Two Wrongs

Ву

Julie DeStefano

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julie.destefano@yahoo.com

EXT. PHIL AND JUSTINE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Establishing shot of Phil and Justine's house, a split level in a quiet neighborhood.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Vegetables boil away on top of the stove. A pair of hands open the oven door and pull out a roast. The roast is placed on a dinner table set for two cluttered with serving dishes.

The clock on the wall reads 6:00pm.

A cell phone laying on top of the kitchen counter buzzes. JUSTINE, an attractive yet slightly dressed down thirty year old, picks up the phone. The screen displays a text message from her husband Phil: "Will be home in another couple of hours. Start dinner without me." Justine stares at the message and frowns.

A dinner knife cuts into a piece of beef. Justine brings the meat to her lips and takes a bite. Across from Justine is an empty seat and an empty dinner plate.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Justine is sprawled out on the couch watching a movie.

V.O. TV ACTRESS Admit it. You're having an affair.

V.O. TV ACTOR Of course I'm not! What on earth gave you that idea?

V.O. TV ACTRESS You're never home on time and you never pay attention to me.

The door opens and PHIL, a thirty-three year old dressed in business casual attire, walks through the door and up the stairs.

PHIL

I'm home.

JUSTINE How was your day?

PHIL

Busy.

JUSTINE It's Nine O'clock.

PHIL Well, I texted and said I was going to be late.

JUSTINE Yeah, I got it. Your dinner is in the fridge.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A fork stabs into a piece of meat. Phil scarfs down his food. Justine takes the seat next to him.

JUSTINE So, this big project you're working on. Is it almost finished?

PHIL Still have a lot of coding to work out, but it's getting there.

JUSTINE This is has been going on for three months now. Would just be nice to have you home by six again.

PHIL Well, this job demands a lot of my time.

JUSTINE Do you think you can get out early on Friday?

PHIL Why? What's going on then?

JUSTINE (shocked and hurt by his response) It's our anniversary.

this.

PHIL (talking while chewing his food) Oh, right. Sorry. Can't keep track of time these days. JUSTINE I was thinking of making a reservation at that place where you proposed to me. PHIL (talking while chewing his food) What time? JUSTINE Can you please not talk with your mouthful? PHTT. (takes a minute to swallow his food) Sorry. JUSTINE How about 7:00? PHIL Sure, I'll get home at 6:00, get ready and we'll leave at 6:30. Phil takes a sip of water and then picks up a piece of food with his fingers and puts it in his mouth. Justine notices JUSTINE You have utensils. PHIL Really, you're going to nitpick how I eat? JUSTINE

Nevermind.

Phil takes the last few bites of his meal and then gets up and puts the dishes in the sink.

> JUSTINE You're not going to leave those in the sink are you?

PHIL What's the matter? JUSTINE I don't like when the dishes pile up. PHTT. So, I have no manners and I am slob. JUSTINE I didn't say that. PHIL That's what it sounded like. JUSTINE I just want you to help out a little more. PHIL You do realize I just got home and I'm tired. JUSTINE I work too and I'm tired. PHIL

(Takes the dishes out the sink and puts them in the dishwasher, slamming the door shut) I'm going to bed.

Phil leaves Justine by herself in the kitchen looking dejected.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Phil and Justine read while lying in bed. Several seconds go by before either one say a word.

JUSTINE Phil, I'm sorry about earlier.

Phil turns his head to Justine and gives her an accepting smile and then returns to his book. Justine leans closer to him.

4.

JUSTINE You're a very hard worker.

Justine starts kissing his face. He turns away from her.

PHIL

Justine, not now.

JUSTINE Oh, come on.

She continues to kiss him. Phil sits up.

PHIL I'm serious, Justine. I'm tired and we have to get up.

JUSTINE But when was the last we...

PHIL Not tonight.

JUSTINE

Fine.

Phil turns off his light. Justine starts to reach over to turn off her light.

PHIL Make sure the alarm is set for five.

JUSTINE What time are you going in?

PHIL The usual time but I'm going to the gym before work.

JUSTINE Since when did you start going to the gym?

PHIL Signed up a week ago but haven't gone there yet.

JUSTINE When were you going to tell me? 5.

PHIL I just told you now.

Justine resets the alarm, turns off the light and settles her head onto the pillow. Justine and Phil's bodies lay turning away from each other.

> JUSTINE What gym is it? PHIL

Uh...JMD Fitness Center.

JUSTINE Oh, right by the shopping center?

