

SPLIT ENDS

A SHORT FILM

By

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Logline

A young woman makes a decision in a salon.

FADE IN:

**S01**

EXT. PONT CHAMPLAIN - SUNSET

On Pont Champlain from the south shore we see a panoramic view of the island of Montreal. MAYA (26) is driving over the bridge. We see the back of her right shoulder over the steering wheel. Right hand with a cigarette. She turns on the radio.

NEWS BROADCASTER

... Walked out of the operating room leaving his patient with an open incision. The surgeon later admitted that he regretted his actions. He had to go and deposit a cheque. CBC news Ann-Marie...

CUT TO:

**S02**

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

Trendy salon. CHERYL (26) is a fashionable and psychic hairdresser. We hear music in the background. Maya is in front of Cheryl.

CHERYL

Nice. (playing with her hair) Very nice. Color, Texture, and Shine. No split ends.

Maya shows her a picture of a new hairstyle. Cheryl looks at it for a few seconds and then digs out an album from her drawer. She flips to a certain page and shows it to Maya. Over the shoulder shot of the picture. It is a model lying on the grass.

FADE OUT:

**TANGENT#1 (HAIRSTYLE #1)**

**S03**

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Maya and JAY(26) are lying on the grass chatting. Her head over his chest.

MAYA

The other day Lisa downloaded this sound sample for Superstition. Sounds like Haydn when I play it. (singing it)

JAY

But you gotta think like him. You know, grab a beer, smoke some pot and just sit there; you'll be playing Stevie Wonder in no time.

MAYA

Yeah, (smoking weed) probably helps me to get through thermodynamics too.

JAY

You spend way too much energy on engine-fuckn-eering.

MAYA

Why do you think I'm going out with an English major.

CUT TO:

**S04**

INT. JAY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Maya and Jay are watching TV in the room. Suddenly, Jay turns to Maya and says,

JAY

Watashiwa Wylie desu. Konichiwa

Maya gives him the what-the-hell-are-you-talking-about look.

JAY

I am Mr. Wylie. How are you?

A suspicious look.

MAYA

Guilty. Are you practicing pick up lines? You've been picking up Japanese chicks at the Bomber!

JAY

No! You got it backwards. They've been trying to pick me up.

MAYA  
So seriously, what's with the  
'konichiwa'?

JAY  
My next intern will be in Tokyo.

Maya's taken back.

MAYA  
Why don't you stay here and do something  
else?

JAY  
Like what?

MAYA  
Like I don't know. (beat) Something.

Jay has no response. Maya turns off the TV and gets up.

MAYA  
First Seattle, then Cayman Islands, now  
Japan? If it's over between us, at  
least you can set me free.

JAY  
It's not what you think. Besides, it's  
only for a short time. When you  
graduate...

MAYA  
You think I'm stupid, don't you?

JAY  
What? That's not what I'm saying.

MAYA  
When I graduate? That's 13 more fucking  
months! Why don't YOU wait on Japan  
until I graduate?

JAY  
(getting up from bed) We both know that  
we've got no obligations to each other  
when we're not living in the same city...

MAYA (CONCURRENTLY)  
Oh, c'mon! You forced me into it!

JAY  
You're throwing it back at me as if I'm responsible? Did you say I forced you into it? Fuck you!

Silence. Long beat.

JAY  
Look, me getting a job in Japan is supposed to be a good thing. You should be excited for me. If you can't live without me, just quit and...

MAYA  
(Interrupts) You're one selfish son-of-a-bitch! Why should I have to change my entire life for you?

JAY  
And you expect ME to change my life for you?

CUT TO:

**S05**

INT. ABORTION CLINIQUE - DAY

The room is full of surgical equipments. A DOCTOR (45) is going to perform an abortion. As Maya is giving in to the anesthetics, she closes her eyes. We see the ceiling and then the image superimposes with a Boeing 767 plane taking off... we hear the noise of the plane... we also see inserts of Jay and Maya's good time together.

DOCTOR  
(mumbles) Give her the standard...

Vacuum noises.

CUT TO:

**S06**

INT. RESTING ROOM - DAY

Maya slowly wakes up (white fade in) when the NURSE (29) comes in.

NURSE (NONCHALANTLY)  
(hands her a maxi pad) You'll bleed and

have cramps as if you have your period.  
Do not drive. No sexual intercourse for  
at least a month. (hands her a package  
of the pill.) Take one every morning  
starting this Sunday. Here's your  
record. Checkup in three weeks.

Maya is exhausted but relieved. She looks around the room.  
The camera 'dolly' from this side of the room to the far  
end. (POV) A TEENAGE GIRL(15). A CRYING WOMAN(36). Then  
there's Cheryl the hairdresser, looking into the camera.

**CUT BACK TO:**

**S07**

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY  
Back to Salon...CU Maya.

MAYA  
(with disgust) I don't know. It seems  
so... unfortunate.

CHERYL  
Fuck him. It's not your fault.

MAYA  
What about more control?

CHERYL  
Look! (hands her another picture)  
You'll feel better. (cutting to the  
next scene) V.O. You can have my word.

**FADE OUT:**

**TANGENT#2 (HAIRSTYLE #2)**

**S09**

INT. HOME - THREE WEEKS LATER  
Maya opens the door to her new apartment and finds a  
business package in the mail. She picks it up and reads the  
top left corner - from Encyclopedia for Kids, Inc. She sits  
down and opens the package. Inside are a few office toys  
and a business letter. Camera closes up on Maya. It reads  
(Jay's V.O.)

