

CONSISTENCY

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FADE IN ON:

INT. CLASSY RESTAURANT - EVENING

Plates hustle and bustle. DINERS at different tables enjoy culinary moments of joy.

But SARAH (20s) isn't joyful. She frowns across her table towards: RANDY (20s), dressed to impress. Romance, too.

Dinner is served, glasses full. Randy looks... confused.

As the two lovebirds talk, the view cuts back and forth.

SARAH

You know why we're here, right?

RANDY

For dinner, duh.

(smiles)

And company. Sarah, there's no-one in the universe I'd rather be with than you.

SARAH

Randy, I came here to talk, because-

RANDY

It's our very special place. Where we had our first date.

He reaches for the wine glass. Inexplicably, it's moved to the other side of his plate.

SARAH

Where our relationship started. So it seemed... poetically right to at least bring it full circle.

RANDY

You're proposing? Wow!!

SARAH

Uh, reverse that sentiment. Our relationship just isn't working anymore.

RANDY

You brought me here to break up!?!

Strangely, he's wearing glasses now. He wasn't before. Randy fiddles with the frames.

SARAH

(nods)

I wanted to be surrounded by these memories, hoping they would, somehow... soften the blow.

Randy stares around at well dressed, happy diners. The top-drawer wine in his glass. Filet mignon on his plate.

RANDY

Great. Lemme guess. Next, you're gonna stiff me with the bill?

SARAH

No! The last thing I want to do is hurt you. Emotionally. Or financially.

RANDY

You want to talk? I'm game. Let's work this bad boy out!

SARAH

I'm so, so sorry-

Randy gulps. Absorbs the blow. So distraught, he doesn't notice his clothes have changed. He's dressed in a tee-shirt and jeans - sports jacket gone.

RANDY

I don't want your sympathy. An explanation would suffice. What changed I didn't see? And don't try pulling "it's not you, it's me".

SARAH

To be blunt? It is you.

RANDY

But, we're so compatible. And our chemistry is red hot...

SARAH

It's the little stuff, Randy. I know it's hard for you to see them, but I do.

Randy digs anxious fingers into his hair. It's changed color.

SARAH

Tonight's a prime example. You told the waiter you wanted shrimp scampi.

But after he comes over with wine,
you say you want steak instead!
Think of all the kitchen waste.
Making them work double is way
uncool!

RANDY

I saw it on someone else's plate.
What's wrong with being open to new
experiences?

SARAH

Trying new things is... exciting.
But commitment's important, too.

RANDY

I committed my heart to you, Sarah!

He sucks down Pepsi through a straw. A Big Gulp glass. The
wine's gone.

SARAH

That's not my point! How about your
college major? You've changed three
times in one year!

RANDY

Better now than in a mid life
crisis, right?

He stabs his fork down into... a Shepherd's pot pie. The
steak Sarah complained about has vanished.

SARAH

But from Astrophysics to
Philosophy? Then Computer Graphics?
What's next - Tap dancing? Russian
lit?

Randy stares at his plate. He's wearing goth-glam makeup now.

RANDY

Yeah. I guess I am a whirlwind.

SARAH

With you, it never stops! Every
time we go to the movies, we end up
sneaking into a different theater,
half-way through!

RANDY

Fine. Next time, we stay home.

SARAH

You're just as flaky with Netflix!
Thanks to you, I haven't seen the
end to Fight Club yet!

RANDY

'Just cause of that, you're dumping
me?

Behind Randy, the scene's morphed, too. Two elegant diners
have vanished: replaced with a rowdy FAMILY. Two KIDS food
fight. A BABY cries.

SARAH

No. It's your after-college plans.
We agreed to move to Jersey. Then I
saw that application in your room.
You're taking an internship in
Bulgaria? Bon voyage... without me.

RANDY

Sarah, I'm not sure I'm going yet -

SARAH

For Christ's sake, settle on
something!

RANDY

I'm settled on you.

SARAH

Thanks, but no!

She jumps to her feet. A WAITER rushes over, alarmed.

WAITER

Ma'am, is everything OK?

Sarah throws \$100 onto the man's tray.

SARAH

I don't know. Even that changes.
I'm leaving.

She swings back to Randy, tears in her eyes. He's changed
into FULL CLOWN makeup. Bozo-Randy slumps in his chair.

SARAH

If it helps, I do still love you. I
just can't take this chaos anymore.

RANDY

Sarah, please. What can I say or do
to change your mind?

SARAH

It's too late for "us", Randy. But when you find the next girl - in Bulgaria or wherever the hell you end up? Try being consistent for once!

She storms off. Randy and the waiter exchange looks.

WAITER

That's brutal. What set her off?

RANDY

(shrugs)

Dunno. Guess she just got bored?

Subtitle: What happens when our continuity specialist takes the day off.

FINAL FADE OUT: