

More Than Friends

by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

SUSAN KENDRICK (28) a long-haired elegant-looking businesswoman, puts on mascara then lipstick. She straightens her hair and puts on a tight black dress and high heels, and the last touch, an irresistible perfume. She looks stunning.

SUSAN (V.O.)

Can we just hit rewind? Does he still feel the same? Do we only get one shot? Does love ever really end?

2 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Susan walks and talks on the phone as she passes through an immaculately organised row of shoes.

SUSAN

I've given you enough chances... Bill you're not listening to me...

Susan stops and impatiently taps her foot on the floor waiting for the person on the phone to finish.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

You had one job Bill, and you blew it. You have 3 weeks to find a new job.

BILL

(on the phone)

You and that insufferable assistant of yours...

SUSAN

We're done.

Susan hangs up, sighs and goes to the living room. She stops in front of the kitchen as if gazing at the past, watching a play she'd seen before and knew the ending.

3 INT. KITCHEN - DAY - FLASHBACK

CHRIS HUGHES (30, idealistic, intelligent, dorky) sits at the table on his laptop. Susan comes in. Chris immediately presses a few keys on the keyboard.

SUSAN

What do you think? How do I look?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Susan pauses in front of him waiting for an answer.

Without even glancing at Susan, Chris replies.

CHRIS
Horrendous.

SUSAN
This is important, be serious. What do
you think?

CHRIS
Fine.

Chris crosses his arms while examining Susan's outfit.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
You look great! Is this for that job
interview?

Susan walks to the counter and picks up two cups.

SUSAN
I'm going back.

CHRIS
What? I thought we'd talked about
this. What about your dream?

Susan pours them coffee.

SUSAN
Dreams don't put food on our table.

CHRIS
We're doing fine.

Susan hands Chris one of the cups, kisses Chris on the cheek
and walks towards the door. She turns around.

SUSAN
Your business is in the red, the bank
called the other day...

Susan keeps walking. Chris stands up.

CHRIS
You hated that job. You wanna help
people, make a difference.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSAN

Liar, liar, pants on fire. If you're wearing any.

Susan walks towards the door.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

I know you'll find us a way out. Plus, dreams change.

Susan leaves.

4 EXT. SUSAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Susan smiles and caresses her belly, then leaves.

5 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Chris sits again, presses the same keys and stares at an engagement ring on his laptop.

6 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - BACK TO PRESENT

Susan is startled as JESSICA YOUNG (22, attractive, spirited but with an edge) barges in.

JESSICA

Hey, boss! So sorry. I know, I'm late.
Are you ready?

Jessica puts the cardboard box she is holding on the sofa.

SUSAN

Jessica... geez... don't you knock?

Jessica does a double take at Susan.

JESSICA

The guy won't know what hit him.

Susan's phone starts to ring. It reads 'Chris'. Susan looks at the phone.

7 INT. KITCHEN - DAY - FLASHBACK

Susan stands in the kitchen drinking a cup of coffee and with a big smile in her face. She looks at a cup of coffee beside her and a picture under it.

SUSAN

Chris? Hurry up! We're gonna be late!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Chris comes in.

CHRIS

What are you so smiley about?

Susan looks at the cup of coffee on the counter and then back at Chris. Chris picks up the coffee and sees the black and white picture, a sonogram.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Is this what I think it is?

Susan nods grinning from ear to ear. Chris picks up the picture and gazes at it with great excitement.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Su... this is amazing news.

8 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - BACK TO THE PRESENT

JESSICA

Speak of the devil.

Beat.

Susan takes her time to answer. Jessica winks at Susan and answers the phone.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Susan's phone, this is her assistant,
how may I help you?

Beat.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Yes. She's... busy at the moment,
would you like to leave a message?

Jessica hangs up and puts the phone back on the table. Susan walks to the sofa and sits down.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I know that look, and it's the same
every time we talk about him.

SUSAN

It doesn't matter, I am not going.

JESSICA

What's the big deal? You dated, you
broke up, now he wants to see you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA (CONT'D)
again.

SUSAN
It's complicated.

JESSICA
I get it. But you have to let someone
in. Talking about will help.

Beat.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
I'll take care of this for you.

