

GOING BACK

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Fiction (Play)

CHARACTERS

MASON A man in his mid-20's. He is trapped by the line that holds him and his ex-girlfriend, ADELINE.

ADELINE A woman in her mid-20's. She is MASON's ex-girlfriend who has sought him out for reconciliation.

CHLOE A woman in her mid-20's. She is upbeat and blissfully unaware of the history between ADELINE and MASON.

SETTING

A busy suburban coffee shop. A makeshift counter is near the center of the stage. The line to order is excruciatingly long. A small buzz flows around the room due to idle chatter.

TIME

A Saturday morning in fall.

SCENE 1

AT RISE

(Lights up on MASON and CHLOE standing far back in line to order coffee. MASON and CHLOE study the menu above, trying to decide what to order.)

MASON

Know what you want, hun?

CHLOE

Probably just my usual. I'm gonna run to the bathroom really quick.

MASON

Well, you have more than enough time.

CHLOE

Ha! I'll be right back.

(Kisses MASON on the cheek. Leaves stage right.)

ADELINE

(Enters stage left with a bag over her shoulder. SHE looks around the shop, spots MASON, and walks towards him.)

Mason?

MASON

Adeline?

ADELINE

In the flesh.

MASON

What, did your espresso machine break? [Beat.] I thought you hated this coffee shop?

ADELINE

Yeah ... but you don't. I kind of hoped I'd find you here. You haven't exactly been answering my calls, so...

MASON

I wonder why that is.

ADELINE

I was hoping we could talk about...things.

MASON

There really isn't anything to talk about.

(MASON turns around and moves up in line.)

ADELINE

Mason, I made a mistake.

MASON

You're just realizing that now?

ADELINE

Look, I know I messed up, okay?

MASON

Messed up would be an understatement.

ADELINE

Can you just listen to me for one fucking second?

(Looks at the person standing in front of MASON.)

What are you looking at?

MASON

God, Adeline. Calm down.

ADELINE

I can't. I'm a wreck without you. I can't sleep, I can't eat. I barely even have the will to put my makeup on in the morning.

MASON

Give me a break.

ADELINE

It's the truth!

MASON

It doesn't matter. You can't take back what you did.

(MASON and ADELINE move up in line.)

ADELINE

Why can't we just forget it ever happened? Move on and be happy again? Be in love again?

MASON

I can't just forget what happened.

(MASON whispers.)

Adeline, you slept with my boss.

ADELINE

And it meant nothing. It was one time. One stupid, stupid time.

MASON

You know, I can still picture walking in on the middle of ... it. You didn't even notice me. [Beat.] Too preoccupied, I assume.

ADELINE

That's enough.

MASON

I probably stood there in our doorway for a good minute or two. I don't even know why I didn't say anything. [Beat.] I guess I was in shock. Especially once I realized it was Brody on top of you.

ADELINE

Mason!

MASON

I just don't understand why you had to fuck him in our bed.

ADELINE

People can hear you! We are not talking about this here.

MASON

Well, we're not talking about it anywhere else. [Beat.] I have nothing to say to you.

(MASON and ADELINE move up in line.)

ADELINE

Please, Mase. Just hear me out.

MASON

What did you think was gonna happen here, Adeline? We get back together just like that? I've moved on.

ADELINE

You can't say that you don't miss me. That you don't think about me.

MASON

I –

ADELINE

I know you aren't over me. Jack said you ask about me.

MASON

So I could avoid run-in's like this! I'm seeing someone else, Adeline. And I never wanted you and her to meet.

ADELINE

Ashamed of your past?

MASON

Ashamed of my past? No. Ashamed of you? For damn sure.

ADELINE

Whoever she is, she can't give you what you need. Not like I did. Not like I can.

MASON

She's great, actually. Much better ... Hell, one thousand times better than you.

ADELINE

(Looks at the person in front of MASON again.)

Why don't you take a frickin picture? It'll last longer!

MASON

Adeline, you should go.

ADELINE

What if we went to counseling! Talked it out with a non-objective third party!

MASON

I am so not going to counseling.

(MASON and ADELINE move up in line.)

ADELINE

Why?!

MASON

Because I don't want to tell some stranger all my secrets!

ADELINE

God, that's not what counseling is!

MASON

It doesn't matter. That's not the point, anyway.

ADELINE

No, the point is that we need to work on this. On us. Get back to the good times.

MASON

What good times?

ADELINE

The Christmas morning we went to your parents?

MASON

What about it?

ADELINE

Remember the locket you gave me?

