

CRAZY IN LOVE

A Romantic (Dark) Comedy

Written by

The Mad Hatter

**BLACK SCREEN**

SUPER:

"When love is not madness, it is  
not love - Pedro Calderon de la  
Barco"

FADE IN:

**INT. PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY**

MALE and FEMALE PATIENTS of various ages, dressed in pajamas and slippers, dawdle aimlessly through the hallway.

An OLDER WOMAN in a wheelchair holds an intense conversation with the doorknob of a closed door.

A MIDDLE-AGED MAN covers his ears as he yells random nonsense to all he passes.

HENRY, 30, suitably handsome with a five o'clock shadow that's probably closer to midnight, wears a buttoned-up white lab coat as he strides through the chaos.

With his head held high and his shoulders back, he surveys the patients.

HENRY (V.O.)  
Crazy bastards, the lot of 'em.

He grabs the handles of the wheelchair and pushes the Older Woman along as he continues on his way.

OLDER WOMAN  
I wasn't finished, young man.

HENRY (V.O.)  
But, what can you do.

Henry rounds a corner into the --

**ACTIVITY ROOM**

It's abuzz with, you guessed it... activity.

Some PATIENTS play chess, others watch cartoon reruns on a television. A MAN stands at a ping pong table and serves a ball to no one, then serves another.

Henry spots an unfamiliar face across the room.

RUBY, 30, attractive features framed by red dishevelled hair, sits on a large armchair. The same standard-issue pajamas and slippers. She stares unblinking.

Henry releases the wheelchair, and makes a beeline for Ruby.

The wheelchair's momentum keeps it rolling --

                  OLDER WOMAN  
                  (over her shoulder)  
Hello?

-- until it collides with a coffee table adorned with a vase of assorted fake flowers. The vase rocks, then tumbles off the table and smashes on the ground.

Henry turns to see what's happened.

                  HENRY (V.O.)  
You really can't take your eyes off  
them for a second.

He rushes to the Older Woman's aid, but stops short, bends down, and retrieves a rose and a tulip from the selection of fallen flowers.

Henry smiles as he hands the tulip to the Older Woman then returns his focus to Ruby, and continues on his way.

                  OLDER WOMAN (O.S.)  
Oh isn't that pretty.

As Henry approaches, Ruby's eyes slowly raise to meet his.

                  HENRY  
So... you come here often?

Ruby's eyes narrow.

                  HENRY (V.O.)  
You did not just say that, idiot!

Henry shoots out his hand, presents the rose.

                  HENRY  
For you.

Suspiciously, Ruby inspects the gift, then takes it anyway.

                  RUBY  
Are doctors allowed to hit on  
patients?

HENRY  
It's a complicated --

DR MILLER (O.S.)  
Henry!

Henry spins around, comes face to face with DR MILLER, 50, bespectacled with a thick beard.

DR MILLER  
We've talked about this, Henry.  
Stop taking my coat.

Henry, the room, and its occupants FREEZE in place as Henry tries to explain --

HENRY (V.O.)  
Okay, so I'm not a doctor. But I'm not crazy either. Sometimes life just gets... hard, y'know?

-- and we're back to FULL SPEED ahead.

HENRY  
Doc, it's all just a bit of fun. I was --

DR MILLER  
The coat, Henry, now.

Henry unbuttons the lab coat and slips it off his shoulders to reveal a comfy set of pajamas.

He hands the coat to Dr Miller who shakes his head as he walks off.

RUBY (O.S.)  
Wow, I'm embarrassed for you.

Henry hangs his head low as he slinks away.

**INT. PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - GROUP THERAPY ROOM - DAY**

Posters cover the walls reminding you to "Be your best self" and that "Tomorrow can always be better".

Ten occupied plastic chairs form a circle in the middle of the room. Well, nine occupied with one unoccupied.

Henry stares at one of the posters as the FEMALE GROUP LEADER, 40, talks inaudibly in the background.

HENRY (V.O.)  
 "Be your best self", what does that  
 even mean?

GROUP LEADER  
 (muffled, barely audible)  
 Henry...

HENRY (V.O.)  
 I mean, who decides what your best  
 self is? It's subjective, just like  
 com --

GROUP LEADER  
 Henry?

Henry snaps out of it.

GROUP LEADER  
 Everything alright? You seem to be  
 somewhere else today.

He opens his mouth to reply --

A door swings open, attracting the group's attention.

A broad-shouldered MALE NURSE escorts Ruby into the room.

MALE NURSE  
 (to the Group Leader)  
 I think this one belongs to you.

The Group Leader looks down at a clipboard resting on her  
 thighs, she tracks a list of names with the tip of a pen.

GROUP LEADER  
 Ah, Miss Jenkins, so nice of you to  
 join us. Please take a seat.

The Nurse exits, closing the door behind him.

Ruby takes her seat, Henry watches as she does.

GROUP LEADER  
 (to Ruby)  
 Why don't you introduce yourself to  
 the group.

She doesn't.

GROUP LEADER  
 Come on now, don't be shy.

Ruby sighs in resignation.

RUBY  
Hi, I'm Ruby --

THE GROUP  
(together)  
Hi, Ruby.

