

# Forever

# Tonight



by

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One night Jasmine admitted something to Chris that finally made him confront her about her boyfriend. Jasmine hadn't visited Chris on the previous Sunday. She hadn't replied to his texts all day and night. Chris asked her what had happened.

*"I stayed in a hotel room with him that night"* she confessed.

Chris was hurt. That wasn't supposed to happen. She'd told him they never slept together.

*"Why?"* demanded Chris.

*"He was too drunk to drive home,"* explained Jasmine, *"he got a hotel room instead."*

*"So why did you stay with him?"* asked Chris, *"you only live close-by. Why did you need to stay in the room? Why didn't you just go home?"*

Jasmine couldn't answer that.

*"He fell asleep straight away,"* was all she could say, *"nothing happened. We didn't even cuddle."*

For the first time, Chris felt his trust for Jasmine tested. He'd seen girls make excuses not to leave their sponsors before. He knew the excuses they used. He knew that girls often denied anything sexual happened when they were with men for money. He felt he was hearing the exact same excuses and denials from her. Chris didn't want to lose faith in Jasmine. He didn't want to accept he'd made a mistake. He demanded to know when she would leave Walter.

*"How long?"* he asked.

*"Soon,"* she all she could reply.

*"I will be honest,"* Chris said, *"I don't know whether you had sex with him or not."*

*"Nothing happened,"* insisted Jasmine, *"it's not like that with him."*

She tried to laugh it off.

*"You are being silly,"* she said, *"If you knew how he was, then you would know how silly it is for you to think that."*

*"Maybe this time,"* Chris replied, *"but the longer you delay this, the more chance there is of something happening that will ruin it for us."*

*"Don't be silly;"* said Jasmine, *"it's not like that."*

*"Sooner or later, the old man is going to want something more from you,"* said Chris.

*"Nothing happened between us for months,"* Jasmine reassured, *"nothing is going to happen."*

But Jasmine's reassurance wasn't good enough for Chris. He was really scared. He knew that Jasmine was expecting far too much trust from him. She hadn't needed to stay with Walter in that hotel room. She could easily have found an excuse to go home.

Jasmine had let him down badly, for the first time. Chris really needed to know for sure that he hadn't made a terrible mistake falling in love with Jasmine. His heart dropped as he considered again that maybe he had doomed himself to an awful heartbreak. If Chris had made a mistake with her, then he had to learn his mistake now.

Chris was scared and doubted Jasmine. He was no fool. He'd heard her excuses used by other girls before. His fear made him angry. Jasmine was upset also. She got angry in return.

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*“You are just judging me because of the other girls in the bars!”* she accused him, *“I am not like them at all. You are being unfair to me!”*

Chris felt terrified. He felt sure he had made a bad mistake to trust Jasmine. He had to end it now. He allowed himself to be angry. Anger meant he could push her away. He could protect himself.

He told her to leave, *“Get out of my house! Get out of my life forever!”*

It was better that way.

But Jasmine cried. She promised Chris she was different. She clung to him tightly and would not leave.

*“I love you so much,”* she said, *“don’t push me away.”*

Chris hesitated. He looked at this beautiful girl clinging to him in tears. This girl he loved and felt was the most special one he had ever met. He asked himself if he was wrong. He considered if he was really being unfair. Just because other girls used those words as excuses, it didn’t mean that Jasmine was using them falsely. She might be different.

He’d always thought she was different before. Chris asked himself if he was just being jealous or impatient. He wondered if he had really just become distrusting or paranoid. He had promised himself years ago that he would give people trust until they showed they didn’t deserve it. Had Jasmine really broken that trust now? He thought she’d been honest with him so far. She had admitted being in the hotel and she could have concealed it if she wanted to. She hadn’t broken his trust, he decided.

Jasmine had asked him to give her time, and Chris had agreed to give her that time.

Chris felt ashamed of being angry. He wasn’t an angry person. He was just scared of being hurt and anger was the only way he knew to close his heart. He would have to close his heart if he wanted to leave her. There was no other way he could end it because he loved her so much.

But, for now, Chris decided he would give her more trust. He would keep waiting.

More weeks passed by. Jasmine still stayed at his house most nights and they were happy together. But she still left him regularly to meet Walter whenever he summoned her for dates. It was killing Chris. He hated it. But Chris held his pain and fear inside as best he could. He didn’t want to ruin what they had with arguments. He tried to give her time. But she still never left her boyfriend.

He felt sure that she must be able to see his pain and suffering. He couldn’t understand why she would let him suffer for so long.

*“If you are going to leave your boyfriend,”* he would ask her, *“then why not do it immediately?”*

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*“Why do you put me through this pain of waiting, if you are going to leave him anyway?” he pleaded.*

*“You say you love me,” he would reason to her, “but you seem fine to hurt me, rather than hurt him.”*

Chris was confused and frightened. It made no sense to him.

*“You said you were sure to leave him, so why haven’t you left him?” questioned Chris.*

*“I was sure before,” she explained, “but I am not totally sure now.”*

*“You changed your mind?” asked Chris, “You know I took a huge risk to let myself love you.”*

*“I was sure about myself before” Jasmine explained, “but I was never sure about you.”*

*“What aren’t you sure about?” asked Chris*

*“That I might regret choosing you.” Jasmine admitted, “That you might waste my time and just leave me for a younger and prettier girl in the future. I know so many girls chase you.”*

*“That’s just fear and insecurity,” said Chris, “I am showing you that you can trust me and that I am very serious to you. I am not interested in other girls. I chose you.”*

*“You got angry with me before,” replied Jasmine, “you asked me to leave. You said to get out of your life. What if I do something wrong in the future and you leave me?”*

*“Staying with your boyfriend makes this toxic for us,” stated Chris, “of course I get jealous when you leave me to see him. You slept in a hotel with him. You are asking so much trust from me. I am scared you might never leave him. Can’t you appreciate how hard this is for me?”*

*“I am so scared to trust you,” said Jasmine, “Rob hid that he was married. How do I even know you aren’t secretly married? How do I even know you are really divorced?”*

Chris rose from his seat and crossed the room. He opened a file and took out some paperwork. He walked back to Jasmine and sat down.

*“Here,” he said, “this is my divorce paperwork. I have not been married for ten years.”*

Chris could see that Jasmine wasn’t satisfied, but understood her insecurities. He decided that he would do everything possible to take her fears away. When he was alone, he spent hours thinking about what she had said to him. He thought long and deeply about his feelings for her. Was he right to ask her to take that risk for him? Was he totally sure?

Yes, Chris was sure. He knew he truly loved Jasmine. He felt she was “the one”. He had never felt that way before with any other woman. He felt confident that he could love her for a lifetime. He knew he would never want anyone else if he had her. He thought he had seen the worst of her and he still loved her unconditionally. She could naturally make him happy like no other girl ever had. He was totally content with her. It was only the complication of her relationship that was causing them problems. He felt if that issue were erased, then they’d be fantastic together.