

LAST WORDS

Written by

Nicole Flores

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD -DAY

A luxury car is driving up a dirt road surrounded by horse pastures on both sides.

INT. COUNTY ROAD - CAR - SUNSET

ETHAN, English male, early 40s, tall with distinguished features, the "Oxford" look, wearing black dress slacks, a long sleeve white button up, and wire rimmed glasses, stops the car in front of an English style cottage. He reaches into the back seat and pulls out a bouquet of sunflowers. He exits the car, starts to close the door and stops. He reaches back into the front seat and removes his cell phone placing it in his pocket. He then proceeds to go inside.

INT. ENGLISH COTTAGE - SUNSET

Ethan opens the door of his home. He walks into the living room with cozy plush chairs and a wall full of books next to the fireplace. With the open floor plan, Ethan sees his wife JESSICA, 30s, tall, athletic, long legged blond wearing a summer dress bent over reaching into the oven. A smirk starts to cross his face.

ETHAN

Looks like I got home at the perfect time. It smells wonderful.

JESSICA

(Startled)

Ow..., shit.

Jessica drops the roast while removing it from the oven onto the open door of the stove where it land half in the pan and half on the floor.

ETHAN

Are you ok?

Ethan runs over to the kitchen tossing the flowers towards the kitchen table where they bounce off and hit the floor.

JESSICA

I burnt my hand.

ETHAN

Let me get you some ice.

Jessica stands up, and heads to the fridge leaving the oven door open.

JESSICA

I can get the ice myself, but save what's left of the roast! I'm not making another one.

Ethan takes the roast out of the oven and puts it on the stove top. He shuts the oven door and heads over to Jessica.

ETHAN

Out of ice? How bad is it?

Jessica is holding a pack of frozen vegetables in her left hand.

JESSICA

I think I got to it in time. It's going to be red, but shouldn't blister.

Jessica starts to laugh as she sees the flowers and the roast on the floor.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

So much for playing the perfect 50's house wife...

ETHAN

I think there is still plenty enough for two. Besides what do I want a perfect 50s housewife for anyway. I have you. You really keep life interesting.

Ethan wraps her in his arms and kisses her long and hard on the mouth. Jessica's arms fall to her side still holding the frozen vegetable bag.

JESSICA

Well, that was the plan for tonight...

Jessica wraps her arms around Ethan and holds him tight.

ETHAN

(Laughing)

Watch it, those vegetables are cold.

INT. DINNER TABLE - EVENING

Ethan and Jessica are sitting down eating dinner. The broken sunflowers are taped together and placed in the vase on the table.

JESSICA

You should have seen Stormrider today. He did the full routine perfectly. He is definitely the best horse I have ever worked with.

ETHAN

Are you still attending the competition this weekend? Looks like we might get some bad weather.

JESSICA

Of course. If he wins I should be able to make a lot off the breeding rights.

ETHAN

What a lucky horse, getting paid to spread his seed.

Jessica tosses her napkin at him.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Make sure it gets recorded. The competition I mean.

JESSICA

Wait, you're not going? I thought you took the weekend off and was coming up Saturday? I reserved a room for the two of us overlooking the lake.

ETHAN

I want to go, but you know how work can be.

JESSICA

And when exactly were you planning on telling me?

ETHAN

(Smirking)

Let me think...not before our romantic evening together.

JESSICA

You're horrible. But I might just forgive you if you do the dishes.

ETHAN

Are you sure we can't work something else out?

(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
How about we skip the dishes and  
just go to dessert?

Ethan's phone begins to ring. Ethan looks down at the number.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
Hon, I'm sorry but I really have to  
take this. Work.

Ethan hurries out of the room, heads to his office and quickly shuts the door. Jessica quickly turns on the empty dishwasher and quietly goes to the office door to listen.

INT. HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Ethan is on the cell phone pacing the room.

ETHAN (INTO PHONE)  
I told you not to call this number  
anymore, that's why I got the new  
phone... It's in the car. What if  
Jessica answered? Of course that is  
a possibility, I do have to put the  
phone on the charger.

(Beat)

No, tonight isn't good. She is  
having dinner with me right now.  
Yes, she is still leaving Friday  
morning. We will have the whole  
weekend uninterrupted.

INT. OFFICE DOOR - NIGHT

JESSICA (WISPERING)  
That Bastard.

ETHAN (INTO PHONE)  
I'll call you after 9am tomorrow.  
She will be working in the stables  
by then.

Ethan begins to fidget with stuff on his desk.

ETHAN (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)  
No, seriously, there is no way to  
sneak out tonight without Jessica  
catching me.

(Beat)

OK, that might work. It wont be  
until after midnight though. Have  
everything ready. I'll text you as  
soon as I'm headed your way.

Jessica quickly heads back to the kitchen. Ethan exits the office and walks back to Jessica. He wraps his arms around her from behind.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Now, where were we? I believe we were about to start dessert.

JESSICA

Who called?

ETHAN

I told you already. Work.

JESSICA

Work seems to call a lot lately. Work seems to only want you to show up on nights and weekends. What is her's name?

ETHAN

Hold on Jessica. You don't know what's going on. It's really all about a new project at work.

JESSICA

Oh, really, then give me your phone. Let me talk to "work."

ETHAN

Jessica, you are being ridiculous. I am not going to let you talk to my boss. He is demanding, I know, but I still want to keep my job.

JESSICA

I'm not stupid. I heard you in the office. We will have the whole weekend together uninterrupted. I'll sneak out after she falls asleep.

Jessica then picks up the vase of broken sunflower and throws it at Ethan. It misses his shoulder by inches and it smashes against the wall.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I told Liz she was wrong, there was no way that you were cheating on me. I did not want to see the signs. I must really be stupid. It was all laid out in front of me.

