

LOVE AFTER WAR

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EXT. PARK SLOPE [BROOKLYN] - NIGHT

It starts off on a LIGHT RAINY night as CHRISTOPHER runs through the dark streets in BROOKLYN dodging VEHICLES and knocking over TRASH CANS.

CHRISTOPHER (V.O.)  
Have you ever been in a position  
where you have to get somewhere  
fast but in your mind...Something  
is telling you to stay away because  
it's a waste of time...Well, this  
is one of those moments.

Christopher approaches a LADY walking her DOG on the sidewalk. The dog turns his attention to Christopher after he runs pass her. The DOG yanks the LEASH from the owner's hand and chases Christopher down the street. Dog BARKS as he chases him down the STREET.

LADY:  
(Yells)  
Duke!

CHRISTOPHER  
(Looks back)  
Oh boy!

INT. PARK SLOPE [BROOKLYN]: CARISSA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

TIMOTHY lies upright in the bed reading a BOOK as CARISSA walks into the bedroom. Carissa jumps in the bed next to Timothy. He closes the book and puts it on the NIGHTSTAND.

CARISSA  
It's over, officially.

TIMOTHY  
Good! I was tired of creeping  
around.

CARISSA  
He was a nice guy and all but he's  
focused on the wrong things.

She gazes at an old PHOTO and then tears it down the middle.

TIMOTHY  
Apart from what we talked about?

CARISSA  
When we dated back in college.

TIMOTHY  
We've only been out of college for  
a couple months.

CARISSA  
You want me to tell you or not?

TIMOTHY  
I'm just messing with you babe.

CARISSA  
So like I was saying, he'd help  
others instead of focusing on us.

TIMOTHY  
Sounds like a bad case of  
neglected.

CARISSA  
I don't know. I guess he wasn't  
worried about losing me.

TIMOTHY  
Juggling school and social life is  
a hard task but that's no excuse to  
let this beauty rot away.

CARISSA  
And I love you for that.

Timothy kisses her and then his STOMACH starts to grumble as  
Carissa flips back the SHEET and scoots off the BED.

TIMOTHY  
Wait! Where you going sweetheart?

CARISSA  
I left my phone in the other room.

TIMOTHY  
But our show is about to start.  
You're gonna miss the best parts.

CARISSA  
I'm waiting on a call from my mom.

TIMOTHY  
Well since you're up, can you make  
a pit stop by the fridge?

CARISSA  
What do you need?

TIMOTHY

I have some left over Chinese in the fridge behind Bobby's birthday cake.

CARISSA

And I have it set to recorded. So I can always watch it later.

Carissa walks out the BEDROOM. Carissa gets the food out the FRIDGE and places it in the MICROWAVE. Shortly after, she takes it out and gives it to Timothy before walking back to the LIVING ROOM to get her phone as it rings in her hand. MOM pops up on the SCREEN and she answers.

EXT. PARK SLOPE: CARISSA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Christopher gets to her block and stumbles on the slippery surface. He catches himself as runs up the steps. He yells through DOOR while knocking.

CHRISTOPHER

Carissa, let's talk!

CARISSA

Hold on mom, someone's at the door.

She gets up from the COUCH and walks over to the FRONT DOOR to looks through the PEEP HOLE. She sees Christopher standing there.

CHRISTOPHER

Can we please talk?

CARISSA

(Fold her arms)

No Chris! What is there to talk about

CHRISTOPHER

What did I do? I don't understand.

CARISSA

I think we need to see other people.

CHRISTOPHER

Come on baby! Let me in so we can talk about this.

CARISSA

We're not together, so stop calling me baby!

Christopher takes a deep breath and put his head against his arm as the RAIN falls around him.

CHRISTOPHER

Can I at least come inside until  
the rain calms down?

CARISSA

Go away Chris. I don't even know  
why you came here in the first  
place.

Carissa walks away from the DOOR and picks up the PHONE off the TABLE. Christopher turns around with his back up against the door and sides down with one foot extended. Timothy walks into the front room.

TIMOTHY

Is everything okay? Thought I heard  
knocking at the door.

CARISSA

The neighbors were asking for  
sugar.

TIMOTHY

Again!

CARISSA

Everything is under control Tim.

TIMOTHY

Well I'm gonna get back to my show  
then.

Timothy walks back into the bedroom while Carissa talks to her mom on the phone. Christopher wipes his face and grabs the UMBRELLA off Carissa's front step sitting in a TALL CLAY VASE outside. Carissa looks out the WINDOW as Christopher walks away. Christopher gets back to his LUXURY APARTMENT in lower Manhattan and walk inside. He grabs his PHOTO ALBUM and turns through the pages. He looks at a few PICTURES of him and Carissa by his FIREPLACE.

EXT. CHRISTOPHER'S LUXURY PARK AVENUE APARTMENT - NIGHT

MUSIC CUE: "ALICIA KEYS - NEW YORK"

Christopher exits his beautiful complex in MANHATTAN and jumps into a YELLOW CAB. He SLAMS the door and the TAXI CAB pulls off into the night.

FADE TO:

EXT. TIME SQUARE - NIGHT

MUSIC CUE: "ALICIA KEYS - NEW YORK" Continues

The YELLOW CAB pull up to TIME SQUARE. The DOOR opens and Christopher pays the CAB DRIVER before getting out. He opens his UMBRELLA, steps out, and walks to the heart of Time Square. He stands on 7TH AVENUE and BROADWAY looking at the excitement as PEOPLE walk the streets and TRAFFIC fills the CITY BLOCK. Christopher sees a COUPLE kissing under their umbrella against a STREET POLE. He closes his umbrella and looks up at RAIN as the camera gets an aerial view of him.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S LUXURY PARK AVENUE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Christopher is now at his place watching a movie HITCH on his TV where Alex runs up the stairs to talk to Sarah's door. Christopher sits in his NICE LAZYBOY CHAIR eating popcorn. He repeats one of the lines from the movie.

CHRISTOPHER

Why in the hell do we jump?

The PHONE rings and Christopher pauses the movie. He walks over to the phone on the table and sees "MOM" pop up.

MOM

New York still treating you good?

CHRISTOPHER

If I said yes, I'd be lying to you.

MOM

Chris! What happened now?

CHRISTOPHER

Carissa and I broke up.

MOM

What! Are you serious?

CHRISTOPHER

Yeah, she said we go our separate ways and see other people.

MOM

Well you're an intelligent man with a lot of talent. You have too much charisma to let this bring you down.

CHRISTOPHER

Mom, why has love given up on me.

MOM

No, you're giving up on love.

CHRISTOPHER

(Deep breathe)

I'll find my way.

MOM

I pray you do. So are you coming home?

CHRISTOPHER

Despite the break up. I like it here in the city.

MOM

For someone who gave out a lot of advice about being in a relationship. You sure have a hard time with yours.

CHRISTOPHER

It's easy when the show is on the other foot.

MOM

Well...your father paid good money for you to go to that school so you better use those degrees.

Christopher looks at the GRADUATION PHOTO with his parents.

CHRISTOPHER

I'm just glad dad was able make it.

MOM

Your father know how to make time for what matters the most. He wouldn't miss it for the world.

CHRISTOPHER

(Looks at the TV)

Can you ask dad to wire me some money?

MOM

How much do you need?

CHRISTOPHER

Just a hundred thousand.

MOM

A hundred thousand! Don't you think that's too much?

CHRISTOPHER

It's for a good cause and I think dad can invest in me one more time. I'll pay it all back too.

MOM

Can I ask what it's for?

CHRISTOPHER

To get my business off the ground. Everyone is looking for love but can't find it.

MOM

I don't know if your father will approve on that.

CHRISTOPHER

If this idea flops, I'll take that job offer he lined up and work for him.

MOM

Why give people advice about love when you're having troubles yourself?

CHRISTOPHER

Being a lawyer or businessman isn't me mom. I'm a people person but in my own way.

MOM

I hear you son.

CHRISTOPHER

Please mom! Just let me see how far I can fly before you decapitate my wings.

MOM

(Deep breathe)

I'll talk to him, but promise me you'll stay out of trouble.



CHRISTOPHER  
Yes, I'll stay out the headlines.

MOM  
I'll talk to you later.

