

OFFICE ROMANCE

By

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FADE IN:

INT. MCCOURT ENGINEERING/RECEPTION DESK - DAY

On the WALL CLOCK, the SECOND HAND staggers on each movement. It's 8:05.

LINDSAY, 24, sits idly, although erect, at her reception post. She's comely and her effervescence shines through. She HUMS a melody. It's a simple TUNE that's quite catchy.

The singing, although muted, pierces through the stark silent office. OFFICE PEOPLE in close proximity raise their eyebrows at her and annoyed that she just won't shut up.

She continues to hum to herself.

Phone RINGS. She answers.

LINDSAY
McCourt Engineering. This is
Lindsay speaking...He's not in. Can
I take a message? He'll be in at
ten this morning...Okay, thank you.

She hangs up the phone and returns to her usual musings, much to the annoyance of all those around her.

GEORGE, 41, frustrated, SLAMS his pencil down on his desk and growls at Lindsay.

GEORGE
Lindsay! Can you stop it with the
singing?

LINDSAY
Sorry!

She's uncomfortable at her station, not sure of what to do.

She pulls out a pen and paper. She starts writing a list:

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
(muttering)
Can of chicken soup...Hot
Pockets...Canned corn...

She looks up, thinking HARD. There's something she's forgetting. Then it comes to her:

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
 (audibly)
 Tampons!

George pops his head up. Did he just hear that?

She catches his perplexed glance. She averts her eyes away, embarrassed. She continues on with her thinking process.

A tall, YOUNG GUY comes up to the desk with a stack of folded drawings.

This is JOE RIZZI, 27. He is a refreshing sight to see, in contrast to the sea of older men who've apparently usurped the office.

JOE
 Lindsay.

Lindsay immediately covers up her list. She beams once she sees Joe.

LINDSAY
 Good morning, Joe.

JOE
 I need you to get these drawings
 messengered to Fox Hall
 Construction. It needs to be there
 before noon.

LINDSAY
 Sure!

Lindsay's alacrity seems to be manufactured and forced. Joe gives her a look.

JOE
 Thanks.

As he leaves, a YOUNG WOMAN, 27, arrives with some drawings. She's moderately attractive, but has a cold exterior.

JOE (CONT'D)
 (to the woman)
 Sarah.

SARAH
 Hey Joe.

She looks at him as he passes her, then looks at Lindsay. She sizes Lindsay up with her eyes as she walks away.

INT. COPY ROOM - DAY

Lindsay copies various documents on the copier. As usual, she SINGS to herself.

Joe enters and unintentionally creeps up on Lindsay. He STARTLES her.

JOE
Sorry, I didn't mean to scare you.

Lindsay recovers.

LINDSAY
It's okay. I'm just used to being the only one in here.

An awkward SILENCE is shared between the two. Lindsay brings her necklace chain up to her lips.

JOE
Does that taste good?

LINDSAY
Huh?

JOE
Your chain.

She immediately pops the chain out of her mouth.

LINDSAY
Sorry. Just a bad habit.

JOE
No, it's kinda cute--

He stops himself.

JOE (CONT'D)
I mean--

LINDSAY
Thanks!

At that moment, Sarah pops her head in, annoyed.

SARAH
Lindsay. I need you to mark up those drawings that I left on your desk. This is my third time asking you!

LINDSAY
 Sorry. I haven't had time to get
 to them.

SARAH
 Lindsay. You sit at your desk and
 you sing to yourself. I need to
 have it by noon, today. Okay?

LINDSAY
 Okay. I'll try.

Sarah huffs as she turns to leave.

JOE
 She can be a bear, sometimes.

LINDSAY
 Yeah.

A brief, awkward silence.

JOE
 Listen, and don't feel obliged, I
 can take it any way--- but would
 you like to do dinner sometime?

Lindsay blindly DROPS the papers on the floor.

LINDSAY
 Oh!

She scurries to pick up the papers. Joe goes down on his
 knees and helps her pick up the mess. After they've
 collected all the papers, he hands his stack over to her.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
 Thanks.

She looks into his eyes and smiles.

LINDSAY (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 I'd love to have dinner with you.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Lindsay and Joe sit at a table in a quaint Italian
 bistro. They sit with a glass of wine in front of
 them. Things are as awkward as they can get.

Lindsay hums the same TUNE.

JOE

What's that tune from?

Lindsay stops, embarrassed.

LINDSAY

Sorry! I don't even know that I do it.

Lindsay turns beet red.

JOE

No, it's unique. Is that a melody from somewhere?

She nervously giggles.

LINDSAY

No, it's an original.

JOE

Maybe you should be a composer. You could make a lot of money with that tune. Did you know there's such a thing as a ringtone composer?

LINDSAY

Really?! Shut up! I'd be perfect for that job!