PHIL

Yeah.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A tea kettle is steaming away on the stove. Justine stands over the kitchen counter pouring herself a cup of tea. She has the phone held against her ear with the other hand.

> V.O. RECEPTIONIST JMD Fitness. How can I help you?

JUSTINE Hi, I was wondering if you have family membership plans.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST Yes, we do.

JUSTINE Great. My husband joined a week ago and I was wondering if I can get added to his plan.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST What's your husband's name?

JUSTINE Phil Wright.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST One second.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST I'm sorry did you say Bill Wright? JUSTINE No. Phil Wright.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST Okay, hang on just a moment.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST Sorry, we don't have anyone by that name.

JUSTINE Oh, okay. thank you.

V.O. RECEPTIONIST No problem.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

It is the night of their anniversary. Justine zips up a black strapless cocktail dress, standing in front of a full-length mirror.

CU of Justine applying mascara.

CU of Justine applying lipstick.

CU of Justine putting on a heart shaped necklace.

Justine takes one last look in the mirror.

The doorbell rings.

JUSTINE Home already?

INT. DOORWAY - NIGHT

Justine races down the stairs expecting to see Phil at the door. Instead, standing outside is her neighbor JOHN, late 20's and has a slight resemblance to Phil.

JUSTINE

John?

JOHN Hi, I'm sorry to bother you, but the mailman mixed up and gave me some of your mail by accident.

John hands Justine the mail.

JUSTINE Again? This is the third time that's happened.

JOHN Well, our addresses are only off by one number. And maybe they have a new guy working.

JUSTINE

Maybe.

John notices Justine's dress.

JOHN Wow, you look nice. Special occasion?

JUSTINE It's our anniversary.

JOHN Congratulations! How many years?

JUSTINE

Two.

JOHN Well, I am jealous of your husband.

An awkward pause.

JOHN Alright, I'll see you around.

Justine watches John as he leaves with a slight grin on her face. It's the first compliment she has received in a long time.

INT: LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The clock on the wall reads 6:00.

Justine peers down the street from the large picture window, hoping that Phil's car pulls into the driveway at any minute.

The clock on the wall fades from 6:10 to 6:30.

Justine is sitting on the couch fidgeting. She reaches into her purse and pulls out her cell phone. She calls Phil's number. The call goes straight to voicemail.

8.

PHIL'S VOICEMAIL Hi, this is Phil. Leave a message and I'll get back to you.

JUSTINE

Hi Phil, it's me Justine. I don't know why your phone is off but I'm assuming you're on your way home. It's getting late and we need to leave the house in ten minutes in order to make our reservation. Anyway, I'll see you when you get home.

Three seconds later the cell phone buzzes. Justine answers it with anticipation. A text message from her mom reads "Happy Anniversary." Justine frowns.

The clock now reads 6:45. Justine is pacing.

JUSTINE

(starting to panic) Phil, you are not doing this to me. Not tonight. Not on our anniversary!

Annoyed, Justine grabs her cell phone and calls Phil's office. The phone rings and rings and finally the answering machine picks up.

PHIL'S OFFICE VOICEMAIL Hi, you reached Phil Wright, extension 223. I'm out of the office so please leave a message...

Justine hangs up. And tries his cell phone one last time.

JUSTINE Okay, please pick up this time. Pick up! Pick up!

PHIL'S VOICEMAIL Hi, this is Phil. Leave a message....

JUSTINE Son of a bitch!

Justine throws her phone.

The clock now reads 7:00.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

CU of red wine pouring into a glass.

Justine brings the glass to her lips and with a heavy heart takes a big sip.

JUSTINE Well, it's been a nice anniversary...alone.

Justine leans her body over the table and buries her face into her arms and cries.

The clock now reads 8:00.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Phil's car pulls into the driveway.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Justine takes the last sip of her third glass of wine. Her hair is slightly disheveled and she is very tipsy.

The door opens. Footsteps are heard marching up the stairs.

Justine gives Phil the look of death as he approaches the dining room.

PHIL I am so sorry. I don't know what happened. I just caught up in all this work. I forgot it was tonight.

JUSTINE This is unforgivable, Phil. Unforgivable!

PHIL I know. I screwed up.

JUSTINE How could you? I reminded you last night.

PHIL I was so tired then, I completely forgot by this morning. But it's not the end of the world. We can go out tomorrow night. JUSTINE

No. I'm not going to waste another night waiting for you. All I do is wait. I wait for you come home from work. I wait for you to want to have sex with me.

