

Story: All Or Nothing

By: Debbie

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## ALL OR NOTHING

Shane pulled the cushion further round his ears, trying to kill the noise of his band mates chatting excitedly about last night's concert, he lay on his stomach taking up the whole of the couch and groaned, "Got no sympathy for ya Filan " Kian said throwing an over large cushion at his head, "Wasted isn't the word Shane , what the hell got into you" Shane sighed but didn't look round at him, "Good job there's no concert tonight" Shane closed his eyes, he just wished right now that they would go and leave him alone, but being left alone meant he would have time to think, and thinking wasn't such a good idea right now. He frowned when he remembered bits of the night before, never before had a woman made him feel like this, he was the one usually in control, the one taking and not giving. He'd known her a while now, she had always been in the background at some point in his life, he had watched her relationships come and go. He remembered when he first met her on Westlife's first tour, she was working for BMG and their tour was her first job. He'd got on well with her, he would tease her about how nervous she was meeting them, how she managed to sort out all their problems even their personal ones, and then when the tour finished she carried on working for them. She became their PA's assistant and spent a lot of time around them, but their nights of sitting and talking and days of shopping and laughing together had turned into feelings for him, and with no sign of her feeling the same he kept them to himself even though it was getting harder to be around her. He had even tried to spend more time not being around her, but his excuses were wearing thin now. He was just pleased no body had noticed. Over the next half an hour, the lads decided that leaving Shane to his hangover was best and they left him alone.

When he heard his phone ring he slowly turned his head and looked down at it, her name was flashing on the screen. His first thought was to ignore it but he couldn't, just hearing her voice made his head spin and his heart pound, "Hi Helen " he said quietly, even his own voice made his head hurt, but the sound of her crying made him spin round and sit up, "You ok, what's wrong" he rubbed his head as the pounding got worse. She was obviously having trouble talking through her sobs. "I'll be right there" he closed his phone and stood up, he felt unsteady at first what he really wanted to do was go to bed and sleep off his hang over, but she needed him and that's what he did, run to her when she asked, He leant against the door frame outside her hotel room and tapped softly. A few minutes later she opened the door, she had obviously been crying for a while, her eyes were red and puffy and her body shook. She didn't give him chance to speak she fell into his arms, he held her for a few minutes running his hand over her hair, then he slowly backed her into the room and closed the door with his foot, "Helen what the hell has happened" he asked stepping back and taking her face in his hands. She looked up at him; he wiped her cheek with his thumb, he took her hand and led her to the sofa. He sat down and patted the seat next to him, she sat down and wiped her eyes with the soggy tissue she was holding. He took it from her and pulled out a fresh one from the box that laid on its side in front of him,

"You been thinking about him again haven't ya" he asked matter of factly, she nodded, he sat back and sighed, she turned and looked at him, "I'm sorry Shane " he sat forward and turned too face her taking both her hands in his, "What the hell for" he said, "For ringing you, for crying all over you, again" he forced a smile, "Don't ever be sorry, I'm ya friend that's what friends do" he smiled again as he saw the corners of her mouth turn up, "That's my girl, that's the smile I love to see" he told her moving a loose strand of hair from her face. "It was just seeing him last night, brought it all back, all the memories" "Good or bad" he asked she looked into his eyes making his stomach turn over, "Good ones I suppose" she stood up and began to pace up and down in front of him, "I know I shouldn't Shane , and I shouldn't still have these feelings, but he was so nice to me last night". Shane 's thoughts turned to the previous night, the first night concert party, how it had started as their usual fun night, dancing together, drinking together, how it had all turned bad for him as Helen 's ex had appeared sweeping her off her feet with his usual crap. That's when Shane had drank himself to oblivion, trying to block out the images of her with him, "But that's it, no more" Shane shook from his thoughts as she stood in front of him, "I promise you Shane that this was the last time you will see me like this, I'm gonna find some body else, somebody who wants me and only me". Shane sighed she was always good at promising things but she never kept them, before he knew it she had bent down and softly kissed him on his lips, "Thank you, Shane " her face was so close to his that he could feel her soft breath on his cheek. He ran his finger down her cheek, for a moment he thought this was the time, the time to take the plunge to kiss her, but that would be wrong, but as he tried to move she moved closer to him, and as she placed her lips on his he lifted his arms and took hold of her waist, he opened his mouth to respond to her kiss, and as his tongue touched hers she moaned lightly. He gently pulled her towards him, he didn't stop kissing her, he was afraid that if he did he would wake up from this amazing dream. But she stopped kissing him and as she bit hard on her bottom lip and held out her hand for him his insides spun out of control, she pulled him up and turned towards the bed, as he followed his mind went crazy with thoughts, was this happening, what was happening, and did he want this to happen. Before she reached the bed she turned to face him, he could see the want for him in her eyes, her cheeks were flushed and her hand shook in his, he stepped closer and wrapped his arms around her, without a word she allowed him to run his hands down her body. He felt himself shiver as she pressed her body against him. "Oh god Helen , ya driving me..." she placed one finger on his lips, "Shhhhh" she said "Don't speak" and she placed her lips on his.

When Shane opened his eyes the afternoon sun blinded him for a few minutes, his head was clearer then before but his body was tired. He turned his face to the side and smiled at the beauty beside him, he rolled onto his side and stroked her face. She stirred and opened her eyes, "Hi" she whispered, he smiled at her and kissed her softly," What time is it" she rolled over and felt for her watch, "Oh god Shane , I got to go" she sprang from the bed and gathering up her clothes. She ran to the bathroom, a few minutes later she came out fully dressed. She had tied up her hair and put on some makeup, Shane leant on his elbow and watched her, but she didn't look at him. She grabbed her jacket and phone and headed towards the door. Before she opened it she turned to him, "I'll call you later" she said before flinging it open and letting it slam behind her.

Shane fell back on the bed. What the hell had he done, he already had feelings for her, now he had made it worse. He lay for a few minutes before getting up, dressing and going back to his room.

Later that afternoon Shane sat in the bar with Nicky. Nicky was busy talking about things that Shane couldn't be bothered with, his mind was working over time, "I slept with Helen " Nicky stopped in mid sentence and stared at him, "What" he said staring hard at him.

"I slept with Helen , and close ya mouth it's unattractive" the blank expression on Nicky 's face changed to one of confusion.

"I'm confused" he said, but Shane huffed and got up. Nicky grabbed his arm.

"Where you going" he asked, Shane looked down at him.

"Going to give my head a shake mate" Nicky let go and watched him walk out and into the lobby.

For most of the evening, Shane laid on the bed and stared at his phone, she didn't call or even text, and this frustrated him. Eventually sleep took him and it was early morning when he opened his eyes. Instinctively he grabbed for his phone glaring at the screen then feeling angry that there was no missed calls from her, he pulled himself together and went to shower. As the warm water ran down his face and body he closed his eyes. Images of her all over his body made him shiver. He placed his hand on the glass door as he remembered how it felt to be inside her. The knocking on the door shook him from his fantasy and grabbing a towel he walked to the door. Helen pulled her sunglasses off her eyes slowly and looked him up and down. The white towel covered only his lower body finishing at his knees. He gripped it tightly at the side and water ran down his body,

"Wow, Shane Filan you look...wow" she said feeling flushed at the sight before her. He stepped aside and she passed him and into the room. He closed the door and looked at her, wondering why she was here so early and what excuses she was going to give about not calling him when she had told him she would,

"So anyway Shane , I've come to tell you that you need to be downstairs in an hour, you got an interview to do before tonight's show"

"You came to my room to tell me that" he said. She frowned at him, "Why didn't ya just ring me to tell me" he suddenly became aware of feeling stupid in just a towel and walked towards the bathroom,

"Cose I wanted to see you". He spun round as she sat on the edge of the bed placing her hands on either side of her legs,

"Give me two minutes Helen " he said walking into the bathroom. He pulled on his jeans and put on his shirt doing up the buttons he walked back out to her,

"You buttoned it wrong Shane " she said walking towards him and laughing. She took hold of the top of his shirt and began to do each one for him, when she finished she took hold of the collar and looked at him,

"Thank you for yesterday, it was...amazing and just what I needed" she kissed him quickly on the lips and spinning round she went to the door. "An hour Shane " she called as the door closed. Shane stared at the closed door.

"My pleasure" he said quietly to himself.

An hour later he was stood in the foyer, he watched people around him, a young couple were just checking in, the man kept kissing the woman and they were laughing together. An old couple sat by the window reading, a group of men sat in the bar drinking and laughing loudly, just beyond them he saw her walking from the back she was on her phone and smiling his favourite smile,

"You ok mate" Nicky asked putting his hand around his shoulders. Shane looked round

and smiled. Nicky looked towards Helen and back at Shane . “What's the craic than” he asked,

“What with me and Helen ” Shane asked surprised. Nicky nodded. “There is no craic mate, I love her she don't love me end of subject”

“Oh my god Shane never thought I'd see the day, when a woman used you for sex” he took his arm from Shane and still laughing he went outside to the car. Helen was still on the phone when she got to Shane . She smiled at him and ushered him outside, Shane was beginning to get fed up of feeling like this, a feeling so desperate, a feeling of despair, something somewhere had to give.

“That was a good show lads” Kian said throwing his jacket on the bar stool in the hotel bar, “One of the best” Mark nodded in agreement, Kian plonked down on the stool and leant on the bar,

“What's with Shane lately” Mark asked as he sat down next to him,

“Love mate” Nicky added sliding between them,

“With Helen ” Kian said making Mark sit up, “Well it's been obvious to me for months, can't understand why he's never said anything though”

“She don't feel the same way” Nicky said taking the glass of coke from the barman, “Yeah whatever” Kian said laughing slightly, “So he's not the first person she rings when she's upset, he's not the first person she talks to everyday” Nicky raised his eyebrows,

“Yeah ya probably right” he said,

“Where is he anyway” Mark asked looking round the room, Nicky shook his head,

“No idea mate”.

Shane paced the corridor outside Helen 's room, thinking what to say and how the hell he was going to say it. He went to knock on the door but stopped, maybe it wasn't a good idea, maybe he should ring her or text her. No that would be the cowards way out, and he wasn't a coward, he just needed clarity, a way to go forward either way. He rested his arm on the door frame shook his head and walked away, as he lay back on his bed in the darkness thinking how he would get by without her even been his friend, but knowing deep down that right now for his own sanity it had to be all or nothing.

Another city, another arena, another concert, sound check went by without a hitch.

Shane found he could concentrate better knowing that his mind was made up once he got the chance to talk to her. Every time he had tried to get close to her she was either on the phone or talking to a member of the crew. An hour before the concert she came into his dressing room and flopped down on the leather sofa,

“God what a day” she said sighing. He finished putting the last touches of gel to his brown spikes and turned to her,

“I've been trying to talk to you all day” she sat forward,

“I know and I'm sorry it's just been hectic, but I'm here now what's wrong”. He opened his mouth to say something but her phone rung loudly and she held her hand up to him,

“Hello, ok, ok I'll be right there” she stood up and placed her hand over the phone.

“I got to take this Shane , we will talk after the show ok” and she left. Shane gasped he was beginning to think this was never gonna happen, he finished getting ready and went to join the lads backstage. He glanced around him one last time on the off chance she was around, when he couldn't see her he took his place and waited for the intro,

It wasn't very often that Helen found the time to stand still and watch the show,

occasionally she would watch the monitors see everything was running smoothly and go back to what ever job she was doing, but tonight she felt a need to watch. She took a place at the side as the lads appeared for their second set, "Ay you" Jodi whispered standing behind her, "Not like you to watch the show" Helen smiled as Jodi proudly watched Kian take his place. "Shane " Nicky whispered, "Shane " he said a little louder. Shane looked over at him and pulled a face. Nicky nodded his head to the side of the stage. Shane 's heart leapt when he saw her stood there, she never watched the show he felt suddenly nervous he could feel beads of sweat forming on his brow and wiped it with the back of his hand. The intro started and Shane took a deep breath now that she was watching.

*I know when he's been on your mind  
That distant look is in your eyes  
I thought with time you'd realize it's over, over  
It's not the way I choose to live  
But something some where's gotta give  
As sharing in this relationship gets older, older.*

The crowd screamed and applauded as Shane sang the first verse, Helen watched him, "Wow he sounds good" she whispered to Jodi , Jodi smiled, "Maybe because he has someone to sing too" Helen looked at Jodi quizzically, then turned back to Shane , who was now facing her,

*You know I'd fight for you but how could I fight someone who isn't even there  
I've had the rest of you now I want the best of you I don't care if that's not fair.*

As he sang he turned to face her, maybe this was the perfect way to tell her his feelings the word said everything that was going on in his mind.

