

ON THE LEDGE

by

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INT. RONEN'S HOUSE - DAY

RONEN, a nerdish-looking guy of 24, sits with a laptop and Googles "How to take a girl to a movie." He clicks a result and reads it.

Ronen picks up his phone, finds "Meital" in his contacts, and flaps his finger over her name. After a short hesitation, he removes the finger.

Suddenly he receives an incoming call from "Meital", stunned, takes a deep breath and answers it.

MEITAL

(phone)

Hey, Ronen! Can you take me to
"Cinema Planet" today?

RONEN

(surprised)

"Cinema Planet"?
You mean... to a movie?

MEITAL

Yeah... I mean... only if you want to.

Ronen smiles in surprise.

RONEN

Y... yeah! Yeah! Sure!

MEITAL

Thank you! You're so cute! Bye!

INT. RONEN'S HOUSE/BATHROOM - DAY

Ronen stands in front of the mirror, puts on a shaving gel, and starts shaving, practicing what to say when he meets Meital.

RONEN

Hey Meital!
Hey, Meital...
Hey, Metal!

Ronen finishes shaving and washes his face. He goes on practicing in front of the mirror trying to look cool.

RONEN

Hey Meital, which movie are we
going to see?
So, tell me, Meital, which movie
are we going for?

He wipes his face with a towel and goes on practicing.

RONEN

Hey, Meital! Which movie are we
going to TODAY?...
Hey, Ronen! You're an idiot...

Ronen smells his armpit, disgusted, and puts on a deodorant on both armpits. Makes a grimace on his face because it is cold.

Then he pulls his pants a bit forward and sheds some deodorant down there. A bigger grimace shows up on his face. He picks up a condom from a condom packet on a shelf.

RONEN

Hey, Meital. It's night already.
Wanna come to my house?...
My parents are on vacation...

Ronen puts the condom into his pocket. Then another one. Then two more. He combs his hair, stunned by how cool he is.

RONEN

Meital! There is something I was
afraid to tell you all my life...

(takes another breath)
I... I love you!

INT. RONEN'S HOUSE/CLOSET - DAY

Ronen enters his closet in haste looking for a shirt to wear. He stops at a few of them for a moment and skips, until he finds a black shirt with a Superman. Wears it. Starts looking for pants.

He peeks at the time, nervous, hesitates for a moment and suddenly runs out of the closet like crazy.

EXT. RONEN'S HOUSE/GARAGE - DAY

Ronen's car leaves the garage at a high speed.

EXT/INT. ENTRANCE TO MEITAL'S HOUSE / RONEN'S CAR - DAY

Ronen parks next to the entrance to Meital's house and opens the window. He sees MEITAL, a pretty-looking girl of 22, already waiting for him. He brushes up in front of the mirror, takes a deep breath, and opens the car's door.

As he opens the door he spots YOGEV, a handsome guy of 23, approaching and kissing her. Ronen freezes, shocked. His smile fades away. He stares at them but they can't see him.

EXT. ENTRANCE TO MEITAL'S HOUSE - DAY

MEITAL
(to Yogev)
We planned at 6:50 pm, right?

Yogev lowers his glance, ashamed.

MEITAL
What's with your car?

YOGEV

Still broken... I'll get a taxi.

MEITAL

No need to. Ronen should pick us up.
He'll be here in 5 minutes.

YOGEV

Oh... Okay.

Yogev lights up a cigarette and offers her as well. She refuses and avoids eye contact as if expecting something. Yogev rubs her hair. Meital throws away his cigarette. They kiss and hug and sit down at the nearest bench.

EXT/INT. ENTRANCE TO MEITAL'S HOUSE / RONEN'S CAR - DAY

Watching Meital and Yogev in astonishment, Ronen turns furious. Still watching them, he closes the window and dials a number.

INT. PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC, RECEPTION - DAY

DANA, a receptionist of 25 years old, answers the phone at her working desk.

DANA

Ha-Levi Psychology Clinic, how
can I help?

INT. RONEN'S CAR - DAY

Ronen takes a deep breath.

RONEN

It's Ronen.

INT. PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC / RECEPTION - DAY (INTERCUT)

Dana rolls her eyes, as if irritated hearing his voice again.

DANA
(irritated)

Yes, Ronen...

INT. RONEN'S CAR - DAY

RONEN
Can I come now?!

INT. PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC / RECEPTION - DAY (INTERCUT)

Dana rolls her eyes.

DANA
(with sympathy)
Look, we are already booked up,
I can't let you in out of schedule!

EXT. ENTRANCE TO THE OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Ronen parks next to the building and rushes inside.

INT. PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC / CORRIDOR - DAY

Ronen enters the clinic's corridor, depressed. He passes the receptionist's desk and finds it empty.

Beneath the utter silence, he hears a FEMALE SINGING VOICE from the distance. He slows up his pace, looks around in confusion, and listens to the singing.

HIS PHONE suddenly rings. Frightened, he pulls it out and sees an incoming call from Meital and the current time - 07:02 pm. After a short hesitation, he declines the call and moves on.

Ronen spots the door to the psychologist's office slightly open. A ray of light protrudes through the opening.

The closer Ronen approaches the office, the more clearly he hears the singing voice. He enters the office and fades inside the ray of light.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Ronen enters the office and sees a lot of wall pictures, books, and diplomas. He sees Dana standing still petrified, staring towards the balcony. Dana signals him to be quiet. Ronen hears the FEMALE SINGING VOICE much clearer than before.

DANA
(whispers)
Step back, don't frighten her!

Ronen eyes her in confusion.

DANA
(whispers)
Stay here, I'll call for help!

She bypasses him and runs out of the office.

Ronen proceeds inside the office, peeks at the balcony, and freezes in shock.

He sees ILANA, a psychologist of 40 with scattered hair, wearing an elegant black outfit, standing on a chair next to the ledge of a balcony, singing and paying no attention to Ronen.

Ronen, terrified, looks back at the entrance to the office as if expecting Dana to come back.

Ronen stands still for a few seconds, afraid to make a wrong move, until Ilana finishes her song.

Ilana puts one leg on the ledge. Ronen steps forward, scared.

RONEN

Ilana?

ILANA

What a beautiful sight, isn't it?

RONEN

I'm sure it's no less beautiful
from inside.

ILANA

Come closer, watch the sunset
with me!

RONEN

Uhm... sure.

Ronen carefully takes a step forward.

ILANA

Tell me, how's it going with that
Girl, what was her name...
Meital, right?

RONEN

Eh... it's okay. Getting better.
Thank you.

Ilana puts another leg on the ledge, frightening Ronen.

RONEN

Why don't you get down there, so
that... we can discuss it... inside...

Ronen sees it doesn't work, desperately looking for what to say.

RONEN

We can see the sunset together!

ILANA
(laughs)
You've got so much to learn, boy!

RONEN
I'm only trying to help.

ILANA
That's what you all men say when
you want sex!

RONEN
What?! What are you talking about?!
I'm not even... I'm not like that!

ILANA
"It's not about sex, it's about
personality"... I heard it before.
Many times...

RONEN
Look, I wasn't honest with you in
our previous sessions. I'm a
Dungeons and Dragons fan...
I can live without sex...

ILANA
Don't tell me you are a...

RONEN
I didn't say that! I mean... I...

Ilana smiles. Suddenly she loses her balance. The scared Ronen
instinctively steps forward but stops as Ilana regains balance.

RONEN
Yes! I'm a virgin! I've promised
myself that Meital would be my
first time, okay?!

ILANA

Wait... What about all the girls you
said you got laid with?

Ronen lowers his glance. Ilana faces him for the first time.

RONEN

Let's talk inside. Please.

After a short hesitation, Ilana climbs down from the ledge, ties
up her hair, and sits down on the ledge facing the office. She
lights a cigarette and signals Ronen to sit next to her.

ILANA

You've got five minutes till I
finish my cigarette.

Ronen sits on the ledge next to her, both facing the office. He
nervously peeks at the street and immediately turns away.

He pulls his hand towards Ilana's cigarettes to take one. Ilana
throws a glance at him and causes Ronen to pause.

A moment later, Ronen takes courage, grabs a cigarette, and puts
it in his mouth. Ilana lights it for him.

Ronen takes a puff like an amateur pretending he has been
smoking for years. Seconds later he starts coughing. Ilana
smiles and stretches her hand to take the cigarette from him.

ILANA

Give me that, it's gonna kill you.

RONEN

...says someone who has just been
standing on the ledge a minute ago.

Seeing her smile fading away, Ronen quickly regrets his words.

ILANA

Do you have any idea what unrequited love is? I was an actor, Ronen, a movie actor! I had it all! Career, bright future! But then I met him, and everything changed...

Ronen receives a phone call from Meital. It's 19:07 on the phone. He quickly declines the call.

ILANA

Who's that? Meital?

RONEN

(ignores her question)

So... he wasn't into you?

ILANA

Ha! Of course, he was! We even got married. But it bothered him that I was an actor, always surrounded by men. So I had to make a tough choice. A choice between career... and family.

RONEN

And you chose family...

Ilana nods and keeps smoking with only half a cigarette left.

Ronen receives another phone call from Meital, declines it, and loses his balance for a moment. He puts the phone down and throws a glance towards the entrance as if expecting somebody to come in.

RONEN

Where is he now? Did he abandon you?

ILANA

Abandon?! Ha! I wish he did!

Ilana's phone calls. She answers and starts speaking as if a slave is talking to his master. Ronen throws away his cigarette.

ILANA

Yes. Yes, I remember, the coffee machine. You'll get it today. Bye...

Ilana hangs up and returns to her previous, authoritative state. Ronen watches her in confusion.

RONEN

That was him?

ILANA

His coffee machine is broken. Now he can't have a hot cappuccino every time he takes a break between sex!

Ronen swallows, shocked. Ilana is almost finishing the cigarette.

Ronen's PHONE RINGS. He hangs up.

ILANA

Why won't you answer her?

