

FOR NOW

By

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FADE IN:

INT. RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - DINING ROOM - DAY

ADEL, 70s, sits alone, cup of coffee in hand. She takes a sip, immediately spits it back into the cup.

WARREN, 70s, slides into the seat across from her.

WARREN

That bad?

ADEL

I've always liked the smell. Taste, not so much. My husband told me you have to get used to it. But, I still don't get it.

WARREN

Yet, every day I see you try.

She shrugs.

Warren nervously fiddles with a napkin.

WARREN

Listen -- I -- uh -- I paid off the van driver -- got him for the night. I was wondering -- if -- maybe -- you might want to go to the Olive Garden tonight? With me. Endless breadsticks.

ADEL

(shakes her head)  
It's Valentine's Day.

WARREN

That's kind of the point. See, when a guy -- that's me -- likes a gal -- that's you -- sometimes they eat breadsticks together. And, sometimes, they do it on Valentine's Day.

ADEL

I don't like breadsticks.

WARREN

Garlic cheddar biscuits, then. The bread choice is negotiable.

ADEL  
 (stands)  
 I can't.

WARREN  
 (stands to meet her)  
 I know you've had it rough this year. How about, as friends? Think about it -- please. I'll wait by the van. 4:30. Just in case.

ADEL  
 I'm sorry.

She walks away, leaving Warren by himself.

Another WOMAN, 70s, sweeps in.

WOMAN  
 There you are.

She hands him a box of chocolates.

WOMAN  
 Happy Valentine's Day.

WARREN  
 That's very nice. Thanks.

The Woman bounces out of the room, giddy with her success.

Warren tosses the box onto a nearby table, where it lands next to a pile of others just like it.

INT. RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Adel admires a black and white photo: A YOUNG WOMAN IN A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE DRESS, ALONGSIDE A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN.

She looks at an inscription on the back of the photo: OUR FIRST VALENTINE'S DAY.

JIMMY (O.S.)  
 So, he asked you out?

Adel spins to see JIMMY, 30s, the man in the photo, sitting on the couch.

ADEL  
 I didn't say yes.

JIMMY  
 You should.

She sets the photo on the table, settles next to Jimmy.

ADEL

I knew you'd come today.

JIMMY

I told you. First day we met. I'd never spend another Valentine's Day without you.

He stands, pulls her up to him.

Jimmy embraces YOUNG ADEL, 30s, the woman in the photo. They sway to a song no one else can hear.

JIMMY

Tell me about this guy. He better be awful. We're talking nose hair -- one, long eyebrow that extends from ear to ear. And definitely no sense of humor. He better not be funny.

YOUNG ADEL

He's hideous. I can barely look at him.

JIMMY

That's my girl.

He spins her, pulls her back in.

JIMMY

You still have the dress?

YOUNG ADEL

I do.

JIMMY

You should wear it.

YOUNG ADEL

I'm not going, if that's what you're implying.

There's a KNOCK at the door.

Jimmy lets go of Young Adel.

Adel (present-day Adel) answers the door to see: Warren, holding several boxes of chocolates.

WARREN

A minute?

ADEL  
(waves him in)  
I'm not a big fan of chocolate.

WARREN  
These? Oh, no. Seems every corner I  
turn, I'm handed another box.

ADEL  
You're a popular man.

WARREN  
One of only sixteen in the  
building, so, not sure it says much  
about me.

Jimmy approaches.

JIMMY  
Humble. Nice.

Warren sees the photo on the table.

WARREN  
Your husband?

ADEL  
Yes. Jimmy.

Jimmy circles Warren. Of course, Warren can't see him.

JIMMY  
(looks him over)  
No horns, so, he's got that going  
for him.

WARREN  
He's a looker.

JIMMY  
Excellent taste. But, we knew that  
already.

WARREN  
Look, I'm sorry if I came on too  
strong down there. It's just -- you  
know how it is. Life's short. But,  
I really don't want to pressure  
you. You tell me when you're ready.  
IF -- you're ready.

JIMMY  
Oh, Babe. I like this guy.

ADEL

It's not you. I hope you know that.

There's another knock at the door. Adel answers. MILDRED, 80s, holds out a box of chocolates.

MILDRED

I heard Warren was here.

Adel takes the candy.

MILDRED

(evil eye)

Don't eat it. It's for Warren.

ADEL

Got it. For Warren.

Adel closes the door.

JIMMY

This guy's more popular than a chocolate fountain at a Kansas City brunch.

Adel hands Warren the gift.

WARREN

I'm sorry.

Another KNOCK at the door. Adel answers. It's Mildred, again.

MILDRED

Did you give it to him?

ADEL

I promise.

WARREN (O.S.)

Got it right here. Thanks, Mildred.

Mildred peeks around.

MILDRED

It's chocolates.

WARREN

Yes, thank you.

MILDRED

Alright then.

Mildred turns down the hall and Adel closes the door.

WARREN

Again. Very sorry.

ADEL

Oh, no. It was nice to see Mildred care about something other than pudding.

There's another KNOCK at the door. Adel sighs, heads to answer it.

Warren hangs his head.

Jimmy is gone.

ADEL

(opening the door)

Yes, he's --

She stops cold as a huge bouquet of roses fills the doorway.

A DELIVERYMAN pokes his head around.

DELIVERYMAN

Adel?

Adel nods, takes the flowers.

Warren stands, heads for the door.

WARREN

I should go. I didn't realize --

ADEL

No, they're not -- I don't --

DELIVERYMAN

I been waiting to meet the woman that inspires a man to order flowers a whole year in advance.

(to Warren)

I bet you're an accountant.

(to Adel)

Those guys. Planners, I tell 'ya.

Adel glances at the note.

ADEL

They're from Jimmy.

DELIVERYMAN

(to Warren)

You ain't Jimmy? That's awkward.

Adel closes the door on the Deliveryman.

WARREN

This feels like a private moment.

Warren reaches for the door.

WARREN

You're a lovely woman. I hope you call me sometime.

He leaves.

She reads the card.

OLDER JIMMY, 70s, slips in next to Adel, puts his arm around her, pulls her tight.

OLDER JIMMY

Happy Valentine's Day to the most beautiful gal I ever met. I miss you so much. You put the spark in my world.

Adel wipes tears from her eyes.

OLDER JIMMY

We'll be together again someday. But, I want you to be happy today. So, please, find someone that makes you happy and share that spark with them. Love, Your Jimmy.

She looks up from the card. Older Jimmy is gone.

INT. RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Adel opens the closet, surveys her clothes.

EXT. RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - DAY

Warren stands by the community van. He holds several more boxes of chocolate.

A DRIVER sits, waiting.

WARREN

Chocolate?

The driver gladly accepts.



WARREN  
Here, take 'em all.

The front door to the community opens and out walks Adel, wearing the same dress from the photo. Though, now we can see the color: vibrant red.

WARREN  
You look amazing.

ADEL  
(re: the dress)  
I hope you don't mind. It's kind of a Valentine's Day tradition. It was Jimmy's favorite.

WARREN  
Well, I can see why.

He helps Adel into the van.

WARREN  
So, did we decide on a bread?

ADEL  
Cheesecake Factory has a nice pumpernickel.

WARREN  
Pumpernickel it is.

The van pulls away.

FADE OUT.