

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**