RUBY  
-- but people call me Red.

JOHN, 30's, a group member, raises his hand.

GROUP LEADER  
Yes, John.

JOHN  
(to Ruby)  
Why do they call you red?

Ruby stares at him with an are-you-fucking-serious look.

John holds her stare, he really doesn't get it.

GROUP LEADER  
Um... Moving on. Red, tell us a bit  
about why you're here.

Ruby scans all the unfamiliar faces until she lands on Henry,  
he offers an encouraging smile. She hesitates a moment  
longer, then --

RUBY  
Aren't we all here for the same  
reason?

GROUP LEADER  
You are, in a way, but you all have  
your own stories, I'd like to hear  
yours.

RUBY  
That's a hard pass from me.

GROUP LEADER  
Fair enough, I won't force you to  
share.  
(to the group)  
Did anyone have anything else to  
add or any questions?

John's hand shoots up.

**INT. PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - CAFETERIA - NIGHT**

A busy dining hall. PATIENTS sit at tables and eat their dinner. The room's decor, a stylish white on white.

Other patients wait in line to collect their meals.

The COOK spoons some vegetables onto the plate.

At the end of the line, a NURSE hands a FEMALE PATIENT a small cup of pills and a glass of water. The pills are promptly swallowed.

The Patient opens her mouth and sticks out her tongue. The Nurse examines the contents, or lack there of.

Down the line, Ruby inspects the meal options.

COOK  
Any time you're ready, missy.

HENRY (O.S.)  
(to Ruby)  
I hear the roast beef is to die  
for.

Ruby turns towards Henry, pulls up her sleeve to reveal a scar on her wrist.

RUBY  
Lets hope so.  
(to the cook)  
I'll take the roast beef.

HENRY (V.O.)  
Idiot!

**INT. PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - CAFETERIA - RUBY'S TABLE - LATER**

Ruby sits alone at one of the tables, finishes off her meal.

Henry approaches with something hidden behind his back.

HENRY  
Sorry about earlier, that was a  
pretty stupid thing to say  
considering our current  
predicament.

Henry produces a bowl of ice cream covered in chocolate sauce and a sheepish smile.

HENRY  
A peace offering.

RUBY  
You just don't let up, do you?

Dejected, Henry turns to leave.

RUBY  
Hey, where're you going with my ice  
cream?

HENRY (V.O.)  
And the crowd goes wild!

A large smile crosses Henry's face, he quickly tones it down  
and turns back to Ruby.

He slides onto the seat across from her, and hands over the  
ice cream.

Ruby pushes her dinner plate to one side, then collects two  
spoons from a cutlery holder in the centre of the table, it's  
all plastic cutlery.

She holds out one of the spoons for Henry.

RUBY  
Help a girl out, would you.

HENRY  
Wouldn't have it any other way.

He accepts the spoon.

HENRY  
So what brings you to our fine  
establishment? Other than the  
obvious...  
(eyeing Ruby's wrist)  
Ah... body art.

She cracks a small smile and chuckles.

RUBY  
Smooth.

Ruby scoops up some ice cream, thinks as she eats it.

RUBY  
It's a long story.

HENRY  
I hear ya. They generally are.



Ruby taps the spoon lightly on the side of the bowl.

RUBY  
I'm sorry, do you mind if we talk  
about something else? It's just...

She pushes the ice cream around the bowl with her spoon.

HENRY  
It's okay, no need to explain.  
(with a playful smile)  
Now slide over that bowl. I don't  
pay premium health insurance for  
nothing.

Another chuckle from Ruby as Henry helps himself to the bowl of ice cream.

### **LATER**

Ruby and Henry sit and laugh in an almost empty cafeteria.

The Nurse flicks off a light, then another.

Only the lights above Ruby and Henry remain on.

NURSE  
Lights out soon, you two.

Henry waves an acknowledgement.

RUBY  
I haven't laughed like that in a  
long time.

HENRY  
Who said the Mad House was all doom  
and gloom?

Henry's demeanor quickly changes, it's the first time we've seen him this serious.

HENRY  
But, I do know what you're going  
through. Or at least I might.

RUBY  
You think so?

Henry pulls his sleeve up to reveal a similar scar to the one Ruby has.

Ruby and Henry's eyes lock. They share a moment.

**INT. PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Henry and Ruby stroll down the hallway. Ruby stops at one of the rooms.

RUBY  
This is me.

HENRY  
So, I guess I'll see you in group  
tomorr --

Ruby leans in and kisses Henry.

She opens the door --

RUBY  
Thank you, Henry.

-- And vanishes into her room. The door shuts

Henry continues on his way with a smile.

HENRY (V.O.)  
Maybe tomorrow can be a better day.

**INT. PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - GROUP THERAPY ROOM - DAY**

Same room, same posters, same chairs. The group in a circle.

JOHN  
-- And that, my friends, is why the  
earth is flat.

GROUP LEADER  
Well, okay then... I think we might  
call it there for the day. Good  
session everyone.

A hand slowly rises.

It's Ruby. She looks over at Henry.

RUBY  
I think I'd like to share.

FADE OUT.