

LOVE IS BLIND

BY

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FADE IN:

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM RECEPTION - DAY

JESSICA(20s) slim and attractive, sits in a busy reception area looking worried. She glances down at a white cane leaning against her chair.

FLASHBACK:

INT. PET STORE - DAY

Jessica stands in a long aisle in a pet store considering a selection of food in front of her.

She is approached by MATT(20s) tall and well built. He wears sunglasses and carries a white cane.

MATT

Hello? Can you help me?

JESSICA

(Dismissively)

I don't work here.

MATT

Maybe you could point me in the right direction anyway.

Jessica turns. When she sees the sunglasses and cane her eyes widen.

JESSICA

(Contrite)

Oh my god! I'm so sorry.

Matt gives her a smile.

MATT

If you're apologizing for me being blind, don't worry, I was like this when you found me.

Jessica just stares, unsure what to say.

MATT (CONT'D)

Can you tell me if I'm in the dog food aisle? I'm after some kibble.

Jessica manages to compose herself.

JESSICA
You're in the right place.

Jessica turns to scan the shelves.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
What type did you want?

MATT
Max isn't fussy. As long as it tastes
meaty and smells like feet he'll be
happy.

JESSICA
Is Max your seeing-eye dog?

MATT
Yep, he's great at getting me around and
pretty useful for getting me beers from
the fridge. Dog's got skills.

Jessica laughs, looking up and down the aisle.

JESSICA
I hate to break it to you, but it looks
like he's left you high and dry.

MATT
Nah, I gave him the day off. He'd rather
be at home licking his crotch.

JESSICA
My dog's the same. I try to keep face-
licking to a minimum.

Now Matt laughs.

MATT
I wonder why they haven't invented
genital flavoured dog food by now.

Jessica laughs out loud.

JESSICA
Let me grab you that food.

Jessica bends down to grab a bag of food from the floor.

MATT
You have a really beautiful voice. I'd
love to take you out sometime to hear it
some more.

Jessica is taken aback, loses her balance and falls against the shelves.

Several cans fall and one hits Matt on the head with a clunk, he falls to the floor, unconscious.

Jessica, horrified, fishes her phone out of her pocket and dials 911.

END FLASHBACK:

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM RECEPTION - DAY

A man in green scrubs approaches.

MAN

Hi there, I'm DOCTOR ROURKE. You came in with Matthew Thompson, right?

Jessica looks up and nods.

JESSICA

(Worried)

Is he ok?

DOCTOR ROURKE

He has a mild concussion and a pretty nasty scalp laceration. But he'll be fine. He should be able to go home in a couple of hours.

Jessica gives a huge sigh of relief.

DOCTOR ROURKE (CONT'D)

Can I ask you how it happened?

Jessica pauses for a moment, reluctant to answer.

JESSICA

A can of dog food hit him on the head.

Doctor Rourke raises an eyebrow.

DOCTOR ROURKE

I see. Can you tell me anything else?

Jessica looks confused

JESSICA

It was chicken I think. Maybe beef.

Doctor Rourke is nonplussed.

DOCTOR ROURKE
I meant about the accident. Was there
much blood loss?

Jessica blushes in embarrassment.

JESSICA
I..ah..didn't see much blood.

Doctor Rourke nods in satisfaction.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Can I see him?

DOCTOR ROURKE
Off course, I'll take you through.

Jessica gets up, grabs the cane and follows the doctor.

CUT TO:

INT. TREATMENT AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Doctor Rourke leads Jessica to a cubicle with a green
curtain around it.

DOCTOR ROURKE
Just through there. Now, if you'll excuse
me.

Doctor Rourke leaves. Jessica opens the curtain.

Matt sits up in bed, there's a dressing on his head. And
he has his sunglasses on.

JESSICA
(Sheepish)
Hi there, It's me.

MATT
(Surprised)
Pet food lady?

JESSICA
My name's Jessica.

MATT
Shame, pet food lady has a nice ring to
it.

Jessica lays his cane next to him.

JESSICA

I wanted to make sure you got this back.

Jessica pauses for a couple of beats.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(Contrite)

I'm sorry I knocked you out with a can of dog food.

MATT

That's ok, at least it wasn't cat food. I hate cats.

JESSICA

I'm glad you're ok. I should probably get going.

She turns away reluctantly.

MATT

Before you go, can I ask you something?

Jessica turns back.

JESSICA

Sure.

MATT

How would you feel about dating a blind guy?

JESSICA

Hmmm, I think I'd be ok with that.

MATT

Excellent, I know a few I can set you up with.

Jessica punches his shoulder playfully. Both are silent for a moment.

MATT (CONT'D)

Stay a while, we can discuss where you're going to take me for dinner.

JESSICA

Don't push your luck, I've got that can of dog food in my bag, and I'm not afraid to use it.

Matt holds his hands up in mock defeat.

MATT

So, dinner and dancing? Me and Max can do a mean foxtrot.

Jessica sits in the chair next to his bed and smiles.

JESSICA

Before we go out, if we go out, don't you want to feel my face first?

Matt grimaces and shudders at the same time.

MATT

God no! I mean, what if you're really ugly? It's not like I can swipe left on your face.

JESSICA

Is this how you charm all the ladies? Because I think your technique needs work.

MATT

I normally just rely on pity. Max helps out too, dogs make great wingmen.

Jessica looks up as a male nurse approaches.

NURSE

Sorry to interrupt folks, afraid we need to free up this bed. We're going to move you to our triage area for now.

Matt turns his head towards the nurse.

MATT

No worries. Do I get my lollipop now or later?

The nurse grins.

NURSE

We're all out of lollipops, but there's a lovely vending machine out in chairs. I'm sure your wife can hook you up with something.

Matt laughs, grabs his cane and swings his legs out of the bed, Jessica looks mortified.

MATT

(To Jessica)

See, we already look like a couple. It's meant to be.

JESSICA

(To nurse)

We're not married. We barely know each other.

The nurse holds up his hand placatingly.

NURSE

My bad. In my defense, you do make a cute couple. Now, Mr. Thompson, let me get you where you're going.

He takes Matt's left elbow, gently.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Is there anyone we can contact for you? Someone who can come and make sure you get home ok?

Before Matt can answer, Jessica stands up and approaches them.

JESSICA

I'll stay with him, as long as that's ok. I'll take him home as well

The nurse shrugs and Matt smiles.

MATT

You don't have to do that. I can call my dog sitter to come get me.

The three of them move towards some double doors.

JESSICA

It's ok, I'm always saying to myself that I don't spend enough time in hospitals. And besides, we haven't decided where to go on our date.

She gives his arm an affectionate squeeze, they go through the doors to the triage area and their potential future together.

FADE OUT.