

A NOTICEABLE BOND

Written by

Pavle Petrovic

Nikole Doksata 63/2,  
11160 Belgrade,  
Serbia  
+381652741755  
Pavlepetrovicnew@gmail.com

OVER BLACK:

FLY BUZZING sounds are LOUDLY heard for a few moments.

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is a MESS. A DESK with storage shelves, STAINED from COFFEE SPILLS, KETCHUP DRIPS and BREAD CRUMBS, overflowing with CANDY WRAPPERS. Old, WORN-OFF computer CHAIR. A single BED with STAINED bedcover, one PILLOW and no blanket.

A DIGITAL CLOCK with RED NUMBERS is on the desk shelves.

The floor is filled with GARBAGE: COCA-COLA BOTTLES, FAST FOOD PACKAGING, WORN SOCKS, PLASTIC BAGS from pharmacies and stores, and similar.

The bedroom WINDOW is WIDELY OPEN from where many different OUTDOOR AMBIENT sounds are heard: CARS, SILENT CONVERSATIONS, and BATS SCREECHING.

MARIAN, a 26 year-old, skinny, short-haired but still handsome Caucasian male, sleeps on his bed. Turned on his left side, SHAKES while MUMBLING.

He suddenly wakes up SCREAMING. All SWEATY, BREATHES deeply.

Looks at the clock. Reads: 00:53AM

He SIGHS.

Gets out of bed, turns the lights ON. Opens the bedroom door and goes to the kitchen.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

CUSTOM-MADE REDDISH kitchen with BUILT-IN appliances. Also quite FILTHY, with many different types of STAINS, DUST and empty WRAPPERS / PACKAGES of all sorts all around.

Marian HURDLES through the thick, SMELLY GARBAGE PILE on the hallway floor, similar to the one in his room just much more DIVERSE, BIGGER and THICKER.

He enters the kitchen. Doesn't turn on the lights. It emanates only from the hallway.

He opens the bottom draw below the kitchen countertop, somewhere in the middle of the right side of the kitchen.

Searches with his left hand only, without looking. Finds, grabs and takes out a TABLET BLISTER PACK.

EXAMINES it. It's empty.

Wipes the SWEAT from his forehead.

MARIAN  
(sotto)  
Damn.

THROWS it against the countertop and starts going to his room.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sits on his bed, reads his partly COFFEE-STAINED MEDICAL STATEMENT found on the floor.

INSERT - MEDICAL STATEMENT, WHOLE DOCUMENT

Diagnosis: Anxiety and Depression

Needs more social interactions and will in solving his emotional problems. State slightly worsening. Therapy given.

Therapy: Lyrica 150mg, 75mg, 0 ; Xanax 0.25mg

BACK TO SCENE

MARIAN  
(sotto)  
I need to get my medication.  
(thinking)  
Now. I can't wait any longer.

Stands up and heads to the hallway.

INT. APARTMENT - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

A MIRROR is in the middle of the hallway. A SHOE DRAWER is below it. There's a small COAT RACK next to the mirror with a BLACK JACKET hooked on it.

Marian takes his SNEAKERS out and sits on the DRAWER. Puts them on WITHOUT having SOCKS on. IMPULSIVELY DOESN'T tie his LASES.

Takes the jacket from the rack and goes towards the apartment door. HURDLES a bit through the garbage again.

He goes out. Closes the door behind him. Doesn't lock the door.

After a moment, RUSHES back in. Goes to the living room.

Comes back, carries his WALLET in his right hand.

MARIAN

(sotto)

Every time!

Goes out again. Again doesn't lock the door.

INT. PHARMACY - NIGHT

It's a USUAL interior set-up of a pharmacy shop. A COUNTERTOP with MEDICINE BOXES on SHELVES behind GLASS PROTECTION SHIELDS.

Marian enters. The SHOPKEEPER'S BELL rings.

ANNE, 25 year-old blonde with brown striped hair, skinny but handsome also, leans BACKWARDS from the BACKROOM and SEES Marian, SHAKING. She SMILES.

ANNE

(slightly louder)

Be there in a minute.

MARIAN

Ok.

A few moments pass, Marian COUGHS.

ANNE (O.C.)

(slightly louder)

Coming.

