

LOVE IS DEAF

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. CLUB/RESTAURANT - EVENING

The restaurant is a vision of modern elegance with off-white walls, usually bright and clean but tonight left in shadows to emphasise the intimacy at each candle-lit table.

STAFF emerge from the darkness and break the idle CHATTER of COUPLES to collect dinner-plates and offer more wine.

The plates CLATTER, and wine GLUGS from bottles to glasses.

Knives SCRATCH plates as some couples continue eating.

The staff rush out of and back into the darkness and through a SWINGING door to a bright kitchen which SIZZLES.

As a CRASHING of dropped plates can be heard from the kitchen, there are GIGGLES and CHUCKLES amidst the chattering of the couples.

One couple CLINK their glasses together and the glasses RING over the other noises which fade as we reach...

CASS, a figure of beauty sat at a piano, on a small stage.

All other sounds, bar the ringing, fade to SILENCE as her nervous BREATHING consumes her attention.

Her eyes flutter about the crowd.

The RINGING, which still CHIMES under her breathing, sounds now like a note played from her piano, softly diminishing.

Few of the couples watch, anticipating the end of her song.

But none look more attentive than DAVID, who is sat front of stage and just off-centre so that Cass might see him.

And she does, gaining confidence at the sight of him.

She smiles, BREATHES IN DEEPLY and closes her eyes.

As she begins to play, all is SILENT.

Behind David there is a blur of couples and staff making movements amidst the dark, unseen and UNHEARD to him.

He is sat contentedly admiring Cass as she plays, though he doesn't hear her either. All is SILENT.

David's hands rest on the table, next to his glass of white wine. He feels the vibrations which show in his drink.

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Viewing her with adoration and an emotional response to her music, he watches her lovingly as she sings.

CASS  
(singing)  
I think it takes a lot to listen  
when you can't hear...

Her eyes remain closed as she focuses on holding a note...

She opens them to look to David as she sings her final line.

CASS (CONT'D)  
So I love you all the more... that  
you do.

She smiles at David with great admiration as her hands rest on the final played chord.

Cass stands and looks about the crowd, smiling nervously as she receives a modest applause.

Many couples who were engaged in conversation stop to add to the applause which remains modest but pleases Cass.

She curtseys, smiling now with a sense of achievement.

As she walks to leave the stage she looks to David.

He gestures in shorthand sign-language, ring and middle finger tucked into his right palm with others extended.

DAVID  
(subtitled)  
I love you.

All is still SILENT but Cass giggles as she admires David.

She exits the stage and gestures to him in longhand, first pointing to herself then holding her arms crossed with closed hands before pointing toward David.

CASS  
(subtitled)  
I love you too.

As she walks toward him, DAVID stands.

She accelerates to meet him, bounding into him for a KISS.

As they kiss, the scene fades out and the idle CHATTER of couples fades in.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.