RONEN

(ignores her question)

Did he cheat on you?

ILANA

Yes, at his new apartment. Every damn night... The walls are... thin!

Ilana finishes the cigarette. Ronen tries to put a hand on her shoulder in awkwardness. She stops him with a glance.

ILANA

Thank you, Ronen! Thank you for
listening to me. Anyone else
would've called the cop long ago.

Ronen lowers his glance in guilt.

Suddenly Dana breaks into the office followed by a cop.

DANA

Ilana?!

Ilana and Ronen are both frightened.

COP

Mrs. Ha-Levi? Please, come with me.

Ilana faces Ronen with anger and disbelief.

ILANA

So all of this was just to buy some
time till they show up?!
Dungeon and Dragons! Huh?!

She steps back from Ronen, stands up on the chair, and puts one
leg on the ledge. Dana and the cop instinctively step forward.

ILANA

Step back!!!

Everybody freeze. Ilana prepares to step further on the ledge.

RONEN

Ilana, please! You don't have to pay
for other peoples' mistakes!

ILANA

No... I gave up everything for him! I
made a mistake, and I'll pay for it!

RONEN

Forget about the past! You wanted to
be an actor! Go! Pursue your dream!

Ilana looks at him, and down the balcony, on the street.

ILANA

Too late...

Ilana stands up on the ledge. Ronen eyes Dana and the cop as if
seeking help.

Suddenly, Ronen climbs up the balcony and peeks down on the
street. Ilana watches him in fear. Dana rushes forward but the
cop calms her down.

ILANA

What the hell are you doing?!

RONEN

If you jump, I jump after you!

ILANA

Are you out of your fucking mind?!

RONEN

Yes, I am! I also have mistakes I
have to pay for!

Ilana peeks at Dana and the cop and turns back to Ronen.

ILANA

Look, I gotta tell you something.
Everything you've just seen is a...

Ronen's PHONE RINGS. Meital calls. The time is 19:13.

He faces Ilana and answers the phone.

Dana wants to step forward, but the cop stops her again.

MEITAL

(phone)

Why don't you answer? We said 19:00.
We're waiting for you!

Ilana keeps trying to catch Ronen's attention when he speaks on the phone but in vain.

RONEN

(takes a deep breath)

Take a taxi.

MEITAL

(phone)

What?!

RONEN

Meital! This may be the last time
you hear my voice, so I want to tell
you something I was afraid to tell
you my whole life...

(takes a deep breath)

Go fuck yourself!!!

Ronen hangs up, takes a pause, and peeks down the ledge. Ilana's face turns satisfied as if she is happy for Ronen.

RONEN

(to Ilana)

Alright... Are you ready?

Ronen makes a step forward towards the street. Ilana realizes what he is up to and rushes towards him.

ILANA

No!!!

She grabs him and pulls him back. Both drop from the balcony into the office.

Dana and the cop run towards them and help them stand up. The cop helps the petrified Ilana sit on the chair inside the office. Dana takes Ronen to the other side of the room.

COP

(to Ilana)

Hey! Are you alright? Wait here,
I'll get you something to drink.

The cop rushes to bring her a drink.

Ronen gives Ilana a thankful glance and nods. Ilana looks back at him and responds with a forced smile. Dana pats Ronen on the shoulder and gently escorts him out of the office.

The cop returns and gives Ilana a glass of water. She refuses. When Ronen leaves the office, Dana sighs in relief and sits next to Ilana. Ilana still recovers from her shock.

INT. PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC / CORRIDOR - DAY

Ronen exits the psychologist's office with a satisfied grin.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - DAY (INTERCUT)

Dana checks the time and stands up in haste.

DANA

Ilana, we've got no time for this.
Yael should be here any minute!

Dana stands up and reaches the middle of the office.

INT. PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC / CORRIDOR - DAY (INTERCUT)

Ronen walks through the corridor with a satisfied grin.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - DAY (INTERCUT)

Dana brushes herself up. Ilana releases her hair. The cop leaves the office.

INT. PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC / CORRIDOR - DAY (INTERCUT)

Ronen bypasses the receptionist's desk. In the background, the cop exits the psychologist's office in a rush, sneaks into the closest door, and closes it afterward.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - DAY (INTERCUT)

Ilana finishes scattering her hair and faces Dana. Dana hints towards the ledge.

ILANA

Alright... Reset!

INT. PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC / CORRIDOR - DAY

Ronen bypasses YAEL, a depressed girl of 17 in a gothic outfit. They exchange glances as they bypass each other. Yael goes on to the office, while Ronen leaves the clinic.

Yael is surprised to see the psychologist's office open. A ray of light protrudes through the opening.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Yael carefully enters the office and sees Dana, scared as hell. Dana stares in front of her. She hears a FEMALE VOICE SINGING.

DANA

(whispers)

Step back, don't scare her!

Yael eyes her in confusion. She reaches Dana and peeks at where Dana is staring.

She sees Ilana on the ledge, singing the same song she sang when Ronen had seen her for the first time. Yael is horrified.

CUT TO BLACK:

THE END