

Words Left Unsaid

Written by

Aaron Kleinman

aaronckleinman@gmail.com

INT. DARCY'S DINER - NIGHT

The diner looks as though it's straight out of the 50s. Malt shakes and neon signs. An old radio sits on the counter top; an unknown but familiar song crackles through the speaker. It is slightly drowned out by the sound of rain outside. The WAITRESS stands beside the radio, dressed in a 50s style outfit, tapping her pen along with the tune.

Above each booth sits a warmly lit chandelier. The lighting brings a feeling of nostalgic bliss-almost like a childhood summer afternoon.

At the booth in the far corner sits the only patron in the diner, JASON. The WAITRESS and him are seemingly the only people in the diner.

The only potential proof that there is life outside of this place out of time is the lights of passing cars shining through the rain drenched windows.

JASON is staring down at his coffee, watching the steam rise from it. He's using the warmth of the mug to bring back feeling in his hands from being outside in the cold, rainy night.

He raises his head to look at the door of the diner. He's just staring at it.

A moment passes and he has yet to look away. Not even to sip his coffee, which still has steam coming from it.

After another moment passes, he slowly raises his coffee mug to his lips and takes a sip. JASON recoils from the heat of the drink, looking away from the door when he does.

That's when the bell of the door opening rings.

JASON's head snaps up to look at the door.

There stands LUCY, the pinnacle of beauty, shaking the rain from her umbrella as she closes it. The rushing of wind, cars and bombarding rain can be heard as the door closes.

JASON smiles as LUCY approaches and sits down after taking off her jacket. She smiles as well.

There's silence as they smile at each other for a few seconds.

JASON
(Warmly)
It's good to see you.

LUCY
(Warmly)
It's good to see you too.

JASON seems to relax a bit, leaning forward as he holds his mug. He turns his head to look out the window at the rain and lights passing by.

JASON
You ever see rain like that?

LUCY
Considering I grew up and lived in California, not really. But it's nice.

JASON
You know how I see it. Northwest childhood and all that. Rain is nothing but frizzy hair and muddy boots.

LUCY
Yeah, maybe. But it's also like you're starting something new. The universe washing you clean. If that makes any sense.

LUCY chuckles in a carefree way.

JASON
Maybe. The universe does have its way of changing things, doesn't it?

LUCY
(Curious)
Implying something?

JASON takes a sip of his still steaming coffee, though he doesn't recoil from it this time.

JASON
Ah. Who knows? You know me. Never the one to get super philosophical. That's always been your thing.

LUCY
(Teasing)
Yeah. You ask the questions, and I answer them with more questions.

JASON & LUCY both share a small laugh after she finishes talking.

THE WAITRESS walks up, jug of water in hand. She fills LUCY's cup and then pulls out a pad & pen. She speaks with a heavy New York accent.

THE WAITRESS
What can I get fa ya?

JASON and LUCY both pick up their menus, taking a look at them for a moment while THE WAITRESS waits patiently.

LUCY speaks up first.

LUCY
I'll take a plate of chocolate chip waffles, some whipped cream on top of course.

THE WAITRESS
Of course.

LUCY
And a side of bacon.

THE WAITRESS is writing all this down.

JASON goes to speak, but LUCY speaks for him.

LUCY (cont'd)
And for my lovely companion, a western omelette with some home fries.

THE WAITRESS
Sounds like a plan. I'll leave that with you.

THE WAITRESS walks away, leaving the jug of water on the table.

There's a silence. LUCY sips her water, refusing to break it.

JASON
(Uncomfortably)
I don't want to ruin the mood, Lucy.

LUCY
So don't.

JASON
But...I hate that you left. I've missed you all this time.

LUCY lets out a sigh and leans forward, placing her hands on JASON's that are still gripping his mug.

LUCY

(Caring)

Jason...You know I didn't have a choice. Like you said, the universe has its way of changing things.

JASON

(Annoyed)

Does that mean I don't have the right to be sad and angry?

LUCY

No Jay, of course not. I've missed you too. But sometimes we get dealt a hand we can't do much with. We make the best of it. And from what I can tell...You've done your best.

JASON

Yeah, but has it been good enough? Was it good enough? No matter what I did, or what I've done...It doesn't seem to be enough. You were always the stronger of the two of us.

LUCY sighs, and brings her hands back to her own drink. She's running a thumb around the rim of the glass.

LUCY

How's Kristy? She been okay?

JASON

(Awkward)

Ah, you know...She misses her mom. She always did like you more.

LUCY

(Almost annoyed)

You know what I'm asking about Jason.

JASON

I know. I know. You want to know if I haven't screwed her up from the parent side of things. She's been doing well. College has been kind to her.

LUCY takes a sip of her drink.

LUCY

What's she studying?

JASON
She's determined to be a doctor.
Cancer research. Any surprise?

LUCY smiles.

LUCY
Not one.

The WAITRESS returns with their food, placing the plates in front of them.

THE WAITRESS
One lovely stack a' chocolate chip
waffles with bacon. And a western
omelette with some home fries. Enjoy.

She smiles at both of them and leaves without saying anything else.

JASON takes a bite of his omelette, smiling as he does. His whole mood seems to have shifted.

JASON
(Delighted)
Let me tell ya Luce, the omelette?
Perfect choice.

LUCY smiles, taking a bit of her own food.

LUCY
No bad choices here.

JASON raises an eyebrow at her mention of the word 'here.' He continues to eat, but he seems to be contemplating a thought.

LUCY notices.

LUCY (cont'd)
Something else on your mind?

JASON speaks, but doesn't look at LUCY.

