

'TIL DEATH DO US PART

by  
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FADE IN:

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

A fancy restaurant with low lighting and soft piano music playing. KRISTEN, 35, in a nice dress, finishes the rest of a glass of wine. She goes for more, but the bottle is empty. She looks at her watch, waiting. A WAITER appears.

WAITER

Would you like to order another bottle?

KRISTEN

Yeah, why not. It looks like another--

Kristen spots someone entering the restaurant. It's MICHAEL, 35, frazzled. He finishes putting on a tie as he walks through the door. He spots her and makes a beeline to the table.

MICHAEL

I am so sorry! Surgery ran late. We were working on this quadruple bypass operation, and the guy kept dying on the table and we had to stop each time to bring him back.

He takes a seat. The waiter slinks away.

MICHAEL

So how are you?

She stares daggers at him.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry, okay? I said it. What more do you want from me?

Michael reaches across the table to her. She reaches too and they hold each others' hand. She smiles.

KRISTEN

Just call next time, okay?

Michael pager goes off. He lets go of her to check it. Her smile disappears.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry, I have to go take this.

Michael gets up and leaves. The waiter returns with another bottle of wine. She eyes him seductively.

KRISTEN  
Your timing is impeccable.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

The bottle is almost empty again. Michael returns.

KRISTEN  
What was that now?

MICHAEL  
That guy again. Won't stay alive. His  
heart keeps giving out.

KRISTEN  
So, Michael, are we going to have dinner  
or not?

MICHAEL  
Calm down. I have a surprise for you.

He reaches into his jacket and pulls out a jewelry case.  
He opens it, displaying a diamond bracelet.

MICHAEL  
For ten wonderful years.

Kristen gives him a look of disgust.

KRISTEN  
Yeah. I'll say.

She gathers her things and heads to the exit. Michael  
follows.

MICHAEL  
Where are you going? Kristen!

WAITER  
The check!

Neither hears the waiter. Michael follows the wobbly  
Kristen out the door.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Michael continues after Kristen out into the parking lot.

KRISTEN  
I've had enough of this, Michael, no more  
will--

THUMP! A car pulling in front of the restaurant smacks into Kristen, sending her careening across the pavement. Michael rushes over to her.

MICHAEL

Oh my god!

She's bleeding everywhere. A crowd starts to gather around Kristen and Michael.

MICHAEL

What were you doing?  
(To onlookers)  
Someone call an ambulance!

A man from the crowd runs into the restaurant. Michael goes back to her as she grows more and more pale.

KRISTEN (O.S.)

Now look what you've done!

Michael turns around to see Kristen's disembodied spirit.

MICHAEL

Oh, God, babe, I'm sorry!

KRISTEN

You're sorry? I'm bleeding all over the pavement and all you have to say is you're sorry?

MICHAEL

There's an ambulance coming! You're going to be alright!

KRISTEN

You just don't get it, do you?

The GRIM REAPER arrives.

REAPER

What do we have here?

MICHAEL

Oh no, you get out of here. She's not dead yet!

REAPER

Sorry, no can do.  
(to Kristen)  
Hello m'am.

The Reaper tilts his head to her. Kristen starts to cry.

REAPER

There, there, come here.

He embraces Kristen with one arm and she starts crying into his cloak. Michael is pissed.

REAPER

It'll all be okay.

Kristen looks up at the Reaper. His cloak is soggy with tears.

KRISTEN

I'm sorry about--

REAPER

Shhhh. Thank goodness for dry cleaning.  
Here, hold on a sec.

He lets go of her, pulls out a bouquet of wilted roses, and offers it to her.

REAPER

They looked better earlier.

MICHAEL

I don't believe this.

Kristen takes them, wiping the tears from her eyes. Michael is bewildered.

KRISTEN

No, they're wonderful.

MICHAEL

Oh really? Watch this!

Michael starts to walk towards the street. Kristen and the Reaper watch. He pauses like he's waiting to cross. A car comes zooming down the street. Michael pauses for a moment and then throws himself in front of it.

The Reaper's pager goes off. He silences it immediately.

KRISTEN

What's that?

REAPER

That's him, committing suicide.

Michael's spirit comes over to Kristen and the Reaper.

MICHAEL  
How do you like that?

KRISTEN  
How do I like what?

An ambulance pulls into the parking lot.

REAPER  
You are a sad little man, you know that?  
(to Kristen)  
Let's get out of here.

The paramedics rush over to Kristen's body. One of them takes her pulse, then shakes his head. Kristen starts to cry again and the Reaper leads her away as they put her into a body bag.

MICHAEL  
Hey! Wait! I killed myself for you!  
That's supposed to be romantic!

Michael follows them to the ambulance. The Reaper helps Kristen up. Michael tries to follow.

REAPER  
You better wait for the next one.

The Reaper climbs aboard with Kristen and her body. The paramedic closes the doors and it speeds away. Michael stomps the ground in frustration.

Another siren is heard in the distance, coming closer.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Michael rides in the ambulance with his body, also in a body bag, and a beautiful FEMALE PARAMEDIC. The Grim Reaper pops in.

REAPER  
Hey there buddy.

MICHAEL  
I'm not your buddy.

REAPER  
Oh, come now, don't act like that. We had quite a little battle going today.

MICHAEL

Which you lost, and you're going to lose this one too.

REAPER

We'll see about that. But regardless, I'm sorry about the whole thing. I really just can't help it.

Michael doesn't say anything. The Reaper glances over at the paramedic.

REAPER

She's a looker.

