

# Call Me When You Get This

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Brandon Sanchez

Setting:

Two characters, DAVE and MICHELLE, are leaving each other a VOICEMAIL. Dave is at his house, while Michelle is sitting in a café.

## **MICHELLE (through VOICEMAIL)**

Hey, it's Michelle! Sorry I couldn't get to the phone but leave a message and I'll get right back to you.

*A beep is heard offstage.*

## **DAVE**

Hey, it's me.

*Lights on DAVE's side of the stage. He is pacing around his living room.*

I just wanted to talk to you about, I don't know, everything I guess?

*Lights on DAVE go out.*

## **DAVE (through VOICEMAIL)**

What's up, it's Dave. Leave a message and I'll get back to you.

*A beep is heard offstage. Lights on MICHELLE's side of the stage. She is sitting alone at a table in a coffee shop.*

## **MICHELLE**

Hey, it's me. We should talk.

*Lights on DAVE's side of the stage.*

**DAVE and MICHELLE**

Honestly, we should have had this talk a long time ago.

**DAVE**

It just was never the right time, you know? It seemed like every time I was ready to do this, something else was more important.

**MICHELLE**

We've been together for almost two years now, and they've been some of the best of my life.

**DAVE and MICHELLE**

Do you still remember our first date?

*DAVE and MICHELLE both leave their sides of the stage and meet in the middle, a table in a restaurant. They interact with one another but continue speaking as if they are on the phone.*

**DAVE**

Honestly, I wanted to do this right then and there, but, you would have thought I was crazy. You just looked so beautiful.

**MICHELLE**

From the very first time we went out, you were the man of my dreams. I pictured myself getting old with you, having a family with you... I knew you were the one.

**DAVE**

You laughed at all my jokes, and I laughed when you had trouble pronouncing escargot. It was simple, but, it was special.

**MICHELLE**

It was the best first date I had ever been on, even if the escargot tasted like slimy dirt.

*Extended silence. Both characters stand up and look at one another.*

**DAVE and MICHELLE**

Do you remember our anniversary?

**MICHELLE**

You knew I never got to go to my high school prom, so you took me out to that fancy jazz club. We got all dressed up and spent the night dancing...

*DAVE and MICHELLE both walk to the front center of the stage and continue their calls while dancing with each other.*

**DAVE**

It had been a full year since our first date, so I knew that was the night. I wanted to give you the prom night you never got to have. It was everything I had wanted it to be, until...

**DAVE and MICHELLE**

Your/my Mom died.

*They stop dancing and break apart.*

**MICHELLE**

I got the call while we were still at the club. I knew she wasn't doing well but, I thought I still had time.

**DAVE**

We went back to your place and you spent the rest of the night

crying in my arms. I had wanted to do this back then but, it wasn't the right time anymore. I needed to be there for you.

**MICHELLE**

I guess I just needed you there with me, to get through that. But, we were never the same.

**DAVE**

You got distant. Which is fine, I gave you all the space you needed.

**MICHELLE**

I just needed some time to figure everything out.

**DAVE**

We still saw each other, but it was rare. I knew it was just a rough patch, though. We'd come out on the other side stronger.

**MICHELLE**

I took a lot of time to think. About my mom, about you, about me... about everything. Thanks for being patient with me. For as long as you could.

*Extended silence. Both characters return to their original settings.*

**DAVE and MICHELLE**

Then that date happened.

*DAVE and MICHELLE return to the restaurant setting.*

**MICHELLE**

You wanted me to feel better, so you took me back to where we had our first date.

**DAVE**

I figured going back to where it all started might bring back that spark.

**MICHELLE**

You wanted to talk, to go back to the way things were. But I wasn't ready.

**DAVE**

You couldn't look me in the eye for most of the meal.

**MICHELLE**

I knew you wanted this to be special, but I just couldn't do it.

*MICHELLE hurriedly walks out of the restaurant setting.*

**DAVE**

You asked for a separate check and left before dessert. I didn't say anything at the time, but that hurt.

*DAVE leaves the restaurant setting, the lights go down on that part of the stage. DAVE and MICHELLE return to their original settings.*

**MICHELLE**

I shouldn't have walked out on you. I just wasn't ready for all of that.

**DAVE**

I just wanted things to go back to normal, but I know that's dumb.

*Silence.*

**DAVE and MICHELLE**

I'm so sorry about last week.

*Lights on center stage. Where the restaurant scene originally was, there is now a thin wall. Two silhouettes appear on the wall. They are arguing without words.*

**DAVE**

I guess I just, got tired of waiting? And that wasn't fair to you, and I'm sorry.

**MICHELLE**

I was shutting you out and you got tired of it. You were right. I wasn't taking us seriously.

**DAVE**

I just love you so much. It's been months since your Mom passed, and I couldn't stand seeing you fight that fight alone anymore. I just wanted you to know that I'm here.

**MICHELLE**

You kept trying to make me feel better and I kept treating you like dirt. I don't blame you for blowing up, I would have too.

**DAVE**

I shouldn't have raised my voice. That wasn't fair to you.

**MICHELLE**

But that was the last thing I needed.

**DAVE**

I haven't seen you in weeks. I don't blame you for not speaking to me. I wouldn't speak to me either.

**MICHELLE and DAVE**

So, that's why I'm calling you.

**DAVE**

We haven't spoken since last week, and I've been trying to think of a way to make it up to you.

**MICHELLE**

I've thought a lot about what you said last week.

**DAVE**

I knew I wanted to do something big.

**MICHELLE**

I needed to figure out what I wanted from you; from us.

**DAVE**

But, I know you, and I knew you wouldn't even speak to me until I made this right. I had wanted to take you out somewhere, but, this will have to do. I can't wait anymore.

**MICHELLE**

I can't hold my feelings in anymore. I need to let it out.

**DAVE**

It was never the right time, but now it is.

**DAVE and MICHELLE**

I have loved you since the first time we met.

**MICHELLE**

You have been the man of my dreams for almost two years, and I have loved every second I've been with you.

**DAVE**

You're the most important person in my life, and I want you to know that.

**DAVE and MICHELLE**

And that's why I need to tell you...

*Both characters breathe, readying themselves for what they're about to say.*

**DAVE**

I want to marry you.

**MICHELLE**

I don't love you anymore.

**DAVE**

I want to spend the rest of my life with you. I want to have kids and raise them with you.

**MICHELLE**

I'm sorry, I've been so unfair to you. You didn't deserve any of this.

**DAVE**

I can't wait to see you. Things are going to be better than ever, I promise.

**DAVE and MICHELLE**

We need to talk in person. Call me when you get this.

**DAVE**

I love you.

*Lights out on DAVE.*



**MICHELLE**

I'm so sorry, Dave.

*Lights out on MICHELLE. Extended silence.*

**VOICEMAIL**

You have one new voicemail. To listen, press one.