

THE HEAD AND THE HEART

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INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

LAILA, Early 20s, sits in a chair facing a man and a young girl.

SHAWN, Mid 20s, watches a movie with a young girl in his lap.

OLIVIA, 4, sits in Shawn's lap comfortably.

Olivia smiles and looks up at Shawn.

Laila smiles softly.

Olivia continues to watch the movie.

Shawn glances over to Laila and does a double-take.

Laila motions to Shawn twirling one index finger around the opposite pinky.

LAILA

She's got you wrapped around her
finger.

Shawn rolls his eyes.

Laila quietly laughs.

The credits roll on the TV screen.

OLIVIA

Let's watch another one.

Olivia looks up at Shawn with hopeful eyes.

Shawn breaths deeply.

SHAWN

We'll watch another one soon. Right
now, I need to talk to Mommy.

Olivia looks at Laila.

Olivia quickly turns and hugs Shawn around his neck.

SHAWN (CONT'D)

Go play with your toys. I'll come
get you when it's time, O.K.?

Shawn rubs Olivia on her back, and sets her down on her feet.

Olivia scampers off to another room in the house.

Laila watches Olivia leave the room, she looks back at Shawn.

LAILA
What do you want to talk about?

Shawn gets up nervously and stands behind his seat.

SHAWN
Come home with me.

LAILA
What?

Laila looks confused.

SHAWN
Pick up and leave. Move to another
state.

Laila leans forward in her seat.

LAILA
Are you crazy?

SHAWN
You have plenty of time and money
to make it happ --

LAILA
I'm not waisting my inheritance to
move half way across the country to
an area I don't know. Everything I
have ever known is --

Shawn moves from behind the chair towards Laila.

SHAWN
I just want to be there for our
daughter, and I can't do that from
three states away.

Shawn squats down and holds Laila's hands.

Laila's eyes narrow, she looks away.

LAILA
You're a Con artist and a liar.

Shawn recoils within himself, stumbles back, and stands up.

Shawn laughs to himself.

SHAWN

You know I still love you, right?

Shawn shakes his head, hands on his hips.

SHAWN (CONT'D)

With everything you've done and everything you've said over the years.

Shawn throws his hands up and shrugs.

SHAWN (CONT'D)

I still love you.

Laila stands and tries to speak.

SHAWN (CONT'D)

And yes, I'm crazy for it. God I must be insane.

Shawn moves in quick and holds Laila by her shoulders gently.

Laila stops and her eye's widen.

SHAWN (CONT'D)

Just give me the chance to be a father. Don't put her through what you went through.

Laila looks up at Shawn.

Shawn and Laila lock eyes.

LAILA

But you live three states away. How will that ever work?"

Shawn smiles slightly.

SHAWN

Is that what you're worried about?

Laila breaks the shoulder grab, she paces.

LAILA

Well, yeah, and other things too.

Laila stands with her hands on her head, zoned out eyes, she takes deep breaths.

SHAWN

We can talk about it all. I'm here for four days.

LAILA

Do you move here, or do we come to you? We always talked about raising her in this house. What's the situation like there? The cost of living? Demographics? Crime rate?

Laila's face drops.

LAILA (CONT'D)

What will my family think?

SHAWN

To hell with your family. They're the reason I've missed the first four years of our daughters life.

Laila focus' her eyes on Shawn. Her face looks stern.

LAILA

You're right. That whole situation was messed up.

Laila shakes her head slowly.

SHAWN

I have wanted you back since you left. Do you want to come home?

LAILA

I am home.

SHAWN

No, you haven't been home in four years.

Laila smiles. Her arms drop to her sides.

LAILA

Because home is where the people who love you are?

Tears well up in Laila's eyes. She laughs as tears roll down her face.

SHAWN

Yes or no? If it's yes then don't let anything else stop us. Not anymore. We're not kids anymore.

LAILA

Screw it.

Laila wipes her face.

LAILA (CONT'D)

Let's do this.

Shawn brings Laila in for a hug. He strokes her hair.

SHAWN

It's finally time for us to be
happy.

Shawn rests his chin on top of Laila's head.

Laila's head rests on Shawn's chest. She weeps.

SHAWN (CONT'D)

All of us.

Shawn notices Olivia standing in the doorway.

Olivia smiles shyly.

OLIVIA

Do we all get to watch movies
together now?

Laila wipes her tears away, smiles, and laughs.

LAILA

Yeah baby, we can all watch the
movie together now.

Shawn claps his hands.

SHAWN

I have an idea. Pillows and
blankets. Let's get comfy.

Laila looks at Olivia.

OLIVIA

That's a great idea! I'm gonna get
all the pillows!

Olivia runs off.

Laila smiles looking at Shawn, she follows Olivia.

LAILA (O.S.)

I'll grab all the blankets!

Shawn smiles to himself and collapses on the couch letting out a large sigh. Shawn listens to giggles and joyful laughing in the distance.