

When I Become You

Group Indigo

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Characters:

Felix, the husband, dresses in white T-shirt

Vanessa, the wife, dresses casually

Linda, the domestic servant, dresses in an apron

Jenny, a woman actor who acts as the mistress

Act 1

The scene is laid at Felix and Vanessa's house.

(In the living room of their apartment.)

(Light on, following the old Felix. Full Front.)

Felix's monologue: My name is Felix. You may have not heard about me before. I am here to share with you a magical story of my wife and me. At that time, Vanessa and I had been married for two years. Both of us had stable jobs and we also had a love nest of our own. Life seemed to be happy. However, I was diagnosed with a cancer and at that time I thought I would die. So, I set a trap to let Vanessa leave me forever; she was young and I didn't want to be her burden. *(In the left stage.)*

(Light off. Change the scene.)

(Light on.)

Felix: *(Pfl, looks at his watch and says to the servant.)* I'll have a meeting at home later. You are free to leave earlier today. Before you go, prepare two glasses of wine.

Linda: Okay, Sir. *(Prepares the wine on the table and leaves.)* Things are ready. See you tomorrow, Sir.

(Linda leaves the house. A few minutes later, Jenny comes in.)

(Change the scene.)

Felix: I hope you have already known your role well. *(Places two wine glasses on the table in the living room.)*

Jenny: Don't worry. Just prepare the money.

Felix: OK, don't let the cat out of the bag. *(There are footsteps coming. Felix listens to the sound of key.)*

Felix: She's back! *(The door is open.)*

Vanessa: (*1/4R. Excitedly.*) I'm home, sweetie! (*Looks at the wine glasses and asks doubtfully.*) Is there a guest? (*Looses her ponytail.*)

(*Felix comes out of the bedroom hurriedly, followed by a woman in shirt.*)

Felix: I thought you are on a business trip. (*Calmly looks away.*) Why are you back so soon?

Vanessa: I sent you a message yesterday. Did you miss that?

Felix: (*Takes his phone out and scans for a second.*) Oh, you did. But you...

Vanessa: (*Interrupts Felix and says with an increased volume.*) Who is she? (*Points at the strange woman.*)

Jenny: (*Hands raised, coquettishly.*) Hi, Vanessa. I am Jenny! I always hear about you from Felix. (*Pretends to be generous.*)

Vanessa: (*Seriously.*) I didn't ask you! (*Stares at Felix. Talks loudly.*) Say something, Felix. Who is she?

Felix: (*Calmly.*) That's what you see... Well, you know... I don't want to hurt you...

Vanessa: (*Impatiently.*) No, no. That's ridiculous! Why? We've got married for only two years... (*Almost cries.*)

Jenny: (*Sneeringly.*) Maybe you should find the reasons of yourself.

Vanessa: (*Uncontrollably, shouts at Jenny.*) Shut up! You know nothing about us.

Felix: Jenny, don't.

Jenny: (*Rolls her eyes and crosses her arms.*) Well, shall I leave now?

Felix: You should have gone earlier. I'll talk to her.

(*Jenny slams the door and leaves.*)

Vanessa: (*Sits on the sofa, says weakly.*) Okay, just you and me now. You want to explain?

Felix: Alright. As you see, I apologize for my betrayal. I admit I did something wrong. But love cannot be controlled. Just like we loved each other at the beginning, I am so sorry that I fall in love with her. Umm... Well, divorce might be the best choice. (*Turns his face aside.*)

Vanessa: (*Stands up in surprise.*) Divorce? Have you been tired of me so soon? (*Turns depressed.*)

Felix: (*Turns his face against Vanessa, and pretends to be impatient.*) Y...yes! I don't love you anymore. I have had enough of you! Honestly, I can't breathe at home. Only when you are away can I feel free.

Vanessa: We have been married for just two years. Don't you feel guilty?

Felix: (*Firmly.*) Not at all. I told you just now. I don't love you anymore. Sorry, Vanessa.

Vanessa: (*Extremely sad.*) This can't be true. How could you... (*Covers her face and cries.*) OK... I compromise. I can change whatever you don't like. But I really love you. Don't leave. Stay, please? (*Grasps his arm and begs.*)

Felix: Vanessa, we are done. (*Pushes her away inexorably.*)

Vanessa: (*Collapses.*) You know what, Felix. You are my world. Now you don't love me, why would I stay? (*Throws her ring away and runs out.*)

Felix: Vanessa! (*Nervously, follows Vanessa.*)

(*Light off.*)

(*Light on.*)

Felix's monologue: (*FF*) At that moment, I could totally feel her despair. Guilt fills my heart. She'd gone as I wished, but I still followed her for her safety. (*In the left stage.*)

(*Light off.*)

(*Light on. Change the scene.*)

Felix: Stop! Don't be silly!

