

Don't Burst My Bubble

by

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FADE IN:

INT. SHOPPING MALL - CAFE - DAY

An upmarket establishment, under a canopy of fairy lights, maiden-hair ferns in hanging baskets. Wait-staff hover, ready to cater to the stylish and over privileged, serving cold drip and organic coffees, and smashed avocado salads.

SUPERIMPOSE: *When Tommy Met Angelica...*

Two perfectly coiffed WOMEN, one blonde, one brunette, in their early 30s, dripping in chunky gold jewelry sit sipping lattes. Designer labelled shopping bags by their side.

A giftwrapped box of chocolates sits in front of the Blonde woman, a Valentine's Greeting card on top of it.

The Blonde and the Brunette women tap away at their iPhones with perfectly manicured acrylic red nails.

Seated next to the Blonde woman, a cherubic LITTLE GIRL, ANGELICA, 5, the spitting image of her blonde mother. She's dressed as Elsa from *Frozen* in a bedazzled pink tutu.

She holds a pink helium balloon and looks bored, her chubby legs swinging impatiently under the table.

At another table TOMMY, 6, sits with his GRANDMOTHER, 60s. Granny sips from a cup of tea, idly marking off the crossword while Tommy slurps noisily from a chocolate milkshake.

Tommy can't keep his eyes off Angelica.

SUPERIMPOSE: *She's All That*

He is, in a nutshell, completely besotted.

Beguiled by the little girl's doe eyes, flawless skin, and cupid's bow mouth.

But, Angelica doesn't even know he exists.

SUPERIMPOSE: *She's Out of My League*

Tommy delves into Grandmother's bag pulls out his favorite *Bumble* Transformer toy. He sits it proudly on the table desperately awaiting some response.

Angelica's eyes register nothing. She appears to look right through him.

The women have taken to Facebook and Instagram, oohing and ahing over photographs of themselves in various vanity poses.

Angelica glances over at them, purses her mouth. Her legs swing faster under the table, a slight crease to her brow.

Tommy sighs. He walks his *Bumble* transformer-toy further along the table in Angelica's line of sight.

No response.

He drums his fingers on the table, ponders -

Delves into Granny's bag retrieves his favourite SpiderMan mask, don's the matching gloves, stretches his arms out as if he's flying like the comic book hero.

Angelica puts her head in her hands, pouts. The Blonde woman places a coloring book in front of her along with a packet of crayons. Angelica draws a ?

Angelica's pink helium balloon rises to the ceiling unnoticed by anyone, except Tommy, who watches it as it glides up to the ceiling in slow motion then drifts around the room.

Angelica continues coloring -

The Blonde and the Brunette giggle hysterically at an Instagram photo of muscled and tanned man.

Angelica shoots them a look, starts coloring outside the lines, stabs at the paper with a red crayon.

Tears threaten on Angelica's face, the Blonde woman finally takes notice.

She frantically looks around for the WAITER but he's busy bowing and scraping to another patron.

Desperate, she rips opens the box of chocolates, takes one out, pops it in Angelica's mouth.

Angelica acts up again, she frowns, starts to cry again. The Blonde Woman feeds her another chocolate, and another...

Tommy has Leggo out on the table carefully assembling a red leggo-brick shaped heart, half way done as -

The Waiter appears at the table with another cup of tea for Grandma who has now started on Sudoku.

Tommy places the finishing red bricks to his heart, slides it over to the edge of the table so Angelica can see.

Surely, for the love of God, this will do the trick -

But no...

The pink balloon having done another rotation of the ceiling having snagged something settles directly above Angelica, bobbing gently up and down -

Angelica looks up, smiles, then frowns - 'what's it doing up there?!

She squeezes her eyes tightly shut as -

A loud bang!

The balloon flops onto the table in all its deflated glory and lands in front of her.

Angelica opens her mouth in shock and outrage, a silent 'O' at first -

Tommy's mouth also opens in a silent 'O' at the sight of her perfect mouth in exclamation. Everything slows down then -

Finally Angelica bursts into a loud ear-piercing squeal. As only a five year old filled with all the pent up boredom and frustration of a long day can do, her squeals build to a crescendo culminating in -

She throws herself out of her chair and onto the floor balls up her fists in tantrum.

The Blonde woman bends to Angelica, chocolates in hand, she proffers one to Angelica who angrily swipes it away.

Angelica's body now wracked with sobbing, hyperventilating, her face beet red.

Tommy looks aghast, drumming his fingers on the table again, he gets up from his chair, whispers in Grandma's ear, then races out the door.

INT. SHOPPING MALL -

Tommy looks up at the shopping forecourt ceiling, to the red Helium heart-shaped balloons hanging from the ceiling, under a halo of fairy lights.

He glances from shop to shop -

Advertisements for the special day, banners everywhere, bunches of red roses, chocolates, chocolate hearts, teddy-bears - Everything red, red, red.

Tommy spins around, spots a dollar shop, Eureka!

A CRUSTY OLD MAN, with a bad comb-over doles out balloons to a group of KIDS - all of the balloons in pastel colors.

One last pink one in the bunch.

A sign at the front reads \$5.

Tommy counts out four gold coins into the palm of his hand.

He feels around in his pocket for more. Pats his other pockets, frantic. Empty.

His face falls.

Plucking up courage he walks up to the Old Man, points to the pink balloon, opens his palm shows him the four coins.

Crusty Old Man shakes his head, shoos Tommy away.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - FORECOURT

Slumped on a 'courtesy seat', Tommy watches as shoppers amble by. Utterly deflated himself now.

SUPERIMPOSE: *Serendipity*

An OLD MAN and an OLD LADY, in their 70s shuffle towards each other. From behind his back the Man pulls one single red rose presents it to the Lady. The lady's face registers delight.

She kisses the Old Man, a tender kiss filled with all the years past. A tear roles down her cheek. Man pulls a freshly pressed handkerchief from his pocket, holds it towards her -

As he does so, a single gold coin falls from his pocket and bounces to the floor...

As the old couple walk on.

In slow motion the gold coin rolls like a wheel towards Tommy

He watches it in amazement as it comes to a stop by his feet.

SUPERIMPOSE: *As Good As It Gets*

INT. SHOPPING MALL -

Tommy runs like the wind, pink balloon in his hand.

He races up aisles past all the shops with their red, red, red, clutching his pink balloon.

One last corner to take -

He rushes into the cafe -

Sweat beads dot his forehead, panting,

INT. SHOPPING MALL - CAFE

A triumphant look on Tommy's face, he bursts through the door to see -

Angelica, a big beaming smile on her face.

In one hand she holds a pink cupcake, in the other, a bouquet of six pastel colored helium balloons.

For the first time she looks directly at Tommy, actually seeing him for the first time.

Tommy's face drops. He looks at his solitary pink balloon. Back to her colored bouquet.

Grandmother gives Tommy a soothing smile, takes his hand in hers and ushers him towards the door.

Tommy looks at Grandmother, hesitates -

We see him pull his hand away from hers and look to Angelica, - a pouting look of expectation on her face.

Love and longing on Tommy's young face, and,

Fierce determination

He races over to the table and without hesitation, he leans in and kisses Angelica on her cheek.

Once again everything in slow motion -

A range of emotions cross Angelica's face. She can't quite decide whether she's outraged or delighted.

SUPERIMPOSE: *First Kiss*

Tommy is delighted.

As he nears the door, he turns and winks at Angelica.

Despite herself she turns on her best winning smile as Tommy walks out the door.

SUPERIMPOSE: P.S. I love you.

FADE OUT.