

Fighting Tommy Riley

16 EXT. STEPHANIE'S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Tommy jogs up the stairs of a college-campus apartment building holding a big Chinese food takeout bag.

17 INT. STEPHANIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Tommy opens the door. Walks inside. Stephanie stands at a mirror, getting ready to go out. She looks fantastic.

STEPHANIE

(Impatiently)

Where have you been?!

TOMMY

I was... Took me a while to get here.

But –

(then, holding up the bag of Chinese food)

I got your favorite.

STEPHANIE

We're meeting everybody in 5 minutes. You know that.

Tommy leans over the bed and kisses Stephanie with the familiarity that years together denotes... Tommy nudges her playfully onto the paper strewn bed and begins kissing her neck. She pushes him off.

TOMMY

--C'mon let's forget about them tonight. Let's just hang here and watch a movie. Look I rented "Paws Love" and I promise not to fall asleep if we...

STEPHANIE

No, Tommy...

(pushing him off)

--Watch the papers! I had this all organized. Fuck!

Stephanie scrambles to reorganize the papers. Both frustrated. And just the way there was familiarity in their kiss, there's familiarity in this too.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

I'm not flaking on my friends anymore.

TOMMY

Fine. Fuck it. I'll be ready in 2 minutes.

Tommy rummages violently through the neatly folded laundry.

STEPHANIE

You don't want to go. You never want to do anything unless it's just you and me and I'm tired of dragging –

TOMMY

-- I told you I'd go. I'll go!

STEPHANIE

You know my friends here are important to me.

TOMMY

I never know what the fuck to say to them.

STEPHANIE

What am I supposed to do, Tommy? You refuse to even try to be a part of my life here. You keep promising you're gonna change but you never do.

Tommy looks for something appropriate to wear. Frustrated he can't find anything, he pushes it all to the floor. All her work folding for naught.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

You're frustrated, you're angry...

TOMMY

-- I'm fine, alright --

STEPHANIE

We've been here three years and – you haven't used the nights to get your degree like you said you would. You're negative about everything. You haven't --

TOMMY

-- That's cause I'm busting my ass with Oscar and earning a fucking living so that we --

STEPHANIE

-- At a job I found for you. A job you hate --

TOMMY

I'm doing it, aren't I?

STEPHANIE

Where's that taking you?

TOMMY

Where's it taking me? Like we always said; when you finish school, we'll get married and then we move back –

STEPHANIE

Things change.

TOMMY

You've changed.

STEPHANIE

You don't have anything in your life but me.

TOMMY

Bullshit.

STEPHANIE

If you're not with me, you're alone. So I either stay home with you and neglect my friends or I go out and feel guilty the whole time --

TOMMY

-- You don't need to worry about me. I'm fine.

STEPHANIE

But I'm not! I don't know what else to say...

(grabbing her jacket)

I'm going.

Tommy gathers himself and moves to Stephanie. He takes her hand –

TOMMY

Look, I'm sorry, you're right. You're right. OK? ...
Marry me. Let's get married. I swear to God I'll change.
It'll make me the happiest guy in the world. I'll be happy all the time, smile 24/7 and –

STEPHANIE

-- That's not the solution.

(boom...then)

Maybe you should think about moving back home.

And this one hits Tommy below the belt. He stands shocked.

TOMMY

Fuck you too.

Tommy storms out, slamming the door behind him.

17

Stephanie gathers her papers...the weight of their conversation hitting her...Emotion desperate to flow, but she steels herself; not going to cry this time.