(*A car drives towards Vanessa.*)

(*Felix rushes up and pulls her backwards in a flash.*)

Vanessa (F): (*1/4R, gets up, rubs the shoulder, and looks at the woman in front amazedly.*) What? Why am I out of my body?

Felix (V): (*1/4R, gets up, and looks at the street.*) What...what happened? (*Looks at his body, in shock.*) Why does my voice sound like a woman? (*Touches his face and neck, recognizing the clothes.*) I am...Vanessa?

Vanessa (F): (*Walks to showcase and yells out.*) Oh my god! Why do I become Felix? Then... (*Turns towards Felix.*) Felix? Are you inside of me? (*Starts to be anxious.*) What...

Felix (V): Wait, wait. Calm down, Vanessa. We...

Vanessa (F): (*Vexed.*) We should call the policeman! No, no! They won't believe us. It's so absurd. (*Worriedly.*) what should we do?

Felix (V): Look, we are still on the street. We shouldn't draw others' attention, right? Let's go home first... (*Holds her arm.*)

Vanessa (F): What are you talking about? There is no such home for you and me!

Felix (V): Hey, calm down! Vanessa, please! Listen, you don't want to stay like this, either, right? Just go back with me, and we will find a way to fix everything, OK?

Vanessa (F): Fine, for my own good. (*PfR, walks away.*)

(*Curtain.*)

Act 2

The scene is laid at Felix and Vanessa's house.

(Light on, following the old Felix. Full Front.)

Felix's monologue: *(FF)* We didn't expect the body exchange, but if it was not the accident, we would be separated forever. Maybe it's God who gave us the opportunity to let us know each other again. We both were scared that night, so we went home first and decided to deal with it on the next day. *(In the left stage.)*

(In the morning, Linda comes to Vanessa's house. She picks up the clothes from the sofa and were about to wash them. When she checks Felix's pocket, she finds a doctor's business card in it.)

Linda: Oh! It must be an important doctor's business card for Sir. I have to give it to him.

(Linda quickly walks to the bedroom and finds Vanessa (in Felix's body) applying a mask.)

Linda: Umm...Sir, this is probably your business card. I found it in your pocket.

Vanessa(F): What? Oh. Let me have a look. *(Feels strange.)*

(Linda walks to the restroom to wash the clothes and finds "Vanessa" with a razor in "her" hand and is about to shave.)

Linda: *(Feels strange.)* Madam, I saw that Felix was applying a mask. Did you teach him to do so? Hahaha....

Felix (V): *(Realizes he is "Vanessa" now and hides the razor.)* Oh... *(Remains silent for a moment.)* Yes! I found that his skin was too bad these days, so I let him apply a mask.

Linda: You are so careful! Oh, yes, I will prepare breakfast right now, please come out and have it if you are ready!

(Linda resists laughing and then leaves the restroom.)

(Light off. Change the scene.)

(Light on.)

(At the living room table.)

Linda: Sir, madam, the breakfast is ready. *(In high voice.)*

(Vanessa and Felix walks to the table and look at each other awkwardly.)

(Vanessa (F) has no appetite for breakfast.)

Vanessa (F): *(1/2R)* Ugh. . . How can I eat breakfast in this condition? Felix! Think about ways to change our bodies back.

Felix (V): *(1/2L)* Shh. We can't let Linda know. Who wouldn't want to? Don't push me.

Vanessa (F): *(Pounds the table.)* Think about it quickly!

(Linda finds Vanessa's suitcase while doing cleaning.)

Linda: Madam, is this your suitcase? Let me help you put it back into the room. Would you mind me unpacking it for you?

Vanessa (F): Just put it back. I'll unpack it...

(Linda looks confused.)

Felix (V): *(Noticing something wrong, stands up and interrupts Vanessa.)* Ah... My business. I'll do it myself.



Linda: Okay, madam. Oh, it's 11 o'clock. I should go and buy some ingredients. Excuse me, madam.

(Felix (V) leaves the table without taking his cell phone and takes the suitcase to bedroom.)

