief.

BENJAMIN

Oh, thank god... well then what is it?

Benjamin tries to look around Ava's back to see what she's hiding, she giggles and tries to avoid him.

AVA

Hold on, hold on.

She leans towards him and smiles.

AVA  
Guess first.

Benjamin looks more confused and tries to think.

BENJAMIN  
Uhh, I don't know, a bag of Oreos?

They both laugh.

BENJAMIN (CONT.)  
Dang, I could really go for a bag of Oreos.

Ava rolls her eyes and smiles.

AVA  
Oh my gosh, you're ridiculous.

Ava turns around and reaches inside of the bag pulling out a stuffed giraffe. She presents it to Benjamin.

AVA  
Ta-Da!

Benjamin lifts his eyebrow in contemplation.

BENJAMIN  
A giraffe?

Ava giggles.

AVA  
Yea, I found it at a thrift store while I was shopping with my little brother. It reminded me of you.

Benjamin shakes his head.

BENJAMIN  
I remind you of a giraffe?

Ava shoves the giraffe into Benjamin's face.

AVA  
Look at him! He's even got your face.

They both laugh as Benjamin snatches the giraffe from Ava.

BENJAMIN

Haha, I'm flattered.

He looks at the giraffe and sighs, grinning slightly.

Ava taps his knee and smiles and points down at the giraffe's tag.

AVA

Shh, wait, read the tag.

Benjamin looks up at her and then looks down at the tag, flipping it open. He reads the tag and looks back up at Ava.

BENJAMIN

Aww, babe.

Ava smiles.

AVA

I knew you'd like it.

Benjamin blushes and starts to tear up.

BENJAMIN

I love you, Ava.

Ava giggles while blushing.

AVA

I love you too Benji.

Benjamin leans in for an embrace and as he does the screen fades out sharply.

### 3. INT. ROOM - MORNING

Benjamin's eyes snap open. He is laying in his room, all curled up with his stuffed giraffe. Small faded cuts have appeared on his face. He sits up and sets the giraffe beside him.

Benjamin checks his phone and finds no new messages. His background flashes a picture of Ava kissing his cheek at the park. He smiles and puts his phone away then gets up to start his day, bringing the giraffe with him.

### 4. INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Benjamin sets the giraffe on the sink next to him and washes his face. He looks at the scars on his forehead, then

continues.

5. INT. ROOM - MORNING

Benjamin is seen buttoning his shirt with the giraffe sitting behind him on his bed. He turns around, picks up his bag, and then puts the giraffe inside with his head sticking out of the zipper.

BENJAMIN

Let's go, buddy.

6. EXT. RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Benjamin is seated at a patio table outside of a restaurant. The stuffed giraffe is sitting right across from him. He sits and stares. A waitress comes up to take his order.

WAITRESS

What may I get for you today Benjamin?

Benjamin looks up at her.

BENJAMIN

Just a coffee, Mocha, and iced,  
please.

The waitress smiles gently at him and looks over toward the stuffed giraffe.

WAITRESS

Sure thing!

The waitress goes back inside to grab the coffee. Benjamin adjusts in his seat, runs his hand through his hair while pulling out his phone, and scrolls through social media.

He reaches into his bag and pulls out Oreos and starts to eat them.

He looks toward the giraffe and sighs.

The waitress comes back out with two cups of coffee. She sets one coffee in front of Benjamin.

WAITRESS

One for you sir...

The waitress takes the second coffee and sets it in front of the stuffed giraffe.

WAITRESS (CONT.)  
...And one for your little friend  
here. On the house.

They both laugh.

BENJAMIN  
Why thank you, I'm sure he'll love it.

The waitress smiles.

WAITRESS  
What's a fine guy like yourself doing  
here all alone anyways?

Benjamin grins.

BENJAMIN  
Well, I'm not alone... he's right  
there.

Benjamin gestures over to the giraffe. The waitress shakes  
her head.

WAITRESS  
I guess you're right. You two have a  
nice day then!

Benjamin pauses and smiles.

BENJAMIN  
You too.

