

Happy F!@#ing Valentine's Day

By

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FADE IN.

1

INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - MORNING

1

Stringers of hearts and lobsters adorn various spaces in the dusty mountain restaurant.

RHONDA, a busty waitress, plods across the wide pine floorboards in her worn cowboy boots. She tosses pre-rolled silverware onto tables.

A single customer, NELSON, scruffy and handsome in denim and red flannel, sits at a table reading *Taming of the Shrew* and dipping his burnt white toast in black coffee.

BETTY ANN, dressed head to toe in various shades of red, follows Rhonda to each table, carefully placing coffee mugs upside down in the center of the tables. She straightens the carelessly placed silverware.

BETTY ANN

I know last Valentine's Day was... unfortunate, but you don't have to ruin it for the rest of us.

RHONDA

Unfortunate? My husband of 15 years, father of my two kids, leaving me is "unfortunate?"

BETTY ANN

Well, what do you call it?

RHONDA

Have you seen that YouTube video where the pack of hyenas are gnawing on the carcass of a helpless gazelle... while it's still alive?

BETTY ANN

Hmmm.

RHONDA

Or that one where the python ingests the monkey?

RHONDA

Surely you've seen footage of  
the A-bomb tests?

BETTY ANN

We've all been hurt.

BETTY ANN

Some worse than others.

Her attention is drawn to a car that enters the  
parking lot.

2 EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 2

JAN pushes from behind while MOLLY pushes and  
steers.

Molly maneuvers the car into the lot, hops in and  
applies the breaks. She exits, SLAMS the door and  
turns toward Jan, arms in the air.

3 INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 3

From inside the restaurant they appear to be  
arguing.

RHONDA

I do love the smell of napalm in  
the morning.

4 EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 4

Jan and Molly stand on either side of the car.  
They are LAUGHING not arguing. Adrenaline from  
their near miss fuels their breathlessness.

MOLLY

That UPS truck damn near hit us.

She makes large motions that from Rhonda's  
vantage point still looks like fighting.

JAN

If you hadn't steered us in here  
we would've been mailed into the  
next county!

5 INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

5

RHONDA

Valentines Day Massacre. Take 2.

Rhonda's smugness changes to disgust as Betty Ann points outside. Jan and Molly move from their sides of the car and huddle together taking a moment to breathe in the cool air and the spectacular peaks.

6 EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

6

Molly looks out toward the continental divide.

MOLLY

Happy Valentine's Day baby.

JAN

What a view.

Jan first looks at Molly and then toward the great wilderness. They LAUGH some more and then a passionate kiss.

7 INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

7

Rhonda and Betty Ann watch the lovers in the parking lot through the big picture window. Jan hops on Molly's back and pretends to whip her. Molly "gallops" toward the entrance.

RHONDA

We oughta make double time  
working today.

Rhonda heads over to top off Nelson's coffee unbeknownst to Betty Ann.

BETTY ANN

Speaking of videos, I've got a link that'll change your life. It's a kitten on its back and the owner is tickling its stomach and the cat is all...

She acts out the cat as she continues watching the couple.

Rhonda and Nelson share a look before Rhonda disappears into the prep station and Nelson goes back to his reading.

BETTY ANN

Tickle. Tickle. Paws. Paws. Cutest damn thing you ever saw... Rhonda? Rhonda!

Recognizing that she is alone, Betty Ann heads toward the prep station.

8

INT. RESTAURANT PREP STATION - CONTINUOUS

8

Rhonda aggressively cleans off menus, a busboy finishes hanging the last of the heart and lobster decorations and Betty Ann fills creamer pots as we hear the BELLS to the front door RING. Molly and Jan enter OS.

RHONDA

(to herself but loud enough for all to hear)

Happy Fucking Valentine's Day.

Molly and Jan exchange a look.

Nelson smiles in agreement with Rhonda as he looks over his book first toward the prep area and then toward the new customers.