MARIAN

(slightly louder, shaky)

It's ok, I can wait.

ANNE (O.C.)

(silently)

Right.

MARIAN

(confused)

What?

Anne starts moving towards the counter.

ANNE

Here I am.  
 (smiles)  
 What can I do for you?

MARIAN

(giving the statement)  
 I need my therapy.  
 (pointing with his left  
 index finger, shaky  
 hands)  
 It's written here.

Anne takes the statement. She reads it.

ANNE

(confused)  
 How old are you?

MARIAN

(upset, slightly  
 embarrassed)  
 I'm 26. But had a difficult life.  
 (brief pause)  
 You know, a lot of problems, work,  
 friends--  
 (brief pause)  
 Been prescribed those to better  
 function throughout the day.

Anne NODS while listening to him.

MARIAN (CONT'D)

But I haven't been taking them for  
 a few days now. I'm trying to stop  
 on my own.

Anne gets a bit NERVOUS. Grabs her face.

ANNE

You can't just stop with your  
 medication. There's a reason your  
 doctor prescribed you these and  
 she'll tell you when you need to  
 stop. And how.

MARIAN

I know. But I somehow felt I'm  
 strong enough without them.

ANNE

(intrigued)  
 Wait, why do you need them anyway?  
 (MORE)

ANNE (CONT'D)

(brief pause)

What happened?

MARIAN

Lost both of my parents in a car crash 12 months ago. Don't have a lot of friends right now.

(pause)

Been living alone, hobbies--

ANNE

(interrupting him)

Ok, ok. First, you need to socialize more. Go out. Be with your friends.

(intrigued)

Is there a special someone in your life right now?

MARIAN

No, I actually have an issue connecting with girls. Usually it ends up with a no. I also work a lot. 40 hours a week. Can't really find the time for it.

ANNE

(smiling)

Really?

(flirting)

Well, you're connecting with me quite well now.

Marian starts SWEATING.

ANNE (CONT'D)

And I might be interested in connecting for a drink or two. I have plenty of time for it.

(brief pause)

I work 50 hours a week.

Marian gets STUNNED. A mid-aged MAN enters the store. Anne searches for Marian's therapy.

She places all 3 boxes on the counter. Writes the daily dosages, and then writes her PHONE NUMBER on one of the boxes.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Here you go.

(looking at the side)

4.50.

He takes his wallet out. Gives her 5.

MARIAN  
Keep the change.

ANNE  
(happy)  
Thank you.  
(making a hand rotation  
gesture)  
Don't forget to read the  
prescription.

Marian looks. Sees her number. Gets SURPRISED and LIFTED.

MARIAN  
(moving backwards,  
smiling)  
Oh, wow. I see it. Thanks.

Anne shows with her hand to go.

MARIAN (CONT'D)  
What's your name?

ANNE  
Anne.

MARIAN  
(smiling)  
I'm Marian.

HITS the door with his back and HEAD.

MARIAN (CONT'D)  
(glancing the door)  
Ouch.  
(pause, louder to Anne)  
I'll call you.

ANNE  
Don't forget.

Marian NODS while smiling. He goes out.

Anne continues working, more POSITIVE and HAPPIER.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING

Marian is sleeping on his BACK. His phone's alarm starts RINGING, located on his desk. He doesn't move, then rolls on the SIDE and COVERS his EAR with his ARM.

Ringling ends after 1 minute.

RINGS again. He covers his head with his PILLOW. After 1 minute, the ringing stops again. Marian continues to sleep.

The ringing starts again for 1 minute. Marian opens his eyes. He gets up and stops the alarm.

He's all DROWSY, like after a HANGOVER.

MARIAN

Where am I?

Unintentionally places his hand on the Lyrica 150mg BOX on his desk.

MARIAN (CONT'D)

Oh, the medication.

He goes towards the kitchen. His FAUCET can be heard. He comes back to his room with a half-empty GLASS OF WATER.

Pulls his chair out and opens his laptop. Looks at the clock, says: 10:35AM

MARIAN (CONT'D)

Work--

(pause)

Damn.

Windows starts. Messages come in from SKYPE. It's his boss, MARK.

INSERT - SKYPE CONVERSATION WITH MARK

08:00AM: Mark: Marian, you awake?

