Crippled

Written by

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Pages: 2+

Characters:
Spencer, 25+
Tess, 25+

Synopsis:
Tess tries to get her boyfriend Spencer out from his depression as he recovers from a paralyzing accident.

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INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

SPENCER is sitting in his wheelchair. He has a bottle of alcohol next to him. There is a KNOCK at the door. He looks up but chooses to ignore it. The KNOCK persists.

TESS (O.S.)
Spencer, come on! Open the door.

Silence. Spencer just looks over towards the door. TESS continues to knock from outside.

TESS (O.S.)
Spencer, I know you are in there.
Please, just open the door.

Spencer looks over at the bottle.

SPENCER
Go away! I don’t want to see you.

We hear LOCKS being manipulated and the door opens. Tess walks inside. She looks down at Spencer.

SPENCER
I said go away! How the hell did you get in here?

Tess holds up a spare key.

TESS
You never changed your hiding place.
(beat)
Can we please talk?

Spencer wheels over towards the table where the bottle sits. He grabs for the bottle. Tess comes over and takes the bottle out of his hand.

SPENCER
What the fuck?

TESS
You don’t need that right now.

She puts the bottle further away from his reach.

SPENCER
You don’t know what I need. Now give it back!

(CONTINUED)
TESS
Spencer please. Can we at least talk about this?

SPENCER
There’s nothing to talk about.

Tess looks at him for a long moment.

TESS
What about us?

Spencer looks up at her. He hides his pain with a sharp tongue.

SPENCER
There is no us anymore.

This hits Tess like a ton of bricks. She moves over and sits down on the couch.

TESS
How can you say that? After all that we’ve been through.

Spencer see’s that he has hurt her. He calms just slightly.

SPENCER
Look Tess, you’re free. Now you can go off and find someone better.

Tess gives an icy stare towards Spencer.

TESS
I don’t want anyone better. I want you!

Spencer smacks his legs. He starts to lose it.

SPENCER
I can’t walk! Or have you forgotten? I’m a fucking cripple Tess! I...

She moves over towards him. She grabs his hands to prevent him from hitting himself again.

TESS
(interrupting)
I don’t care about that! I care about you. Don’t you get it?

Spencer’s frustration takes him over the edge.
SPENCER
Why!? Why Tess? What the fuck do I have to offer anymore?

She goes in to hug him and he pushes her away. She looks at him astonished.

SPENCER
Just leave Tess!

TESS
I don’t want to leave you! Please Spencer!

Spencer looks down, tears in his eyes.

SPENCER
I can’t Tess. I just can’t.

Tess stares at him while it sinks in. Spencer goes for the bottle. She gets up and walks towards the door. She looks back at him while he takes a swig.

TESS
What happened to the man I fell in love with?

He finishes his swig. He just stares at her.

TESS
I fell in love with him, not his legs.

She tosses the key on the ground and walks out the door. The pain in Spencer’s eyes grow as we...

FADE TO BLACK.