Betty Ann scowls at Rhonda and hurries to the front.

BETTY ANN

Have a seat anywhere you'd like.

The couple chooses a table near the windows and they take in the view that is slightly obscured by the stringers. Jan points to the lobster.

JAN

Curious.

Betty Ann approaches the table.

BETTY ANN

Big event. Lovers and Lobsters tonight. Flown in fresh from Lincoln, Nebraska day before yesterday. Now, how about some coffee girls?

She places menus in front of them. And pours a cup full of joe for Molly, who turns over a mug.

BETTY ANN (CONT.)

Sorry about Rhonda. Not her best moment.

MOLLY

We've all been there.

JAN

Just water for me thanks.

Betty Ann heads back to the kitchen while another couple comes in. They find a table.

JAN

What do you mean? We've all been there.

MOLLY

How soon you forget.

It takes Jan a moment, then:

JAN

One naked photo on Facebook. How long will I live with the guilt of an honest mistake?

Molly doesn't budge.

JAN (CONT'D)

You know I'd just gotten my new phone.

MOLLY

Save it.

JAN

I can't believe you got that many likes—I mean I can believe you got likes. Who wouldn't like that? I mean, I know you didn't like it, but...

Molly struggles not to smile.

JAN (CONT'D)

You're a minor celebrity in Latvia.

Molly's struggle grows more intense.

JAN (CONT'D)

I've always said you are the most beautiful woman in the world...

Molly gives in and smiles. Jan reaches across the table and grabs her hand when...

RHONDA

Ice water?

Rhonda deposits two waters as the two quickly separate and pick up their menus.

JAN

I'll have the eggs scrambled with bacon. And we'll share the French toast special with strawberry hearts. Do the strawberries really look like hearts?

RHONDA

Honey, the only heart I know has a size 12 boot print in the middle of it.

The comment hangs in the air a moment. Then Molly breaks the awkward silence.

MOLLY

Same for me. Please.

Rhonda gathers the menus.

RHONDA

O.k. that's the French toast special...with strawberries to share and two scrambled with Wilbur.

JAN

Ummm...Wilbur?

RHONDA

You know...pork...Wilbur, the pig from Charlotte's Web.

The thought clearly does not sit well with Molly and Jan. Rhonda gathers the menus and laughs to herself content that she has unsettled the two lovers.

MOLLY

What were you thinking?

JAN

You know what's happening here?

MOLLY

No idea.

Jan points to the heart in the window.

JAN

Time for operation Venus.

Molly frowns.

JAN

Venus, goddess of love. How do we turn her frown upside down?

MOLLY

She seems to find joy in  
slaughtering childhood icons.  
Other than that, lost cause far  
as I can tell.

JAN

It's Valentine's Day baby. It's  
our duty.

Molly detects another of Jan's schemes. She tries  
to decide whether she should play along.

JAN

Well, what makes people happy?

MOLLY

Puppies, kittens, in my case  
cars that don't run out of gas  
on mountain roads in the dead of  
winter.

JAN

Think.

They both look out the window. An elderly couple  
make their way across the parking lot.

9

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

9

JIM, 73, sports a three-day tightly trimmed beard  
and and JOANNE, 70, has recently been to the  
beauty parlor as her mani matches her stylish  
hair.

He wears what looks like a rolled up ski hat and  
she has on a bulky scarf, perhaps a retirement  
hobby. They hold on to each other but stop so  
that she can pick something out of his whiskers.

A police cruiser, SIREN BLARING, speeds down the  
mountain. They share a LAUGH and continue toward  
the front door.

10

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

10

Jan and Molly watch the couple.

JAN

That's it.

MOLLY

What's it?

POV Jan motions to the elderly couple and pretends to talk into a walkie talkie.

JAN

Operation Venus has its target.

Molly looks doubtfully at Jan.

JAN

How about this? We buy that couple breakfast. Anonymously.

