

THE LAST FEW MINUTES OF SUNLIGHT

by
Steven Dexheimer

Revisions by
Rick Helin 05/06/2009
Richard Kuhr 05/07/2009

FADE IN:

1 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 1

The skin of her face is like porcelain. She's completely bald. Not even eyebrows.

JENNY lies on the bed. An IV stuck in her arm. She's in her twenties. Way too young to be in a place like this.

ROBERT isn't much older. He sits next to her, tenderly stroking her hand. He watches her sleep.

Her eyelids flutter, then open. Her eyes are sapphire blue.

JENNY

How long have you been here?

ROBERT

Forever.

2 INT. HOTEL BANQUET HALL - NIGHT 2

A set of double doors. A placard reads: BOECHLER/MULLER RECEPTION. The sound of muffled dance MUSIC.

The doors open and Robert marches out. Flashing lights and pounding music pour out with him.

He wears light colored slacks and a dark jacket. The top buttons of his shirt are open, his tie loose around his neck.

3 INT. HOTEL BAR - NIGHT 3

The place is mostly empty. Robert sits on a bar stool, nursing a shot glass of whiskey.

A woman enters. It's Jenny. In her hand is a pink drink with a little umbrella in it. She sips it through a straw. She wears a sleek red dress and pumps. Her long hair flows over her shoulders and down the nape of her exposed back.

She makes her way toward Robert and stands next to him at the bar.

JENNY

How did you score a hall pass?

ROBERT

I'm sorry?

JENNY

The reception. I saw you slip out.
Looked like a hell of an idea.

ROBERT

Needed some air.

JENNY

You groom side or bride side?

She offers her hand out to him.

JENNY (CONT'D)

I'm bride. I work with her.
Actually, she's a real bitch. But,
what the hey. Who am I to say no
to free food or free booze? You
family?

He is slow to glance over at her and even slower to realize she is standing there, hand still extended out to him. He finally shakes her hand.

ROBERT

Groom. He's my cousin... sort of.

JENNY

Tell me, Groomie, how does one go
about getting a sort of cousin?

He realizes the women isn't going away. He turns on his stool and faces her. He suddenly realizes how beautiful she is.

ROBERT

That's 'cause I bounced around
foster homes as a kid. Spent a few
years with this one family. They
tried to include me, you know,
treat me like I was one of them.
But, you never really feel like you
belong to anyone.

He takes a hit of his whisky.

JENNY

Jeez... you know how to throw
grenades, don't you? Boom... then
just leave the girl hanging out
there.

She sits on the adjoining bar stool and settles in.

JENNY (CONT'D)
So, what are you drinking?

ROBERT
Whiskey. Irish whiskey.

JENNY
What are you, ninety?

He nods toward her she-she drink.

ROBERT
So, what are you... fifteen?

Jenny raises her eyebrows. There is a momentary stare-down. She grabs his whiskey and downs it all in a single gulp. Her face twists up.

JENNY
Hmm... that ain't half bad.

She hails the bartender to get his attention.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Two more of these...

She pushes away her own drink.

JENNY (CONT'D)
... and could you take away this
kiddie Kool-Aid.

The bartender gets the whisky and two glasses, pours, and slides one in front of each of them. Jenny grabs the one placed in front of Robert and slides it next to her own.

JENNY (CONT'D)
He can buy his own.

She turns and flashes a flirtacious smile Robert's way.

4 INT. HOTEL BAR - LATER

4

A dozen empty shot glasses are scattered in front of Jenny and Robert. It is quite obvious they are inebriated. Robert begins to stack the glasses on top of each other.

JENNY
Maui.

ROBERT
HAWAII? Of all the places you
could have on your list... you
chose Hawaii?

JENNY
Fine. Then Paris. Does that meet
with your approval?

ROBERT
Better

Robert has managed to build a pyramid of shot glasses four
rows high. He drops his head to bar top level, taking a good
close look at his creation.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
But I'd take Egypt... yep, the
pyramids... thousands of years of
history... right there in front of
you.

JENNY
Okay, my turn. Skydiving.

ROBERT
Knock yourself out. I made a rule
never to throw myself out of
airplanes.