Ms. Stephenson,

As a promotional offer, please find enclosed two (2) beanies and one (1) EFK key chain.  
I hope you will enjoy these free items. In return I ask for your love.

(we see the toys on the table)

Thank you for doing business with us.

Jay Wylie,

Communications  
Encyclopedia for Kids, Inc.

(Maya's V.O.)

P.S. Can't wait to be back and put my face between your legs...

Camera closes on the words 'put my face between your legs'.  
Maya tosses the letter in the recycle bin immediately.

**S08**

Maya walks over to the computer and performs a job search on  
the internet. (P.O.V.) with Maya's V.O.

Alcan - System Analyst. Mississauga.

Side Effects - Graphics Programmer. Toronto.

Sigtrap Consulting. Montreal. (beat) looking for SAP/J.D.  
Edwards/PeopleSoft technical specialists...

National Film Board of Canada- Sound Engineer. Montreal.  
looking for dynamic, independent team players...

(go back to the previous)  
looking for SAP/J.D. Edwards/PeopleSoft technical  
specialists to redesign HR/PAYROLL modules for various  
companies such as Air Canada, Bombardier...

Maya's face lightens up.

CUT TO:

**S10**

INT. OUTDOOR BOAT PARTY - Sunset  
Camera starts from the top of the tree and slowly descends.  
We see a beautiful view at the yacht club with 199 boats  
docked together. Camera turns around and it's an outdoor  
party of 40+ good-looking people. There are a few BBQs and  
lots of beer. Maya strikes up a conversation with a  
stranger, DANNY (27).

MAYA  
Just like that?

DANNY  
Just like that. I told her I didn't  
love her anymore.

MAYA  
How did she react?

DANNY  
She cried. So I left her alone.

MAYA  
You left her alone?

DANNY  
That's the only way to deal with it.

MAYA  
Was she pretty?

DANNY  
She's pretty. Yer very pretty. (beat)  
Can I get you a drink?

(plan B: improv)

While Danny is getting their drinks, he spikes hers with  
some GHB.

Later. Darker.

(Special effect P.O.V. - reduce shutter speed) Maya feels  
nauseous and disoriented. Danny accompanies her and they  
walk slowly towards the boats. (FADE OUT)

FADE IN:

**S11**

INT. BACK ROOM OF BOAT - next morning  
(Day time - same view as last night) Camera starts from the  
top of the tree and slowly descends. We see a beautiful  
view at the yacht club with 199 boats docked together. A  
series of shots leading us towards a boat.

(From the window) Maya and Danny waking up beside each  
other. After a while, she says,

MAYA  
You're an asshole. (beat) I probably  
would have done you without it.

Danny turns around and falls back asleep.

CUT TO:

**S12**

INT. Maya's bathroom - Afternoon  
Maya comes out of the shower and examines her body in the  
mirror. Camera shoots the image of her in the mirror. She  
stays still, then starts playing with her hair.

CUT TO:

**S13**

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT (PRIVATE ROOM) - a few months later  
Jay is back from Japan and having a friendly dinner with  
Maya. Cheryl the hairdresser is sitting at the table in  
front of them. Maya is checking out the menu when a WAITER  
(26) comes to the table.

WAITER  
Konbonwa!

JAY  
(japanese: Konbonwa! bring us some sake  
please)

Waiter returns.

JAY  
Be careful it's pretty warm.

MAYA  
(toast) To warm alcohol!

Shadow of the toast.

JAY  
So, what are you up to?

MAYA  
(Jokingly) Well some things never  
change. (Jay offers a cigarette) I  
quit... (back to subject) Let's just say  
I still spend most of my time surrounded

by beer guzzling', sex drivin', ego tripping' engineers. (beat) How about you? Dating a Japanese or what?

JAY

(chuckles) I was. Then two months later, I caught her cheating with my friend Takeshi.

MAYA

Ouch! Did you actually catch...

JAY

(interrupts) No! It was his wife Yuko who filled me in... She basically called to tell me my girlfriend's been sleeping with her husband...

Maya's stunned.

JAY

That's pretty much the end of it... Always the nice guy who gets fucked over. Anyway, I moved on to better things.

MAYA

(beat) Seeing someone else?

JAY

Nah... (beat) I'm getting my book published though.

MAYA

Oh my God! Are you serious? Congrats! Hm(beat) Chicken Scratches and Dreams...

JAY

(Chuckles) That's the working title. It's called 'Purple Irony' now. They can call it anything they want. I'm ecstatic!!!

MAYA

Wow.

JAY

(beat) Are you seeing someone?

MAYA

No...

JAY

(beat) How's work? Besides being around a bunch of perverse alcoholic sexist idiots?

MAYA

(chuckles) Pays the bills... Can't complain.

JAY

Why don't you move back here and do something else?

MAYA

Like what?

JAY

Like I don't know. Something.

Maya has no response.

JAY

I mean, not trying to convince you or anything; (beat) maybe we could hang out sometime - that'd be nice.

Close on Maya's left hand. She hasn't made a decision.

**CUT BACK TO:**

**S14**

INT- SALON - Saturday Afternoon

Back to Salon... Close on Maya's left hand.

CHERYL

(V.O.) So? What do you think?

MAYA

I think that suits me better...

CHERYL

I mean what are you gonna do with him?

MAYA

Oh I don't know... Maybe this cut will  
decide for me...

Brown wet hair falling on the floor. (Theme music) Camera  
zooming out. Credits.

**THE END**