

Activating My Love Gene

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FADE IN:

INT. INSTITUTE OF GENETICS - LABORATORY - NIGHT

EILEEN, a good-looking geneticist in her 40s, works on an electron microscope.

Suddenly, she experiences a GENETIC ORGASM.

EILEEN
YES! YES! YESSSSSSS!...

INT. LABORATORY - MINUTES LATER

Eileen sits on her desk, she records a statement on a tape recorder.

EILEEN
It's March 8, 2017. After several years of research, I have isolated the gene that makes people fall in love. The gene is located on the X chromosome in a woman and on the Y chromosome of a man's genome. I have called this gene the "Love Gene."

Eileen smiles at a picture on her desk. She's her lover SIENA, an attractive woman in her 30s.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
The chemical coded by the Love Gene produces an Adrenaline-like outburst that causes a person to fall in love. Next step will be the clinical trial of a gene therapy to help people fall in love.

Eileen closes the computer, sends a kiss to Siena's picture and exits the laboratory.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

An elegant New York City pub populated by single, looking-for-action men and women.

Some are standing, other sitting at the bar. They drink, chat, laugh, flirt. Noise is high.

LUC a handsome man in his early 30s sits at the bar near a very good-looking brunette in her mid 20s.

She sports a short dark-blue skirt and a blouse that appears overwhelmed by her bursting breast. She's HOT.

She speaks with a Southern accent.

LUC
(deviously smiling)
Hi, I'm LUC...with the C.

YOUNG WOMAN
(smiling)
I'm ANDREA.

LUC
Nice meeting you.

ANDREA
Same here.

LUC
You have a Southern accent, I guess,
you're not from here.

ANDREA
You are very perceptive, I live in
TEXAS.

LUC
Where in Texas?

ANDREA
A small town, CUMBY, we are 800
souls.

LUC
(laughing)
It's like my building.

ANDREA
Yeah, a small place...

LUC
So, what are you doing in the Big
Apple?

ANDREA
I am starting Acting school, I want
to be an actress.

LUC
It's great! You have a wonderful
stage presence...

ANDREA
Thank you, I hope to make it.

A beat.

LUC
We have to celebrate. What you drink?

ANDREA
A Cosmo, thanks.

LUC
(yelling to the
barman)
JOSE' a super Cosmo for this
beautiful lady and the usual for me.

JOSE' (O.S.)
Okay, Luc.

INT. PUB - SAME TIME

AMY, a blonde woman in her late 30s bursts into the pub.

She scans the scene and then moves swiftly towards Luc. She looks enraged.

Luc notices her only when she's near his stool.

LUC
Hi Amy, what's up?

AMY
What's up? You ask me what's up? I'm
still waiting for you.

LUC
I'm sorry , I forgot...you know I'm
so busy...my job.

AMY
(furiously)
Fuck your job...fuck you!

Amy hastily moves towards the pub's exit.

While zigzagging through the tables, she bumps against a table smashing glasses and dishes on the floor.

AMY (CONT'D)
(to the table)
Fuck you too!

INT. PUB - MINUTES LATER

ANDREA
(laughing)
She must have been a little upset.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
(shrugging)
Yeah, she's a pain...

A beat.

LUC
So, you want to be an actress. You
know, I work in TV.

ANDREA
Oh, what you do?

LUC
I'm a writer, I write soap operas.

ANDREA
Interesting, maybe when I finish
school you can help me.

LUC
If you want, I can help you right
now.

ANDREA
Right now?

LUC
You can come to my place and I'll
give you an audition...you know, some
scenes...

Andrea stares at Luc with a surprised expression.

A long beat.

ANDREA
I'm sorry, it's getting late...I've
to go.

LUC
But--

ANDREA
Thanks for the drink...good night.

She walks briskly towards the exit, leaving Luc petrified.

INT. LUC'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Luc talks on his cell phone while pacing nervously around the room

LUC
Do you have five minutes for me?

EILEEN (V.O.)
What's the matter? You sound awful.

LUC
I need your help, I'm depressed, my life's in shamble.

EILEEN (V.O.)
(laughing)
Luc, I'm a geneticist, not a shrink. What happened?

LUC
I'm coming to see you.

EILEEN (V.O.)
I'm with Siena...let's do it tomorrow.

LUC
Okay, I'm sorry, I'll see you tomorrow.

EILEEN (V.O.)
Now go to sleep...anybody tonight?

LUC
...Yes...no....fuck!

EILEEN (V.O.)
We'll talk. Good night Luc, try to ease up.

LUC
Okay...good night Eileen.

INT. EILEEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eileen is in bed with Siena.

EILEEN
It was Luc, he's very depressed.

SIENA
He should find a woman.

EILEEN
(laughing)
His problem is that he has too many
women.

INT. EILEEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Eileen sits behind her desk. Luc takes a seat on one of the
two leather armchairs in front of her.

The walls of the room are covered with pictures of genes,
chromosomes, cells and human organs. A scary place.

EILEEN
So, what's the tragedy?

LUC
It was terrible, shocking.

EILEEN
C'mon, don't keep me on tenterhooks,
what happened?

LUC
An old lover made an ugly scene at
the pub and a tantalizing catch from
small-town Texas refused to come to
my place.

