

INT. NEAL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Paige throws herself down on the bed as Neal takes off his shirt and tosses it on a chair.

PAIGE

I'm dead tired. Where's Bob tonight?

NEAL

Who ever knows with Bob. You should stay here tonight.

Paige rolls over to look at Neal as he moves toward the bed.

PAIGE

For awhile, but I need to get home. I still have a few things to pack for our trip tomorrow.

Neal leans over and kisses Paige.

NEAL

I haven't got it all together either.

Neal rolls out of the bedroom.

PAIGE

I can't thank you enough for coming with me to meet the family.

KITCHEN

Neal fills a glass with water from a jug in the refrigerator.

Neal speaks loud enough for Paige to hear.

NEAL

No problem. If we ever do get married, someday, I'll have to meet them. So let's get a head start.

Neal sets the glass carefully on his lap as he rolls back to the bedroom.

BEDROOM

Paige rolls over on the bed.

PAIGE
It's just going to be a shock for everyone that's all.

Neal re-enters the bedroom.

NEAL
I know. I'm a bit nervous, that's for sure.

Paige jokingly smiles.

PAIGE
What? The magnificent Neal Perry can't handle it?

Neal looks with a confident smile.

NEAL
I can handle anything you put in front of me!

Neal checks the balance of the glass of water on his lap.

Paige jumps up on her knees, untucks her shirt and places her hands on her hips.

PAIGE
Try and handle this!

With a big smile Neal rolls toward the bed.

The glass falls over spilling in his lap.

He catches the glass just before it falls to the floor.

NEAL
Aghhhh!

In frustrated anger, Neal turns and throws the glass against the far wall. It shatters in a thousand pieces.

Paige falls on the bed and covers her head with her arms.

Neal hangs his head into his hands.

Paige rushes over to Neal.

PAIGE
Honey, it's alright.

NEAL
It pisses me off. I can't seem to
do a simple task without it
becoming a major freakin' deal.

Paige, standing behind Neal, rubs his back.

PAIGE
You do a lot. So what if sometimes
things fall.

Neal methodically inspects his open hands in front of him.

NEAL
I can't carry anything from one
place to the other. I lost my legs
and to make up for it, it's like
I need another hand, or two.

Neal closes his hands making them into fists and pulls them
into his chest.

Paige kneels down next to Neal.

PAIGE
My hands are always here for you.
Just ask. Everybody needs help
once in awhile.

NEAL
The last thing I want is being
thought of, seen, or treated as
some sort of child.

Paige looks adamantly into Neal's eyes.

PAIGE
I don't ever see you like that. A
part of being together is helping
each other. Let me be your extra
set of hands.

Paige takes Neal's clenched hand from his chest and gently
holds it.

Neal looks into Paige's eyes.

NEAL

I've been at this for awhile and I've been doing all right. You're a natural at this, but I don't want help.

Paige gives a little smile out of the corner of her mouth.

PAIGE

No one wants help. But, we all need it once in awhile. You've just got to let me know when and I'll be there.

NEAL

Sure, and when I feel I need it, I'll let you know.

PAIGE

That's what couples do. They help each other. We're no different.

NEAL

Why do you put up with me? Why don't you find yourself a good able bodied man? You deserve it.

Neal holds Paige's hand tight as she smiles with contentment.

PAIGE

There's a lot of men with some sort of disability. Usually it's their ego or just plain stupidity. They ought to get a parking plate because I don't know how they get from their car to the store and back again!

They both let out a small laugh, breaking some tension.

Neal caresses Paige's face as she closes her eyes and moves her face into Neal's hand.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

I love these hands and they are worth helping.

Paige kisses Neal's hand, stands up in front of Neal and sits on his lap.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

Your limitations I can at least
deal with! And I don't want
anybody else. I want you.

Paige moves a little closer on Neal's lap and kisses him.

NEAL

Well, let's see if I can keep you
from falling off my lap!

Neal wraps his arms around Paige to hold her tightly.

Paige wraps her arms around Neal and draws his head into
her chest resting her cheek on the top of Neal's head.