JASON
Speaking of, what have you been up to
since we last saw each other? Gotten
up to anything new?

LUCY lets out a small chuckle that JASON barely takes notice of.

LUCY

Well, I finally learned to ride a horse. Like I always wanted, ya know? But we never got the chance to learn together. So, now that I've got the time, I've been learning.

JASON seems happy at her response. But it also seems to be an uneasy happiness. It's clear he has a response in mind, but he's not sure whether he should say it.

He does, though hesitantly.

JASON

You don't have to answer, but what's life been like? How's it...felt?

LUCY looks puzzled.

LUCY

(Confused)

Meaning?

JASON puts down his utensils, though LUCY keeps eating. It's clear she saw him stop. And it seems like she knows what he means. She just won't admit it.

JASON

What's it been like...being dead.

LUCY puts down her utensils and wipes some chocolate from her lips. There's a tension in the air now. What's been unsaid has finally been said aloud.

She speaks as though the question hasn't fazed her. But it has.

LUCY

(Hesitant)

That's a tough question to answer. It's an answer you'd find out for yourself eventually, isn't it? Death's a funny thing...We go through life scared of it for the most part. Every so often we don't. Whether it be something like cliff diving or a moment as little as crossing without looking. We're taught to be scared of it. Or...maybe taught isn't the right word. It's just innate within us. But once it happens? Well...It isn't the worst thing ever I guess. For me it was...Relieving. Like I could finally breathe again.

(MORE)

LUCY (cont'd)
Every breath is like slicing through hot butter with a knife. It's satisfying. It feels right. It doesn't feel...toxic anymore. As far how it's been? I'd say it's just another step on the journey, but I know you'd hate that answer. Though I don't think there is a better answer.

JASON seems annoyed by this. Almost like he wants more.

JASON
(Annoyed)
That's it? Just another step?

LUCY glares at JASON.

LUCY
You asked, and I answered. You didn't have to ask. You could've just let it be. Never brought it up. We could have just enjoyed a meal. But you never did know when to let a moment be. Can't we just enjoy *THIS* moment?

JASON is clearly taken aback and visibly hurt. But he nods in silence and begins to finish his food.

LUCY does the same.

Every few bites, JASON goes to say something, but stays silent.

Within a few moments, they're finished and the waitress comes to clear the table. The table is now empty aside from their drinks.

JASON is staring down at the steam still coming from his mug.

LUCY (cont'd)
Hey...I got a surprise for you.

JASON looks up to see the WAITRESS putting down a pie with ice cream on top. His eyes light up.

JASON
(Surprised)
Apple pie with ice cream?

LUCY smiles at JASON, handing him a fork.

LUCY

Your favorite. Too simple to forget.
It's something I want us to share
together. To share this moment.

JASON takes the fork from her, holding her hand a moment before he does.

JASON

So, how're we gonna attack this?

LUCY sticks her fork into the pie, taking a large piece of it.

LUCY

First in, first to eat. I hope you've
got room.

She plops the piece in her mouth and smiles as JASON takes a piece of his own with his fork.

JASON takes a few bites, before stopping to take a sip of his coffee.

JASON

You know, I finally got that
promotion I was hoping for. Senior
Advisor is firmly fastened to the
name tag on my door at the firm.

LUCY finishes her bite of pie before responding.

LUCY

Good. You deserve it. They'd have
lost all their clients forever ago
without you.

They continue to eat in silence.

Despite being a simple pie, it seems to be endless. The moment seemingly continues for forever.

One bite of pie after another.

JASON

Kristy, despite my hangups as a
parent, has turned out okay I think.
She's got a great head on her
shoulders. She was really into
volleyball there for a minute, but
like a lot of dreams, it didn't pan
out.

LUCY
I'm sure she did her best. And that
you did your best to help her through
it.

JASON
I do remember, at one of her games,
she went for this spike.

JASON puts a piece in his mouth, a little ice cream ending
up outside the corner of his mouth.

He continues talking.

JASON (cont'd)
And she just seemed to...soar. It's
like I was watching her just, leap
higher than anyone ever had before.
She didn't land it like she wanted,
but damn, if I wasn't proud of her at
the end of the day either way.

LUCY smiles and reaches her hand out, wiping the ice cream
off his cheek with her thumb.

LUCY
That's all that matters.

Now, the plate is empty. JASON took the last bite. There's a
lingering tension.

JASON
So, I'll pay.

LUCY
Don't bother. It's already taken care
of.

The WAITRESS walks over and removes the plate from the
table.

JASON takes a sip of his coffee, steam still coming from it.

LUCY begins getting up.

LUCY (cont'd)
Well, I'd say that's it then, yeah?

JASON is visibly saddened as he watches her put her coat on.
He doesn't move. He simply is watching her get ready to
leave.

JASON

(Sad)

Yeah...I guess it is.

LUCY is facing away from JASON as he picks up her umbrella.

She turns back around to face him, smile on her face.

LUCY

You know, there's room for two under this umbrella. Need some cover to your car?

JASON gets up with a smile.

JASON

I'd like that.

JASON and LUCY interlock grasp each others hand and interlock their fingers as they make their way to the door of the diner.

They can hear the rain outside before the door is even open.

THE WAITRESS

Get home safe you two.

JASON

I'll do my best.

LUCY opens the door and her umbrella.

LUCY

Ready?

JASON

Always ready for a stroll with you.

They take a step out, the door closing behind them.

The diner is empty once again.

The nostalgic music from the radio is still playing.

The rain and wind are still attacking the building like a wild creature.

The WAITRESS goes back to tapping her pen along to the music.

The lights of cars shine in as they pass by.

JASON's coffee has gone cold.