MOLLY

...and we let Debbie Downer deliver the good news.

JAN

They're thrilled. Their joy melts her frozen heart. To Operation Venus!

She raises a glass and they toast. Their enthusiasm causes a spill on the table. Fearing Rhonda's ire they suppress laughs and quickly wipe up the mess.

11

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

11

We hear the front door bells RING (OS) and the elderly couple seats themselves across the cozy restaurant from Molly and Jan. He holds her chair as she slides in. Chivalry is not dead.

Jan pulls out a notebook and begins to write. Molly watches as Rhonda delivers menus and pours coffee for the couple.

We see over Jan's shoulder, "...please don't tell them until we've left the restaurant." She shows the note to Molly.

MOLLY

Nailed it.

Rhonda arrives with their breakfast.

JAN

Strawberries do look like hearts.

Molly shoots Jan a look.

JAN

Um, Rhonda, is it? Rhonda, could you do us a favor?

Jan motions Rhonda to lean in. Rhonda is reluctant but quickly sees an opportunity to get the upper hand. She puts her bosom right near Jan's face.

Molly snatches the note from Jan across the table.

MOLLY

Uh, Rhonda. Here.

RHONDA

Oh goody. A note. When's recess?

She slides the note into her cleavage and saunters toward the prep station and past Jim and Joanne.

JAN

Some people don't make it easy.

MOLLY

Yaaaas.

Molly and Jan watch the elderly couple. They sit closely. Jim takes off his hat and hangs it off the chair. We see that it's a full face mask. Joanne notices and she starts to giggle. It's contagious and her husband giggles too. Molly and Jan trade looks and stifle giggles behind their beverages.

12

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

12

Betty Ann loads a tray for delivery. Rhonda reads the note.

RHONDA

You've got to be shitting me.

BETTY ANN

What?

Rhonda hands her the note. Betty Ann reads it and hands it back to Rhonda

BETTY ANN

Well if that isn't the sweetest thing ever.

RHONDA

Seriously. Do I look like Cupid to you? Or Venus for crying out loud? You think it's so sweet, you do it.

Rhonda hands Betty Ann back the note. And leaves. Betty Ann pursues Rhonda and they wind up near Nelson's table.

BETTY ANN

(whispering but firm)

It's been a year Rhonda. Three hundred and sixty five days of tears, sarcasm, anger, bitterness and just plain... unpleasantness. It ends here and it ends now. I am not going to let you ruin this. Do it. For them. And for yourself.

Betty Ann folds the note and pats it into Rhonda's chest. Rhonda, stunned by Betty Ann's outburst, for once doesn't argue. Betty Ann heads back to the prep area for her tray.

13

INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - LATER

13

We see that a FEW OTHER CUSTOMERS have wandered in from the cold for breakfast.

Molly and Jan, their breakfast almost finished, watch as Joanne spears a piece of ham from her husband's plate and feeds it to him.

JAN

Can we please be that adorable  
when we're 70?

Betty Ann approaches the table and leans in.

BETTY ANN

Rhonda showed us your note and  
we wanted you to know that this  
is the sweetest gesture ever.

She motions toward the bus boy, who stops  
clearing tables long enough to pound his heart  
with his fist and point toward Jan and Molly.

Betty Ann hands them the checks with the totals  
encircled in a large red heart. Molly and Jan  
blush. Molly hands Betty Ann a credit card and  
Betty Ann leaves.

Jan's phone chimes. She looks at the text then  
out the window. Her BROTHER is in the parking lot  
with a gas can.

JAN

Perfect timing!

They wave and gather themselves.

14

INT. CAR - LATER

14

Molly and Jan sit in their car hoping to observe  
how their pay it forward gesture concludes.  
Although their view is slightly obstructed, Molly  
provides a play-by-play.

JAN

O.k. there she goes.

15 INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 13.  
15

Rhonda reluctantly approaches the elderly couple's table. Betty Ann watches expectantly from the prep station as the bus boy peeks around her.

