

LAST CALL

Written by

John DeVere Cooley

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

We open on a DEGREE framed on the wall with a picture of a MIDDLE-AGED MAN next to it looking into the lens with a shit eating grin. The degree is in neurology, the name on it is BENJAMIN MARCH (40's).

Below that, we see a pharmaceutical degree with a picture of a WOMAN (mid 30's) next to it giving a stiffer smile. Her name is ELIZABETH MARCH.

We pan right, seeing the rest of the room. It's neat and organized. Elizabeth enters, immediately SLAMMING the door in Benjamin's face before he can enter.

Elizabeth goes across the bathroom, to her walk-in closet, taking off her earrings and her necklace. Benjamin comes in, going to his walk-in on the other side of the bathroom, taking off his watch. He WINCES, having pain in his back.

She mocks him from her walk-in across the bathroom.

ELIZABETH

(Not looking at him)

Did you throw out your back trying to think of her name? "I know it! It's Matilda-- Francine-- Uh uh!--"

BENJAMIN

I know your mother's name! And even if I didn't I don't CARE if I know it. I don't even like the fuckin' broad.

ELIZABETH

Oh yeah?--

BENJAMIN

--Yes, honey. It's Belinda by the way.

ELIZABETH

Very good. It's great that you remember after I TOLD YOU in the car!

BENJAMIN

You know, I DO remember when she told me that you settled for me after your high school sweet heart dumped you. "Mother! Why would you tell him that?! Ben, you're my everything." Your mom's as bad at keeping a secret as you.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

What else have you forgotten? You need the time? What's your shoe size? 6? 7? Do you remember if it was me or YOU that wanted spaghetti for dinner? I hope you know the milky way revolves around the sun, not you honey--

Benjamin winces again. He walks to her walk-in door-way.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

You should change. This dinner doesn't call for casual clothes.

ELIZABETH

Oh, doesn't it?

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Don't get smart. Put on the blue dress--

She SLAMS the door in his face again but he stops the door 6 inches from closing.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

And don't wear that perfume from last night! You smelled like a-- Uhh--

With a forceful push, she slams the door on him. Beat...

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

You hear me?!

He HITS the door.

CUT TO:

INT. WALK-IN - CONTINUOUS

BENJAMIN (O.S.)

Hey! You hear me?!

Elizabeth rolls her eyes.

ELIZABETH

Yes. Honey.

BENJAMIN (O.S.)

When is your friend coming?

ELIZABETH

Oh, forgot huh?

BENJAMIN

Liz!

ELIZABETH

Quarter till 7.

BENJAMIN

Dinner will be ready by 7.

She can hear him walk away.

ELIZABETH

Sounds wonderful, dear.

She looks down at her palm. She's holding HORSE TRANQUILIZER.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Benjamin is preparing a feast. Spaghetti is on the counter along with mashed potatoes, green beans, and RED TOMATO SAUCE. Benjamin sticks his spoon in the sauce. There's an opened wine bottle on the counter next to him, half-empty.

Elizabeth comes in wearing a red dress. She crosses, past Benjamin, to the cabinet on the other side of the kitchen.

BENJAMIN (O.S.)

The red one?

Elizabeth sees the bottle of red wine in the cabinet.

Benjamin stirs the spaghetti sauce methodically.

ELIZABETH (O.S.)

I wore this on our honey-moon. I thought you'd like it.

BENJAMIN

Hm... Could you hand me the red wine? I need a glass.

ELIZABETH

So early? Before dinner?

BENJAMIN

Just give me the damn wine.

She places the bottle on the counter next to the other bottle.

ELIZABETH

You already have one her--

Doorbell is heard. DING!

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
I'll get it!

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

Through the window, we see DANIEL GAITHER (Late 30's) dressed in free flowing clothes as if he just left a yoga session. Elizabeth opens the door and steps outside. She embraces Daniel.

ELIZABETH
(whispers)
This is it. Tonight is the night.

DANIEL
You're sure about this?

ELIZABETH
I am.

Daniel takes a deep breath and looks in her eyes.

DANIEL
Me too.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Benjamin has just poured his wine glass and is fiddling with it while he stirs the spaghetti.

Elizabeth enters, immediately eyeing the glass. Benjamin looks up at her.

BENJAMIN
He's here?

ELIZABETH
You gonna greet our guest at least?

CUT TO:

EXT. PATEO - LATER

Elizabeth enters, sitting next to Daniel. Benjamin stands in the glass doorframe.

BENJAMIN

Hello, Daniel.

DANIEL

Hey, Ben. Doin' well?

BENJAMIN

You bet. I'm just finishing up dinner.

Benjamin exits.

The clattering of Benjamin cooking in the kitchen can be heard from around the corner. They speak quietly, so Ben doesn't hear.

