

**Mind Left Behind by Matt Deline**

(Lights up in an room, Nicole and John are stage left, there is a window behind them and a door on stage right)

**NICOLE**

You shouldn't be here right now.

**JOHN**

It doesn't matter. I love you, more than he ever could.

**NICOLE**

John..

**JOHN**

How can I prove it to you? I'm better than he is... he's just a fool.

**NICOLE**

John! That's his car.

**JOHN**

Shit.

**NICOLE**

Go out the window. Don't let him see you.

**JOHN**

I love you.

(John exits via window on stage left)

**NICOLE**

(Mark enters right)

Oh, hey Mark.

**MARK**

Hi Nicole...

**NICOLE**

No kiss?

**MARK**

Not today...

**NICOLE**

What's wrong?

MARK

Nothing.

NICOLE

Don't give me that. I can read you like a book. What's wrong?

MARK

Nothing... I'm just having a shitty day that's all.

NICOLE

Alright... Oh your brother called. He said he's in the area and he'll be stopping by in a few.

MARK

Great. He always seems to pick the best times to *drop in*.

NICOLE

What was that?

MARK

Nothing.... Nothing at all.

NICOLE

You alright hon? You seem a little off today.

MARK

Nicole, I.... I'm not alright. Not at all.

NICOLE

Hm?

MARK

Have you been sleeping with anyone else?

NICOLE

No.

MARK

I need to know the truth Nicole.

NICOLE

No.

MARK

From your lips.... I need to hear it. The truth.

NICOLE

No.

MARK

Please Nicole.

NICOLE

What's wrong with you? How many times do I have to tell you no. I'm pretty sure you know what it means.

MARK

I don't need you to say it again Nicole.

NICOLE

Good.

MARK

I want you to tell me the truth.

NICOLE

Mark, I=

MARK

I found a used condom in the bathroom on tuesday. We haven't had sex in two weeks. It's not just cause you're not in the mood. What's going on?

MARK

Nicole... What's going on?

(Nicole tries to leave for the door. Mark stops her, pauses and lets her go. Mark sits down and begins to cry, Nicole stops at the door)

NICOLE

Mark I love you... or I did... I don't know any more. You've been acting so strange.

MARK

Why?

NICOLE

What's happened to you Mark?

MARK

Why Nicole?

NICOLE

It only happened once and it was a terrible mistake.

MARK

A mistake? Why the fuck did you do it?

NICOLE

I don't know.

MARK

That's the worst excuse I've ever heard.

NICOLE

I'm sorry. Oh god. I'm so sorry Mark.

MARK

I don't care. Who was it Nicole? Who did you let into my house? Let him in to defile and ruin everything I've worked so hard to get?

NICOLE

I- can't tell you.

MARK

You can't tell me? Who was it Nicole?

NICOLE

It would destroy you.

MARK

And that makes everything a whole lot better. God damn it Nicole, just tell me. You're hurting me.

NICOLE

Do you trust me?

MARK

...Yes.

NICOLE

Do you love me?

MARK

..Yes.

NICOLE

John.

MARK

My brother John?

NICOLE

...Yes.

MARK

Get out Nicole.

NICOLE

What?

MARK

Get the fuck out of my house.

NICOLE

I think you're taking this too hard.

MARK

Too hard? Get out of my house now before i do something drastic. I don't ever want to see you again. Get out and don't come back.

(picks up a chair and breaks it in two. He begins to scream and wreck his room.)

(Nicole exits right)

MARK

Get out and never come back. I hate you. Get out. Get out. Get out!

(Mark picks up a picture, looks at it then hugs it to himself crying uncontrollably rocking back and forth on the floor)

MARK

I love you... I love you... I love you. Come back... come back.

(There is a knocking offstage right)

JOHN

Mark, It's your brother. I heard screaming, you ok?

MARK

I love you. I love you. I love you. Come back. Come back...

JOHN

Mark I'm coming in.

(John enters right.)

JOHN

Mark? Hello? Mark?

MARK

I love you. Come back. I hate you. Come back. Come back...

JOHN

Jack?

MARK(JACK)

I've been doing it again haven't I brother. Look at the mess I've made.

JOHN

It's ok.

MARK(JACK)

I've made such a mess . Look at my house. I want her back. I love her, but I don't know who. Come back! I want you back!

JOHN

Stop crying Jack... everything will be alright.

MARK(JACK)

Will you help me clean up this mess?

JOHN

Of course.

MARK(JACK)

I am so sad brother. It hurts so bad.

JOHN

I know.

(John walks towards a medicine cabinet upstage right and grabs a syringe)

MARK(JACK)

Will you help me get her back?

JOHN

I'll try.

MARK(JACK)

I love her.

JOHN

I know. Now sit still for a moment. This might sting a little.

MARK(JACK)

No. No. Not the needle. You're going to take me away.

JOHN

Sit still.

MARK(JACK)

I don't want to go away. I want to stay. I love her. I want her to stay.

JOHN

Sit still

(John inserts the syringe. Mark shudders, lays still then sits up)

MARK

John?

JOHN

Mark?

MARK

Yeah, where's Nicole?

JOHN

I don't know, I was about to ask you that when I got here.

MARK

Why?

JOHN

Why what?

MARK

Why did you want to know where she was?

JOHN

Have you taken a look at your house lately? I was worried.

MARK

Right... she's gone for good then. I never wanted this to happen again.

JOHN

Have you been taking your medication?

MARK

No... I thought I was finally okay. That I could put my past behind me. I had another episode didn't I?

JOHN

You know you need to take it. It's been 3 years since this happened. You're not going to ever get better. FUCK.

MARK

You're right. I'm not going to get any better. Maybe I should just give up on this shit.

JOHN

Stop talking that way. I don't want to have to drug you up more.

MARK

That's not funny. I'm serious. How would you feel if the only way you could feel normal was to be on drugs. But it's not very normal now is it?

JOHN

I was just trying to make you feel better.

MARK

And now she's gone. Could she have loved me without them? Or would I have just stayed alone.

JOHN

Stop talking like that. Let me get you a glass of water.

MARK

Damn it. You just don't see it do you. I can't win. I just can't fucking win. I'm always behind the game. One slip up and I lose everything.

(Mark gets up and walks over to a small cabinet upstage left)

JOHN

You haven't lost everything. You don't even know if she's really gone.

(Mark opens the cabinet)

MARK

You don't understand. Maybe I don't want anything. Maybe it's time for me to win.

JOHN

What is that supposed to mean? You're scaring me.

(Mark puts his hands in the cabinet)

JOHN

Mark, Answer me. Answer me damn it.

MARK

Goodbye John.

(Nicole enters stage right at the same time as Mark pulls a gun from the cabinet. And shoots himself in the head. Nicole runs over.)

(Blackout.)