

**YOU ARE COULD I by Steve McMahon**

**THREE**

HE: Hello?

SHE: Who is it?

HE: Me.

SHE: Who?

HE: It's me.

SHE: Right... Sorry, I don't know who *me* is.

HE: Don't you recognise my voice?

SHE: Um, no, I don't think I do.

HE: Well perhaps you should open the door?

SHE: I don't think so.

HE: Why not? Don't you trust me?

SHE: I don't know who you are.

HE: You would if you opened the door.

SHE: We don't need to open the door.

HE: (*laughs*) Why not?

SHE: We just don't. Have we met?

HE: (*laughs*) Yes. We're...acquainted.

SHE: How are we acquainted?

HE: I'd rather come in if we were going to talk about that.

SHE: I'm not sure I want to see anyone.

HE: Why? What's wrong?

SHE: I'm just a little... I don't know.

HE: Tell me, what is it?

SHE: I sort of feel... Wait, why am I telling you this?

HE: Because you know me.

SHE: Do I?

HE: Yes.

SHE: How do I know you?

HE: You loved me once.

SHE: I loved you?

HE: So you told me.

SHE: I don't remember...

HE: Don't you?

SHE: I can't...

HE: Think.

SHE: What?

HE: Think. Try.

*Long pause.*

HE: Do you remember?

SHE: I'm thinking! I'm trying... I'm trying to think.

HE: Take your time... I'm not going anywhere.

SHE: I - I can't. Think. Can't...

HE: It's alright.

SHE: I can't! I can't! There's...nothing.

HE: Don't worry, it's alright.

SHE: It's not alright, stop saying that, it's not. Why? Why can't I?

HE: Shh, shh. Don't get upset.

SHE: I'll open the door.

HE: No.

SHE: What?

HE: Don't.

SHE: You wanted - I'll open the door.

HE: No!

SHE: What? Why not?

HE: You were right. We don't need to open the door.

SHE: But it's ok, it's ok, I'll open the door.

HE: No, I want you to trust me.

SHE: I can't.

HE: You did. Before, you did. I want you to trust me again.

SHE: But how?

HE: I don't know yet.

SHE: I loved you?

HE: Yes, I believe you did.

SHE: And you loved me?

HE: I did. Very much.

SHE: Why?

HE: Why?

SHE: Yes, why did you love me?

HE: I don't think I could explain why.

SHE: Then how?

HE: How?

SHE: How did you love me?

HE: I don't -

SHE: In what way? What did you love me with? How did you show me you loved me?

HE: I - I...

SHE: No, don't hesitate. Just tell me.

HE: I don't know what you want to hear.

SHE: Did you fuck me? Is that it?

HE: Um, I -

SHE: Well, tell me...

HE: Tell you -

SHE: Did you fuck me?

*Pause.*

HE: Well yes.

SHE: Did I enjoy it?

HE: Yes. I - I think so, yes.

SHE: How did you fuck me?

HE: Don't do this.

SHE: Tell me!

*Long pause.*

HE: What happened? What happened to you? You're...

SHE: I'm older, yes.

HE: Yes but you sound ill or something. You're not right.

SHE: No. I'm not.

HE: Let me see you. Open the door. I need to see you.

SHE: If I opened the door you wouldn't recognise me.

HE: Let me try.

SHE: I thought you wanted me to trust you?

HE: Don't you?

SHE: I don't trust anyone.

HE: You trusted me once.

SHE: Enough! Enough of what I once did and what I did before and who I was before! I'm tired! I'm so very very tired of you.

HE: I'm sorry.

SHE: What are you sorry for?

HE: I'm sorry that you're tired of me. I've just returned and already I've tired you out.

SHE: I've been tired a long time.

*Pause.*

SHE: Well? What have you got to say now?

HE: Nothing.

SHE: You'll not tell me of how I *was tired once*? 'This one time, back then, you were tired, but that was alright for you loved me'?!

*Pause.*

HE: No.

SHE: Cat got your tongue? If I remember correctly you were the one who came here to talk. Isn't that right?

HE: Yes.

SHE: Well talk! Say something! Why are you here? What do you want from me?

HE: I think I'll go. It was a mistake coming here.

SHE: No!

HE: No? You're giving me no reason to stay.

SHE: Don't go.

*Pause.*

HE: I don't want to. I don't want to leave you like this. But I don't know if I can bear to stay. When did you become so tired?

SHE: When you left.

HE: What? Say that again.

SHE: When you left.

HE: You remember me?

SHE: I've never forgotten you. I can't forget you. Why did you leave me?

HE: I had to.

SHE: How could you leave me?

HE: Believe me. I didn't want to.

*Pause.*

HE: What is it?

SHE: I think I'm... I'm starting to remember.

HE: Don't. It's best you don't. I wish I could forget.

SHE: No, I want to remember how it was.

HE: You don't have to. It'll only hurt us both.

SHE: Then why did you come?

HE: I don't know why. I couldn't not.

SHE: Help me to remember. Please.

HE: No. This was a mistake.

SHE: Help me. Please.

HE: I can't help you!

SHE: Just try.

HE: I don't know what I can do to help you.

SHE: Tell me how you loved me.

HE: How I loved you? I loved you with every bit of me, with everything that I am. I loved you until I hurt; until we both hurt. I loved you too much and far, far too little. I loved you all the time but I never loved you enough. I loved you for everything you were and the nothing that was left when everything was taken away. I loved you in spite of you and in spite of me but I never loved you in spite. The moment I saw you I knew I could love you and the moment I met you I knew that I did. I loved you when I was with you and even more so when I was without you and never more so than when I left you. I had to leave you. I left because I didn't want to stop loving you. I left so I could love you again. I'll understand if you can't love me again.

