

TIME TO FLY

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

People bustle down the sidewalk of this quaint, tree lined street. Shops occupy each side, all with apartments over top.

INT. LIVING ROOM - APARTMENT - DAY

Tall windows face out toward Main Street. They're closed, shutting out the street noise.

The glass shakes as a door SLAMS. A KNOCK follows.

CONNOR MATTHEWS (23), nice looking with a sweet face, stands outside a closed bathroom door.

CONNOR

Please come out Ashley.

ASHLEY (O.S.)

Go away Connor! Please! You're smothering me!

He turns in defeat and heads to the futon, passing a beautiful wrought iron birdcage housing two lovebirds.

A SLAM comes from inside the bathroom. The birds chirp.

CONNOR

I wish you'd calm down. You're freaking out the birds!

The bathroom door flies open. Out steps ASHLEY MORGAN (23), pretty despite the ugly scowl on her face.

ASHLEY

Really Connor? The birds? The birds are freaking out? What about me? Huh? I'm freaking out! Are you concerned about that?

Connor calmly looks up at Ashley.

CONNOR

Well yeah Ash, I'm concerned. But you do this at least once a month so the impact has sorta worn off.

Ashley's nostrils flair as she sucks in a deep breath. Her jaw clenches. She walks to the birdcage.

Her movements are calm but calculated. She softly whistles to the birds, opens the cage and gently pets the brighter of the two. She speaks sweetly.

ASHLEY

I feel just like you Kiki. Caged.

Ashley turns and gives Connor the stink eye. He doesn't respond. She turns her attention back to Kiki.

ASHLEY

Don't you wish you could just fly away?

Kiki nibbles on a birdseed log that hangs from the top of the cage. The male bird scoots next to Kiki. Ashley scoffs at him and closes the cage door.

She gazes sadly at Kiki.

ASHLEY

She's smothered too.
(whispers)
It's time to fly.

In true drama queen fashion, she takes a deep breath, spins around, walks to the closet and opens the door.

Connor rolls his eyes and watches her every move.

Ashley scans the packed closet. Vacuum cleaner, coats, shelf stacked with shoeboxes, and way up on the highest shelf is a beat up suitcase.

She reaches, but it's way too high. She jumps up, tries to grab it, but that doesn't work.

Connor chuckles to himself but quickly puts on a serious face when she turns around.

ASHLEY

Why is the suitcase way up there?

Connor shrugs.

ASHLEY

You think that'll stop me from
leaving?! Well, you're wrong!

Ashley storms to the front door, grabs keys from a hook
then SLAMS the door.

Connor listens to the echo of her shoes as she goes down
the stairs. A door SLAMS. He sprints to the window.

Ashley crosses the street and heads down the Main Street
sidewalk. Connor watches for a moment then gives in.

He opens the window and calls down to her.

CONNOR

Ashley!

Ashley doesn't look back. Connor quickly heads to the
door but sees something that makes him stop in his
tracks.

CONNOR

Oh no.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER SAME DAY

Keys JINGLE, the front door opens a crack. Ashley peeks
her head in.

ASHLEY

Connor? Baby?

She slowly enters, closing the door behind her.

ASHLEY

Babe? You here? I'm really,
really sorry.

Ashley walks to the bedroom, pokes her head in, then
over to the bathroom.

Disappointed, she plops down on the futon. Her sad
expression turns to shock when she sees the birdcage.
Kiki is gone.

Panicked, she runs to the cage. The male bird jumps
around nervously.

Bewildered, Ashley helplessly looks around. Her eyes widen when she sees the open window.

ASHLEY

No. He wouldn't. Not my Kiki.

She cries, quickly followed by phase two; anger.

ASHLEY

That son of a bitch!

Furiously she paces, contemplates. Suddenly, she stops. Ashley looks at the male bird in the cage. A vengeful expression washes over her.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER SAME DAY

Keys JINGLE on the other side of the door. Ashley sits calmly, flipping through a magazine. She doesn't look up when Connor walks in.

CONNOR (O.S.)

Hey Ash. Feeling better?

ASHLEY

Oh yes. Much.

Continuing to flip pages, she raises her eyes just enough to see Connor's shoes as he approaches the birdcage.

CONNOR (O.S.)

ALDO!

Ashley smiles wickedly then looks up at Connor who stares at the open, empty birdcage.

In Connor's hand is a small cage, inside; Kiki. Ashley's mouth opens in disbelief.

CONNOR

Where's Aldo?

Ashley is stunned.

CONNOR

Ashley! Where is he?

Connor looks over at the open window, then at Ashley.

ASHLEY

I, I thought you let Kiki go.

CONNOR

I took her to the vet! When you slammed the door the seed log fell on her head. It knocked her out!

Connor is stupefied. Ashley puts her face in her hands.

CONNOR

What have you done?!

INT. APARTMENT - LATER SAME DAY

Ashley stands at the birdcage and listens to the echo of shoes as they go down the stairs. A door SLAMS.

Kiki chirps nervously. The bird is agitated. Ashley watches sadly as Kiki flits around, searching for Aldo.

Ashley opens the cage. She gently picks up Kiki, stroking her feathers as she walks to the window.

ASHLEY

Time to fly.

She kisses Kiki on the head then releases her out the window.

Ashley watches as Kiki flies away, down Main Street.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Kiki lands on the branch of a tree and scoots over to an awaiting Aldo. They coo.

On the sidewalk below, Connor walks away from the apartment building, beat up suitcase in hand.

FADE OUT