

Happiness Is...

By

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HAPPINESS IS...

INT. BEDROOM

Fade into a father yelling. Then a young woman yelling. This sequence is a quick cut flashback. It is a split screen.

SAMANTHA/SAMUEL

I just don't love you like I used to. I can't do this anymore. We have grown apart and I can't live like this. You are living in the past.

Fade into Matt looking distraught on his bed.

INT. MATT'S ROOM

Matt is sitting on his bed in his room, alone. He looks distraught. He is wearing his old soccer jersey and blue jeans. He leaves the room, and walks outside. He sits on his bed, and tries to text his father. He then decides not to. As he walks away he passes a bunch of soccer trophies and pictures of him playing soccer.

INT. KITCHEN

Matt's mother is making dinner and stops when Matt walks in.

DIANE

How you feeling honey?

MATT

Ehh, ok not my best.

DIANE

Hey do you want to do something special? We can go see a band I used to listen to all the time. I know you love concerts. They are called the Bahama Mamas.

MATT

No matter how much I would love to see them. No, I'm ok. I just want to take a walk. I think I am going to try to call Dad this weekend also.

DIANE pauses before she speaks again.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE (CONCERNED)

You can try but you know how your father is.

MATT

I feel like I need to talk to him.

DIANE

Ok honey. If you change your mind feel free to holler.

Matt walks out of the kitchen with his head down.

EXT. MATT'S HOUSE

Matt walks past his house. He stares as the cars drive by. He stops in front of his school to stop and stare, he then continues walking. He reaches for his phone to play music but he stops to look at the background. It is him and his girlfriend Sam, making a funny face, looking happy. He grimaces. He walks to a soccer field, looks and stares. Then walks away.

INT. KITCHEN

Matt's mother is still in the kitchen but reading.

DIANE

Hey Matt, can you come in here for a minute.

MATT (CONCERNED)

What is it Mom?

DIANE

Well our conversation earlier had me worried. I am sending you to a therapist.

A beat.

MATT

What, why? I'm fine Mom.

DIANE

I know I just want you to be prepared for what might happen if you talk to your father. And now that Samantha is gone. I am just worried.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

Mom, I'm fine. And I don't think going to a therapist is entirely necessary.

DIANE

I already made the appointment.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE OF DR. HUNTINGTON/AFTERNOON

Matt walks reluctantly into Dr. Huntington's office. He sits down on the couch while he patiently waits for Dr. Huntington. He taps his fingers, and shakes his legs and looks at the bookshelves. The office is filled a many different bookshelves full of books on psychology and mental states. Even though MATT was wearing his favorite shirt, a shirt that displayed the cover of his favorite book "Catcher in the Rye" and "Beatles" hoodie over the shirt, he felt like he was being surrounded by the new environment.

DR. HUNTINGTON (FRIENDLY)

Hello MATT how are you? So today I just wanted to ask you what has been going on. And how things are going at school?

MATT (PAUSES)

UMMM...No,Doc, I don't really want to do that.

A beat.

DR. HUNTINGTON

Well why, not? (Still friendly)

MATT

Because it's really not that simple. I don't want to just flat out and say I'm sad or I hate going to school because I will probably see my ex.

DR. HUNTINGTON (PONDERS)

How old are you MATT?

MATT

17.

DR. HUNTINGTON

That's a fun age, what do you like to do.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

I like music, and I like to go to concerts.

A beat.

DR. HUNTINGTON

Yeah.... why's that?

MATT

It makes me seem like I am surrounded by people I love and like me.

DR. HUNTINGTON

What's wrong with the people at your high school?

MATT

I just never really fit in.

DR. HUNTINGTON

So, Can we talk about your home life?

MATT

I don't really have much to say but my mom is all I have.

DR. HUNTINGTON

Why where's your dad?

MATT

Well, he left when I was probably when I was in seventh or eighth grade. And I have been trying to get in touch with him since.

DR. HUNTINGTON

Do you remember anything special about your Dad?

MATT

Well, I remember him wanting me to do well in soccer.

DR. HUNTINGTON

Why soccer?

MATT sits and ponders.

MATT

Well, I have always liked it because my Dad loved it. I really looked up to him back then. He really showed me how to work hard and that was probably when I was the most happiest, was when I was with him.

A beat.

DR. HUNTINGTON

Do you want to talk to your dad at all?

MATT

Some closure would be nice.

EXT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE AND OUTSIDE/AFTERNOON AND INT. MATT'S ROOM

MATT says goodbye to DR. HUNTINGTON after the session, and walks out of the office. He puts on his ipod, and tries to drown out the world on the walk back home. He then looks at a picture that is on his nightstand that is of him and his parents when he was about seven years old. He then smiles and lays down in his bed. MATT sends a text to his friend CORY. It reads, "Hey bud I need to hangout tonight." He receives a text back that reads, "No problem dude your house or mine?"

INT. DORM ROOM

MATT and CORY are sitting in a room talking.

CORY

So just like that she just told you she doesn't want to date you.

MATT

Yeah it was a bit of shock.

CORY

Well what else did she say?

MATT

She said I am living in the past.

CORY

What does that even mean?

(CONTINUED)

MATT

I don't know man I am just trying to find the bright side.

CORY

That's right. Look at it this way, every relationship is a learning experience. If she didn't want to be with you. Than who cares?

MATT

I think I just need to figure things out.

MATT sits on the bed, listening to CORY.

INT. KITCHEN

DIANE is sitting at the table reading again. MATT then walks in.

MATT

I need to talk to Dad.

A beat.

DIANE

Do you really think he will make everything better?

MATT

I can only try.

DIANE gives MATT the phone. MATT then takes the phone and calls him in the kitchen. He reluctantly and slowly dials each number. MATT here's a voice that says "Hello!"

MATT (EXCITED)

DAD? Is that you? Oh I am so excited to hear your voice?

SAMUEL (RELUCTANT)

Hi, Matt.

MATT (EXCITED)

Oh I was wondering if you want to see me, maybe we can play some soccer just like old times?

SAMUEL

Uh, Matt I have to be honest.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

It could be just like old times.

MATT patiently waits for a response.

SAMUEL

Look Mattie, it's been so long. And I don't know if it could work. I am sorry, you are your mother's, and if you see me now it just would not be the same, and I feel like it would be better if you just stay with your mother.

The camera stays on Matt with the phone in his hand.

MATT runs out of the house and runs to the soccer field.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD

Matt sits on a bench looking at the field. He sighs and scratches his eyes. He looks over to a bush, and sees an old soccer ball almost completely covered. He picks up the ball, and starts playing. He dribbles all around the field, does his favorite moves, and he tries to make a smile. He sits back down on the bench. He kicks the ball right into the net. Matt smiles and looks up at the sun.