JENNY
Oh come on... just once. Then we
could scratch it off our list.

Robert perks up as if he just thought of something brilliant.

ROBERT
I got it. I've always wanted to
hike the Appalachian Trail.

JENNY
Oh, great. That's just lovely.
Don't tell me you're into freaks
with banjos and buck teeth.
Wonderful.

ROBERT
Nah, that's Georgia. I'd be
staying up in New England.

JENNY

Big diff. Mountain folk, they're
all the same. I personally think
your idea is all folked-up.

The two laugh briefly at her stupid joke.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Hey, I thought of one. A real one.
I want to see one of those
eclipses.

ROBERT

What kind?

JENNY

They're different kinds? I want to
see the sun go totally dark.

Robert turns and looks her in the eyes.

ROBERT

A solar eclipse.

Jenny's smiles back at him.

JENNY

Yeah, that's the one.

ROBERT

How about this one...

START MONTAGE:

Jenny and Robert sip coffee as they stare out into the ocean
while the sun rises.

ROBERT (V.O) (CONT'D)

I want to watch the sun rise on the
east coast, then fly across the
country...

Jenny and Robert sip white wine from large glasses. They sit
on beach recliners watching the sun set in the ocean.

ROBERT (V.O.) (CONT'D)

... and then watch the sun set on
the west coast the very same day.

END MONTAGE:

Jenny smiles at him and takes another shot.

JENNY
I've got a better one...

START MONTAGE:

Jenny and Robert are underneath The Golden Gate Bridge at Fort Point. They stare up at the underside of the massive bridge and are in awe.

JENNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I want my picture taken standing in front of Fort Point Park in San Francisco... The Golden Gate Bridge in the background, and me... totally naked.

END MONTAGE:

JENNY (CONT'D)
Top that one!

Robert stares at Jenny longingly. She flirts back.

ROBERT
Wow... okay, you win. Your wish list is better than mine.

Robert looks at his watch and suddenly realizes how much time has flown by.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Christ, we really should get back in there.

He grabs his drink from the bar and downs what remains of his last shot. He jumps off his stool and proceeds to put his jacket on. Jenny grabs a pen and cocktail napkin and scribbles something on it.

Jenny, too, gets off her stool.

JENNY
Hey! You almost forgot something.

Robert stops in his track and turns around.

She hands the napkin to him as she walks by, heading toward the reception area. He looks down to read what she wrote.

ROBERT
Wait a minute... what'd you say your name was?

JENNY

I didn't.

ROBERT

Then... what is it?

Without looking back, Jenny opens the door to the ballroom and shouts back at Robert.

JENNY

It's Jenny!

5 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

5

The constant beeping of medical device is HEARD. Jenny is lying in bed with her eyes closed. Robert pulls the covers off Jenny.

ROBERT

It's time, we should get going.

Jenny opens her eyes.

He gently tugs on the EKG. wires she is hooked up to. He is having difficulty as he tries to be as tender and careful as he can be.

Jenny reaches down and rips them off.

JENNY

You sure you're up to this?

Robert scoops her up and lifts her out of bed.

6 INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

6

Jenny sits in a wheelchair. Robert stands behind her. Jenny peeks around a corner and looks both directions.

JENNY

Okay... go. Go!

Robert pushes Jenny as fast as he can past the nurses station. They fly toward the exit.

7 EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DAY

7

Robert weaves the wheelchair in and around the parked cars.

JENNY
I call shotgun!

8 INT. CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

8

Robert drives. Jenny sticks her head out the window, like a dog, letting the wind blast her in the face. She is enjoying every minute of it.

ROBERT
Doing Okay? How's your stomach?

JENNY
Would you stop worrying about me.
I promise you I won't make a mess
in the car. My aim is getting
pretty good.

ROBERT
I've got towels and disinfectant,
you know.

JENNY
Please... stop worrying.

ROBERT
I just want to make sure you're
going to be okay.

Jenny sticks her head back outside the window. Her eyes closed. Robert takes quick glances at her as he drives. He smiles, but his eyes are sad.

9 EXT. PARK - DAY

9

Robert pushes the wheelchair across a grassy field. He finds a secluded spot and spreads out a blanket.

He helps Jenny out of the chair and lays her gently on the blanket.