MASON

Vaguely.

ADELINE

Well, I remember it like it was yesterday. It was wrapped in that beautiful Tiffany blue paper. I looked over at you, and you had this glint in your eye. You looked at me with such awe. I pulled it out of the box and just stared at it. All silver and shiny and perfect. You fastened it around my neck ... and you whispered that you loved me for the first time.

MASON

Adeline, that was such a long time ago. Way before everything happened.

ADELINE

It doesn't feel that long ago to me ...

(ADELINE reaches under her shirt to pull out the locket, making it visible to MASON.)

I never take it off.

MASON

Adeline ...

ADELINE

(Moves closer to MASON, touching him on the arm.)

We can get back to those good times, Mase. Have those good times again. I know it.

MASON

I –

ADELINE

Buy that old house on Hickory Lane, fix it up like you wanted to and move back in together. [Beat.] We'll wake up in your creaky bed, me in nothing but your old flannel. Watch those Frank Sinatra movies you like, warm up by the fire.

(Grabs MASON'S hand and puts it on top of the locket on her chest.)

You can learn to love me again.

MASON

(MASON leans into ADELINE'S touch. THEY stare at each other for a long while.)

ADELINE

What if we go back to my place? Catch up and-

MASON

No ... no I can't do this.

ADELINE

Mason ...

MASON

(Reaches the front of the line.)

Finally! Can I get a

ADELINE

A 20 oz. 4 shot caramel macchiato, please.

MASON

Actually, I'll get two 16 oz. Americano's, black.

(Puts a ten-dollar bill on the counter and walks away to wait.)

ADELINE

What, you changed your drink?

MASON

Chloe's got me on a diet. We're running a marathon together soon.

ADELINE

You, running a marathon?

MASON

Yes, me. I took up running a while ago. It's a great stress reliever.

ADELINE

Wait, did you order two drinks?

MASON

Yes.

ADELINE

What, are you meeting your new "girlfriend" after this?

MASON

She's already here.

ADELINE

What? Where?

MASON

In the bathroom. Line must've been long.

ADELINE

And you're just now telling me this?

MASON

I told you to go. You chose to stay.

ADELINE

A second ago, I thought you were gonna go with me.

MASON

Not a chance.

ADELINE

Oh, give up the act. You were putty in my hands.

MASON

Adeline, I'm with Chloe and you're just going to have to accept that.

ADELINE

I'll never accept that! We belong together and you know it. If I had never cheated.

MASON

But you did.

ADELINE

Right ... I just hate to think that's the only reason we're not together.

MASON

In all honesty, that probably is the only reason we're not still together.

CASHIER

[Voice from off stage.]

Two 16 oz. black Americano's!

MASON

(Looks towards voice, but doesn't leave his spot.)

You know, before all of that happened, I was actually contemplating proposing.

ADELINE

You were?

MASON

Well, we had that trip planned to the coast, and I knew you wanted a beach proposal. I went to a ring shop and everything. Had one on reserve. [Beat.] I don't know why I'm telling you all of this ... You were a big part of my life, Adeline. I can admit that. But you really hurt me. If you wanna talk about not eating and sleeping, you should've seen me the first couple weeks after I walked out. I don't think I'd ever cried that much in my life.

ADELINE

I'm sorry.

MASON

I know.

ADELINE

Beat.] Alright, how about this? Tell me that you no longer love me, and I'll walk away. I won't bother you ever again. I won't even step foot in this coffee shop. But you have to look me in the eye and say it.

MASON

(Long pause.)

I don't love you anymore.

ADELINE

(Nods.)

CHLOE

(Enters stage right.)

You got the coffee! Sorry, that line for the bathroom was ridiculous. And who is this?

MASON

Chloe, this is... an old friend.

CHLOE

(CHLOE puts out a hand to shake ADELINE'S.)

Oh, I've been wanting to meet more of Mason's friends!
What was your name, again?

ADELINE

(Shakes CHLOE'S hand while looking at MASON.)

Adeline.

CHLOE

It's nice to meet you, Adeline.

ADELINE

Yeah, you too. I should...uhm...get going. [Beat.] Goodbye, Mason.

(Exits stage left.)

MASON

Goodbye, Adeline...

(Walks over to the counter and picks up the two Americano's.)

CHLOE

C'mon, baby! We're gonna be late for breakfast at your parent's.

MASON

(MASON hands CHLOE her americano. HE puts an arm around CHLOE and begins walking towards stage right.)

CHLOE

So, how did you know that girl again?

(Lights go out.)

END OF SCENE