*Because I want it all  
Or nothing at all  
There's nowhere left to fall  
When you reach the bottom it's now or never  
Is it all  
Or are we just friends  
Is this how it ends  
With a simple telephone call  
You leave me here with nothing at all*

*There are time it seems to me  
I'm sharing you with memories  
I feel it in my heart but I don't show it, show it  
Then there's times you look at me  
As though I'm all that you can see  
Those times I don't believe it's right I know it, know it.*

*Don't make me promises baby you never did know how to keep them well  
I had the rest of you now I want the best of you it's time to show and tell.*

*because I want it all  
Or nothing at all*

*There's nowhere left to fall  
When you reach the bottom it's now or never  
Is it all  
Or are we just friends  
Is this how it ends  
With a simple telephone call  
You leave me here with nothing at all.*

Shane 's heart pounded, as he sang to her, it was obvious to everyone around them that he sang to her. Helen felt awkward and looked around her, then she spun on her heels and ran backstage. Shane took one look at Nicky , who nodded and smiled. Then Shane ran from the stage, the lads took over and carried on singing. He frantically searched back stage, when he couldn't find her he headed for the door, when he saw her she was crouched by a wall with her head down, "Helen " she looked at him and stood up, "Shane what the hell are you doing go back" but he took hold of her arms, "Shane please" "I've tried for so long to tell you Helen , how I feel I thought it would either just go away or you would feel something for me" he took a breath. "I didn't mean to hurt you or embarrass you in any way, I just needed you to know" he let go of her and walked slowly towards the arena, he didn't look back, "Sorry lads" he said as he joined them backstage, the next song was starting and Shane shook himself, "How did it go" Nicky asked leaning towards him, Shane shook his head then followed his band mates up the steps and onto the stage.

Helen paced up and down the corridor outside Shane 's room, he had avoided her after the show, and in the bar downstairs he had made a conscious effort to steer clear of her. She stopped in front of the door, and stared at it, what the hell would she say, 'Hi Shane yeah I love you I always have' sounded good in her head but now she new how Shane felt about her saying the words would be so much harder. Shane walked to his door, he was sure he had heard someone outside, he went to pull it open but changed his mind. Probably a fan at this time of night, and he turned away, but curiosity took the better of him and he pulled it open. When he saw the corridor empty he laughed at himself, when the door closed Helen stepped from the shadows, and tiptoed past his room and quickly into hers. As she lay in bed she thought back to all the times, she had tried to tell Shane how she felt, how she always felt like Shane thought she was a good laugh, a good friend, when every minute she spent with him was heaven for her. She'd tried everything, making him jealous, flirting in front of him, but nothing seemed to work. She closed her eyes. Tomorrow she would do something, tomorrow it had to be all or nothing...

Helen got up early the following morning, it was her day off and shopping felt like the best thing to do. After a couple of hours and two very tired feet she decided to head back to the hotel, she avoided everyone at the hotel, she spent the after noon in the pool and had her hair done in the hotel salon. Tonight she would go to the concert, she would watch him then she would tell him, what ever happened she needed this to end.

She had never felt so nervous or worried as she did walking up behind Jodi , "Hi Jodi " she whispered, Jodi turned and smiled, "You look amazing Helen "

"Yeah had someone to look good for" but as Shane took his place on the stage her heart began to pound and her body tingle.

Shane concentrated on the show he put his best into it, nothing mattered when he was up there in front of his fans, doing what he loved to do the most, but during the final set sitting down on a stool waiting for the intro to the final show he saw her. An incredible rush of love rushed through his body, as Nicky began to sing Shane turned to her, 'All or nothing' he thought, "I love you" he mouthed quietly to her, Helen felt her eyes fill, 'All or nothing' she thought, "I love you too" she said back to him, Shane 's body felt weak but at the same time strong, he took a deep breath and as the curtain came down he faced her, she ran towards him jumping into his arms and wrapping her legs around him. As they kissed he spun her, the lights from the stage flashing around them, never before had he felt so complete, so happy, because now he wouldn't have to live with nothing, he had it all.

**THE END**