

COLD FEET

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Lights up on the living room of an apartment. MASON, mid 20's, is dressed in a tuxedo, trying to tie his tie. He and his fiancé decided to get married at city hall on the first day after the 3-month quarantine. LEVI, mid 20's, his best man and witness, enters the room, also in a tux.

LEVI

If you need a hand with your tie, you can just ask. Only thing worse than a grown man not knowing how to tie a tie is watching him struggle to do it.

MASON

Shut up and help me, man.

LEVI ties his tie for him. The two make eye contact for a moment; it's a little awkward. LEVI finishes the tie and tries to break the tension.

LEVI

(Acting like Mason's mother) Awww look at him!

MASON

Shut up.

LEVI

All handsome, and grown up, and getting married!

MASON

I said shut up!

LEVI

You look just like your daddy did when we got married.

MASON

Why are you acting like my mother?

LEVI

It's my job as best man. Make sure you feel good, look good, and throw in a dash of embarrassment. You know your mom would be doing this herself if you told her y'all we doing this.

MASON

It wasn't my choice.

LEVI

But you're going with it.

MASON

We had to cancel the wedding because of the virus. We lost so much money.

LEVI

It's not just but the money though. If you're gonna do this, you've gotta do it right.

MASON

I'm not going through all of that again.

LEVI

...ok...Just making sure you're happy with this. This is a big day.

Beat.

MASON

This is stupid.

LEVI

This is your wedding!

MASON

My stupid wedding.

LEVI

Excuse me?

MASON

Stupid tux. Stupid tie. Stupid flower.

LEVI

(Correcting him) Stupid boutonniere.

MASON

It's all stupid!

LEVI

Can you use words with a little more substance than "stupid", please?

MASON

I don't want to marry Ella.

LEVI

Let's go back to stupid.

MASON

Look, I'm nervous, all right?

LEVI

Cold feet?

MASON

More like freezing legs.

LEVI

Damn.

MASON

Should I be marrying Ella?

LEVI

What's wrong with her?

MASON

Nothing. Three months ago, it felt so right. Now, it feels like I've got it wrong.

LEVI

There's nothing wrong. Times have changed. Your single life is dead. Hell, thanks to the "Flashocalypse" regular life is dead. That's hard to face, from the ashes will come something that'll last forever.

Did you say "Flashocalypse"?

Yeah. You know like how there's a flash flood. It's not as bad as the real deal but it's still dangerous and comes out of now where? You survived a flash apocalypse. Flashocalypse.

MASON

Kinda crude, you think?

LEVI

I'm processing. Look man, for two decades now, I have watched you jump from girl to girl to girl. And then more girls. When Ella came along, and you fell for her hard. You found your common sense. You changed.

MASON

How did I change?

LEVI

You grew up. Got your shit together. You got a better job; you drink a lot less. I don't get three AM drunk calls anymore. No more one-night stands. For once, you're committed to someone.

MASON

Yeah, but to who?

LEVI

What do you mean?

MASON

I mean, this decision isn't based on how I feel or what I want. Everyone said Ella's the one for me so when she came along, so I figured I better move quick and marry her. So I am. I'm only doing this for that reason. I don't love her.

LEVI

Do you not love her or are you not ready to get married?

MASON

No. I mean, yes I'm ready- well, not if- but no...I don't know.

LEVI

Well if you don't know, then why are you doing this?

MASON

I don't know!

LEVI

All right! Relax. Look, I know you, and I know that all of this is coming from fear of things suddenly being different. You think our dads were ready for this part of their life? This is what happens. You meet someone and then you spend your life with them. You don't want to be a bachelor forever.

MASON

Maybe I do! I can be a bachelor for as long as I want.

LEVI

Why, so you can fart and burp in your apartment?

MASON

All day.

LEVI

Sex whenever you want it?

MASON

EVERY day.

LEVI

You're like a horny Peter Pan.

MASON

Yeah, and if that ring takes me out of Neverland, then forget it.

LEVI

Whoa, hang on there kid. You're serious? What's going on?

MASON

Following your "ashes" analogy, something has to die for something beautiful to come of it and I'm scared. Something's gotta die, and I think it's my relationship with her.

LEVI

...Okay so...what has to live?

MASON

Never mind.

LEVI

No, what?

MASON

I'm fine. I'll just let it go.

LEVI

This is marriage we're talking about! You can't just let it go. Come on. Talk.

MASON

I want to be...right. I only want to get married once and I want to know that it's to someone who puts up with my shit, builds me up when I'm down, stays 100 percent honest with me...someone who I know truly loves me as much as I love them. And there's only one person in my life like that.

LEVI

And you're going to be marrying that person today.

MASON

You think so?

LEVI

Yes, I do.

MASON

All right.

MASON pulls the wedding band from the inside of his coat pocket.