The waitress smiles and walks away. Benjamin tips his cup  
towards the giraffe and nods his head, sighs, then takes a  
sip of his coffee.

7. EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Benjamin walks to a tree with the stuffed giraffe hanging out  
of his backpack again. He sits down next to the tree and lets  
the giraffe sit on his lap.

Benjamin looks at the tag with writing and cradles the  
giraffe in his arms.

Benjamin pulls out his phone once again to no messages. He  
slides open his phone and opens up the camera.

Benjamin smiles as he takes many different silly pictures and  
poses with the stuffed giraffe.

He laughs as he swipes through them then opens up his messages and sends one of the pictures to Ava with a message stating "Thinking of You!" The message fails to deliver.

Benjamin closes his phone and slams the back of his head against the tree behind him.

8. EXT. SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON

Benjamin is walking down the sidewalk with the giraffe now in his arms. His phone begins to ring. He answers.

BENJAMIN

Hello?

His best friend DOMINIC is heard on the other line.

DOMINIC (V.O)

Hey bro. I haven't heard from you all week, how ya been?

Benjamin takes in a deep breath.

BENJAMIN

I've been alright, just the usual.

DOMINIC (V.O)

Gotcha. Hey well listen I gotta party coming up next weekend, I was wondering if you wanted to come, ya know, let loose for a little bit.

BENJAMIN

Oh, you know what I would, but you see I'm really busy next weekend. Maybe another time?

DOMINIC (V.O)

Benjamin...

BENJAMIN

What?

DOMINIC (V.O)

You never hang out with me anymore, come on bro.

Benjamin sighs.

BENJAMIN

Look, I'm sorry, just... maybe another

time.

DOMINIC (V.O)

Okay, just watch out for yourself  
alright?

Benjamin pauses.

BENJAMIN

I will, goodbye.

Benjamin hangs up the phone and looks down at his phone.

He holds down his screen as a live video plays of Ava giving him a kiss on the cheek with her arms wrapped around him from behind.

He smiles.

BENJAMIN (CONT.)

Time to go home, I guess.

As Benjamin is walking on the sidewalk back home he gets bumped into by a jogger going in the opposite direction, dropping the giraffe on the floor.

Benjamin frantically grabs the giraffe off the ground and begins to quickly dust him off. He turns around and shouts.

BENJAMIN (CONT.)

Hey, watch where you're going!

The jogger continues to run unfazed down the street.

Benjamin freezes.

He pats his pockets and then looks down toward the ground.

A black box is sitting in the grass beside him. He kneels to the ground and grabs the box, flipping it open revealing a diamond engagement ring.

Benjamin stares blankly at the ring. Flashbacks of him and Ava appear on the screen.

BEGIN FLASHBACKS:

9. EXT. PARK - EVENING

Ava is laying across Benjamin's chest looking up at the sky. She looks up at him and smiles.



CUT TO:

10. EXT. RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Benjamin and Ava are sitting across from each other drinking coffee together at a restaurant.

CUT TO:

11. EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Benjamin and Ava are taking cute pictures together by a tree. They swipe through the pictures together and laugh.

CUT TO:

12. EXT. SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON

Benjamin and Ava are walking down the sidewalk holding hands.

CUT TO:

13. EXT. PARK - EVENING

Benjamin is dangling the stuffed giraffe in front of Ava's face. She kisses its nose and smiles.

END FLASHBACKS:

14. EXT. ROAD - EVENING

Benjamin is sitting down staring at a drive-safe memorial on the side of the road. The ring is laying open beside it.

Benjamin holds the giraffe in his arms as he begins to tear up. He looks down and flips open the tag. He reads aloud.

BENJAMIN

"To hold when I'm not around" love,  
Ava.

He smiles lightly and begins to sob. He kisses the giraffe on the head and sinks slowly into himself. He whispers.

BENJAMIN (CONT.)

I-I'm Sorry...

15. BLACK SCREEN - EVENING

The sirens begin to blare again. Benjamin is sobbing quietly in the background.

BENJAMIN (V.O)  
I'm so sorry...

END.