CHRISTOPHER  
Okay, I love you. Bye!

Christopher hangs up and slides the phone in his POCKET. He walks over to the BLU-RAY PLAYER and ejects the DISK to put in the CASE in his MOVIE RACK. Christopher walks over to the couch and sits down to pick up his STEVE HARVEY BOOK. His HIGH TECH/MODERN STYLE interior displays its true beauty. The MAIN FRAME control system "ECO-LINA" starts calculating the energy being used. The RADIO, TV, LAPTOP, and other DEVICE are all plugged in. Christopher reads his book.

ECO-LINA  
Eco-mode activated.

Eco-Lina turns off the all the LIGHTS and the room go dark.

CHRISTOPHER  
Eco-Lina! Is there a power outage?

Christopher puts down the book and claps his hands to turn on the LIGHTS.

ECO-LINA  
No Mr. Young. You're burning far too much energy at full capacity. I've calculated turning off the lights will reduce the energy bill by 50%.

CHRISTOPHER  
Eco-Lina, I can't read in the dark.

ECO-LINA  
My apologize Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER  
Adjust the lights to 45% please.

ECO-LINA  
Adjusting lights.  
(Lights dims)

CHRISTOPHER  
That's more like it.

ECO-LINA

Is there anything else I can do for you? Turn up the air perhaps?

CHRISTOPHER

No the air is fine. Just want to finish a few more pages before bed.

ECO-LINA

Sleep tight Mr. Young.

INT. OCTAVIA'S ART STUDIO - EARLY MORNING

MUSIC CUE: "BEYONCE - IF I WERE A BOY"

The next morning, OCTAVIA gets out of her CAR. She walks down the STREET arriving at her ART STUDIO in Manhattan. She goes through her BAG for the store key and finally finds it to open the FRONT DOOR. She walks in and puts down her stuff on the COUNTER. Octavia looks around at all her ARTWORK in the studio. Her ART is either on STANDS/TRIPODS or up on the WALLS. One of her projects lay face up on one of the TABLES. Octavia goes behind the counter and sits down. She takes a second to look through the LETTERS from ex-boyfriend. She slides them one behind the next. Octavia finishes reading them to herself and then walks over to the PAPER SHREDDER. A TEAR rolls down her face as they go down in the shredder. She wipes her face and takes out a fresh PAINT CANVAS from behind the counter. She puts it on the TRIPOD STAND and get her PAINT SET. She starts a new painting.

OCTAVIA (V.O.)

To love someone so much and realize that it can be lost in the blink of an eye shows you how sensitive love can be...What we go through in our relationship should be smooth. Like the gentle strokes of a paint brush on a blank canvas. Not rough like sand paper scratching away the tree's beautiful surface. Love is supposed to be beautiful, not painful. But we're blinded by the things in front of us. It hurts to see the growth over time easily be shattered by something so simple. God took the rib from Adam because couples are supposed to walk side by side, not one in front of the other. A good man should recognize when he has something real...And a real woman should recognize when she has something special.

(MORE)

OCTAVIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The longer I go on, the more I realize the impact of love in our very own lives. Love to me is more important than the past, present, and future. Because love is timeless. And father time is the enemy of those waiting for love to fall in their lap. Love might be more important than the facts, failures, and tragedies people go through on a day to day basis. Because love is the vehicle that keeps the human cycle intact. It might even be more important than what other people think...say...or do. It is definitely more important than being gifted or having any type of skill. Love can make or break a home, church, and a relationship. The remarkable thing is the choice we've been given to choose how deep we get involved and how hard we fall in love. You must hold strong in the arms of the one you love because it can all be gone when you open your eyes. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play the instrument we've been given and hope you're playing the right tune. I'm convinced life is 10% what happens to us and 90% on how we react to it. My mom once said when love is lost, do not bow your head in sadness. Instead keep your head up high and gaze into heavens for that is where your heart has been sent to heal. They say time is everything but I've been too patient...for too long. I pray every day that I'll find my knight in shining armor desperately looking to be love.

The DOOR notifies her that ANTHONY walked in for SEAN COMBS.

ANTHONY

We're here to pick the artwork for Mr. Combs.

OCTAVIA

Oh yes! I have it in the back.