DANIEL

Welp--

ELIZABETH

We'll be through with him soon. Just give it a sec. He asked for a glass before dinner. He might not even make it to appetizers if the poison kicks in.

DANIEL

The poison might not be exactly instant. So we might still have to suffer through it. It might not be too bad though, you said he's an alright cook.

ELIZABETH

Dinner is like theater to him. We go to the table on our cue and he gets to put on a one-man show.

DANIEL

...You study your lines for tonight?

ELIZABETH

(Chuckles)

Sure.

DANIEL

"Look, Ben... me and Liz. We've been seeing each other." How'd that sound?

ELIZABETH

More direct.

DANIEL

"Ben, we've been seeing each other."

ELIZABETH

Oh, come on.

DANIEL

"I fucked your wife."

ELIZABETH

That'll do it.

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

RED WINE is poured into a glass, it gets passed on the lazy-susan to Daniel.

BENJAMIN

Wine, Daniel?

ELIZABETH

Ben, you know Daniel prefers white.

Elizabeth turns the lazy-susan, passing Daniel a white glass.

BENJAMIN

Yeah, right.

Benjamin takes his seat.

Elizabeth and Daniel take their seats.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

It's a pleasure having you join us tonight, Daniel.

ELIZABETH

Yes it is.

Elizabeth and Daniel share a glance. Benjamin puts his handkerchief on his collar.

Benjamin sticks his fork in his spaghetti and twirls a knot with his fork. Elizabeth and Daniel do the same. Benjamin just watches them.

Elizabeth and Daniel stick their knots of spaghetti into their mouth, chew and swallow... Beat.

They look at each other again. Something is not right.

Benjamin keeps twirling. Just shifting his eyes back and forth between them.

Elizabeth keeps her cool, but--

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Honey, the spaghetti, um, did you do something diff... Uh--

BENJAMIN

Does it taste funny? Too much ketamine?

Oh shit.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - BEFORE

In a MIRROR, we see, from behind, Elizabeth taking the wine bottle from the cabinet. Benjamin raises an eyebrow, Elizabeth sets the bottle next to the one on the counter...

Benjamin looks at the bottle, and then looks down at the spaghetti sauce...

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - PRESENT

ELIZABETH

You're shittin' me.

She stands up at the table.

BENJAMIN

Oh, are you pissed sweetie? Never tasted ketamine for yourself? Did I ruin your night?

ELIZABETH

I've been doing your every bidding! I've been your little doll for so fucking long and now you're just tossing me aside? Just getting rid of me?!

BENJAMIN

Just like you were GONNA do to me.

ELIZABETH

Nobody should have to live with you! You know what Daniel does?

BENJAMIN

Oh, what does oh-so-wonderful Daniel do?

DANIEL

Your wife.

BENJAMIN

Huh?

ELIZABETH

(Caught off guard)
Yeah, for months.

BENJAMIN

(To Daniel)
That right?

DANIEL

'Bout a month.

BENJAMIN

Huh... I hope you enjoyed yourself.

Benjamin shoots daggers at Daniel... THEN Daniel sticks his finger down his throat and begins GAGGING himself.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Dan, it's too late, it's in your system. Come on, you look like a moron.

ELIZABETH

You wanna know what else Dan does?!

BENJAMIN

Dan, buddy, you-- Ha ha, you look like a fuckin' idiot.

Daniel's gagging becomes comically loud and over-dramatic, he falls to the ground on his knees, his finger still in his throat.

ELIZABETH

You wanna know what he does you old basterd?!

BENJAMIN

What?!

ELIZABETH

He remembers! He remembers what I wanted to be before I was a pharmacist.

BENJAMIN

What?

ELIZABETH

Tell him Dan!

...

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Dan?

... Elizabeth HITS the table.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Daniel! You hear me?!

There's no sound coming from below the table. Daniel's deceased.

Benjamin looks up at her.

BENJAMIN

(Laughing)

A horse trainer?

She could kill him with her look.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

I'm right, aren't I?

She falls over dead.

Benjamin spins the wine in his glass.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Well. What a dinner.

He chugs his glass.

INT. KITCHEN - BEFORE

We see Elizabeth and Daniel talking outside on the patio. We pan to see Ben putting the last of the food on the table. He approaches the kitchen area, where there's one of the RED WINE BOTTLES sitting on the counter.

Benjamin reaches the counter and sees the TWO half-empty red wine bottles sitting next to each-other....

He looks to the left one, then right one, back and forth...
No, it's totally THIS one. He takes one of them.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - PRESENT

Benjamin chugs the glass... He grins... Then tastes something
funny... *Shit.*

His head CLANGS on his plate.

THE END.