EILEEN
So, what's the big deal?

LUC
You don't see it?...I'm a failure.

Eileen bursts into laughter.

EILEEN
You're not.

LUC
Yeah, I am...for the first time in my
life I've been ridiculed by an old
lover and rejected by a new woman.

EILEEN
(chuckling)
Maybe, you're loosing your sexiness.

Luc appears dispirited.

LUC
Eileen, I'm burned out...I hate my
shitty life.

EILEEN
Do you know what you want?

LUC
I want to fall in love, get married,
have kids, a family. Enough with my
one-night-stand shit.

A beat.

EILEEN
Have you ever fallen in love?

LUC
Never! But I'm craving for it.

EILEEN
The thing is, you cannot program to
fall in love...either it happens or
not.

Luc appears desperate, almost weeping.

LUC
What's wrong with me...why I can't
meet a woman and fall for her I'm a
human being too, I've a soul...a
heart.

Eileen offers a comforting smile. She hesitates a few second
before talking.

EILEEN
Listen, I can't explain the details
but I might, just might, help you.

Luc glances at Eileen dismissively.

LUC
I don't think you can...nobody can,
I'm a lost cause.

EILEEN

I'm telling you something nobody knows outside my office...and it has to stay between us.

LUC

Yeah, okay.

EILEEN

(softly)

I have identified the gene that makes people fall in love.

LUC

Congratulations...but your discovery doesn't work for me...I don't have that gene.

EILEEN

We all have that gene, I can give you a test and see if it's activated.

LUC

I'm sure mine is dead, love for me doesn't exist.

A long silence. Luc looks perplexed.

LUC (CONT'D)

Maybe, I should try this--

EILEEN

I'll call you.

A long reflective pause.

LUC

Is it painful?

EILEEN

(laughing)

We draw some blood.

LUC

That's it?

EILEEN

Yes, we need some blood and I'll do all the work.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY.

Luc's arm is attached to a long needle that transfers his blood to an electronic centrifuge and then to a mysterious machine.

Eileen stands alongside him.

EILEEN
Five more minutes and it's over. Stay still.

LUC
When I'll get the results?

EILEEN
I need a week. . . I'll get in touch.

LUC
Can I go back to work?

EILEEN
Yes but no sex. You are not psychologically ready.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Luc walks aimlessly along a crowded sidewalk looking apathetically at the women in the street.

His cellphone RINGS.

LUC
Hello.

EILEEN (V.O.)
Hi, I got the results.

LUC
(anxiously)
Good news?

EILEEN (V.O.)
Excellent! Come to my office tomorrow morning.

LUC
Okay, see you tomorrow.

INT. EILEEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Eileen sits at her desk. Luc stands in front of her.

EILEEN
Have a seat, relax...

EILEEN (CONT'D)
We have found the problem on your Y chromosome.

LUC
(scared)
What kind of problem?

EILEEN
Nothing that we can't fix. There are two misplaced letters in your DNA. Your love gene doesn't work properly.

LUC
What does it mean?

EILEEN
If the gene can't produce the special chemical, you can't fall in love.

LUC
How can you fix it?

EILEEN
We can try a novel procedure.

LUC
What's this procedure?

EILEEN
We isolate and copy your defective gene, then we repair the section with the defective letters and the new gene is reinserted in the host cell using a viral vector, a virus.

LUC
Sounds complicated.

EILEEN
Not really, but keep in mind that it's a new procedure.

LUC
How long does it take to fall in
love?

Eileen stares at Luc. She smiles.

EILEEN
You'll know it when you look at a
woman and your heart starts to beat
fast...

EXT. PARK - DAY - ONE MONTH LATER

Luc and Eileen stroll along a park trail.

Luc has a strange look in his eyes.

LUC
How is work?

EILEEN
Busy...I'm waiting for you yo fall in
love and then I'll publish it in
Modern Genetics.

A beat.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
Any development?

LUC
Well...

EILEEN
What?

LUC
Maybe...

EILEEN
Talk to me, what's going on?

A long beat.

LUC
I'm in love...

EILEEN
Congratulations, I--

Eileen cells phone RINGS. She looks at the number, it's
Siena.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
 (to Luc)
 Excuse me, it's Siena.

She steps a few feet away from Luc for privacy.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
 Hi, are you at lunch?

SIENA (V.O.)
 Yes, I was thinking about you...I
 love you so much.

EILEEN
 I love you more...see you this
 evening. I miss you.

SIENA
 Me too. See you later.

EXT. PARK - MINUTES LATER

Luc and Eileen sit on a bench.

EILEEN
 When did you feel you were falling in
 love?

LUC
 A week ago.

EILEEN
 The procedure worked perfectly...may
 I ask you who is the lucky girl?

Luc lowers his eyes. He appears embarrassed.

LUC
 She is...she is...YOU!

EILEEN
 Me!?

Luc takes Eileen's hand and presses it on his chest.

LUC
 Yeah, feel it, my heart is bouncing
 like crazy.

EILEEN

(alarmed)

Okay, see you at the office tomorrow morning...the procedure didn't work as it should have...we have to fine tune the Love Gene.

THE END