

Hypothetical

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. BEN'S ALLEY - NIGHT

BEN, mid 20s and average, sits up against the alley wall. He clutches his side with one hand and talks on his CELL with the other.

BEN

(into phone)

Well...there would be something I'd want to do. Something, like, undoing something I did before which might not have been the right something because I was making too much something out of nothing.

Ben raises his hand to inspect it. It's covered in BLOOD.

CLAIRE'S VOICE

(from phone)

Wow. I think you're a little dopey from blood loss.

BEN

(into phone)

Ha ha...Okay, let me try this a different way. Hypothetical -- you were the one mugged and bleeding to death in an alley from a knife wound. Who would you call first?

EXT. CLAIRE'S ALLEY - NIGHT

CLAIRE, mid 20s and attractive with a carefree demeanor, talks on her CELL. She sits up against the wall, clutching her side and BLEEDING to death from a KNIFE WOUND to the gut.

CLAIRE

(into phone)

Very original. You, obviously. And I'd ask what you'd do if you were bleeding to death.

BEN'S VOICE

(from phone)

Why obviously?

(CONTINUED)

CLAIRE  
(changing the subject - into  
phone)  
Don't you think dying in an alley  
is pretty cliché?

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. BEN'S ALLEY - NIGHT

BEN  
(into phone)  
Hey, you brought it up.

CLAIRE  
(into phone)  
Let's hypothetically die on the  
beach. The one where we met.

EXT. IMAGINED BEACH - DAY

Ben and Claire appear on the beach, side by side on beach  
towels, leisurely relaxing while they both BLEED to death  
from STAB WOUNDS to the gut. They're both bloodier than  
before.

BEN  
Ah yes, Santa Monica.

CLAIRE  
Marina del Rey.

BEN  
That's what I said. You know, this  
is the exact sort of thing I'd want  
to do if I only had a few moments  
to live.

CLAIRE  
To drain out on a beach?

BEN  
Exactly. No, dummy, to talk to a  
really close friend who would  
distract me from what was  
happening.

Claire laughs.

(CONTINUED)

BEN (CONT'D)

What?

CLAIRE

It's just funny how much we think alike. Now, what were you saying before about the something in the something with the something?

BEN

Nothing.

CLAIRE

C'mon. If you need some privacy for your brain to start working, I could go die by the hot dog stand.

BEN

I'm an idiot and shouldn't have broken up with you. And those hot dogs are terrible.

CLAIRE

Okay...I'll agree with at least a part of that.

BEN

And if I was dying I'd want you to know how I felt and that I wish we could have gotten back together. Wouldn't you?

CLAIRE

Well...no...

BEN

Hmm. Desperate times. Hypothetical candle light dinner with romantic music.

INT. BEN' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben and Claire sit on opposite sides of a candle light dinner table. ROMANTIC MUSIC plays in the background. Claire and Ben clothes are soaked in BLOOD.

CLAIRE

(tired)

Oh...so not fair...

(CONTINUED)

BEN

Claire--

CLAIRE

(tired/slurred)

No, Ben, I wouldn't tell you how I felt if I was dying because that would be cruel. Think about it, confessing your feelings and then...taking it all away.

BEN

Claire, fading away and leaving behind no regrets. That's important enough to be a little selfish about.

CLAIRE

I guess...

BEN

Claire?

Ben puts his bloody hand over Claire's.

CLAIRE

(slurred)

Yes...I'd tell you I still had feelings for you too.

BEN

You sound tired. Are you about done with hypotheticals?

CLAIRE

Yeah.

INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ben is on his bed, talking on his CELL.

BEN

(into phone)

Tell you what, the night is young. How about you come over and I cook you dinner...Did you say something? I'm having a hard time hearing you over the sirens.

EXT. CLAIRE'S ALLEY - NIGHT

Claire sits, once again, with her back to the alley wall, clutching her BLOODY side. She talks into her CELL. SIRENS approach.

CLAIRE  
(into phone)  
I'm going to have to call you  
back. My ride is here.

Claire hangs up. Her head slumps forward and she sits motionless. PARAMEDIC 1 and PARAMEDIC 2 rush into the alley and stop when they see Claire.

Claire raises her head.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
Can we hurry this up? I've got a  
date.

FADE OUT.