RHONDA

If there's nothing else I can get you, I want to share a little surprise with you.

JOANNE

In fact there is something you can get us.

16 INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS 16

Molly and Jan watch on but they can't see everything.

JAN

Oh my god, she's so happy her hands are in the air.

Molly scrambles to see as Jan starts singing the Frankie Avalon hit, *Venus*.

JAN

"Hey Veeenuuuussss."

MOLLY

Ice officially thawed.

This good deed sparks their lust.

17 INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 17

Joanne stands with a pistol pointing at Rhonda who, like all the patrons, has her hands in the air.

RHONDA

Whaaaat?

JOANNE

Lead and gunpowder ain't no joke  
sister.

Rhonda raises an eyebrow.

18 EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 18

We see the car window steamy. Slowly a hand wipes some steam away from the window. Jan looks out. A hand grabs her by the shoulder and she disappears.

19 INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 19

Joanne stands with her pistol pointed at the occupants of the restaurant. We pull back to see they all have their pants off and are "guarded" by the woman. Rhonda sports LEOPARD PRINT BOXERS.

JOANNE

Sometimes at this age your mind  
isn't as sharp as it OUGHT TO  
BE.

She raises her voice so her husband in the kitchen can hear her insult.

20 INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 20

Betty Ann, down to bra and panties, helps Jim finish stuffing the clothes into the soapy sink.

JIM

Forget one box of handcuffs in  
the trunk...

With one of the café's own butter knives Jim motions Betty Ann back to the dining room.

21 INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 21

Betty Ann and Jim walk back into the dining room.

JOANNE

So, no heroes today. Right?

THE GROUP

(mumbling in disbelief)

Right.

JOANNE

I can't hear you?

We see Rhonda in the back of the group.

RHONDA

(aside)

I'm guessing you can't really  
see us too well either.

She clearly amuses herself but those around her  
not so much.

THE GROUP

Right!

22

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - LATER

22

The elderly couple exits the restaurant, each  
carrying a bucket that sloshes over the rim with  
water.

From within Jan and Molly's car, they hear a tap  
on the window. Jan wipes away the steam and looks  
out to see Joanne grinning.

Jan grins back. Joanne motions to her to roll  
down the window.

23

INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

23

The patrons of the restaurant press up against  
the window as Joanne urges semi-clothed Jan and  
Molly out of their car, while Jim puts the  
buckets in the trunk.

24

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

24

CLOSE UP on the bucket. LOBSTERS!

16.  
25 EXT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS 25  
We look at the window as Rhonda pushes her way to the front and stands there in her leopard boxers. Arms folded.

26 INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 26  
POV OTS of Rhonda as she sees the car fishtail as they roar out.  
As the couple drive by the onlookers, Joanne rolls down her window and points the gun at them one last time. A paint ball EXPLODES with red color on the window. She has a good laugh. The patrons, not so much.

27 EXT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM WINDOW - CONTINUOUS 27  
As the frightened patrons scatter back from the window, Rhonda doesn't flinch. She reaches out to touch where the paint decorates the window.

28 INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 28  
A huge smile slowly creeps across Rhonda's face.  
RHONDA  
Hmmm. Venus.  
She turns to the crowd. She sees Nelson in his LEOPARD PRINT BOXERS and flannel shirt sipping his coffee in the BG. They exchange knowing looks.  
Rhonda addresses the crowd.  
RHONDA  
Breakfast is on me! Happy  
Fucking Valentine's Day!  
Cue music as we slowly move from the interior of the RESTAURANT to the exterior where we see...

Jan and Molly stand, disheveled and clutching their clothes to themselves. They look at their car vanishing in the distance, then to the restaurant patrons cheering and in the window, not sure which sight is more bewildering. But they put their arms around each other and embrace against the cold, the continental divide in the distance.

FADE TO BLACK.