

The Apology

Screenplay, TV series, or webisodes by Doug Scribner

1 INT. JAXX RESTAURANT - NIGHT

1

A 20 something couple is arguing intensely but hushed so as not to be overheard. Body language and facial expressions make it clear this is a serious fight. He is MARK, dressed professional-hip and it is clear he is losing and knows it. She is NICOLE, dressed a bit more conservatively.

MARK

I don't see this as such a big deal. I can't believe you are getting so emotional.

NICOLE is hurt. Tears well in her eyes.

NICOLE

I can't believe you said that! It doesn't sound like you care about me at all. We're through!

(She stands and prepares to leave)

Don't call me, or email me, or text me, or message me, or tweet me, or chat me, or IM me, or - any other form of digital communication!

Mark is surprised and also tears up as the love of his life walks out on him. The waiter comes by with the check. He scans a QR code with a Bitcoin wallet to pay.

2 INT. AT THE BAR - LATER

2

Mark sips a drink and is talking to the bartender. We hear the tail end of the conversation.

MARK

...Yep, you're right. I get it. But I think it's too late. Unless - can I borrow a pen?

After some deep contemplation he begins to write an apology on a napkin.

ON THE NAPKIN

Nicole, I'm sorry, I know those two words are not enough to make this better or win you back. . . .

[Possibly insert Side Story "The Robbery" here]

3

INT. MARKS APARTMENT - NIGHT

3

Close up of Mark's computer screen as he is finishing typing on his laptop. We see the words as he types them giving a hint of a longer letter.

ON THE SCREEN

. . . I can only hope that for all of these reasons you will feel that our relationship is worth saving. Please know that I get it now. When I shut my eyes and imagine how I would feel in your shoes, I completely understand your reaction. It is a big deal and my heart is breaking just thinking about it and I just can't believe how much pain I've caused you . . .

A tear splashes on Mark's hand as he refers to the napkin. He continues typing.

ON THE SCREEN

I love you so very much, and I understand that I will have to live with your decision

Please come back to me,

Love Mark

He is visibly emotional as he finishes typing and gets out of the chair and walks out of the room. As the door opens, the napkin of his first draft blows behind his monitor. He doesn't notice it is missing when he returns with a glass of water and sits down. He re-reads the letter quickly and sends it off in an email.

4

INT. MARK'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON NEXT DAY

4

Mark is in bed asleep. Clock shows 1:23 PM, sunlight filters through the blinds. He is holding a framed picture of NICOLE and himself. A hand enters the frame and gently brushes Mark's hair out of his eyes.

MARK

(waking up from a deep
sleep)

Wha,? Nicole? What are you doing
here?

BOB dressed in jogging attire, has an air of being simultaneously cooler than Mark, but more clueless.

He has a few tattoos and 'cooler' hair. He is sort of a lovable brutish type.

BOB

Nah, it's just me lover. Ready to go jogging? Whoa, why do you look like you were mugged last night?

MARK

Oh my God. I'm not going anywhere. Nicole broke up with me last night. It was all my fault.

BOB

I know loser. She's been calling you since nine.

MARK

What?!

BOB

Actually she said she was also texting you, IMing you, emailing you, Tweeting you and Messengering you. She's tried all digital communications channels. Looks like your phone is dead buddy. When you didn't show up for our jog I told her I'd come over and see if you had killed yourself. I was hoping you had so that the smart contract condition would be met and I'd get all the bitcoin we'd mined. Imagine my disappointment finding you alive.

(INTO HIS PHONE)

Nope, he's still alive.

(throws his phone to Mark)

(TO MARK)

I don't know what you did, but she's not mad anymore.

MARK

(into phone)

Hello Nicole?

Yes, I'll come right over!

BOB

You'll have to tell me your secret so I can try to get Jolene back.

MARK

Jolene? Another one?

BOB

Yeah, but I think she is the one,
so I really want to get back
together with her.

MARK

(frantically getting
dressed)

Didn't you just end something with
that super model that Twan has been
after since grade school?

BOB

Yeah, But don't tell Twan, he'd be
pissed. Besides, she was just
using me to build her website.
(Joking) I feel like such a tool.

MARK

You poor thing. I can never keep
track of your girlfriends.

BOB

(Following Mark down the
stairs of his apartment)

You know I got the moves, I'm what
they call a natural in certain
circles.

EXT. OUTSIDE MARK'S APARTMENT

MARK

(heading for his car
outside)

Okay natural, any advice for me as
I rush off to save my relationship?

BOB

Yeah, guaranteed sex after you do
this move.

(Mark pauses just before
getting in his car to
listen)

After you kiss and makeup, take her
hand, and in a manly, yet gentle
way, move her hand to your crotch
so she can feel how hard you are.
Works every time.

MARK

Oh, that sounds really romantic,
Where do you get this stuff?

BOB
It's all about asserting your
maleness, that's what chicks dig
from men, not stupid sappy letters.

MARK
Did you try that with Jolene to get
her back?

BOB
Yeah.

MARK
Did it work?

BOB
Not yet.

MARK
Bye!

BOB
(Yelling as MARK drives
off)
Remember, Manly but gentle!!