

Hope Stuck

By

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Similar to "The Twilight Zone", in this story we see the true power that women can hold over a man's life, and not even realize it.

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FADE IN

INT.- APARTMENT- LIVING ROOM

BEN, male, twenties, average football lover; sits on the couch wearing PJs, and is watching pregame stuff for football.

AMBER, female, twenties, Ben's girlfriend; comes into the room dressed nice to go out.

AMBER

Ben, what are you doing?

He looks up at her.

BEN

Waiting to watch football.

AMBER

I thought we were actually going to get out today.

BEN

But, babe, it's Sunday.

He points to the TV.

BEN

Football day.

She sits next to him.

AMBER

I'm tired of being a homebody. Can we at least go somewhere that has football on?

BEN

Why? We got everything we need here.

She looks at the window.

AMBER

It's a beautiful day, let's soak up the sun.

BEN

I can open the window if you want.

(CONTINUED)

AMBER

Please, this is driving me crazy!
Can we please just go somewhere
outside of this apartment?

BEN

Go if you're that upset. I just
want to chill here.

She stands up.

AMBER

Fine! I hope and wish you get stuck
in this place without being able to
leave! Then, maybe, you would know
just how it feels!

She storms out.

BEN

Hey, you know I take that shit
seriously!

He runs to the door.

BEN

Amber! I know you didn't mean that!
Come back and let's work this out!
Amber!

He shuts the door.

He sits back on the couch.

He fidgets out of guilt.

He groans, then walks to the bedroom.

INT.- APARTMENT- LIVING ROOM

Ben walks out of the bathroom, and he is fully dressed.

He goes to the coffee table, picks up his keys, and his
phone.

He calls Amber.

The phone rings.

He walks to the door and opens it.

Ring.

(CONTINUED)

He goes outside and shuts the door.

Her voice mail message comes on.

AMBER (V.O.)

Hey, it's Amber, leave me a sweet message.

Beep.

He leans his forehead against the door.

BEN

Hey, babe, I'm sorry. I'm walking out the door right now. Call me back and let me know where to meet you. Love you.

He hangs up, and sighs.

He puts his phone away.

He goes to lock the door, but is confused with the knob.

He looks at the door up and down, then looks around.

He's still inside.

BEN

Didn't I...?

He opens the door, and sees the outside.

He steps out while turning to close the door with him, and it happens again.

He opens the door, and slowly steps out, but it's right back inside.

BEN

Holy shit! She did it.

He jumps back and forth through the door.

He readies himself, focused on the outside, and dives through the entrance.

He tries the porch.

He tries the window.

He tries anything and everything, but always ends up back inside.

(CONTINUED)

He sits on the couch exhausted and confused.

He picks up the phone and calls Amber.

She picks up.

AMBER (V.O.)

Hey.

BEN

Hey, why didn't you call me back?

AMBER (V.O.)

I figured you just said that because you felt guilty. I ignored you to give you what you really want.

BEN

No, I was really leaving, but I can't now.

AMBER (V.O.)

Why because the game is on?

BEN

Because I can't! Your hopes came true.

She hangs up.

He groans.

He calls back.

She picks up.

BEN

I'm not making shit up. I literally can't leave. Come help me.

AMBER (V.O.)

This isn't the 'Twilight Zone', Ben.

BEN

I know, but I guess the universe is your genie, and grants your every over-emotional wish. Please help me, and I swear I will drop football and go out wherever, whenever you want.

AMBER (V.O.)

I'm not over emotional. Don't be mean.

He sighs.

BEN

Baby, please? I really want to go out with you, but I need you.

She moans.

AMBER (V.O.)

Okay, but the return better be good.

BEN

Promise it will. Thank you, baby.

She hangs up.

He sighs and puts the phone down.

He sits back and watches football.

INT.- APARTMENT- LIVING ROOM

HOURS LATER

Ben is nearly passing out watching football.

There's a knock at the door.

He wakes up and opens the door.

Amber stands on the other side.

BEN

What took you so long?

AMBER

Well, I had just gotten to the bar when you called, and I had to have a drink. Then, Jenny showed up, we talked, and I forgot. But I rushed here as soon as I remembered.

BEN

Well, thanks for the rush. Come in.

AMBER
What if it's contagious?

BEN
You cursed me. It's not a cold.

She reaches in and grabs his arm.

AMBER
Come out here first.

He steps out, but comes right back in, and she stays out.

AMBER
Holy crap!

BEN
I know.

AMBER
How did I do that?

BEN
I don't know...

He pulls her in.

She screams.

She slaps his arm.

AMBER
Why would you do that?

BEN
Sorry, now try to go back out.

She's a little worried.

She steps out, and she's outside.

She jumps for joy.

AMBER
Yay, it's just you!

BEN
Thanks. Now, let's figure this out.

She comes inside.

She pushes him out, but he comes right back in facing her.

AMBER

Damn.

BEN

Babe, I think it's simple. You wished for this, so now un-wish it.

AMBER

Oh, okay...But you learned your lesson, right?

He gives her a stern look.

BEN

I did. Thank you for showing me the error of my ways.

She smiles.

AMBER

You're welcome. I wish...

BEN

Wait, in order for this to truly work, I have to hold you in my arms, you have to look me lovingly in the eyes, and you say, "I hope and wish you would go out with me you stunningly handsome man. Then, seal it with a kiss.

She laughs.

She jumps into his arms.

She puts her hands on his face, and looks him in the eyes with a smile.

AMBER

I wish you would go out with me...you stunningly handsome man.

They kiss.

They smile.

He puts her down.

BEN

Thank you.

He goes to the door and opens it.

He takes a deep breath.

(CONTINUED)

He steps outside.

He is outside and he jumps for joy.

BEN
Woohoo! And I'm stunningly
handsome! Come on, babe let's go.

AMBER
But I'm tired.

BEN
Amber, let's go.

AMBER
Okay, but I have to pee first.

BEN
Hurry up, I'll wait out here.

She turns to the bathroom and catches a glimpse of the TV.

AMBER
Hey, the Cowboys are winning. Don't
you want to...

BEN
I'll be out in the car.

He walks away.

She smirks and turns off the TV.

FADE OUT