

THE PLANT

by

Karl Alexander Iglesias

karliglesias@sbcglobal.net

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

A MAN in his 30's (OWEN) wakes up.

The radio blares out, "Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!"

Owen's attention desperately locks on a POTTED PLANT on the dresser -- a blooming CYCLAMEN PLANT, with pink heart-shaped flowers and green leaves with silver marbling.

Relieved, Owen smiles. He gets up and kisses a leaf.

OWEN
Good morning, hon.

He takes the plant to the sunlight. Measures one cup of water, which he pours into a mini watering spout. Adds vitamins, and meticulously waters his beloved plant.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Twenty BOOKS on plants and MINI-GARDENING TOOLS take most of the counter space.

Owen, now in a business suit, places the plant on a contraption with a timer that rotates the plant to the sun and moves it back and forth across the table.

He kisses it one last time before rushing out the door.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Nothing green or alive outside the house, in contrast to his neighbors. Just gravel, granite and cement. Very low maintenance.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Owen rushes in only to discover the plant is dead, as if neglected for months.

OWEN
Oh, no... Not again.

Freaking out, he grabs the plant and storms out of the house.

EXT. NURSERY - NIGHT

An elderly Japanese-American gardener, YASUO, is hosing his plants when he sees Owen's car SCREECH into the parking lot, and Owen rushing up to him with the dead plant.

YASUO
No Cyclamen until tomorrow. Delayed shipment. Left you message.

OWEN
How could you?! We do this every year!

YASUO
I'm sorry, Owen. Maybe it's time
for something else.

OWEN
I can't.

Crushed, Owen drives off.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Owen sits at the table, staring at the plant, a glass of cold milk at his side.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A woman in her 20's (EMMA) is pruning plants in a lush garden in front of the house, as Owen brings her a cold glass of milk.

EMMA
Ahhh... nothing more refreshing.

OWEN
A beer? A Coke?

EMMA
(kissing him)
But this does the body good.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Owen rests on a hammock, when he hears TIRES SCREECHING and loud CRASH.

Owen running to the street... Two cars collided.

Emma dead at the wheel. The cyclamen plant on the passenger seat.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

Owen stares at the dead plant, sipping iced milk.

Suddenly, he does something surprising: He pours the milk into the pot. Sees it being absorbed into the dirt.

LATER

Owen asleep at the table. He startles awake up at 11:58pm. It is still Valentine's Day.

The plant is alive again! Owen smiles.

OWEN
Happy anniversary, honey.

On the mantle, a wedding picture of Owen and Emma radiating intense happiness, red hearts all around. Etched on the frame: "With this ring, I thee wed. February 14, 2005"