Jessica grabs the cardboard box, her keys and purse, and
walks towards the door.

SUSAN
Jess, wait...

Jessica turns around and takes a few steps towards Susan.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
What I haven't told you is that we
almost got engaged.

Susan smiles. Jessica puts down everything and sits beside
Susan on the sofa.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
He probably still thinks I didn't
know.

Jessica smiles back at her.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
But then... we got pregnant...
(beat)
...I lost the baby.

JESSICA
Shit, Su. I'm so sorry.

SUSAN
I can't go, he doesn't... Who would
want to be...

Jessica sympathetically looks at Susan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

When you hired me you told me that the past didn't matter, it shouldn't define you. You guys may still have a future, don't you wanna find out?.

SUSAN

You really think I should go?

JESSICA

I'll drag your sexy ass there if I have to. Go!

Susan gets up looks at Jessica and leaves.

9 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Susan sits at the restaurant alone. She looks down, and then around. She sits introspectively as time passes.

Susan looks at her phone, puts it in her purse, then quickly stands up and starts to head to the exit. She looks down to search for the parking ticket in her purse when suddenly someone reaches for her hand. She turns around. It's Chris.

CHRIS

Susan?!

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Are you leaving?

Beat.

Susan pulls away her arm from Chris's hand.

SUSAN

Yeah, I shouldn't have come.

Beat.

CHRIS

You look... gorgeous.

SUSAN

Thank you.

Susan crosses her arms.

Chris steps towards Susan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHRIS

I know I don't deserve this but...
Please, just hear me out, ok? I
thought of me when I should've been
thinking of you...

Susan interrupts Chris

SUSAN

I don't know...

CHRIS

I've missed you...

Beat.

SUSAN

Ok, but just talking...

Susan walks back to the table followed by Chris. They sit
down at the table. The awkward silence fills the space
between them.

CHRIS

So...

SUSAN

So... What did you wanna talk about?

Beat.

CHRIS

How have you been?

SUSAN

How do you think I've been?

CHRIS

I'm sorry.

Beat.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I know you probably hate me right
now...

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I wish I could take it back. Go back
in time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSAN
It's not that simple.

CHRIS
We've lost... a lot of time...

SUSAN
We lost a lot more than time. We lost everything.

CHRIS
You barely spoke to me, you were married to your work...

SUSAN
You left me. You didn't even try.

Chris leans forward and reaches for Susan's hands.

CHRIS
I'm trying now.

Beat.

SUSAN
It's too late...

Susan shakes her head slowly and dashes towards the exit as Chris watches her leave.

CHRIS
Susan... Susan... Susan...

10 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Susan wakes up in her pajamas, there's crumpled tissue paper all over the floor and the sound of her door bell.

She checks her phone and sees Chris's missed calls and unread messages.

Susan goes to her living room and finds Jessica with 2 cups of coffee.

JESSICA
Good, I was about to wake you up.

Jessica hands one of the cups to Susan with a smirk in her face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA (CONT'D)

He's been sitting out there in his car
the whole night.

Susan glances at Chris through the window, before sitting
down.

SUSAN

Good. I don't care.

Jessica follows her.

JESSICA

Really? Cuz he's sitting right on the
other side of that door and you
haven't taken a sip of your coffee
yet.

Jessica waits for an answer.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

You gave Bill, that turd, plenty of
second chances... You took someone
like me under your wing, you gave me a
future but you don't think you guys
deserve the same?

SUSAN

We tried. It didn't work.

JESSICA

I wanted to quit every day of that
first week you hired me, but you said
'if you want this, I'll fight for you
but I need you to meet me half way'.
He'll fight for you, will you meet him
half way?

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I'll leave you guys to it.

Jessica goes upstairs.

Susan walks to the door. Her phone starts to ring. She
hesitates, and then picks up.

CHRIS

I'm not giving up on us again...

Susan opens the door, tears well up in her eyes as she sees
Chris.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Beat.

Susan hands Chris the cup of coffee.

SUSAN

How about we start with a cup of
coffee?

Beat.

CHRIS

I'd like that. I really would.

They walk to the sofa in the living room, sit down and
holding hands start to talk.

FADE OUT.