Then put this on. MASON

What? LEVI

I can't marry that person if he doesn't put the ring on. MASON

Beat. LEVI bursts into laughter. MASON keeps his gaze on him.

Stop. LEVI

Stop what? MASON

What are you doing? This is not the time to play around! LEVI

Which is why I'm not playing. MASON

What in the hell- how is this-...wow man... LEVI

Mind-blower right? MASON

What the hell is wrong with you? LEVI

Put the ring on and I'll show you. MASON

What does that even mean? Look, I get it. You're nervous. That's normal. But...I don't-. This is Ella's ring okay? Ella. Remember her? LEVI

You're right. It'll never fit you. We'll get it resized. MASON

That's not- Oh my God. I don't think you exactly understand what you're throwing at me here. Where is this coming from? And why today? Right now?! LEVI

MASON

Better late than never.

LEVI

Very late! Ok, just spit it all out. Everything that I need to hear. Quick.

MASON

Fine. I love you.

LEVI

Oh my God!

MASON

You've done more than just watch me date a bunch of girls. You took care of me when Erica's boyfriend found us in bed together and he beat the hell out of me, then went and keyed his car and popped his tires.

MASON

Not one of my finer moments.

LEVI

You were there for me when I proposed to Amber and she left me. Through four pregnancy scares, an STD and a car wrecked by a pissed off ex, you stood by me.

LEVI

That's what a good friend does.

MASON

Well it's hard enough trying to find a good person, let alone a good friend. Everyone is looking out for themselves and don't want to be bothered. Even Ella's like that. Finding someone like you has become extraordinary. You're a rare find...priceless...valuable.

LEVI

Mason, I'm a person, not a lost artifact.

MASON

My point is when special people come into your life, you do what you can to insure that they stay there.

LEVI

Like marrying them?

MASON

I don't want to lose you.

LEVI

Mason, I'm not going anywhere. I'm not throwing away our relationship just because you're getting married. A lot will be different, but you'll be better for it. And I'll still be here. You can't marry me because you're scared to lose me, dummy.

MASON

That's not the only reason I want to marry you.

LEVI

Don't say it's because "you love me."

MASON

It's true!

LEVI

But how?! *(Beat)*

MASON

Don't you remember the other night?

LEVI

Which night? The one where you were crying because you thought you and Ella would never have a wedding because of the quarantine? The time you got mad because y'all had an argument because she was upset you didn't quarantine with her?

MASON

You know what night I'm talking about...

LEVI

Jesus, Mason?

MASON

That sounds familiar.

LEVI

We just kissed! One night of making out in three months of quarantine together. We both were feeling lonely. That's all it was.

MASON

Is that what I'm supposed to say to Ella?

LEVI

No, that's what I'm saying to you, man. I knew I shouldn't have but-

MASON
Don't take the blame for that night.

LEVI
It is my fault though.

MASON
I initiated it.

LEVI
No I did.

MASON
I promise it was me.

LEVI
How would you know, you were drunk.

MASON
So were you. How would you know?

LEVI
Because I initiated it.

MASON
So what you're saying is, we both initiated it?

LEVI
This is crazy.

MASON
Crazy in love.

LEVI
Stop! What makes you think you want to be with a guy? MARRY a guy?

MASON
Are you questioning my sexuality?

LEVI
No. That's not the issue. The issue is that you now want to start a relationship with me. The issue, Mason, is you coming to me at a time like this and with a hidden love. The issue is that you've apparently been stringing two people along for a long time. You expect me to just up and say that I'll marry you? Where is your head?

MASON

All over the place right now, but I know exactly where my heart is.

LEVI

Stop saying things like that!

MASON

But it's the truth. I swear.

LEVI

I can't take this! I'm leaving.

MASON

Levi, wait! I know this is a huge and random thing to dump on you, but you know there's a lot between us. Regardless of who I've dated or who I've proposed to or who's headed to city all right now, you know better. Tell me you don't feel anything. Tell me that you don't love me too. I know you do.

Silence.

LEVI

You want to marry me?

MASON

Yes. I know what I'm saying. I know what I'm doing.

LEVI

You know it's screwed up?

MASON

Yes. And I know I love you.

Silence.

LEVI

This is one hell of a proposal. Look, there's so much more that you...we have to say before any of this can make sense and unfortunately there's no time to say it all. I'm not saying go through with it, because you clearly don't love Ella the way you should in order to marry her, but she needs to know it's not happening, if it isn't.

MASON

Yeah. So...wait. What are you saying about us?

LEVI

Right now, nothing. I'll be right here when you're done. Go.

MASON exits. LEVI stands there taking in all that happened. Then takes the ring from inside his coat pocket. He looks at it.

MASON

Talk about a Quarantine-Bae.

End of Play