

END GAME

Written by
Amir Shehata

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Draft 01

Amir Shehata
amir.shehata@gmail.com

EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

A woman, MEL, tall, brunette, in her late 20s early 30s walks across the bridge. She stops and looks over the railing at the running river far below her.

CU ON MEL

Mel looks conflicted, depressed, sad. She seems to struggle with a thought for a moment, then climbs over the railing of the bridge, and stands on a narrow ledge, which is the only thing separating her from a certain watery death.

Mel inches closer to oblivion, but that's when she hears quick, panicked breathing, no more than 5 feet to her left.

She backs up, so that her back is touching the railing, then sneaks a peak in the direction of the panicked breathing. In the darkness, she sees an older man, BEN, 40s or 50s, sitting on the ledge, feet dangling, obviously been crying.

MEL

I thought I would be the only one tonight.

BEN is startled by her. He was so zoned out in his thoughts that he didn't notice her presence.

He gets up in a hurry, almost tips over the ledge but grabs hold of the railing to steady himself.

BEN

Don't come any closer. I'll jump. I'll do it.

MEL

Whoa, buddy. Trust me, I'm not here to stop you.

Ben looks confused.

MEL (cont'd)

So, is this your first time? Ending it all?

Ben looks down at the river.

BEN

It'll be better this way, for everyone. And Yeah, first time. Last time.

MEL
(distant in thought)
I wish it would be my last time.

BEN
Why?

Mel is back from her trance.

MEL
What?

BEN
Why are you here?

MEL
I have no purpose.

BEN
You don't seem nervous.

Mel shrugs.

MEL
But you do. Why jump off a bridge?
Why not just...

Mel makes a gun with her hand and points to her head.

MEL (cont'd)
Boom. You know get it over with. Much
faster this way.

BEN
I thought about it.

MEL
Ah, but you're worried about what
someone will think? The kids? The
wife?

BEN
I just don't want them to see their
father with a hole in his head.

MEL
Good point.

BEN
At least this way I simply disappear.
No trace. No one will miss me.

Mel drifts off with her thoughts.

MEL
(to no one in
particular)
I miss my dad.

Ben looks at her.

BEN
Huh?

MEL
I miss a lot of people. It's hard
seeing those you love wither away and
die. Sometimes, I think it's better
if I was never born.

BEN
I remember the first time I saw my
daughter; a tiny bundle of joy. Big
blue eyes. A beautiful sight. Wish I
could see her one last time.

A tear rolls down his eyes.

BEN (cont'd)
I was never a good father.

Ben takes out his phone and looks at a picture. The
expression on his face twists into regret.

MEL
(sneaks a look)
Your wife?

BEN
My mistake.

Ben throws the phone down. It tumbles for a few seconds and
disappears with a splash in the river.

BEN (cont'd)
Whoa, that's a long way down.

Mel moves closer to him.

MEL
Let's do it. Both of us. At the same
time. At least we won't be alone the
last moments of our life.

Mel reaches out for his hand.

Ben looks at her in hesitation.

MEL (cont'd)
Come on. It's end game for us. Why
should we keep suffering?

Ben reaches and holds her steady hand with his shaky one.

MEL (cont'd)
Ready?

She steps closer to the edge.

BEN
Wait. Wait. If I do this, there are
no second chances. I'll never see my
kids again.

MEL
Why does it matter?

Ben is obviously conflicted.

MEL (cont'd)
You're taking too long.

Mel strengthens her grip on his hand and jumps off, dragging
him with her.

BEN
No. Wait. Nooooo.

They fall and splash into the water.

FADE TO WHITE

INT/EXT. MONTAGE

Intercut quick images of Ben's life moving in reverse.

A car accident.

Ben looks on as his kids drive away.

Ben watches as his kids get into a car.

Ben is in his apartment as his kids and wife walk out.

Ben is in bed with the woman he's having an affair with,
when his kids walk in.

Ben is in a park when he receives a call from his love and
he answers.

Ben is in bed when his kids jump on and wake him up.

End with a flash image of MEL consuming the montage.

FADE TO WHITE

INT. BED ROOM - DAY

It's a bright day. All the colors are bright.

Ben wakes up on his bed, staring at the ceiling. His kids, a boy and a girl, run into the room and jump on him.

GIRL

Dad, the park. You promised. Come on let's go.

Ben is disoriented. He looks around and sees his WIFE sitting on her wheelchair, frail and pale. She has an oxygen tube around her nose.

WIFE

It's okay. I'll be ok for an hour. Go take them. It's a nice day outside.

Ben gets up and gives his wife a long kiss on her forehead.

BEN

(still in disbelief)
I missed you.

EXT. PARK - DAY

It's a bright day. Bright colors.

Ben's kids are playing in the park. He watches them intently. A smile dances on his lips. He still can't believe he is here.

MEL comes and sits beside him.

MEL

Beautiful kids you have there.

Ben does a double take.

BEN

You? Are you an angel? Was any of this real?

MEL

(chuckles)
I'm no angel. But I found my purpose.

They share a moment just looking at each other.

MEL (cont'd)
(prods him with her
finger)
Second chances.
(beat)
Don't mess it up.

Mel smiles and walks away.

Ben's phone rings. He pulls it out surprised to find it there after seeing it splash into the river. On the screen is displayed a picture of the woman he dubbed "His Mistake". His finger plays over the answer button, but then hangs up.

He looks back in the direction Mel walked, but she is no longer there.

FADE TO BLACK