She holds her face up to the sun. She closes her eyes and smiles.

JENNY
How much longer?

Robert digs into his backpack. He withdraws two pair of sunglasses. The cardboard kind, with the foil, for looking at the sun. He puts one on and looks up.

The glowing orb of the sun has a slight bite out of it. The moon is beginning its pass between earth and the sun.

ROBERT

Soon.

JENNY

You look like a dork.

He puts the second pair of glasses on her.

ROBERT

Oh, yeah? Well, you look fabulous.

Together, the pair turn their faces skyward, like the audience in a 3-D movie.

Jenny winces. She grabs at her stomach.

JENNY

You brought my medicine, right?

Robert pulls a water bottle and a container of pills from out of his backpack. He momentarily glances up at the sun.

ROBERT

Not a cloud in the sky. Looks like somebody up there likes you.

Robert places two pills between her lips and helps hold the water bottle as she sips.

JENNY

Yeah, right. Must be my lucky day.

Robert pulls her close. She rests her head on his chest. Together, they watch the moon inch further across the sun.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Thank you for this.

ROBERT

You know I'd do anything you asked.

JENNY

This is coming from a guy who'd never take the garbage out... no matter how many times I reminded you?

ROBERT

I'm serious.

Jenny places her hand on Robert's face.

JENNY

I know.

10 EXT. FORT POINT PARK - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

10

Robert is carrying a camera bag and tripod. Jenny has a trench coat wrapped tightly around her.

Robert sets up the camera, adjusts the focus. A wedding band is visible on his left hand.

ROBERT

Okay. Time to put up or shut up.
We came all this way, I hope it
wasn't a wasted trip --

Robert looks up and his jaw drops with a shocked look.

We see Jenny's naked shoulder's from behind with Robert facing towards her in the background.

JENNY (O.S.)

Well, are you going to take the
picture?

11 EXT. PARK - DAY

11

Robert takes off his eclipse glasses. He stares at Jenny. She senses she is being watched.

JENNY

What?

ROBERT

Nothing. You're just so beautiful,
that's all.

He kisses her her bald head.

JENNY

Yeah right, I look like one
gigantic embryo.

ROBERT

So, what's left. Did we ever
decide between Paris or Egypt?

JENNY

Don't forget about your banjo buddies.

ROBERT

I already scratched that one off. You were right, it was kinda' creepy.

JENNY

I'm afraid you'll have to do Paris without me.

ROBERT

You promised me you wouldn't talk like that.

The moon is almost completely blocking out the sun. Just a sliver of light is being revealed.

Jenny's eyes seem to lose focus. She looks wobbly.

JENNY

Whoa. I feel like I'm floating. Up with the sun, looking down on us.

ROBERT

You're not hurting, are you?

JENNY

Wow! Look at that.

She reaches feebly at the sun, repeatedly she tries to grab at something in the air.

ROBERT

What is it? What do you see?

A contented smile falls on her face.

JENNY

It's... indescribable.

Robert holds her ever tighter. Tears well up in his eyes.

ROBERT

I love you. I... I don't think I can do this.

JENNY

(whispering)
It's time. Yes, you can.

Robert pulls back.

ROBERT

No. I don't want you to leave me.

JENNY

I'm not leaving you forever, I'm only going away for awhile... like the sun. I'll always be with you. Even in your darkest times... I'll still be there.

ROBERT

Maybe we just have to give it a little more time. We can get you back on life support and try that new experimental...

JENNY

Remember... you said you'd do anything for me. Please, you've got to let me go.

He looks into her blue eyes. It is obvious his heart is breaking as he holds back his tears.

ROBERT

I'm scared.

JENNY

I know. But... I'm not.

She smiles lovingly at Robert. His hand covers hers and clenches it tightly.

She coughs leaning forward and holding her stomach.

ROBERT

I'm sorry I couldn't save you.

JENNY

You did. Just hold me.

He cradles her in his lap like Michelangelo's Pieta.

Jenny takes a deep breath, and looks up at the sun as it shines its last ray of light. She leans against him momentarily, then goes limp in his arms. Robert looks up from her to the corona, a brilliant circle of light in the sky.

FADE OUT