

The Two Sides of the Same Coin

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO - DAY

The studio is a large rectangular room. A large muslin canvas backdrop stands against the far wall. Studio lights with white umbrellas, soft boxes, and reflectors.

CHLOE KEIFER, early 20s, exotically beautiful, poses for the camera. She wears an avant garde dress. The PHOTOGRAPHER, male 30s, works to get the best shot.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Okay Chloe, good. I like that. Give me more pout. That's it.

Chloe puckers her lips.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

Nice. Oh, yeah... that's perfect. Hold it. Excellent! Give me more sm-eyes.

Chloe eyes grab the lens, she's working it. The photographer shoots photos rapid fire.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

Yeah, that's good. Just a little bit more--

The photographer happy with the shoot, stops.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

--and that's a wrap. Good job Chloe.

Chloe relaxes and smiles. A natural warmth and sweetness permeates.

CHLOE

Thanks.

Chloe begins to walk off the set, and towards the changing area. The PHOTOGRAPHER ASSISTANTS begin to pack up the set.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Chloe, can I talk to you for a minute.

Chloe stops and turns around. The assistant drops an umbrella reflector.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

(to assistant)

Damn it! Will you be careful with that!

Nervously, the assistant continues to pack up the set.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

(to Chloe)

Chloe, we need to talk about--

The photographer notices the assistant knocking over a stand, grabbing it in the nick of time.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

(to assistant)

What the fuck am I paying you for? To fuck up my shit?! I said, be careful!

Chloe's shaken by his outburst. The photographer looks her, shaking his head.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

What a bunch of fucking idiots. Anyway Chloe, I need a decision from you. Can we book you for the France gig, yes or no?

CHLOE

I need to talk to William first.

PHOTOGRAPHER

You've been trying to talk to William for over two weeks now, Chloe. Any other girl would jump at the chance to be on the cover of Vogue.

CHLOE

I know that.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Obviously, you do not. Either you want this, or you don't. I need your answer by Friday.

The photographer walks away. Chloe stands alone.

CUT TO:

EXT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

WILLIAM COWLEY, late 20s, looks at his devilishly handsome reflection in the shop's front window. He straightens his tie and smiles before entering the shop.

INT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

The shop abounds with multiple varieties of FLOWERS. William bends down to smell an ORCHID.

The FLOWER CLERK, naturally pretty, early 20s, arranging a bouquet of ROSES. She grins.

FLOWER CLERK

That orchid doesn't emit a fragrance. There are some varieties that do, but only when they are--

WILLIAM

--vying for attention. So they can use their scent to entice and reproduce. Am I correct?

FLOWER CLERK

Yes, that's right.  
(suddenly uncomfortable)  
Is there anything I can help you with?

With a Cheshire cat grin, William responds.

WILLIAM

I want something for my fiancée. Something simple, but fragrant. If you know what I mean.

The clerk stabs her finger on a ROSE THORN. A drop of CRIMSON RED. Immediately, she sucks her finger.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

FLOWER CLERK

I'm fine, thank you. Come this way.

The clerk walks briskly to a far corner of the room. William prowls closely behind.

FLOWER CLERK (CONT'D)

I think this may be what you are looking for.

The clerk gently touches a beautiful large white FLOWER.

FLOWER CLERK (CONT'D)

The Southern Magnolia. I think it is one of our prettiest flowers, with a lovely fragrance. It's both simple and pure.

WILLIAM

The flower, or you.

The flower clerk smiles, uncomfortably.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

I'll take it.

The Flower picks out a lovely blossom. William watches, pleased.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTAURANT PATIO - EVENING

Patio string lights twinkle amidst crawling vines on a stone wall. White table cloths adorn the tables, COUPLES sit and dine. Chloe sits alone, sipping WINE. She checks her wrist watch.

William, holding flowers behind his back, enters. Unbeknownst to Chloe, he sneaks up behind her, placing the MAGNOLIA on the table.

WILLIAM

Hi, gorgeous! Sorry I'm late.

William kisses Chloe's neck, taking a tender little bite. She GIGGLES.

CHLOE

You're so silly, and... It's so beautiful!

She smells the flower's intoxicating aroma.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Oh, my gosh. It smells heavenly. Thank you.

William motions for the WAITER. The waiter walks toward the table.

WILLIAM

A glass of white wine please, and another glass for the lady.

WAITER

Certainly, sir.

Chloe stares at the flower, her smile fades. William notices.

WILLIAM

Hey, why so glum? Are you okay?

CHLOE

I'm fine. It's just work, and with the wedding coming up I have a lot on my mind. You know what I mean.

WILLIAM

Not really. I thought you'd be happy to see me. I wasn't expecting this type of reaction.

CHLOE

I am happy to see you. It's just--

WILLIAM

You know you can always talk to me about whatever is bothering you.

CHLOE

I know that.

WILLIAM

Listen, if work is getting to be a bit too strenuous then stop.

CHLOE

I don't want to stop working. I love what I do.

WILLIAM

But you don't need to work. I can easily support you. I'd rather you focus all your energy on our wedding.

CHLOE

What about what I want? I don't want to be just another housewife.

WILLIAM

I always take what you want into , and what's so bad about taking care of me.

Chloe cannot believe he just said that.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

You're not having second thoughts about the wedding are you?

CHLOE

No, it's just. I've been asked to go to France, and--

WILLIAM

--and you want to postpone the wedding.

CHLOE

I know it's asking a lot, but it's Vogue. If I lose this opportunity I may never get another one.

WILLIAM

For God's sake! There will always be more opportunities. The wedding is only two weeks away. This is really selfish of you, Chloe.

Chloe's eyes fill with tears.

CHLOE

I'm not being selfish. Well, maybe I am but I've worked so hard. I just don't want to quit now. I'm only asking to postpone the wedding, not stop it.

WILLIAM

I can't believe this.

Chloe grabs his hand.

CHLOE

You know I love you.

The wheels turn in William's head. He twirls the ENGAGEMENT RING on Chloe's finger. He relents.

WILLIAM

I know you do and I know how much this job means to you. Come on, give me a little smile?

Chloe smiles, weakly.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

How does this sound. How about we flip for it?

Chloe stares at William in disbelief. She pulls her hand away.

CHLOE

Excuse me?

William removes a SILVER DOLLAR from his pants pocket.

WILLIAM

I'm very serious. How about we flip, and see what fate decides?

CHLOE

Are you insane? We can't decide our future by the toss of a coin.

William leans forward. He gazes at Chloe, intently.

WILLIAM  
(with firmness)  
Either we toss the coin, or the weddings  
off.

CHLOE  
You can't do that.

WILLIAM  
Try me.

A beat. The waiter brings the drinks. Chloe looks up  
at him.

CHLOE  
Thanks.

The waiter walks away. She takes a gulp of WINE.

WILLIAM  
Chloe, come on. I was only kidding.

CHLOE  
It's not funny.

William grabs Chloe's hand, and kisses it.

WILLIAM  
So? Heads you go to France, and we  
postpone the wedding. Tails you stay  
here, and we get married as planned.  
Either way, you win.

CHLOE  
Fine, just do it.

William balances the coin on his hand.

WILLIAM  
Okay, are you ready?

Chloe nods. William tosses the coin in the air. The  
coin flips over, and over. Their eyes lock on the coin  
as it spirals upward.

FULL SHOT COIN - CONTINUOUS

The coin flips upward in the air in slow motion. It  
rotates and stops on a framed WEDDING PHOTOGRAPH of a  
happy Chloe and William.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING (DAY DREAM)

The modern kitchen is open-concept to the dining room. The table's set with the finest CRYSTAL GOBLETS, CHINA PLATES, and SILVERWARE. CANDLES are lit.

Romantic MUSIC plays. A WALL CLOCK CHIMES seven times. Chloe, wearing a backless evening dress, sways to the music. She dips a spoon into a steaming pot, and tastes the sauce.

CHLOE

Maybe a touch more salt.

She sprinkles SALT into the pot, while stirring. William enters from the back door. He conceals in his coat pocket a GIFT BOX.

WILLIAM

Hi, beautiful.

CHLOE

Hi...

William walks toward her, and embraces her with a passionate kiss.

WILLIAM

Oh... I have a little something else.

William removes the gift box from his coat pocket. Chloe rips the package open.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Happy Anniversary.

She stares at the heart-shaped TIFFANY PENDANT NECKLACE.

CHLOE

William, it's...

Chloe hugs William, tightly.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

It's magnificent, thank you.

She kisses him, tenderly. He looks into her eyes.

