

sad indie love song

By

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ONE

A fridge. Darkness. The fridge lets out a dull buzz. We begin to see light from within the fridge. It brightens and brightens. At its peak, 'Too Long Awake' by Idlewild blares out and the door bursts open to reveal **CHRIS**, in a white tank top and boxers, slumped and panting in the doorway. He drags himself out, reaches back his hand and pulls out **CAT 1**, also in white tank and underwear. They fall to the ground, drag themselves up to standing and look out, wide-eyed. The buzz gets louder than the music, the lights get brighter, until **CAT 1** runs to the fridge door and slams it shut.

Blackout.

TWO

CAT 1 has vanished. **CAT 2** (dressed like **CAT 1**) is in her place.

CHRIS

Will you still be you?

CAT 2

What do you mean?

CHRIS

Will you still be you? And will I still be me?

CAT 2

I'm the one that's changing. Not you.

CHRIS

Will you still be Cat though? Will you still be my Cat?

CAT 2

I don't know.

CHRIS

Will I recognize you?

CAT 2

Of course you will.

CHRIS

How will I recognize you?

CAT 2

I'll still be me. To you, I'll still be me.

CHRIS
Will you have the same face?

CAT 2
Chris, please.

CHRIS
Sorry. I'm sorry. It's just a lot to take in.

THREE

CAT 2 has vanished. CAT 1 in her place.

CHRIS
Hungry?

CAT 1
No.

CHRIS
Thirsty?

CAT 1
No.

CHRIS
Need anything?

CAT 1
You to shut up.

CHRIS
Ok.

Did you hear about -

CAT 1
Seriously?

CHRIS
What?

CAT 1
Small talk?

CHRIS
I just -

CAT 1
Ask me how the fucking weather is.

CHRIS

Do you actually -

CAT 1

No I don't fucking -

CHRIS

Alright. Alright.

So you won't miss me at all?

CAT 1

I won't remember you. That's the point.

CHRIS

Right.

Like, if you saw me on the street, you wouldn't recognize me? Not even a little?

CAT 1

Do you think if you just keep talking then I won't go? Think you can distract me for long enough to win me over?

CHRIS

I -

CAT 1

You're not going to win. So throw in the towel, Chris.

CHRIS

But if you just listened then -

CAT 1

There is nothing you can say to me that will make me take you back.

CHRIS

So that's it?

CAT 1

Oh please. Chris. Really.

CHRIS

Don't fucking - Alright? Don't. Don't patronize me.

CAT 1

Then don't be so fucking obvious. Don't be such a victim. Don't be so pathetic.

CHRIS
I don't understand.

FOUR

CHRIS and CAT 2.

CHRIS
It's just a lot to take in.

CAT 2
We've got plenty of time.

CHRIS
I just...

CAT 2
Yes?

What don't you get?

CHRIS
I thought you'd look like her.

CAT 2
Don't I?

CHRIS
Not really.

CAT 2
I'm sorry.

CHRIS
Are you her?

CAT 2
Who?

CHRIS
Cat. My Cat.

CAT 2
You've lost your cat?

CHRIS
No - Well, yes.

CAT 2
You've lost your little kitty-cat?

CHRIS

Yes. I don't know where she is.

CAT 2

Would you like me to help you find her?

FIVE

CHRIS and CAT 1.

CAT 1

Would you fuck a mermaid?

CHRIS

Yes.

CAT 1

That was fast! No hesitation or...

CHRIS

I've thought about this before and my answer is yes.

CAT 1

Ok, ok, so you'd stick your dick in a fish?

CHRIS

Well...

CAT 1

That's essentially what you're saying. You're saying you would fuck a fish.

CHRIS

Half a fish.

CAT 1

You'd fuck half a fish.

CHRIS

If the other half is a woman, then yeah, I would.

CAT 1

Hang on, let me get this straight. Is the head a fish?

CHRIS

Why would the head be fish? Everyone knows mermaids have women's bodies and fish tails.

CAT 1

Right. Right. Ok. You do realize that mermaids aren't real?

CHRIS

Well -

CAT 1

They're not real, Chris.

CHRIS

If you say so.

CAT 1

I do say so.

CHRIS

Ok.

CAT 1

Wouldn't it be better to have the woman on the bottom?

CHRIS

No.

CAT 1

Again, no hesitation.

CHRIS

Why should I hesitate when the answer is obvious?

CAT 1

Ok, this is -

CHRIS

You can't get mad with me! You started it!

CAT 1

You made it weird!

CHRIS

You asked me if I'd fuck a mermaid!

CAT 1

You didn't need to make it so weird.

CHRIS

You ask a weird question, you get a weird answer.
Weirdo.

CAT 1

You're the fucking weirdo.

They start wrestling.

CHRIS
You're a weirdo.

CAT 1
You're a weirdo.

CHRIS
Weirdo.

CAT 1
Weirdo.

They kiss.

SIX

CAT 2 and CHRIS.

CAT 2
If you could live forever, would you want to?

CHRIS
Uh, I dunno. Would you be there?

CAT 2
Would I -

CHRIS
Would you live forever too?

CAT 2
Does that matter?

CHRIS
Yes it matters.

CAT 2
Why?

CHRIS
I wouldn't want to live in a world without you in it.

CAT 2
That's sweet.

CHRIS
It's true.

CAT 2
Would you want me to live in a world without you?

CHRIS
Um...

CAT 2
Wow.

CHRIS
No. Wait.

CAT 2
You want me all to yourself.

CHRIS
Hang on. Run that by me again.

CAT 2
You'd be dead. I'd still be alive.

CHRIS
Then yes.

CAT 2
Yes what?

CHRIS
I'd want you to still be alive. I want you to live.

CAT 2
Even though you wouldn't be around?

CHRIS
Yeah. Of course. I want you to have life.

Pause.
Do you...

CAT 2
Hmm?

CHRIS
Do you... want me... to live?

CAT 2
Of course I do.

CHRIS
Good. Good.

CAT 2
Why would you even ask that?

CHRIS

You weren't exactly forthcoming with the whole...

CAT 2

The whole?

CHRIS

The whole shebang.

CAT 2

Shebang?

CHRIS

Wanting me to be alive.

CAT 2

I wasn't wishing you dead.

CHRIS

You weren't exactly rushing to my aid!

CAT 2

You weren't dying!

CHRIS

If I was, would you try to save my life?

CAT 2

Of course I would.

CHRIS

How would you save me?

CAT 2

I'd give you the kiss of life?

CHRIS

Oh yeah?

*They move towards each other, but before they get there, **CAT 2** disappears and **CAT 1** replaces her.*

CHRIS

Who - who are you?

CAT 1

What?

CHRIS

Wait. Where's -

CAT 1
What's wrong babe?

CHRIS
Babe?

CAT 1
You look like you've seen a ghost.

CHRIS
Where's Cat?

CAT 1
What are you talking about?

CHRIS
She was just here.

CAT 1
I *am* here. Right now.

She gives a twirl, laughs.
See?

CHRIS
No.

CAT 1
I'm right here, silly.

CHRIS
Don't call me silly.

CAT 1
No need to be a dick about it.

CHRIS
What the *fuck* are you talking about?

CAT 1
Whoa, you're scaring me a little here, babe.

CHRIS
Don't call me babe!

CAT 1
What the fuck?

CHRIS
Don't fucking call me babe! She was just here!

CAT 1
Chris -

CHRIS
How do you know my name?

CAT 1
I don't like this game.

CHRIS
This isn't a fucking game!

CAT 1
Chris, this isn't funny anymore.

CHRIS
Where is she? What did you do with her?

CAT 1
Chris, you sound fucking crazy.

CHRIS
I don't understand. I don't understand. I don't -

CAT 1
Chris!

CHRIS
How do you know my fucking name?

CAT 1
Ok. I really don't like this. I'm out of here.

*CAT 1 goes to the fridge, climbs inside.
CHRIS runs to the fridge.*

CHRIS
No! Wait! Where's Cat?

He opens the door. It's empty.

SEVEN

Empty stage. CAT 2 comes out of the fridge, looks around as if she's never been here before. Then, CAT 1 comes out. They look at each other for a long time.

CAT 1
Hi.

CAT 2
Hi.

EIGHT

CHRIS, CAT 1 and CAT 2.

CAT 1
Hey remember that time we went to Coney Island and they ran out of hot dogs?

CHRIS
No.

CAT 2
Hey remember that time we had no AC all summer and lost twenty pounds?

CHRIS
No.

CAT 1
Hey remember that time we went ice skating in Central Park on Christmas Eve and saw that woman get her finger sliced off by a skate?

CHRIS
No.

CAT 2
Hey remember that time?

CHRIS
No.

CAT 1
Hey remember that time?

CHRIS
No.

CAT 2
Hey remember that time?

CHRIS
No.

CAT 1
Hey remember that time we got really drunk and I proposed to you and we got engaged and we were still so drunk in the morning we totally forgot it had happened until we realized you had the ring pull from a PBR can on your finger well really it was in your finger it was

CAT 1
actually sliced into your skin and when you pulled it out it didn't even bleed at all and you were so boozed up it didn't hurt at all and all you said was 'maybe it was too soon'?

CHRIS
No.

CAT 2
Hey remember that time we went to Port Authority and we said let's get on the first fucking bus that's departing no matter where it's going and we'll have a fucking adventure and it took us to Newark Airport and we were like let's get the first fucking *plane* that's departing but it was going to Sao Paulo and we didn't have our passports or any money so we just went home again?

CHRIS
No.

CAT 1
Hey remember that time I fell down a well and no one found me for three days?

CAT 2
Hey remember that time I got in that stranger's car and I was never seen again?

CAT 1
Hey remember that time that things happened to us and we said we'd remember those things for the rest of our lives?

CAT 2
Hey remember that time I saved your life?

CAT 1
Hey remember that time your mom died and I held you so close and so tight that you couldn't breathe and when I let go you breathed and let out a wail like an animal that's just lost a part of itself and you cried yourself to sleep while I stroked your head and told you everything was going to be alright?

CAT 2
Hey remember that time you loved me and I loved you and we were in love?

CAT 1
Hey remember that time?

CAT 2
Hey remember that time?

A long pause.

CHRIS
I don't remember.

NINE

CAT 1 goes in the fridge and comes out as **CAT 2**.
CAT 2 goes in and comes out as **CAT 1**. Repeat.
Repeat.

TEN

CHRIS opens the fridge door slowly. It's empty. He closes it, then opens it quickly. It's still empty.

CHRIS
Hello? Is anyone there? Cat? Cat?

ELEVEN

CHRIS and **CAT 2**. He addresses everything he says to her. She doesn't react. He snaps sharply between moods.

CHRIS
Have you seen my Cat? I can't find my Cat. Have you seen her? Will you help me find my Cat?

Hey. Hey you. Hey girl. Hey sweetie. How you doing? Huh? How you doing tonight? Come on, give me a smile. Give me a little smile huh? Hey don't ignore me! I'm just trying to nice! I just want to be your friend!

I'd like to place an ad. Yeah like a lost love kinda thing? Like an I Saw You kinda thing. Yeah like I saw you on the train I liked your hat and you were reading Camus kinda thing.

Hello? Police? Is this the police? I need to talk to the police. Missing persons. She's gone. She's missing. I can't find my Cat. I've lost my Cat. Will anyone help me find my Cat?

TWELVE

CHRIS and **CAT 1** slow dance to Sharon Van Etten's 'Love More'. **CAT 1** drifts away and **CAT 2** replaces her. Then **CHRIS** drifts away. **CAT 1** and **CAT 2** dance with each other. Then they all separate, dancing in their own spaces. Then **CAT 1** and **CAT 2** disappear, leaving **CHRIS** standing alone. **CHRIS** looks at the fridge. He goes to it. He goes through.

THIRTEEN

CAT 1 and **CHRIS**.

CAT 1

If you could change your life forever in one moment, would you?

CHRIS

What do you mean?

CAT 1

Like, you'd do something and afterwards, things would be different.

CHRIS

That's pretty vague. Give me an example.

CAT 1

If you could, I don't know, *disappear*.

CHRIS

Like, turn invisible?

CAT 1

No!

CHRIS

What then?

CAT 1

Vanish. Hit the road. Drop everything and walk away.

CHRIS

And then what would happen?

CAT 1

I don't know! Do you need me to spell everything out for you? Use your imagination Chris. Make a choice. And be prepared for the eventuality that you can't go back on it. You won't know if it's going to succeed. You won't know if things will be better after you make this

CAT 1
choice until you've made it. And even then you might not know for sure. It's a gamble.

CHRIS
What if I don't make a choice? Isn't that a choice in itself?

CAT 1
So you're saying that the absence of a choice is a choice?

CHRIS
Something will still have happened.

CAT 1
I'll give you that.

CHRIS
So why do I need to make a big choice? Why do I need to change my life?

CAT 1
This is enough for you?

CHRIS
I have you. You're all I need.

CAT 1
I'm not enough.

CHRIS
That's not for you to decide. To me you are enough. More than enough.

CAT 1
Then I decide that I don't want that responsibility. I don't want you to measure my worth.

CHRIS
I'm not Cat. I'm not saying it's about worth or value. Do I value you? Yes.

That doesn't make you some sort of commodity. You're not a thing to be bought.

CAT 1
Oh thanks for mansplaining -

CHRIS
I'm not trying to -

CAT 1
Pretty much sounds like -

CHRIS
Cat please!

CAT 1
What?