PHIL

Justine...

JUSTINE

The last time we even tried was months ago. What is it? Am I suddenly repulsive to you? Or are you just too busy screwing someone else?

PHIL What are you talking about?

JUSTINE

I just don't believe you spend twelve hours a day working, not to mention weekends.

PHIL But that's what I'm doing.

JUSTINE I think you're having an affair.

PHIL That's ridiculous. Now you're talking crazy!

JUSTINE

You won't touch me. You hide stuff from me. You pick fights with me. And you lie to me!

PHIL What are you talking about?

JUSTINE

I called that gym to get added to your plan and they said you never signed up.

PHIL Well that was...

JUSTINE

And your cell phone was off tonight. You never turn it off. And if you were really at work you would've gotten my call.

PHIL

Look, the gym screwed up my information, but now I'm in their system. My cell phone fell out of my pocket. It was in the car the whole time. And I may have been in the bathroom when you called me at work.

Justine ponders this but remains unconvinced.

PHIL But I cannot believe you would accuse me of cheating.

JUSTINE

It's just that I've seen this all before with Frank my ex. I fell for every one of his lame excuses and then found him in bed with my best friend.

PHIL Well, I'm not your ex.

JUSTINE I'm going to bed.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Justine and Phil lie in bed with their bodies turned away from each other. Justine's eyes are still open. She tosses and turns a bit.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The sun shines through the blinds. Justine wakes up. She turns over to find a note on Phil's side of the bed. The note reads. "I'm going into work. Will be home by five."

JUSTINE It's Saturday!

Justine crumples the note and throws it on the floor and gets up.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Justine lays on the couch watching a movie.

V.O. TV ACTRESS I don't think I can do this.

V.O. TV ACTOR #2 He's been making you unhappy for years. Of course you can.

V.O. TV ACTRESS I don't want to hurt him.

V.O. TV ACTOR #2 Don't worry. He will never find out.

Justine pauses the movie. She stares at her phone and ponders it. Finally she picks it up, searches for a number and brings the phone to her face.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

A car pulls into the driveway. The driver's side door opens and a leg steps out. We don't see the face of the person getting out. He walks towards the house with a bouquet of flowers in his hand.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The alarm clock reads 3:00. Moaning is heard in the background. A pile of clothes have been thrown on the floor. We see Justine's body on top of another person. We don't see either of their faces.

Suddenly the door opens and Phil is standing in the doorway with a bouquet of flowers in his hand and a look of horror on his face. The flowers fall to the ground.

Justine and the man, who is now revealed as the neighbor John, turn around to see Phil angrily staring back at them. Their mouths drop open.

> PHIL Justine? What the hell!

JUSTINE Phil, I...what are you doing here? You said you weren't going to be home till... PHIL Yeah, I came home early to surprise you. I felt bad about the other night. But this, is this your way of punishing me?

Justine is speechless. Phil turns around and storms out of the bedroom.

INT. LIVING ROOM - STAIRCASE - DAY

Justine follows Phil to the staircase. She is wearing a bathrobe.

JUSTINE

Phil, wait....

PHIL

I know you're upset with me, but I didn't think you had it in you to do something as low as this.

JUSTINE

I'm sorry.

PHIL

You're sorry! You know what, I'm sorry. I'm sorry I can't be the perfect husband. I'm sorry that my hard work to support us both doesn't cut it for you anymore. I am very sorry I can't pleasure you like that poor excuse for a human being that lives next door can!

JUSTINE

Phil...I....

PHIL

You still thought I was cheating on you, right? So you went ahead and got revenge?

Speechless, Justine looks back at him with tears rolling down her face.

PHIL Well, that's just the lowest thing anyone could ever do. And for the record, I never had an affair. JUSTINE Why were you never home?

PHIL I love my job. Is that a crime?

JUSTINE And you don't want to have sex with me anymore.

PHIL And you always criticize me.

PHIL Well I hope you and the pile of scum that lives next door have a great life together.

Phil turns around, walks down the stairs and out the door. The camera stays on shot of Justine and then slowly zooms out. FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. GROUP THERAPY MEETING ROOM - DAY

PHIL My name is Phil and I'm a workaholic.

GROUP MEMBERS

Hi Phil.

PHIL I love to work. I love ending the day knowing I made a real accomplishment. But I was afraid to fail. I was so afraid of failing that I ended up failing in my marriage. I neglected my wife and she ended up sleeping with someone else. Looking back, I now realize the fault was mine.

FADE TO BLACK.