

SLAM-DUNK LOVE

A rom-com script
for the
Simply Scripts
One-Week Challenge

Jan. 30, 2019
c2019

FADE IN:

INT. NOTTINGHAM & WOOTTON LAW FIRM, LOS ANGELES - DAY

MARK DUKIET (34), junior partner at the downtown firm, sits at his office desk as ALEXANDRA WALTHALL (29), a newly-hired blonde labor attorney, strolls down the hall, past his open office door.

MARK (V.O.)
Lord, is she gorgeous. Knows her stuff, too. Should I ask her out?

By reflex, he shouts at her.

MARK
Alex? Come in here, please.

A few seconds later, she stands under his door.

ALEXANDRA
Sure. What's going on?

MARK
Wanted to discuss the progress of the Peyser case...

INT. BURGERS ACROSS AMERICA RESTAURANT - LATER

Mark and Alexandra have finished their lunch and are chatting informally.

MARK
So to sum up things, you agree with my approach to this case.

ALEXANDRA
Definitely. It's the best way to confirm our support to the union.

MARK
May I also say...

He stands up.

MARK (CONT'D)
...I enjoy your presence and would like to get to know you better.

ALEXANDRA
You can say that...

She stands up. At 5-foot-11, not including three-inch heels, she towers over the 5-foot-5 Mark.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)
 ...since I'd like to get to know you better, too.

MARK
 So I'm not--

ALEXANDRA
 (smiling)
 --too short? Heck, no! Affection can't be measured by a yardstick. I've dated lots of shorter guys.

Mark smiles up at her.

MARK
 Don't want you feeling discomfort at the office. I'll recuse myself from any talk on your status with the firm, positive or negative.

ALEXANDRA
 Good. Let's get our jackets.

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES, SIDEWALK - DAY

Mark and Alexandra walk back to the office. Alexandra's wearing a red "Maryland Terrapins" jacket, while Mark wears a beige zippered light coat.

MARK
 I saw from your resume you played basketball at Maryland, then one season in the W-N-B-A. Why'd you stop?

ALEXANDRA
 I make twice as much now than I did as a pro. Does that answer your question?

(beat)
 I've long wanted to be an attorney. And now that I finally have my law degree...

MARK
 By the way, nice jacket.

ALEXANDRA

Wear it every day during the winter here -- I'm kinda superstitious about it.

MARK

Okay.

INT. UNION STATION FLOWER SHOP - NEXT DAY

Mark hands a box of chocolates to florist BARRY HOWARD (47), tall and beefy, the visual antithesis of a florist.

MARK

OK: Tomorrow, the morning of Valentine's Day, give these candies and a dozen roses to a tall blonde, over six feet in heels.

BARRY

She'll be picking them up?

MARK

No! Get an associate to give them to her as she enters the Red Line subway station -- rear side entrance -- to go downtown.

BARRY

Uhhh...

Mark hands him a \$20 bill.

MARK

A special delivery tip, in addition to what I just charged. She'll enter the subway at about eight, after riding the seven-oh-four bus.

BARRY

How else will we identify her? It's no secret LA has plenty of very tall blondes.

MARK

(smiling)

Simple. She'll be wearing a red jacket with Maryland on it, pretty easy to spot in these parts. Her name is Alexandra.

BARRY

You really like this gal, eh? I'll have Amber handle it.

MARK

Thank you so much!

INT. UNION STATION SUBWAY STATION - NEXT DAY

It's morning rush on Valentine's Day, just past 8. Commuters race in and out the turnstiles, using their TAP cards. AMBER ELLSWORTH (24), a diminutive brunette, stands with candy and flowers against a wall, next to an image of actress Carole Lombard that's part of a transportation mural of Los Angeles.

AMBER (V.O.)

Tall blonde, really tall blonde,
red jacket...named Alexandra...

She waits...and waits.

At 8:08, Alexandra hurries down the escalator to catch her train. She's indeed wearing a Maryland jacket -- but this one is black, not red.

ALEXANDRA (V.O.)

Hurry, girl -- you'll be late!

Amber, focused on finding a tall blonde in red, pays no attention to Alexandra in the black jacket as she crosses the turnstile with her TAP card and goes downstairs for her train downtown.

INT. NOTTINGHAM & WOOTTON LAW FIRM, LOS ANGELES - LATER

It's 9 a.m., and time for the firm's daily briefing. Mark sits, and a few seconds later, Alexandra -- who's put away her jacket and has on a blouse and skirt -- takes a seat directly across from him. Others fill seats around the table.

Mark extends his foot under the table and clandestinely nudges one of Alexandra's long legs. He winks at her; she smiles in return but isn't certain what he's up to.

MARK

(whispering)

Did you...

ALEXANDRA

Did I what?

CHARLES W. WOOTTON (59), senior partner, arrives and sits at the end of the table. Mark, still confused after Alexandra's response, clasps his hands on the desk and pays attention.