WILLIAM

I love you, Chloe.

CHLOE

I love you, too.

The sauce BOILS OVER.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Oh, darn it!

Chloe dashes over, removing the pot. William follows one-step behind.

WILLIAM

So, how was your day?

William turns off the burner.

CHLOE

Great! And, how was yours?

William grabs Chloe from behind, and presses her against the kitchen counter. He wants her, badly.

WILLIAM

Okay... Hmm, well why do you ask?

CHLOE

Just wondering.

Chloe SIGHS in delight. She wants him, too.

WILLIAM

Do you need any help?

William turns her around and lifts her on the kitchen counter, and kisses her deeply.

CHLOE

No, I'm okay.

WILLIAM

How about some wine?

Chloe and William are in the heat of passion.

CHLOE

I thought you'd never ask.

William grabs the wine bottle, and slowly pours the white wine trickling down between Chloe's breasts.

WILLIAM

Well, if you'd rather I not.

CHLOE

Like I said, it's up to you.

He licks and bites her neck as she MOANS. He hoists up her dress and...

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT COIN - CONTINUOUS

The coin reaches its peak in the air. In slow motion it falls downward. It rotates and stops on a framed WEDDING PHOTOGRAPH of Chloe and William in black and white, forcing smiles.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING (DAY DREAM)

It's dark except for the glow of the kitchen stove night light. The clock on the stove reads "10:18 p.m."

Chloe, wrapped in a bathrobe, enters the kitchen. She turns off the oven, opens the oven door, and removes a PLATE wrapped in TIN FOIL.

William enters the back kitchen door. His clothes are in disarray, he stumbles on the doorstep. He holds a brown PAPER BAG.

WILLIAM

What the fuck are you looking at?

William walks into the kitchen and places the brown bag on the counter. Chloe turns. Her face is pale, her beauty faded. We see her blackened eye.

CHLOE

Nothing, I'm just....did you eat?

WILLIAM

Does it look like I've been fucking eating?

Chloe places the food on the counter. William opens a drawer, grabs a fork, and shovels the food into his mouth.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

So, how was your fucking day?

CHLOE

Uhm... Great. And, how was yours?

William stops eating and looks her.

WILLIAM

Why the fuck do you ask?

CHLOE

I'm just wondering.

WILLIAM

Just wondering? Who asked you to think?

William hurls the plate against the floor. Chloe cowers. She bends down onto her knees and picks up the pieces of broken plate and food.

CHLOE

Please, don't.

WILLIAM

Please don't what?

William grabs her by the hair and lifts her face.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

You need some fucking help? Do you?

William kicks the plate and food out of her hands. Chloe backs into the corner.

CHLOE

No, I'm okay.

WILLIAM

Well then, maybe how's about a little bit of wine. How does that sound, sweetheart?

CHLOE

It's up to you.

William yanks her hair and lifts Chloe onto her feet.

WILLIAM

Well, if you'd rather not.

CHLOE

Like I said, it's up to you.

William removes the VODKA BOTTLE from brown bag and pours it over Chloe's head and body.

WILLIAM

Yeah, exactly it's fucking up to me.

William throws the empty bottle against the wall. The glass SHATTERS.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

You're fucking pathetic, you know that.

William exits the kitchen door. Chloe curls into a ball.

DISSOLVE TO:

FULL SHOT COIN - CONTINUOUS

The coin flips in the air, spiraling down. It is clasped by...

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

William catches the coin and holds it clenched in his hand. Chloe stares at his fist, apprehensively.

WILLIAM

So, should we look?

Chloe pauses. Gently, she touches the magnolia flower.

CHLOE

No.

WILLIAM

What do you mean, no?

CHLOE

I don't need a coin to make my decision.

WILLIAM

You sure? I don't want to force you, or anyone, to marry me.

CHLOE

William, I have to decide what's more important to me, right now. There's always two sides to every coin.

WILLIAM

And, so what's your decision?

CHLOE

There will be another opportunity. I love you, and my future's with you.

WILLIAM

I love you, Chloe.

The young couple kiss, and embrace.

Behind Chloe's back, William looks at the coin clasped in his hand. He twirls the coin in his fingers, revealing a DOUBLE HEADED COIN.

William's eyes gleam, a delusive smile courses across his face.

FADE OUT:

THE END