*Pause.*

SHE: Oh... I love you alright.

*Beat.*

HE: I'm - thank you.

*Pause.*

HE: Do you trust me?

SHE: I... I'm not sure.

HE: Okay, that's okay.

SHE: What more is there to say?

HE: I don't know.

## **TWO**

HE: Let me in.

SHE: No.

HE: Let me in please.

SHE: No.

HE: Come on, let me in.

SHE: I said no.

HE: Why is this locked? What the hell's this about?

SHE: I don't have a response to that.

HE: Stop acting like a child. Open the door.

SHE: I'm not and I won't.

HE: Just open the door and we'll talk.

SHE: It's not going to happen.

HE: Why not?

SHE: Because.

*Beat.*

HE: What? *Because*? So that's a valid fucking excuse now is it? Is it?

SHE: That's all you're getting.

HE: Let me in!

SHE: No.

HE: Let me in!

SHE: No!

HE: Fucking... Just let me in. Okay? Just let me in.

SHE: I've said no already. Several times. I won't say it again.

HE: Let me in! Fucking let me in! Just let me in for fuck's -

SHE: You're not getting in.

HE: Let me in or I'll fucking break down -

SHE: No! Not if you're going to be like that.

HE: What? Like what? What am I being like?

SHE: Not if you're going to be aggressive.

HE: I'm not -

SHE: In fact, not if you're anything. Not at all.

HE: But... wait, what?

SHE: You're not coming in. At all.

HE: What do you mean? Huh? What do you mean? What do you mean *at all*?

*Pause.*

SHE: You are not coming in.

HE: This is ludicrous. This is my house.

SHE: This is *our* house, and this *was* our life.

HE: This *is* our life!

SHE: It stopped being ours when you betrayed me. You betrayed my trust, and I'll never trust you again.

HE: You're being ridiculous! Think of what you're throwing -

SHE: Don't dare say that, don't *dare*!

HE: *Think*, think though. Think before you end this.

SHE: You already ended this. And you didn't think.

*Pause.*

HE: No.

SHE: What?

HE: No. I didn't think. And I'm sorry. But please don't make me leave. We've so much to lose.

SHE: How can I let you stay? I don't trust you anymore. I feel as if I've lost everything already.

HE: Don't say that.

SHE: It's true.

HE: Don't! Please, I'm begging you, just forgive -

SHE: Please. Stop. You're better than this.

*Beat.*

HE: What do you want me to say?

SHE: I don't want you to say anything. I want you to leave and never come back.

HE: Don't make me do this. I love you. I love you very much.

SHE: But not enough. I hope, in time, you come to see that you didn't love me enough.

*Pause.*

HE: If I go now, I'll never come back, but I'll always love you.

SHE: I'll always love you, but I'll never trust you again.

### ONE

HE: Open the door!

SHE: I won't!

HE: Come on, I won't bite.

SHE: Do I have your word on that?

HE: You have my word.

*Beat.*

SHE: I don't trust you.

HE: Well you'd better start if we're to be married...

SHE: Oh, so we're to be married now?

HE: If you'll have me...

*Pause.*

SHE: And what's in it for me?!

HE: Outrageous question!

*Beat.*

HE: Why, what do you want?

SHE: Nothing. I want nothing from you.

HE: Oh. Right.

SHE: Nothing *but* you, I mean!

HE: Oh! I'm enough?

SHE: I suppose so.

HE: Well that's a relief then.

SHE: Is it?

HE: Yes, because I've nothing to offer you but myself.

SHE: How convenient.

HE: Convenient indeed. I think we're going to get along just fine, you and me.

SHE: Well that's good, if we're to be married.



HE: If I'll have you, that is.

SHE: If you'll have me, is it?

HE: That's right. You haven't asked what I want from you.

SHE: I can imagine what you want from me.

HE: My lips are sealed.

SHE: Keep it that way.

*Pause.*

SHE: Well, say something.

HE: But that would mean unsealing my - Oh look what I've done.

SHE: Shame.

HE: Indeed. I was so enjoying the not talking.

SHE: Didn't you get bored?

HE: No. I was enjoying the feeling of being looked at.

SHE: How did you know I was looking at you?

HE: Like I said, I could feel it.

SHE: Do you want to see me?

HE: Not until you trust me.

SHE: That could be a long time.

HE: I'll wait.

SHE: But I don't think it will be long.

HE: Oh really?

SHE: No. Not too long anyway.

HE: Well I'm not going anywhere.

SHE: Why not?

HE: Why would I want to leave when you're giving me every reason to stay?

SHE: I'm not giving you anything.

HE: You're giving me everything.

SHE: You haven't even seen me.

HE: No, but we can clear such trivial matters up when we are wed.

SHE: You're weird.

HE: Thank you.

*Pause.*

SHE: So what now?

HE: We wait.

SHE: For what?

HE: For you to trust me.

SHE: I do. You have my trust.

*Beat.*

SHE: All of it.

*Beat.*

HE: Thank you.

SHE: Don't ever break it.

HE: I won't.

SHE: Good.

HE: You know, I think I could love you.

SHE: You could?

## **ZERO**

SHE: I loved you?

HE: You did.

SHE: And you loved me?

HE: I did. Very much.

SHE: Okay.

HE: Okay.