

THE RETURN OF MELISSA

Original Feature Script

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Library of Congress: TXu 2-124-241

ISBN 978-952-69560-4-6

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THE RETURN OF MELISSA

Original Feature Script (62 pages)

Setting: Colorado, USA

Excerpt Selection: Pages 1-7 — A Glimpse Into Nathan and
Melissa's World

OVER BLACK

A man mutters above the sounds of SCREECHING AND THUMPING.

NATHAN (V.O.)
 The light of God surrounds us.
 The love of God enfolds us.
 The power of God protects us.
 The presence of God watches over
 us.
 Wherever we are, God is, and where
 God is, all is well.

FADE IN:

INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

It's dark. A pile of chairs barricades the door. The SCREECHING comes from the other side. THUMPING against the door. Something, or someone, is desperate to get in.

NATHAN, early 30s, eyes shut, sweats as he sits with the back to the barricade and feverishly reads from a book of prayers.

The door shakes with each THUMP.

NATHAN
 As a Father, guard and protect me
 from all evil.

THUMP!

NATHAN (CONT'D)
 Grant me protection. Grant, O Lord,
 Thy protection. And in protection,
 strength, and in strength,
 understanding.

THUMP.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
 And in understanding, knowledge.
 And in knowledge, the knowledge of
 justice. And in the knowledge of
 justice, the love of it.

THUMP... Silence.

Nathan opens his eyes. He listens. The room is still. He takes a deep breath and closes his eyes.

EXT. COLORADO HIGHWAY - DAY

The sun shines brightly as a lone used car winds its way down the highway.

INT. NATHAN'S CAR - DAY

A bouquet of pink roses and a case of fancy champagne in the passenger seat as Nathan drives wearing a blue suit and big smile.

He presses the "CALL" button on the car's steering wheel.

NATHAN

Melissa.

The phone RINGS.

Then:

MELISSA (V.O.)

Where are you?

NATHAN

On a way home. It was a queue.

INT. NATHAN'S HOME, BATHROOM - DAY

MELISSA, a beautiful brunette in her 30's, in a long red dress, talks with Nathan on speakerphone as she applies lipstick.

MELISSA

Have you got it?

NATHAN

(giving a glance at
champagne)

Yeap! And it was expensive!

MELISSA

You deserve a kiss.

NATHAN

Only a kiss?

MELISSA

Oh, drive fast. Guests are coming.

NATHAN

Give me a couple of minutes!

She ends the call.

EXT. NATHAN'S HOME - DAY

Nathan's car pulls up to a beautiful home surrounded by a forest. He gathers the roses and champagne and heads toward a "WELCOME TO M&N ANNIVERSARY" banner hanging over the front door.

INT. NATHAN'S HOME, LIVING ROOM - LATER

Colorful balloons, candles and party streamers decorate the room. There is a piano in the corner.

A banner reading "NATHAN + MELISSA = 10 YEARS OF LOVE" hangs on the wall.

Melissa sits by the window, reading a book. A gold engraving on it reads "PRAYERS."

Nathan enters carrying the roses and champagne. He spots Melissa and stops in awe.

NATHAN

Wow!

Melissa closes her book and smiles as he sets the bottle on the table next to the finger food and wine, then approaches her with the roses, which he hands to her.

MELISSA

They're beautiful.

She smells the roses.

NATHAN

There's more...

He takes the roses, sets them on the table, then reaches in his jacket pocket, pulls out a small velvet box and hands it to Melissa.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

For you, Mel.

MELISSA

What is it?

He grins.

Melissa opens the box. Inside is a golden medallion in the shape of a heart, adorned with diamonds on one side and rubies on the other.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Wow!

NATHAN

Want to try it on?

She nods, and he helps her put it on. Melissa admires her reflection in a big mirror on the wall as Nathan stands behind her, smiling.

MELISSA

It's lovely! Thank you, Nate!

NATHAN

Happy anniversary, darling!

Melissa gives him a light a kiss on the lips. Then, they kiss deeper and hold each other in a long embrace.

MELISSA

(whispering)

Happy Anniversary.

NATHAN

Happy Anniversary.

INT. NATHAN'S HOME, LIVING ROOM - LATER

ROMANTIC MUSIC plays as well-dressed guests gather around a buffet table.

Nathan speaks with Melissa's suntanned brother JACK in his mid-30's.

JACK

Are you renewing your vows tonight?

NATHAN

We decided not to.

JACK

Nate...

NATHAN

We don't need neither God nor a priest to validate our marriage.

A Cell Phone RINGS in the Nathan's pocket.

PHONE (V.O.)

Mom!

NATHAN
Sorry, Jack.

JACK
Talk to you later, Nathan.

NATHAN (O.S.)
Hi Mom!

TERESA (V.O.)
My best wishes to you and Melissa,
son!

NATHAN
Thank you. How John's doing?

TERESA
In the bed. Still weak.

Nathan notices that Melissa watches at him. He mouths the word "Mom" to her. She smiles.

TERESA (CONT'D)
Are guests already in?

NATHAN
Yep.

TERESA
Good. Have a nice party, son.

NATHAN
Thanks, we are going to miss you.
And a good recovery for John!

Nathan ends the call and looks at his cell with a gentle smile.

MOMENTS LATER

MONICA, 33, a plump, red-haired woman with false eyelashes and an expensive necklace, chats with Melissa as she fills up her plate.

MONICA
So, you have being married with
Nate for 10 years already?

MELISSA
Well, actually today we celebrate
10 years from the day when we met
first.

MONICA
Oh, really? Interesting.

MELISSA
Yep, Nathan's idea.

MONICA
So romantic!
(beat)
Any kids?

MELISSA
No. We are waiting for the Nate's
big break.

MONICA
Big break? I see.

MELISSA
And you?

MONICA
Well, three kids, two marriages and
two divorces.

MELISSA
Three kids? Amazing!

Melissa smiles and chews on a snack.

MONICA
Are yours coming?

MELISSA
No... Nathan canceled our wedding
in the church. It was years ago,
but they can't forgive it.

MONICA
Oh, dear!

MONICA (CONT'D)
(beat)
He has PhD, doesn't he?

Melissa sighs.

MELISSA
Yes, he does.

MONICA
And where does he work?

MELISSA
At home, in the lab.

MONICA
Cool! Good money?

Melissa sighs.