They share a light-hearted moment and an intriguing smile.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Lindsay and Joe take a stroll in the park. It's a beautiful night, dark and blanketed with stars.

There is a certain distance between them. One in every few steps, one would try to inch in towards each other, but not to encroach on his or her space.

Lindsay HUMS again.

JOE

You're humming again.

Lindsay stops.

LINDSAY

I've got to stop that.

JOE
No! I like quirks.

LINDSAY
Well, I've come equipped with
plenty.

Joe examines Lindsay with his eyes. This makes her a bit uncomfortable. She STOPS, as does he.

LINDSAY (cont'd)
Is there something wrong?

Abruptly, Joe leans in and KISSES Lindsay. She responds well to it.

MONTAGE: LINDSAY AND JOE DATE

- A) They're in a movie theater with a big tub of popcorn shared between the two.
- B) They share furtive glances at each other at work.
- C) They play tennis. It's obvious that she is not known for her athleticism.
- D) They surreptitiously pass love notes at work. Sarah catches their glances at each other and she's not happy about it at all.
- E) They take a romantic walk, holding each others' hands. Love and adoration are in each others' eyes.

MONTAGE ENDS.

EXT. RIZZI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A big brick house with a two-car garage stands prominently in a nice suburban neighborhood. Even at night, one can see that the lawn is neat and tidy.

DOOR BELL SOUNDS and Lindsay's HUMMING is heard.

EXT. RIZZI'S DOORSTEP - NIGHT

Joe and Lindsay stand in front of the DOOR.

JOE
You're humming again.

LINDSAY

Sorry!

Lindsay immediately stops.

The DOOR OPENS and a MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE appear, MR. & MRS. RIZZI (mid 50s).

MRS. RIZZI

Honey!

Joe steps in and hugs his mother and shakes his father's hand. He motions to Lindsay.

JOE

Mom. Dad. This is Lindsay.

Mr. and Mrs. Rizzi smile with warmth and acceptance. She meets their approval.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Lindsay and Joe take another stroll in the park. The path is lined with lights shining down from the headlamps.

Joe seems a bit fidgety, not quite comfortable in his own skin. Lindsay picks up on this.

LINDSAY

Is everything okay?

JOE

Yes.

A long dreadful silence as they walk.

Joe STOPS under one of the headlamps. LIGHT shines down on him like a vision of an angel with halo ether all around him.

Lindsay inches towards him.

LINDSAY

What's wrong?

Joe longingly gazes at her.

JOE

Lindsay, you're nothing like the other girls I've met. For a long time, I was so jaded, that there was no such thing as a soul mate.

Joe brings his HAND up to caress Lindsay's cheek. She receives his hand.

A long moment.

JOE (CONT'D)
I believe I've found the girl for
me...

Lindsay smiles and is touched by his sweet words.

Joe pulls out a small BOX from his pocket. As he slowly opens the box, he gets down to one knee.

JOE (CONT'D)
...which is why I want to ask you
for your hand in marriage.

Lindsay is fraught with so much excitement and joy that she just had to SCREAM:

LINDSAY
Yes!! Oh my God!! Yes!!

He puts the RING on her finger. She takes a moment to look at the beautiful SOLITAIRE on her finger.

Joe rises and quickly embraces her. Lindsay's eyes are stained with joyous tears. He gives her a DEEP KISS.

They continue kissing under the bright headlamp.

CHURCH BELL CHIMING is heard.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

PEOPLE in their Sundays' Best crowd around the CHURCH DOOR and steps leading up to it. A distinct aisle is formed.

CHURCH DOOR swings wide open and Joe and Lindsay in wedding garment, happily skip down the aisle. They acknowledge everyone's presence. RICE is strewn at them. CROWD CHEERS.

MONTAGE: LINDSAY AND JOE MARRIED.

- A) Lindsay and Joe go house hunting.
- B) They move into their new bungalow.
- C) They sit on the living room sofa, watching TV together and they KISS.

LINDSAY

Sure!

JOE

It's really important.

LINDSAY

Sure.

Joe places the drawings on her DESK. Lindsay looks down at his HAND. A GOLD WEDDING BAND on his finger stands out prominently.

JOE

Great. Thanks!

He smiles at her.

Sarah comes in from around the same corner with a huge stack of papers of her own. She sets them down on Lindsay's desk. Her finger is adorned with a luminous SOLITAIRE and WEDDING BAND.

Her manner is surprisingly warm and inviting.

SARAH

Lindsay, could you scan these in?

LINDSAY

Sure.

Sarah smiles at her.

SARAH

Thanks.

Sarah turns to Joe.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Hey. Mom called and she's planning to visit us in two weeks. We need to get the rooms painted by then.

JOE

Okay. Let's stop by Home Depot on our way home.

Sarah smiles and leaves. Joe follows her.

Lindsay, all alone, sits idly and starts humming a NEW TUNE.

FADE OUT.