

WORKING WITH INTERIOR MONOLOGUE

Review the essay introduction below. What advice would you give the writer about his use of interior monologue? What might this look like with an Eggers-type style?

THE BREAKUP?

It was time to end it, more than time, actually. We had been together for a year and the relationship had become boring. Liane and I kept having the same conversations day in, day out; I couldn't see myself with her for the long term. Graduation was coming; it was time to set myself free. I didn't know how she felt, but who knows, maybe the same thoughts were going through her head.

How to end this, though? I didn't want a big scene; I didn't hate her, I just wanted to be single again. I made a lunch date with Liane – less drama than dinner. But how to tell her?

After agonizing for awhile, I came up with a winning plan. I had been thinking about trying for a consulting job in Manhattan, so I would tell her a “white lie” about that and see if she's thinking about taking a break, too.

I meet her at the restaurant at one.
Oh, no, she's smiling.

“John, are you OK? You look bummed out”.
You could say that.

“Just a lot of work to do and not enough time”.

We make “small talk” for a few minutes while we order sandwiches. Then I decide to move the conversation along.

“Liane, you know who I saw yesterday? Craig- he was up at MIT for the Career Fair. He told me about a consulting job in New York that's open. I am going to apply.”

I feel like a totally worthless jerk. I can't even be honest with her.

“John, that's great. I'll look for jobs in New York and maybe we can get a place in Park Slope. I love that neighborhood. This will be great!!”

This is really going south, nothing like I planned. What I am going to say? Why am I such an idiot and a coward? I broke up with my last girlfriend with a text.

“ John, are you listening?”

I leave to go the bathroom to figure out what's next. *This is a nightmare.*

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