

TO & FRO

by

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TO & FRO

Characters

CONOR, 20s, male, an incurable romantic.

TRAVIS, 20s, male, Conor's wingman.

JENNIFER, 20s, female, a would-be soulmate.

MEL, 20s, female, Jennifer's confidante.

Time

Present.

Setting

A trendy bar for twenty-somethings on the make.

TO & FRO

A trendy, upscale nightclub for young urban singles. A bartender is stationed behind a long bar, efficiently busy. CONOR and TRAVIS sit at one end with beers; JENNIFER and MEL sit at the other with complicated ice cream drinks. TRAVIS and MEL have their backs to each other. CONOR and JENNIFER are facing each other, but JENNIFER is oblivious of him until the end.

CONOR

Sweet.

TRAVIS looks down the bar, appraises JENNIFER.

TRAVIS

Girl on the end? No kidding.

CONOR

Oh, man, this is it for me. What a knockout, wow!

CONOR gets the BARTENDER's attention and calls him over. CONOR indicates JENNIFER.

CONOR (CONT'D)

Let me buy her another drink.

BARTENDER checks JENNIFER and nods to CONOR, then moves to the center and sets to work. CONOR pushes some bills forward on the bar in front of him.

TRAVIS

Don't forget what happened last time.

CONOR

This is not the same.

TRAVIS

(Ruefully.)

That's what you said before.

CONOR

(Defensively.)

I was really messed up. You try bouncing back. It was hopeless.

TRAVIS

I remember all the shit--the lying and the sneaking around.

CONOR

I didn't deserve it, that's for sure.

TRAVIS

How come you were so blind?

CONOR

Thinking with the little head. What can I say?

TRAVIS

(Sagely.)

You're a man.

CONOR

(Theatrically.)

Why do we let love mess up sex?

TRAVIS

You could swear it off.

CONOR

(Laughs.)

I'd never learn. I'd have to cut it off.

BARTENDER turns on the blender and walks over to CONOR.

BARTENDER

That'll be nine bucks.

CONOR waves at the cash. BARTENDER takes what he needs, returns to the center, where he rings up the sale, turns off the blender, and prepares to finish mixing the drink.

MEL

You never learn.

JENNIFER

I should've cut it off, I swear.

MEL

Why do we let sex mess up love?

JENNIFER

What can I say? He was a man.

MEL

Thinking with his little head. How could you be so blind?

JENNIFER

I didn't deserve it, that's for sure. Remember all the shit-- the lying and the sneaking around.

MEL

I thought it was hopeless, but you bounced back.

JENNIFER

I was really messed up.

MEL

So you say.

JENNIFER

I am not the same.

MEL

Just don't forget what happened last time.

JENNIFER

Whew. Another drink is going to knock me out.

BARTENDER arrives with the drink CONOR bought, sets it down before JENNIFER.

BARTENDER

Oh, Miss? This is for you.

JENNIFER

Are you kidding?

BARTENDER

Guy on the end.

BARTENDER indicates CONOR, who lifts a hand in acknowledgement. JENNIFER looks, likes what she sees.

JENNIFER

How sweet.

JENNIFER smiles at CONOR as she takes a sip. MEL reacts to JENNIFER with disbelief.

Fade to black.

THE END