

#2 - The Cheesy Breakup - Megan Tabaque

*SASHA waits in the living room of DEANNA's apartment. SASHA wears an super-boho ensemble : lots of clean cottons and no animal product items. Caricature of a vegan. DEANNA enters sulking, carrying a box full of groceries, some household products, a wool sweater, and a few other things. She's wearing standard clothing, jeans and t-shirt maybe? Plus awesome leather boots. She's sullen. There is a garbage can.*

How was it?

SASHA

Hard.

DEANNA

I know.  
But remember.  
It'll be better this way.

SASHA

I know.

DEANNA

Think about it.  
Were you happy before?

SASHA

I mean.  
Not really, I guess.

DEANNA

It's time to get happy.  
Live better.

SASHA

It's so sad though.

DEANNA

I know.

SASHA

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DEANNA

I'm going to miss ... everything.

SASHA

It's time to go, Deanna.

Move forward.

Show me all the stuff.

We'll get rid of it together, ok?

*DEANNA nods. She begins pulling things out of the box as SASHA requested.*

DEANNA

Tuna fish. We really loved tuna melts.

SASHA

Goodbye forever, tuna fish.

*SASHA throws the tuna in the garbage.*

DEANNA

The wool sweater that David gave me for my birthday last year.

SASHA

Goodbye forever, wool sweater.

*SASHA throws the sweater in the garbage.*

DEANNA

A half empty tub of butter.

There are some toast crumbs in it.

SASHA

Goodbye forever, butter.

*SASHA throws the butter in the garbage.  
DEANNA pulls a bag of gummy bears out of the box.*

DEANNA

Oh man.

Gummy bears. It's our favorite movie snack.

It doesn't even seem fair.

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SASHA

Gelatin is sneaky.  
Goodbye forever, gummy bears.

*SASHA throws the gummy bears in the garbage.*

DEANNA

This is a box of frosted flakes. I wasn't sure about it, but it had an animal on the box so... I don't know. I'm so confused!

SASHA

No you're not!  
For the first time in your life, you're seeing things clearly!  
You hear me?

*SASHA grabs DEANNA by the shoulders to motivate her. DEANNA nods. SASHA then throws the box of cereal away.*

SASHA

Goodbye forever, Frosted Flakes!

*Beat. SASHA surveys DEANNA.*

SASHA

Your boots too, Deanna.

DEANNA

I love these boots.

SASHA

If you love those boots, it means you hate cows.  
If you hate cows, it means you hate living things, and nature and the universal life force that connects us all!  
Do you want to be a life hater, Deanna?

DEANNA

No!

SASHA

The boots!

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DEANNA

This is so awful!  
You never said going vegan was this painful.  
Alright!

*DEANNA moans and whines as she takes off her boots and reluctantly hands them over to SASHA.*

SASHA

Goodbye forever, leather boots.  
Ok. Is that everything?

SASHA

Almost. There's just one thing left.

SASHA  
*(understanding)*

Oh.

DEANNA

But I'm not sure I'm ready to say goodbye.

SASHA

It's time.

DEANNA

But—

SASHA

Be strong!!

DEANNA

Ok. But I have to say goodbye the right way.

SASHA

Ok. Do what you have to. I know this one is hard. I'll give you some space.  
I'll be waiting though. Whenever you're ready.

*SASHA goes in the other room.  
DEANNA makes a phone call.  
CHEESE appears somewhere else in the shadows and picks up.*

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CHEESE  
Hello?

DEANNA  
Hi. It's me.

CHEESE  
I wasn't sure if I would hear from you ever again.

DEANNA  
I know.

CHEESE  
I miss you.

DEANNA  
I miss you too.  
Where are you?

CHEESE  
In your refrigerator.

DEANNA  
Can you come over?

CHEESE  
Deanna...  
Do you think that's a good idea?

DEANNA  
This will be the last time. I promise.  
I want to say goodbye.

*CHEESE meets DEANNA in her living room.  
CHEESE wears something that makes him look  
like CHEESE. (Is it possible to find a Wisconsin  
cheese head? Maybe.) They stare at each other  
lovingly.*

DEANNA  
Hello, Cheese.

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CHEESE  
Hello, Deanna.

DEANNA  
Do you know why I'm doing this?

CHEESE  
I do.  
You think it's healthier for you.  
And...you watched all those videos of the sad chickens  
...and the bacteria and stuff.

DEANNA  
Oh! Those poor chickens!

*DEANNA gets weepy. CHEESE  
comforts DEANNA.*

CHEESE  
Hey. Hey hey hey hey it's okay.  
I understand.  
Plus, you live in Austin.  
It's what people do here.  
Veganism.  
Kayaking.  
Tacos.  
I get it.

DEANNA  
I'm going to miss eating you.

*CHEESE puts his finger on DEANNA's lips to  
quiet her.*

CHEESE  
Dance with me?

*DEANNA nods. DEANNA and CHEESE dance  
a slow, romantic goodbye dance. It's super  
"cheesy" music like Unchained Melody from  
Dirty Dancing or something like that. DEANNA  
buries her head in CHEESE's chest. They take*

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*some moments to gaze into each other's eyes.  
The dance is good and long and dramatic.  
The music starts to dissipate. CHEESE and  
DEANNA drift away from each other. CHEESE  
floats away. CHEESE is gone.*

DEANNA  
*(whisper)*

Goodbye forever, Cheese. . .

*DEANNA is broken hearted. SASHA returns.*

SASHA

Did you say goodbye?

DEANNA

I did.

SASHA

How do you feel? Now that you've gone totally vegan?

DEANNA

Kind of terrible.

SASHA

Tomorrow will be better. You'll take your supplement and I'll make us smoothies. You'll see.

DEANNA

I need to lie down for a little while.

SASHA

Okay. I'm proud of you.

*THEY hug. DEANNA exits.  
SASHA goes to the box. She looks around to see  
if anyone is watching. She pulls a cheese slice  
out of it and eats it, relishing it. Then crying  
maybe, like she's a relapsed addict.*

**END PLAY**