MICHAEL

Excuse me?

The Reaper tries to motion nonchalantly, even though the paramedic can't see them.

REAPER

I'd like to play doctor with her, if you catch my meaning. But I guess you know all about that.

MICHAEL

I thought...

REAPER

Oh no man, I have ladies-in-waiting all over the place. It's one of the perks of the job. I travel an awful lot. I'm global. Battlefields and hospitals are my two biggest markets. Speaking of which--

The Reaper disappears as the ambulance arrives at the hospital. Michael climbs out and catches a glimpse of Kristen being wheeled inside.

INT. HOSPITAL RECEPTION AREA - NIGHT

Michael rushes in. He follows the paramedics down the hall, carrying Kristen to the morgue. He starts sprinting down the hall. The Reaper trips him with his scythe and Michael goes flying.

He picks himself up and dusts himself off, then is nearly run over by the gurney carrying his body. Undaunted, he marches over to Kristen and her new beau.

MICHAEL

Can we please talk about this?

Kristen begins to tear up as she watches her body being taken away.

REAPER

That's enough! Leave the poor woman alone!

MICHAEL

But--

REAPER

But nothing! Hasn't she gone through enough? It's over. Time's up.

The Reaper cradles her head and pats her back as she starts all-out sobbing, wiping her face on his cloak. Michael, embarrassed and defeated, walks away.

He turns around to watch both his and Kristen's bodies wheeled into the Morgue. Kristen and the Reaper go in right behind.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Michael walks down the nearly empty corridor. An orderly pushes a gurney with a dead body past him.

MICHAEL

(To the body)

It's not all it's cracked up to be!

He continues his saunter down the hall.

INT. WAITING AREA - NIGHT

Michael comes to the quiet waiting area. Some people mill about, some are sleeping. A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN, sitting by herself, catches his attention.

Moments later, a MIDDLE-AGED MAN comes in and takes the seat next to her, handing her a cup of coffee. She sets the coffee aside without taking a sip. He puts his arm around her and she snuggles up next to him.

Michael watches the happy couple and smiles for a moment before he is gripped by inspiration.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Michael finds the morgue. He looks inside and sees the Reaper in there with Kristen and her body. He runs down the corridor to the stairs.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - NIGHT

Michael pulls the curtains away to reveal a patient, hooked up to numerous machines.

MICHAEL

I know I said that everything would be fine, so I'm sorry about this.

He unhooks the machines keeping the man alive. He immediately begins to flatline.

INT. MORGUE - NIGHT

Kristen and the Reaper sit on a small bench. The Reaper has his arm around her. His pager goes off. He leans down to check it.

KRISTEN

Do you have to go?

REAPER

No, it can wait. It's a hospital. People are dying all the time here.

KRISTEN

Really, you can go if you have to.

REAPER

I don't. I want to stay here.

She smiles wide and snuggles up next to him.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Michael watches this exchange through the window. The Reaper turns to look at Michael in the window, then makes an obscene gesture with his scythe. Kristen is oblivious.

MICHAEL

Dammit!

The female paramedic from the ambulance walks behind Michael. He catches a glimpse of her out of the corner of his eye. He turns and follows her towards the stairs.

INT. STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Michael enters the stairwell right behind her. He hesitates for only a moment.

MICHAEL

I know I swore I'd do no harm, but...

Michael pushes the paramedic down the stairs. She goes flying down and hits the bottom, remaining motionless.

INT. MORGUE - NIGHT

The Reaper is still holding Kristen. The Reaper's pager goes off, he does a double take when looking at it.

REAPER

Sorry babe, I have to take this one.

Kristen's expression grows to one of disappointment.

KRISTEN

But you said--

REAPER

I know, I know. Just bear with me.

KRISTEN

Okay. Just hurry back.

REAPER

You know I will.

The Reaper exits, but seconds later the door opens again.

KRISTEN

That was fast--

Kristen turns around to see Michael, not the Reaper.

KRISTEN

What do you want?

MICHAEL

I just came to say sorry. For everything.

KRISTEN

Well now you have, so you can leave.

Michael removes the pager from his belt.

KRISTEN

I don't want--

He drops the pager to the floor and smashes it under his shoe. Kristen jumps and Michael rushes over to her, kissing her. At first she struggles against it, then gives in and kisses him back. She smiles back at him.

The Reaper enters, not noticing what's going on. He looks up and is shocked.

REAPER

Now what the hell is this?

Kristen breaks the embrace to apologize. Michael holds onto her hand.

KRISTEN

Oh, Grim. I don't think things are going to work out with us. We can still be friends, if you want.

REAPER

No. You don't do that to me. I'm the one who breaks up with you!

The Reaper taps his scythe on the ground three times, and both Michael and Kristen's spirits disappear.

REAPER

Dead people...

The Reaper snaps his fingers and disappears.

INT. MORGUE - DAY

The morgue is quiet save for the drip of water from a faucet, then a RHYTHMIC BANGING starts. It's coming from one of the compartments where the bodies are stored.

It grows louder and louder until the compartment door flies open. Michael climbs out of it, clad in only a sheet. A muffled SCREAM emanates from another compartment. Michael makes his way over to it, opens it, and pulls the drawer out. Kristen is inside, also clad in a sheet. They look at each other and kiss.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

Outside the morgue, a nurse passes by with the paramedic's body on a gurney. She takes it into the morgue. A SCREAM is heard. After her, the Grim Reaper walks down the corridor, the attractive paramedic's spirit hanging off his arm and laughing.

FADE OUT.

THE END.