CHRIS
I can't fucking win here. I'm trying to be nice.

CAT 1
Who wants nice?

CHRIS
Nice people do.

CAT 1
So I'm not?

CHRIS
Maybe not.

CAT 1
Wow.

CHRIS
Look, of course you're nice. There's nothing wrong with nice. When did being nice become such a crime?

CAT 1
When it got boring.

CHRIS
And when was that?

CAT 1
When naughty got invented and people were like 'yes please, I'll have a bit of that'.

CHRIS
I don't even know what you're saying now.

CAT 1
It's not difficult.

CHRIS
No I get what you're *saying*. I understand that.

CAT 1
So?

CHRIS
I don't get the *meaning*.

CAT 1
The subtext?

CHRIS
Yeah the, uh, the *underlying themes* of what you're saying.

CAT 1
Maybe I don't want to be with you forever.

CHRIS
Huh?

CAT 1
That's what I'm saying. Well. That's what I'm getting at. I think.

CHRIS
What do you mean?

CAT 1
I just told you.

CHRIS
No. Fuck. Stop playing games.

CAT 1
I'm not. I'm being honest.

CHRIS
Honest?

CAT 1
Yes. I'm telling you what I feel.

CHRIS
And that's really what you feel?

CAT 1
Maybe. I don't know yet.

CHRIS
When are you going to know for sure?

CAT 1
I don't know Chris. Don't be -

CHRIS
What? Don't be what?

CAT 1
Don't be a dick about it.

CHRIS
You just told me you want to break up with me and I'm
the one who's being a dick?

CAT 1
A little. And I didn't -

CHRIS
Don't you think I'm allowed to be at least a little - a
I not entitled to be *somewhat* of a -

CAT 1
Now you're really being a dick.

CHRIS
This is -

CAT 1
What?

CHRIS
This is fucking -

CAT 1
What?

CHRIS
Unbelievable. You're actually - I can't - I don't.

You're actually breaking up with me?

CAT 1
You sound like a fucking teenager.

CHRIS
Don't patronize me. Just tell me.

CAT 1
No Chris. It's not as simple as that.

CHRIS
What is it then? If not that?

CAT 1
I'm talking about the future.

CHRIS
Go on.

CAT 1
That's what I'm doing.

CHRIS
Is that a joke? Don't fucking -

CAT 1
I'm serious. I'm... I don't know how to express it. I'm moving on.

CHRIS
From me?

CAT 1
Maybe. But it's not about you.

CHRIS
Wow, thanks.

CAT 1
It's about putting my life in motion.

CHRIS
It's not moving now?

CAT 1
No.

CHRIS
So running away from me is the answer?

CAT 1
Chris. My life is static. Our life together is static.

CHRIS
I don't get what is so wrong with that. If it's good, why change it? What's wrong with static? What's wrong with quiet and comfortable and intimate and slow and easy and real and you and me and tiny changes to our lives bit by bit and day by day piece by piece together together together.

Long pause.

CAT 1
It's not enough. For me. It's not enough.

CHRIS
So that's it then?

CAT 1
Come with me.

CHRIS

Where?

CAT 1

Anywhere.

CHRIS

I'm going to need more than that.

CAT 1

More?

CHRIS

Specifics.

CAT 1

I can't give you -

CHRIS

I know.

CAT 1

If I ever -

CHRIS

Yeah.

CAT 1

I'll -

CHRIS

Yeah. Yeah.

CAT 1

I promise.

CHRIS

Do you?

CAT 1

What?

CHRIS

Promise.

CAT 1

No.

CHRIS

Ok. That's ok.

CAT 1
So. I'm going to...

CHRIS
Yeah. Yeah. Of course. Here, let me.

CHRIS holds the door open for her. She pauses as she steps in.

CAT 1
When I - if I come back... you might not recognize me.

CHRIS
You might not recognize me.

She smiles at him.

CAT 1
Oh I think I will.

She goes through the fridge. He watches her go, peers into the fridge, puts a foot in, takes it back out, closes the fridge. He rests his head on the fridge.

FOURTEEN

Repeat of Scene One, from the moment the door bursts open, but this time with CAT 2 instead of CAT 1: 'Too Long Awake' by Idlewild blares out and the door bursts open to reveal CHRIS, slumped and panting in the doorway. He drags himself out, reaches back his hand and pulls out CAT 2, also in white tank and underwear. They fall to the ground, drag themselves up to standing and look out, wide-eyed. The buzz gets louder than the music, the lights get brighter, until CAT 2 runs to the fridge door and slams it shut.

Blackout.

END OF PLAY