

**Picket Fences**

(Romantic Scene Prompt: High School Sweethearts)

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. BAR - DUSK

WILL (30) stands anxiously on the sidewalk. Above him, a NEON SIGN reads: "BAR."

Nicely dressed in a leather jacket and button-down shirt, Will gazes up at the billowing clouds. A PASSING CAR SPLASHES the puddled pavement. Will promptly brushes the rain water off his shoes.

Will checks his phone. It reads: "7:00 PM." Will looks up. BAILEY (30) stands before him.

Bailey is at the same time both warm and cold. She is dressed to kill in a custom-made, eye-catching dress. Bailey embraces Will. They exchange fond looks. Bailey's smile fades slightly as she steps back.

WILL

Welcome to Boston! I can't believe you've never been here. It's so great to see you!

BAILEY

Great to see you, too. You haven't changed a bit.

WILL

You look great. As always. So, how's your business trip so far? I hope this wasn't out of the way for you?

BAILEY

No! No trouble at all. My conference is just minutes away downtown. Thanks for taking the time to meet.

WILL

Thanks. I'm so glad you reached out. It's been such a long time.  
(beat)

This place has great spin' dip.

BAILEY

Spin dip and Chardonnay. My dream dinner.

Will and Bailey laugh and enter the bar.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR TABLE - NIGHT

Will's glass is half empty. Bailey hasn't touched her glass of wine. Her cell phone rests beside it.

BAILEY

... Remember when we went as Jack and Sally to the Homecoming Dance?

WILL

Our costumes were a smash. And, everyone was amazed that you made them yourself!

(lightbulb!)

I remember you even included the costume designs in your portfolio when you applied for art school.

(beat)

How was art school, by the way?

Bailey dismisses the question. Will TAPS THE RIM OF HIS GLASS with his finger.

BAILEY

And, remember when we preformed that awesome magic act for the school talent show?

Will perks up.

WILL

How could I forget! You were my beautiful assistant.

BAILEY

We spent hours in my basement practicing every illusion.

WILL

(smirking)

Oh, is that what the kids are calling it these days?

Bailey laughs. Will changes the subject.

WILL (CONT'D)

So, uhh, how are your kids?

(beat)

(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

I've seen your Facebook posts. They are adorable.

BAILEY

(cold)

Oh, they're good.

(lightbulb!)

Hey, remember how we ALWAYS went to Robert's Ice Cream after the football games? Best custard ever.

WILL

Yeah. You always got ice cream on your nose.

BAILEY

(blushing)

I did not!

WILL

(smiles)

Yeah, it was right there.

Will touches Bailey's nose. Bailey leans in. They are face-to-face.

Lost in each other's eyes, Bailey kisses Will. With tears in her eyes, Bailey pulls back. Will snaps out of his trance as he leans back. Will wipes the kiss off of his lips. He holds his glass tightly to keep his hands from shaking.

WILL (CONT'D)

I have a girl --

BAILEY

("I'm sorry")

Of course you do.

Bailey crawls back inside herself and sinks down. She can't even look at Will.

BAILEY (CONT'D)

You were always such a catch.

Will stares at Bailey puzzled. He can't put the pieces together.

Will SETS HIS GLASS FIRMLY ON THE TABLETOP and stands up to leave.

Startled, Bailey looks up at Will longingly with even more tears flooding her eyes. She is physically beside herself.

Will takes \$40 dollars from his wallet and sets the money on the table and turns to leave. Bailey grabs Will by the hand.

Bailey's CELL BUZZES.

Will and Bailey's eyes lock onto the phone. It reads: "RICK."

WILL  
Go ahead, answer it.

Will pulls his hand out of Bailey's grip.

Bailey hesitantly picks up the phone. She wipes her eyes as endless tears fall, takes a deep breath, fakes a smile, and answers the call.

BAILEY  
Hi, honey.

Will stands motionless.

RICK (V.O.)  
(on phone)  
Hey, babe! I hope I'm not  
interrupting a meeting or anything?

BAILEY  
Nope. I'm just... in my hotel room.

Bailey looks up at Will.

RICK (V.O.)  
(on phone)  
Well, the kids just wanted to say  
'goodnight' to you before I tuck  
them in.

KIDS (V.O.)  
(on phone)  
Hi mommy! Nighty-night, mommy. We  
miss you, mommy!

BAILEY  
(on phone)  
Night, kiddos. Love you.

RICK (V.O.)  
(on phone)  
Have a good conference and get home  
safe.  
(beat)  
Hey, I love you.

Speechless, Bailey continues to fight back tears and stares intently at Will.

BAILEY  
(on phone)  
Bye.

CLICK.

Bailey places her phone on the table next to her drink. Fully vulnerable, she wipes away tears, blows her nose with bar napkins, and balls up the make-up stained napkins and sets them on the tabletop.

There is nothing left to say.

For the first time, Bailey grabs her wineglass and gulps it down.

Silence.

Will speaks up.

WILL  
So, why are we here. Really?

Lifeless in her seat, Bailey looks up at Will.

BAILEY  
My whole life, all I've ever heard is: "When you grow up, you'll marry a nice man, have a few kids, maybe even a dog. You will live in a house with a white picket fence... and you'll be very, very happy."

WILL  
(beat)  
Then, why aren't you?

BAILEY  
I never really loved my...  
(beat)  
White. Picket... fence.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Will holds the door open for Bailey as they exit. Will pockets both hands inside his leather jacket.

They stand face-to-face. Bailey and Will's eyes linger as they stand in THE RAIN. WET CARS PASS BY.

The NEON BAR SIGN FLICKERS IN A POOL OF RAIN on the concrete.

Will and Bailey go their separate ways.

FADE TO BLACK.

**THE END**