

CONTINUED:

SAMANTHA

(laughs)

I know, I know. I'm being silly.

THEODORE

(sing-song)

...soooo I'm avail-able.

They both laugh.

EXT. RESTAURANT PATIO - DAY

Theodore sits alone in the back of a quiet restaurant, a large stack of papers in front of him. We hear his breathing. He waits. Catherine, elegantly dressed, approaches. Theodore stands to greet her. They hug and sit down.

THEODORE

How are you?

CATHERINE

I'm good, how are you?

THEODORE

Good.

CATHERINE

(a little nervous, but trying to be warm.)

Wow, here we are.

THEODORE

Yeah, I'm glad we could do this in person. I know how much you've been traveling.

CATHERINE

Me too. I'm glad you suggested it.

THEODORE

I signed all the papers and I brought them for you to sign.

CATHERINE

(with a sly smile)

What's the rush?

THEODORE

(smiling)

I'm a really slow signer. It took me three months just to write the letter T.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She laughs.

THEODORE (CONT'D)

It's marked where you need to sign,
but you don't have to do that right
now.

CATHERINE

Oh, I may as well. We can get it
out of the way.

She opens the documents, pulls out a pen and starts to read. She's about to start signing, but then stops. We can see her filling with emotion, but not wanting to show Theodore. She swallows and recovers. She looks up at Theodore, giving him an "everything's fine" smile, but it's not.

EXT. RESTAURANT PATIO - DAY (LATER)

Theodore and Catherine are eating and talking.

THEODORE

So are you happy with the new book?

CATHERINE

Oh, you know how I am. But I feel
like it's true to what I set out to
do. So I'm happy with that.

THEODORE

You're your own worst critic, I'm
sure it's amazing. Even that paper
you wrote on synaptic behavioral
routines made me cry.

CATHERINE

Yeah, but everything makes you cry.

THEODORE

Everything you make makes me cry.

CATHERINE

So are you seeing anybody?

THEODORE

Yeah, I am, for the last few
months. That's the longest I've
wanted to be with anybody since we
split up.

She smiles, conflicted, but warm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CATHERINE

Well, you seem good.

THEODORE

Thanks, I am. Or at least I'm doing better. She's been really good for me. I guess it's just been nice to be with someone who's excited about the world.

CATHERINE

(with a sliver of hurt)

Oh good, excited's great.

THEODORE

No, I mean - I wasn't in such a good place myself and in that way it's been nice.

CATHERINE

I always felt like you wished I could just be a happy, light, everything's great, bouncy L.A. wife. But that's not me.

THEODORE

No. I didn't want that.

Beat.

CATHERINE

So what's she like?

THEODORE

Well, her name's Samantha, and she's an operating system, and she's really complex and interesting. I mean it's only been a few months, but--

CATHERINE

Wait. You're dating your computer?

THEODORE

(defensive)

She's not just a computer. She's her own person. She doesn't just do whatever I want.

CATHERINE

I didn't say that.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

But it does make me sad that you
can't handle real emotions,
Theodore.

THEODORE

They *are* real emotions. How do you
know--

Theodore stops himself.

CATHERINE

What? Say it. Am I really that
scary? Say it. How do I know what?!

Theodore doesn't say anything. The WAITRESS walks up.

WAITRESS

How are you guys doing?

CATHERINE

Fine. We used to be married. He
couldn't handle me so he wanted to
put me on Prozac. Now he's madly in
love with his laptop.

The waitress doesn't know what to say.

THEODORE

Well, if you heard the conversation
in context. What I was trying to
say--

CATHERINE

You wanted to have a wife without
the challenges of actually dealing
with anything real. I'm glad you
found someone. It's perfect.

WAITRESS

(awkwardly)

Let me know if you guys need
anything.

CATHERINE

Thank you.

INT. THEODORE'S OFFICE - DAY

Theodore is sitting at his desk, not working. He sees
Samantha calling him, takes a moment, then answers.

(CONTINUED)