(At this moment, Felix's phone buzzes with a sound. Vanessa (F) looks over the messages./The messages from Jenny: I had finished the act! I'll wait for you at the cafe. Bring me the money soon.)

(Vanessa (F) wonders why Felix should pay for the mistress.)

Vanessa (F): (FF) Now that I'm Felix, why don't I take this opportunity to meet her and find out the secret?

(Light off. Change the scene.)

(Light on.)

(In the Café.)

(Jenny sits in the Café, looking at her watch impatiently. Vanessa (F) walks into the café.)

Jenny: (1/2R) Why are you so late? Did you bring the money?

Vanessa (F): (1/2L) Why should I give you money?

Jenny: Are you playing a joke? You hired me to act as your mistress and it's time for you to pay me.

Vanessa (F): You are an actress?

Jenny: Sure! We have the contract. One thousand dollars.

Vanessa (F): Wait...Umm...Let me think about it.

Jenny: You're gonna die soon. What are you waiting for?

Vanessa (F): Die? I'm going to die...You mean... Felix? So, he hired you to... Oh my god, unbelievable!

(Vanessa (F) is shocked and runs out of the café.)

Jenny: Hey, Felix! What happened? you haven't given me the money yet!

(Light off. Change the scene.)

(Light on.)

(At home.)

Felix (V): (FF, puts away the staffs.) Never think of doing this in her body. Quite weird. I have to find out how to change our bodies back quickly... (Sighs) But this might be the last time...

(Felix (V) notices a beautiful notebook. He opens it and finds that it is Vanessa's diary.)

Felix (V): (Reads out Vanessa's diary).

June. 11th 2017 / Sunny /Title: The Proposal

Today I got a load of work and was really tired. But when I got off work and went out of the building, I saw Felix waiting for me at the door with a bunch of red roses. He rushed towards me and gave me a big hug. Then, like a prince, he handed me the flowers and took me to the car. The day was coming...

June. 11th 2018 / Rainy /Title: A Little Disappointment

Today is our anniversary. He was very busy with his work and hadn't contacted me much. I looked at my phone and felt a little disappointed. At 6 pm, he told me that he would work overtime today and come home very late. I felt lonely because he forgot that today is our anniversary. I turned on the TV and waited for him in the living room but fell asleep on the sofa... Though I felt a little bit upset, I understand him. No matter how busy he will be in the future, I would understand him. Because I am his wife, who always loves him...

Oct. 2nd 2018 /Weather: Windy /Title: The Dinner

Felix can't eat spicy food, but today he cooked a dish of poached spicy beef for dinner. I heard him having a dry cough while he was cooking. I could feel Felix's love for me... The dish was very, very delicious; Felix watched me finishing it and smiled merrily. I was really touched. No matter what happens, I will stay by his side and take care of him. Felix is my everything and I will love him forever...

(Light off. Change the scene.)

(Light on.)

(At the moment, Vanessa (Felix) rushes in the house from outside.)

Vanessa (F): Why didn't you tell me about your illness?

(Hearing the voice, Felix (V) comes out.)

Felix (V): My illness? How do you know that?

Vanessa (F): I met... I met Jenny just now. She said... you are going to die... *(Almost cries.)*

Felix (V): Not that severe. You don't need to worry.

Vanessa (F): Why are you still lying to me? We can get through it together.

(Be silent for a while.)

Felix (V): *(Sighs.)* Well, the fact is... I don't want to get you involved and be your burden. I don't mean to hurt you... It's... It's Leukemia. The doctor said I have very little chances to be cured. So, I hired Jenny to act in front of you...

Vanessa (F): I never think that our love is so fragile... I really, really love you; you don't even know that... *(Cries.)*

Felix (V): I know, Vanessa! I know that! Your diary told me everything... No, you have showed me how much you love me by yourself. Sorry, Vanessa! It must be much more harmful if I leave...I'm so sorry...

Vanessa (F): You intended to protect me. I understand. But we should neither leave each other one alone, nor give up. We are family. Felix, there is nothing that we can't go through together.

Felix (V): You're right, Vanessa. I shouldn't leave you. I love you! Would you stay with me all along?

Vanessa (F): Of course!

(They hug. Their souls return to their own bodies.)

Felix: Vanessa!

Vanessa: Felix!

(Linda comes back.)

Linda: *(Covers her mouth.)* Oops. Sorry, do I bother?

Felix: Nope.

Vanessa: As usual.

End





Photograph from Ziyu Ke, Japan, Jun., 2019