

END OF THE ARGUMENT

by

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INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Kelly and Jim are in the living room to their rented house.

KELLY

Don't tell me how to live my life
Jim, my life is my life because
I'm with you.

JIM

I'm not trying to tell you how to
live your---

KELLY

You are, you are, it's your
favorite past time. You comfort
me and make me happy, you make me
believe that everything is going
to be alright and after a few days
it dawns on me that nothing's
changed and I'm back to feeling
depressed and miserable.

JIM

If you want to do something with
your life, change it.

KELLY

I do change it but you hold me
back, you don't encourage me to
truly move forward.

JIM

Of course I do. I'm the one who
always pushes you to do things and
follow your interests.

KELLY

You are very clever, aren't you?
You play the help me role but you
are master of getting what you
want.

JIM

I have no idea what the hell you
are---

KELLY

Be honest with me, Jim. You want
me old and miserable in this
house. It's why we moved up here
in the woods, in isolation, away
from everything but deer,
squirrels and bears.

(MORE)

KELLY (CONT'D)

I have no friends and I have to wait for you to come home from work before actually uttering a word to another human being.

JIM

I call you during lunch.

KELLY

Are you kidding me right now?

JIM

I'm just saying---

KELLY

What?! What is it that you are actually saying? Are you not hearing me?

JIM

Maybe we should plan a trip.

KELLY

No! I don't want to plan a stupid trip because when we get back from our stupid trip, I will only be stuck in this house yet again, listening to crickets and birds.

JIM

What is it that you want, Kel?

KELLY

I want to live!!!
(pause.)

JIM

You know we're here because of the money...this is where I make my earn for us and we've spoken so much about this sacrifice. It's temporary.

KELLY

I feel like I am invisible to myself.

JIM

What do you mean?

KELLY

...I don't know who I am anymore...

JIM
Aren't you writing?

KELLY
No.

JIM
Don't you see, that's what pisses me off. We agreed to this and we had a plan. I'm holding up my end, I go out there and deal with shit I don't ever talk to you about because I try to make things good for you, and you go on about not doing anything with your life and it's because you don't stick to anything. Not one thing! And it's not me that pulls you away, it's yourself but you blame me because you don't want to face yourself and I'm the easy scapegoat.

KELLY
I want to move.

JIM
What?

KELLY
I want to leave this place.

JIM
I thought we were saving to buy a house...

KELLY
Who gives a damn about a house? People put so much importance on owning a home when all it is in reality is a freaking liability for thirty years.

JIM
What would you rather we do, rent for thirty years?

KELLY
Travel.

JIM
Travel?

KELLY

Travel. Live freely. Not be held down. Live our lives, so we can look back and know we experienced lives worth living.

JIM

Have you seen my wife Kelly?

KELLY

Jim. Jim, listen to me...we need to get out of this...quit your job, I know you hate that damn job and I know you are doing it so we can buy a house, I get it and I know that's what we talked about but I don't need a home. I don't want a home. I want to find some tiny studio somewhere, live minimally and experience---

JIM

I can't believe what you're saying.

KELLY

Why?

JIM

How will we make money?

KELLY

Money owns everybody!

JIM

You're not making any sense!

KELLY

When we first met you worked at a coffee shop and I worked at a bookstore and we were happy, weren't we?

JIM

Yeah, but we wanted more.

KELLY

We were wrong! This isn't it.

JIM

...My brother is gonna kill me if I quit. He chose me over one of his long time earners because I'm family.

KELLY

I know.

JIM

You know? Is that all you have to say? It's always on me, you dump all your shit on me, it's always about what you want, you never talk to me about what I want.

KELLY

What do you want, Jim? Huh? Is this what you really want?

JIM

I thought it's what we wanted together, Kel.

KELLY

After four months of this, I rather jump off a bridge.

JIM

Don't talk like that, I hate that kind of talk, you know that.

KELLY

Sorry...

JIM

My father's gonna kill me, too.

KELLY

Do you want to go around your whole life pleasing other people?

JIM

It's my family!

KELLY

I'm your family.

JIM

Don't you understand how this puts me in the middle and how it makes me look to them?

KELLY

It's all about pride, instead of what's right?

JIM

I promised my brother! I gave him my word. We already have a shaky relationship as it is.

KELLY

Grow a pair.

JIM

Don't talk like that to me!!
(beat) You put me in this
situation...I didn't even want to
come out here, this dead ass town,
I hate it out here but I came for
you cause I thought it's what you
wanted.

KELLY

You have no idea!

JIM

You have no idea! I have a ton of
bad memories from growing up out
here and I swore I would never
return. I only came back for you,
for us, for or future. (beat)
Kelly, listen, this is getting---I
need to get out of here...

Jim grabs his jacket.

KELLY

Can't you ever make it to the end
of the argument?

JIM

I'm leaving cause I don't wanna do
something I'll regret.

KELLY

Oh, are you threatening me now
tough guy?

JIM

I'm not threatening you.

KELLY

Gonna hit me the same way your
father hit you?

JIM

...You say such horrible things...

Jim motions to leave.

KELLY

Jim, I'm sorry, I didn't mean
that.

JIM
But you said it.

KELLY
You were threatening me!

JIM
I wasn't threatening you! I would never raise a finger to you. Never! You get me so worked up all the time, you know exactly how to push my buttons, it's like a knife going in and I do question how I have the patience to be with you at times and I am concerned that maybe some day I will go over the edge and become a piece of shit, just like my old man and if that ever did happen, I'd kill myself, so when I say I need to leave, it isn't because I can't make it to the end of the argument, it's because you take my emotions to a whole new level and I don't like the way it makes me feel, this build up of anger and I get worried, scared even, that I won't be strong enough to hold it together because all I want to do is break apart and shatter everything around me and I don't want to be like this!

KELLY
...Okay...it's---we're fine, I get it, okay?
(pause)

Jim paces.

Why don't you sit down and relax?

JIM
Just give me a damn minute...(sighs)

KELLY
...I keep everything in for so long and when what I'm feeling comes out, it's like a broken dam.

JIM
You better seriously think about what it is you want because I've invested a lot into this plan that you suddenly want to smash.

KELLY
It isn't sudden.

JIM
What?

KELLY
This isn't sudden. I was never one hundred percent about it. I was always fifty-fifty.

JIM
Why weren't you honest with me? You think this shit is a joke? It's not just your life. It's mine! And not only that, you claim I have no balls, but it's about my integrity and keeping my word to my brother and father. When I tell someone I'm going to do something, I do it.

KELLY
Since when are you loyal to them two assholes?

Jim looks at Kelly enraged.
I'm just saying...they've never done a damn thing for you your entire life.

JIM
They don't have to.

KELLY
Maybe not so much your older brother but what about your father...he's never done shit for you.

JIM
I know.

Jim sits on the couch.

KELLY
So why be so loyal to him?

JIM
Because by being loyal to him shows that I'm not like him. I'm my own man and I'm better than him.

KELLY

...What are we going to do Jim?

JIM

Can you ride it out for a few more months, at least until the season ends?

Kelly shrugs her shoulders.

That will buy me time and I can show face. If I complete the season, no one can talk shit about me and I get to keep my word. When the season comes to a close, I'll call it quits and we will pack our things and leave this town, forever. Yes or no?

KELLY

Yes...

JIM

We'll figure out where we want to go next. I do want to get settled somewhere, somehow. I'm not interested in living a gypsy life. I'd like to have some kind of foundation. I don't mind living freely and all that but we always need to have a base, you know, like have our shit together financially to some degree.

KELLY

We'll figure it out together...

Jim and Kelly look to one another.

END OF SCRIPT