

THIRD STAGE OF SEAN

by

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INT. APARTMENT - DINGING ROOM - ANYTIME

MALLORY talks with her boyfriend SEAN about not stressing over his loved ones as much.

MALLORY

You can't be all things to all people. You have to stop guiltting yourself over your father. It's not your fault.

SEAN

It is my fault if I could have stopped it.

MALLORY

You couldn't have.

SEAN

That's where you're wrong, Mal. I know I could have but I was too busy doing drugs and being a clown all those years. Not putting in the time like I should have and now look...

MALLORY

But that shouldn't be on you, it's all in your mind.

SEAN

...Maybe it is because maybe it's supposed to be. Maybe if it was in my mind sooner I could have changed a lot of people's lives. I could have done a lot more good.

MALLORY

Don't you know how to put yourself first?

SEAN

You see, that's the problem right there...before you met me, that's all I ever did, that's all I ever was...I came first. I was self-absorbed, selfish, didn't care about no one and nothing but whatever was going to get me wherever it was I thought I was going...the no where road.

MALLORY

You're right. I didn't know you, this other self you go on about but I know who you are since I did meet you and how you torment yourself over others. It's not healthy and it's too much.

SEAN

I deserve it.

MALLORY

Deserve?

SEAN

I deserve to be abused. I deserve the stress. I deserve the anguish damn it.

MALLORY

Now you're talking like a real idiot.

SEAN

Because I am. Whatever made you think I was smart. I'm as dumb as a goldfish.

MALLORY

No you're not. You're stupid for saying that.

SEAN

See?

MALLORY

Stop it. I don't like you talking like that about yourself.

SEAN

But I am. Open your eyes! Don't you see what I am? I am a man who missed out. Get it? I missed out because I was too stupid to get in on the action when I should have. Had I gone in, I would have been able to change things. But my mind was in the toilet...always in the toilet.

MALLORY

Stop it!

SEAN

I don't expect you to understand.
I'm sorry. I shouldn't have to
put this on you.

MALLORY

You're not putting anything on me
Sean. Okay? I just want you to
come to your senses. You always
go through these demon spells. You
get down about yourself and your
life for two or three days before
you snap out of it. It's been
longer than I've ever seen and--

SEAN

So what? Maybe this is who I'm
becoming now. Maybe I'm evolving
into a third stage of Sean. First
there was the
inconsiderate-I-don't-give-a-shit
Sean, then the
I-care-too-much-about-everyone
Sean and now it's the
I'm-jinxed-let-me-be-miserable
Sean.

MALLORY

No, it's the you need to calm down
Sean. (pause.) Are you done now,
drama queen?

SEAN

I'm alright. I just don't want to
see him struggle. I don't want to
hear about my brother losing his
leg or my sister having a
miscarriage or my cousin dying of
aids or my...my...ah, man...I miss
my dog.

MALLORY

Honey, it's okay. This is all
part of life. There's, look,
it's--these things happen.

SEAN

I feel responsible for everyone.

MALLORY

You shouldn't.

SEAN

I want everyone I love to be
alright all the time.

MALLORY

I know. I know. I want my family
to be alright also. Looks what
happened to my dad...right?

SEAN

Yeah, I know.

MALLORY

This is the way it is sometimes.
All any of us can do it bind and
hold.

SEAN

You don't mind if I hold a bit
tighter from time to time?

Mallory nods.

Sean hugs Mallory.