

FADE IN:

The screen is black. The voices of MAYA and TIM talking are heard, but nothing is on screen.

MAYA (V.O.)
Do you love me?

TIM (V.O.)
Of course I love you. I wouldn't
be marrying you if I didn't.

MAYA (V.O.)
Are you sure?

TIM (V.O.)
I've never been more sure of
anything in my life.

MAYA (V.O.)
Tell it to me again.

TIM (V.O.)
I love you.

INSERT - THE STORY BOOK

It is beautifully bound and gilded with the title "THE SOUP
STORM BY, J. TIMOTHY BAXTER." The book opens and pages
begin to turn.

MAYA (V.O.)
No, silly, the story.

TIM (V.O.)
(playfully)
That silly thing? Are you sure?

MAYA (V.O.)
Definitely.

TIM (V.O.)
But it's so lame.

MAYA (V.O.)
Please?

TIM (V.O.)
I don't know...

MAYA (V.O.)
Come on. Tell me, tell me!

TIM (V.O.)
OK, OK. Here it goes. But this is
the last time.

Tim clears his throat as the page turns one final time. On the left page are the words "ONCE UPON A TIME" written in ornately engraved calligraphy. On the right page is a picture window of TIM'S SOUP LAND.

TIM (V.O.)
Once upon a time...

The camera closes in on the picture.

CUT TO:

EXT. TIM'S SOUP LAND

The scene in the picture window now encompasses the whole screen.

TIM (V.O.)
There was a man who lived in a
desolate land, and every day of his
life it rained soup.

We see a desolate landscape. The sky is black and a bleak rain falls. Instead of encouraging life to thrive, things look grim and deserted. The ground is steaming. We hear occasional HISSES and SIZZLES as the rain falls. In the distance, there is a SMALL SHELTER.

TIM is huddled miserably beneath it, dressed in dingy, damp rags. Everything, including Tim, seems washed out in color.

TIM (V.O.)
Each day, he would run around
trying to collect enough soup to
eat, but mostly he ended up just
burning his hands and lips.

Tim leaves the shelter quickly, running around with his hands and tongue extended to catch the hot soup falling. As drops fall on him, we hear more HISSING and SIZZLES as he winces in pain.

After a moment, he huddles back under the shelter, licking soup off his burnt hands and sucking it from his dampened clothes.

TIM (V.O.)

He was miserable, but had no choice
but to live there because an evil
witch had cursed him long ago.

Tim huddles in a fetal position, sobbing.

TIM (V.O.)

One day, something wonderful
happened.

Tim opens his eyes and sees something in the distance that
surprises him and lifts his spirits.

TIM (V.O.)

A beautiful stranger came into his
desolate land and took pity on him.

MAYA enters, holding an UMBRELLA and a CARPET BAG. Her
ornate clothes are clean and dry. She has an ethereal
radiance about her. Where ever she walks or stands, the
soup stops raining on her.

She sees Tim in the shelter and heads to him. Smiling
graciously, she extends her hand to help him to his feet.

Tim takes her hand. As he stands tall, she hands him the
umbrella to stop the soup from falling on him.

TIM (V.O.)

"You poor man," she said. "Here,
have a bowl."

Maya produces a BOWL from her bag.

TIM (V.O.)

This was the most amazing thing in
the world to him, and he couldn't
believe his great fortune.

Tim smiles in awe as he holds his bowl out to collect soup.

TIM (V.O.)

But things continued to get better.
She gave him a spoon.

Just as Tim is about to take a sip straight from the bowl,
Maya stops him and hands him a SPOON. Tim is slowly
brightening like Maya. His clothes are dry and he is
looking less dirty.

He puts the umbrella down, takes the spoon and begins to eat
when Maya stops him again.

TIM (V.O.)

And a table with a chair for him to sit down.

Maya directs his attention to A TABLE with TWO CHAIRS. It set formally with a tablecloth, a centerpiece, candles and two complete place settings.

Tim and Maya walk to the table and take their seats. Maya places her NAPKIN in her lap and waits patiently for Tim to follow suit. Tim unsteadily follows her lead and places his napkin on his lap. He's obviously out of his element.

TIM (V.O.)

And just when he thought things were as good as they could get, she continued to wow and amaze him by giving him some wine and bread to go with the meal.

Maya leans over to procure a BOTTLE OF WINE and a BAGUETTE from her bag. Tim pours some wine and the two tuck into their dinner.

TIM (V.O.)

Things continued to get better for the man, because this beautiful stranger decided to stay with him. Together they built a house to shelter them from the soup storm.

Tim is dressed as ornately as Maya and is equally as bright and vivid. Slowly the brightness extends to the area around them.

They leave the table and Maya points to a quaint HOUSE in the distance. It is on a hill with a small path leading to the door.

Tim and Maya link arms, and begin walking toward the house.

TIM (V.O.)

One day, the soup storm ended. The man's land had gone from being cursed to being full of life.

As they walk along the path toward the house, plants and flowers begin blooming around them and the sky becomes brighter. Once they reach the house, the two of them turn to survey the land which is now bright and sunny.

TIM (V.O.)
The man knew that it was all
because of this beautiful stranger,
so he asked her to marry him.

Tim gets down on one knee and presents Maya with a RING. She looks surprised and happily nods her head to accept.

TIM (V.O.)
She accepted and made him the
happiest man in the world.

Tim places the ring on her finger, stands up and hugs her.

TIM (V.O.)
And they lived happily ever after.

They walk into the house and close the door behind them.

CUT TO:

THE STORY BOOK

We see the pages of the STORY BOOK showing the closed door and the words "AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER." The page turn once more to the last page that says "THE END."

TIM (V.O.)
The end.

The book closes.

CUT TO:

INT. TIM'S BEDROOM - MORNING (THURSDAY)

TIM and MAYA are laying in bed, cuddled together. Tim is dressed in a plain white shirt and boxers. He is well-built, handsome and in his mid-to-late thirties. Maya is dressed in a cartoon-character emblazoned pajamas, and wildly colorful socks pulled up to her knees. She is in her early 20s and still has a bit of baby-fat to lose.

Tim has a BOOK in his hand that he closes and sets on the bedside table. Both are smiling and happy. They kiss briefly.

MAYA
I love that story.

TIM
I love you.

MAYA
I love you, too.

They kiss again.

CUT TO:

INT. MAYA'S APARTMENT - MORNING (FRIDAY)

MAYA is crying on the couch. Strewn around the floor and makeshift coffee table in front of her are pictures, postcards, books, letters and other keepsakes that are obviously Tim related. Separate from the chaos is a small, very neat PILE OF TORN PAPER.

MAYA
I hate you, Tim.

She looks at the torn pieces of paper, flinches at the sight of them, then quickly looks away.

MAYA (V.O.)
How could you fucking do this to me? Two days?! You leave just two days before our wedding? Just like that! No balls, Tim. You didn't even say goodbye.

She begins shuffling through the pictures. As she picks up a POLAROID, she pauses for a moment.

It is a photo of Tim and Maya mugging for the camera. The words "FOUR CORNERS" is written along the bottom.

MAYA (O.S.)
How can two people who look so happy and in love end up like this?

CUT TO:

EXT. FOUR CORNERS MONUMENT - AFTERNOON

Moments after the picture is taken. TIM and MAYA stop posing. Tim gets the CAMERA and POLAROID back from the MAN that took the picture for them.