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SAME TABLE

Dialogues / Romance / 3 min
Cast 2 Female x1 Male x1

Maya is working in the coffee shop she has always gone to on Tuesdays. Tom, her ex, walks past her table and pretends it is a surprise. He is getting married in May. Neither of them says the thing they came to say.

CHARACTERS

MAYA - early 30s, works from coffee shops, has done the work of getting over him and knows it

TOM - early 30s, engaged, tells himself he was in the area

SETTING

A corner table in a small coffee shop, a weekday afternoon in early spring.

A corner coffee shop, late afternoon. MAYA sits with a laptop and a cold coffee. TOM stands by the table with a to-go cup, as if he has only just noticed her.

TOM

Maya.

MAYA

(not looking up)

Tom.

TOM

I didn't know you still came here.

MAYA

Tuesdays. Same as always. You know that.

TOM

I forgot.

MAYA

Okay.

He hovers.

TOM

Can I sit?

MAYA

It's a free coffee shop.

TOM

It's not, actually. I just paid five bucks for this.

She almost smiles. Closes the laptop halfway. He sits.

TOM

You look good.

MAYA

I look like someone who's been editing spreadsheets since nine.

TOM

That's what I meant.

MAYA

How's Hannah?

TOM

Good. She's good. The wedding's in May.

MAYA

I heard. Congratulations.

TOM

Thanks.

MAYA

I mean it.

TOM

I know you do. That's the annoying thing about you.

MAYA

That I mean things?

TOM

That you mean them out loud. Most people hold a little back.

MAYA

You held a lot back. Look where that got us.

TOM

That's not fair.

MAYA

No. But it's Tuesday and I've had one coffee. Fair comes after two.

Pause. She stirs the cold coffee.

MAYA

So what's this?

TOM

What's what?

MAYA

This. The cup, the walking past, the "I forgot". You don't forget things. You remembered my mom's birthday for two years after we broke up.

TOM

She sends me a card.

MAYA

Tom.

TOM

I was in the area.

MAYA

You live forty minutes away.

TOM

It's a big area.

She waits. He gives up.

TOM

I wanted to see if it was still there.

MAYA

If what was.

TOM

Don't make me say it in a coffee shop.

MAYA

Where would you rather say it? At the wedding?

He looks at the table.

MAYA

(gentler)

Was it?

TOM

Was it what?

MAYA

Still there.

TOM

(honest)

I sat in the car for twenty minutes before I came in.

MAYA

That's not an answer.

TOM

It's the only one I got.

She opens the laptop again. Then closes it fully.

MAYA

Here's the thing. Two years ago you would've walked in and I would've been the one sitting in the car. I would've said something clever and then cried in the bathroom.

TOM

And now?

MAYA

Now I'm sad for you. That's different. That's the whole difference.

TOM

So it's not there.

MAYA

I didn't say that.

Beat.

MAYA

I said I'm not the one sitting in the car anymore.

She stands. Packs the laptop. Puts a hand briefly on his shoulder as she passes. Not long.

MAYA

Tell Hannah I said congratulations. Or don't. Either way I meant it.

She goes. Tom sits with the cup. He does not drink it.

END OF SCRIPT