Jessica storms to the bedroom and emerges with her purse.

ETHAN

Where do you think you are going?  
Don't I get to tell you my side of  
the story?

JESSICA

There's no point. I already know  
what's happening. Goodbye Ethan.

Ethan dashes to the hall table and grabs Jessica's car keys  
out of the drawer.

ETHAN

Your aren't going anywhere without  
the keys.

JESSICA

I don't need keys to leave.

Jessica throws the front door wide open and heads for the  
stables. Ethan slams the door behind her. His facial  
expression switches instantly from anger to fear and worry.

ETHAN

No, no, this is not happening  
again. This time I'm going to  
change things.

Ethan yanks open the door and sees Jessica close to the  
stable entrance. In a panic Ethan runs as fast as he can to  
catch up to her.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Jessica, Jessica, don't get on that  
horse. I love you! Please take my  
phone and call. I'll explain  
everything. Just don't get anywhere  
near that horse!

Jessica stops and looks back. She see Ethan running after  
her. Not really hearing him she continues to the stables.  
Just as she reaches the door Ethan catches up to her and  
grabs her arm hard.

JESSICA

Ethan, let go. You're hurting me.

ETHAN

No, I'm not going to lose you  
again.

JESSICA

Again? What do you mean again?

ETHAN

Here is my phone. Call the last number.

Jessica takes the phone and looks at the call log. The last number says unknown caller. She calls it. PETE, a shorter, out of shape version of Ethan, answers the phone.

PETE

Ethan, please say you changed your mind and are coming to the lab now. We really need to do this test soon, the specimen wont last much longer.

Jessica hangs up the phone.

JESSICA

So you were telling the truth?  
There isn't another woman?

ETHAN

There has only been you. I told you I love you and I mean it.

JESSICA

Then why all the secrecy? Why the sneaking around?

ETHAN

Because I was embarrassed and afraid of loosing you. Jessica, I was laid off 3 months ago.

JESSICA

You were fired? And you didn't tell me?

ETHAN

Not fired, laid off. There's a difference, the company is hurting financially and they had to make cuts.

JESSICA

Then where have you been going these past 3 month?

ETHAN

Pete and I am starting a business together. If it works we will be famous and rich. I could buy you anything you want. I could take you on that trip around the world.

(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I could get you those horses from Arabia you want.

JESSICA

If this is such a great business, then why hide it from me.

ETHAN

Because I used up most of our savings. If this trial doesn't work we have less than 2 months of living expenses to our name. We could lose the ranch.

JESSICA

OK, but we are in this together. And you forget, my dad's rich. If it's that good of a business I'm sure he will invest.

ETHAN

(Angry)

I will never take money from that man. He never lets me forget that I am not good enough for you. I will not have him hold this over me for the rest of my life. You are not his little girl anymore, but my wife!

Ethan grabs Jessica's arm and starts to lead her back to the house. Jessica stops walking and knocks his hand off her arm.

JESSICA

I am your wife and I am still his little girl, but neither of you own me. I think we both need some cooling off time. Let me go for a ride and we will talk when I get back.

Ethan's anger turns to panic and pleading.

ETHAN

No, no..I will talk to him if that will make you go back inside the house. Let me prove this idea works first. Give me two more weeks and we can go talk to him together.

JESSICA

Ok, two weeks, but not a moment longer.

Ethan reaches for Jessica's hand and they walk back towards the house together. As they reach the open front door Ethan pulls Jessica close and kisses her on the forehead. Ethan then looks into Jessica's eyes and begins to speak.

ETHAN

You heard Pete on the phone. I really have to go. You do understand, right?

JESSICA

Can you spare 15 minuets? We never got dessert.

Ethan looks at his watch and smiles.

ETHAN

Will 10 work?

INT. BEDROOM

Jessica is still under the covers. Ethan is frantically getting dressed. He leaves his shirt untucked and unbuttoned. He bends over Jessica and kisses her goodbye.

JESSICA

I know you have to go, but I don't want you to.

ETHAN

How about I work really hard tonight and finish that last test and take the weekend off. That lakeview sounds like something we both need.

JESSICA

That would be amazing. I love you.

ETHAN

I love you too.

Ethan's watch begins to beep loudly.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Jessica you're the only woman for me. I love you. Got to go, can't wait for the weekend.

Jessica smiles as Ethan dashes out of the house. Ethan jumps into his car, starts the engine, and breaks down crying placing his head on the steering wheel.

INT. MEDICAL LAB-DAY

Ethan wakes up strapped to a chair in a blinding white lab room. As he looks around he sees Pete, in his normal medical gear, walking up to him. Pete begins to remove the brain monitor from Ethan's head.

PETE  
(Concerned and excited)  
Did it work?

Ethan looks over at the bed. Laying on it is his dead wife Jessica. She is wearing a similar brain monitor that connected her thoughts to Ethan's.

ETHAN  
Yes, how long did it last?

PETE  
It lasted 6 hours.

Pete writes down "Brain interaction continued 6 hours after death" on his clip board.

PETE  
Did you tell her the truth?

ETHAN  
Yes.

PETE  
Even that we got fired for what the company considered as unethical experiments?

ETHAN  
No, I only wanted her to have happy thoughts.

PETE  
I'm so sorry Ethan. But for the report I have to ask... how did it happen?

ETHAN  
She stormed off and I let her. She took the horse and didn't make the jump at night. The horse hit the fence and threw her, breaking her neck.

PETE

And how does she remember the event now?

In a flat clinical voice Ethan answers.

ETHAN

I apologized. I told her we had a new business and I would talk to her dad about financing. We made up. We made love. We made plans for the weekend at the lake. I told her I loved her... I told her goodbye.

PETE

What are we going to call the new business?

Ethan stares at his wife as he answers.

ETHAN

Last words.