

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A PHONE buzzes on the coffee table.

A MAN sits on the couch, watching it. Buzzing away. This is ANAND. He's anxious, almost afraid.

PUJA (O.S.)
You should pick that up.

Anand looks up to see his girlfriend, PUJA. She sits next to him and cuddles into his shoulder.

PUJA (CONT'D)
At least listen to what he has to say.

Anand shakes his head.

ANAND
It's not that easy.

PUJA
He's your father.

The buzzing stops.

ANAND
Call me crazy, but I don't see it that way.

PUJA
He's reaching out. He's showing that he cares.

ANAND
Sometimes never is better than late.

PUJA
What, so you're not even going to give him a chance?

ANAND
No.

Puja waits for more.

Nothing comes.

PUJA
That's it? No?

ANAND

Puja-

PUJA

We've been dating for 5 years and I just found out about your dad this weekend.

ANAND

I'm sorry, okay? I'm sorry. I was going to tell you.

PUJA

When?

ANAND

When I was ready.

PUJA

You can tell me anything. I love you. I want to spend the rest of my life with you.

ANAND

I love you too, Puja.

PUJA

But?

ANAND

But some scars take a little longer to heal.

Puja looks Anand in the eye, defiantly.

PUJA

Scars heal faster when you treat them.

Anand sighs and nods his head. She's right.

PUJA (CONT'D)

What aren't you telling me? After everything that's happened this weekend it feels like I barely know you.

ANAND

I've never put this into words before. I haven't been able to wrap my head around it.

PUJA

Try it, for me? Please?

Anand takes a deep breath.

ANAND

When you get hurt, and I mean, really hurt, you put up walls. And when you get hurt as much as I have, that's a lot of walls. It's like a maze. Easy to lose yourself. Until you don't really know who you are anymore. You're not sure if it's really you in there. And then, you grow up and realize that it's not you. It's somebody completely different. And you've got to make a decision. Are you going to work to bring that person back, or are you going to move on? Let who you were die?

He looks Puja in the eye. Tears welling in his eyes.

ANAND (CONT'D)

I moved on. That part of me is gone. Died a long time ago. And it died with him. Everything I am now, everything about my life, all of this - it happened because I made that decision. If I reconcile that for even one second, what happens to that? All those walls? They come crashing down.

PUJA

They don't have to.

Anand chuckles.

ANAND

You know me, and I know him.

He takes Puja's hands in his.

ANAND (CONT'D)

I don't want to lose you.

PUJA

You won't lose me. I promise you.

Anand tries to bury his head in her shoulder. She takes his head in her hands and looks at him.

PUJA (CONT'D)

I am going to be here, the whole time.

She picks the phone up from the table and holds it to Anand.

PUJA (CONT'D)

I am not leaving, and I don't care
what you say.

Anand looks away from the phone.

PUJA (CONT'D)

Hey. Look at me. Look at me, okay?
For this to work, for any of this
to work, you're going to need to
learn how to trust someone. You can
trust me, can't you?

Anand nods.

PUJA (CONT'D)

Make the call.

Anand takes a long look at the phone and

FADE TO BLACK.