CHARLES

Good morning, people. Just an update on new legislation from the city and county, as well as from Sacramento and Washington. First...

INT. NOTTINGHAM & WOOTTON LAW FIRM, LOS ANGELES - LATER

Near noontime, Mark sits at his desk, still unsure about what Alexandra meant earlier. She passes his office and stops.

ALEXANDRA

I'm heading to lunch. Care to join me?

MARK

No, thanks. Brought my own lunch.

ALEXANDRA

OK. Talk to you later.

She walks to the closet as Mark ponders how to approach her. She passes his office wearing her black Maryland jacket.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

Bye!

MARK (V.O.)

That explains it!

He picks up the phone.

INT. UNION STATION FLOWER SHOP - DAY

Mark arrives and gives Barry a steely look.

MARK

You better still have the candy and roses, else you're in big trouble!

Barry goes to his desk behind the counter and pulls out the chocolates, then selects a dozen fresh roses -- six red, six white -- from a vase, puts them in a long box and hands both the candy and roses to him.

BARRY

I'm really sorry about this. Amber said she didn't show up. Is she ill?

MARK

No. She showed up at work, but crossed us up and wore a Maryland jacket in black. Why didn't you call me to say she never appeared?

BARRY

I did, just after nine. No answer.

MARK

(sighing)

I was in a meeting. Damn, I need to get that office phone fixed.

BARRY

Again, I'm sorry. Best wishes.

MARK

(shrugging)

So I lose the element of surprise by having them given by a stranger. We'll go to plan B.

INT. 7TH STREET METRO CENTER SUBWAY STATION - LATER

Mark leaves the Red Line train, ascends the escalator, and upon reaching the top is stunned to see Alexandra -- in her black Maryland jacket -- pass him with her long strides.

MARK

Alexandra!

She stops, turns around, sees him and smiles.

ALEXANDRA

Mark! What are you holding?

She walks to him as he hands her the candies and roses.

MARK

For you, dear. Happy Valentine's Day!

She opens the box and is thrilled to see roses.

ALEXANDRA

Wow!

With nine inches on him thanks to her heels, she bends down and kisses him on the cheek.

MARK

I had someone ready to hand you these at Union Station, but I told them you'd be in a red jacket.

ALEXANDRA

(smiles)

I'm sorry. I guess you didn't know Maryland's school colors are red, white, black and gold. So I own two such jackets. The red one's at the cleaners.

MARK

Coming back from lunch?

ALEXANDRA

Yep. Ate some General Tso's chicken a few blocks down on Fig, then took the Expo Line back.

MARK

I was going to give you these in the office, but it might've made you uncomfortable. Or me, for that matter.

ALEXANDRA

Yeah, passion isn't the easiest thing to pull off in the office. Just as well, then.

MARK

Would I make you uncomfortable by asking you out?

ALEXANDRA

Not at all. Have anything planned for tomorrow night?

MARK

Nope. Why do you ask?

ALEXANDRA

I have some friends in the S-C athletic department who gave me two tickets to their women's game with Cal. It's at eight. Like to go?

MARK
 (smiles)
 Would I? Of course! And I'll treat
 you to dinner before the game.

ALEXANDRA
 It's a date -- but mum's the word!
 Gotta play it cool in the office,
 you know.

MARK
 So instead of shaking hands on it,
 let's...

He stands on his tiptoes and kisses her on the lips.

ALEXANDRA
 Well, well, well! But to disguise
 what just happened...

She opens her handbag and gently wipes lipstick from his
 face. He smiles.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)
 You're lucky the Chinese place
 provided me a few spare facial
 wipes.

Both laugh as they leave the station.

INT. MARK'S BEDROOM, LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

SUPER: Valentine's Day 2021

Mark and Alexandra, each under a blanket and in underwear,
 share a king-size bed in their luxurious downtown high-rise.

ALEXANDRA
 Two years ago today.

MARK
 And our first wedding anniversary,
 too.

ALEXANDRA
 People laughed at us.

MARK
 Called us mismatched! But we never
 let six inches--

ALEXANDRA
 Or more--

MARK

Get in the way.

ALEXANDRA

Charles sure took it in stride when we told him we were engaged.

MARK

And I thought I'd be fired for romancing a co-worker! I've never told you this -- even if I had been, I planned to stick with you.

Alexandra lays back smiling, her head against her pillow.

MARK (CONT'D)

Your mind, your heart, your body, you've got it all! Look at how you've progressed at the firm.

ALEXANDRA

Think I'm a little tipsy from that champagne. That's why people stared at me as we left Union Station.

MARK

Nah, they were just in awe. Wasn't that restaurant so romantic? I love that venue so much.

ALEXANDRA

Speaking of romantic, how about visiting Seattle next weekend? We can take Friday off and ride the Coast Starlight.

MARK

It's a deal! And next weekend, we can do more of this in a five-star hotel--

He pulls her to the center of their bed, gets atop her under the covers, and they repeatedly exchange kisses.

FADE OUT.