08:05AM: Mark: Again?!

08:08AM: Mark: We have an important client, we can't bare this now.

08:10AM: Mark: Be here in 30 mins, please.

09:00AM: Mark: Marian?!

BACK TO SCENE

Marian starts typing.



INSERT - SKYPE CONVERSATION WITH MARK

10:41AM: Marian: Here now. Sorry about the delay, had a sleep-over.

10:42AM: Mark: Really? Which morning in a row, Marian? 3rd?

10:43AM: Marian: I had an issue. I'll try and make it on time tomorrow.

10:44AM: Mark: You have an issue. I can see that. But it's affecting your work performance. You need to fix it asap, your work and stability are affected.

10:45AM: Marian: I know, I'll fix it this week. Last chance.

10:47AM: Mark: Our client's website still needs work. Get to it until your shift ends.

10:47AM: Marian: Got it. Thanks.

10:48AM: Mark: Sticker (Thumbs up)

BACK TO SCENE

Marian PUMPS-UP the PACE and starts working FAST.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

The clock reads: 3:55PM

MARIAN  
(tiredly)  
Nearly done.

He looks at the Lyrica 75mg box. He takes a blister and one PILL out.

He takes the glass of water and prepares to drink it. He stops.

Looks at his phone. Puts the pill and glass on the table.

Opens his phone, and opens VIBER. Sees Anne's online. Starts thinking.

A messages comes in from SKYPE. It's his friend, RONNY.

INSERT - SKYPE CONVERSATION WITH RONNY

3:57PM: Ronny: Dude, you're nearly done. Up for some MMO action?

BACK TO SCENE

Marian types with huge WEIGHT and RESISTANCE.

INSERT - SKYPE CONVERSATION WITH RONNY

3:58PM: Marian: Actually, no. I have something planned.

3:58PM: Ronny: You serious?! Remember the lewt we'll get from our raid. Your last piece is waiting for you. Don't miss out!

BACK TO SCENE

Marian makes a brief pause. Again, with huge RESISTANCE.

INSERT - SKYPE CONVERSATION WITH RONNY

3:59PM: Marian: Sorry.

BACK TO SCENE

Clock reads: 4:00PM

He closes his laptop.

Opens Viber on his phone.

INSERT - ANNE'S VIBER CONTACT PROFILE

Anne's HEADSHOT PHOTO is seen. Status says: ACTIVE

BACK TO SCENE

Thinks for a brief moment. Looks at the Lyrica pill and the glass of water.

Takes the pill, DRINKS it. Starts typing to Anne.

EXT. CAFE - OUTDOOR - EVENING

A USUAL cafe, with a FEW BASIC FURNITURE SETS and a GREENERY.

Marian and Anne are sitting at a two-person table, drinking COFFEE. Both are smiling.

ANNE

You're just emotionally drained,  
Marian. You have a lack of it. But  
a girl--

(grabbing his hand)

Can help you get over this period.  
Such a support can make you  
stronger, faster, more confident,  
and better than you ever were  
before. You have the potential.

(brief pause)

You also have a problem, and you  
have a solution. You just need to--

(smiles)

Accept something like that--

(brief pause)

And make a step in achieving it.

Marian STARES at her. He stands up and pumps-up CONFIDENCE.  
Grabs her CHIN and, after a brief moment, KISSES her  
PASSIONATELY. They both smile.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

INSERT - A MOBILE PHONE SCREEN WITH THE PHOTO GALLERY OPEN

A few PHOTOS of Marian and Anne start SLIDING on the screen.  
Their travels to OTHER PLACES, SITTING on a BENCH in a  
FOREST; NIGHT OUT, LUNCH together, and similar. ROMANTIC  
MUSIC plays as the slides roll.

BACK TO SCENE

It's a MODERNLY designed living room, with a TV on the wall,  
a COUCH, COURTAINS over the windows and the DINNING table in  
the background. A WHITE WEDDING DRESS can be clearly seen,  
also in the background.

Marian and Anne are sitting on the couch, watching the photos  
on the phone. Anne has a clear and large BABY BUMP seen. She  
TOUCHES it with her right hand.

They both SMILE. They KISS.

FREEZE FRAME

FADE TO BLACK: