

ROSES, CHOCOLATE AND RED FACE

INT. CHOCOLATE SHOP - DAY

Different kinds of chocolate are on the shelves. Customers walk around to look for their favourite. GARLAND DAVIES, 24, gentle, glasses, short and neat hair stands behind the shelves. Next to him is RICK MAXWELL, 23, sporty with a lovely face. Rick is packing chocolates for a customer. He hands it to the customer.

RICK  
(smiling)  
Thanks.

He takes it and leaves. Garland answers questions about chocolate.

GARLAND  
This's dark chocolate without  
sugar.

CUSTOMER  
My kids like sweet one. I know  
sugar'll do them no good. Need to  
think about. Thanks.

GARLAND  
You're welcome. You've questions  
about chocolate, let me know.

The customer smiles and leaves. A beautiful woman, 23, long and straight blonde hair, wearing a jacket with rose pattern, enters. This is PATTIE MAGER.

RICK  
(in a low voice)  
How's your heart. It must be  
pounding...

Garland elbows Rick. Pattie keeps on moving around. She stops to check out some chocolate. A moment later, she turns around and looks at Garland.

PATTIE  
Is this one from Switzerland,  
Garland?

GARLAND  
From Holland, Pattie. Long time no  
see. How you doing?

PATTIE  
(smiling)  
Fine

She walks around. Garland watches her.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Pattie sits on a bench reading a book. Garland and Rick stand behind a tree watching her.

RICK  
What're you waiting for?

GARLAND  
It's not the right time.

RICK  
She hadn't come to our shop for a month. Two days ago, you saw her. What if she'll never come?

GARLAND  
She's so pretty. I've no guts.

Pattie gets up and walks away. Garland watches her leaving. A sad look on his face.

RICK  
I won't tell you off, Garland. She's so beautiful that lots of guys must be trying their best to date her.

GARLAND  
You can say that again.

INT. CHOCOLATE SHOP - AFTERNOON

Garland sits at a desk typing on the computer screen. Rick serves two female customers. JANIE DOWING, 30, and LESA WILLIAMS, 29.

JANIE  
Rick, thanks for recommending this one to me. Friends of mine liked it too.

Rick smiles.

LESA  
I like this one too.

RICK  
I'm thrilled to hear.

JANIE

By the way, have you seen Pattie?

RICK

I saw her three days ago.

JANIE

Good to hear. Pattie's a nice person. We all like her.

RICK

A good customer. Nice and polite. She must be a happy woman. So pretty.

Garland stops typing and turns around.

JANNIE

One thing made her unhappy.

RICK

What's it?

JANNIE

People thought she must've lots of boyfriends. No. She only had one boyfriend two years ago. The guy hadn't given her roses. She's got any roses so far. Eager to have one.

Garland and Rick's eyes widen.

LESA

That's why her jacket has rose pattern.

JANNIE

That's right.

Garland exchanges a look with Rick.

INT. GARLAND AND RICK'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The two sits on the couch watching tv. Suddenly, Rick switches off the tv with a remote control. Garland turns to Rick.

RICK

Give her roses. A good chance.

Garland sighs.

GARLAND  
I can't.

RICK  
Why?

GARLAND  
About three years ago...

EXT. PARK - DAY - FLASHBACK

SHIRLEY REDFIELD, 20, sits on a bench looking around. A moment later, Garland pops up behind the couch and pats Shirley on the back. She turns around.

GARLAND  
Are you surprised?

SHIRLEY  
How naughty you're!

Garland smiles. She notices a bunch of roses in his hand. He hands it to her.

GARLAND  
Happy birthday!

She takes it. Suddenly, her eyes go wide. She SCREAMS.

SHIRLEY  
(scared)  
Monster!

She takes out a small mirror from her handbag and throws it to Garland, who catches it. He looks in the mirror. His whole face is red.

GARLAND  
(stunned)  
My God, what's happening?

Garland turns to Shirley. She runs away. He looks in the mirror again and falls to the ground, unconscious.

INT. GARLAND AND RICK'S LIVING ROOM -NIGHT - PRESENT

Rick bursts out laughing. Garland glares at him. Rick stops laughing.

RICK  
Just joking.

GARLAND

The red lasted for a month. I had pain in the face for a month. How can I give her roses? What if she runs away?

RICK

I know how you feel.

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Pattie sits on a bench reading a book. Garland and Rick stand behind a tree watching her. Garland shakes his head.

GARLAND

A good chance in front of me. Unfortunately, I can't take it.

RICK

Sorry to hear. Is it possible that I give her roses on behalf of you.

GARLAND

It would make it worse. Using a man to do that. No guts. She thought.

RICK

Any thoughts?

GARLAND

I wish I had.

Suddenly, KERRY PUFF, 32, in suit approaches and sits down on the bench that Pattie sits. Kerry takes out his cell phone from his trouser pocket and shows it to Pattie. They start to talk. Garland and Rick watch it.

RICK

I recognize him. His name's Kerry Puff.

GARLAND

She has a wife and lots of girlfriends.

RICK

He's found a new target.

GARLAND

Be smart, Pattie.

INT. CHOCOLATE SHOP - DAY

Garland is packing chocolate. Rick rushes in. Garland looks up at him.

GARLAND  
What's going on?

RICK  
(gasping)  
A friend of mine told me Kerry'd  
ordered a bunch of roses for a girl  
named Pattie Mager. Tomorrow is  
Valentine's Day.

Garland swallows hard.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Kerry in suit walks down, carrying a bunch of roses. He  
WHISTLES.

KERRY  
(to himself)  
Pattie Mager'll belong to me. A toy  
I'm going to play and throw it  
away.

Suddenly, Rick appears in front of him, blocking Kerry. The  
two glance at each other. Kerry moves to another side and  
Rick blocks him again. Kerry looks confused.

RICK  
Don't go.

KERRY  
What're you talking about? You got  
a problem?

Rick moves forward and Kerry goes backward.

RICK  
There'll be something unpleasant  
happening to you.

KERRY  
Really?

RICK  
Yes.

KERRY  
Talk to me.

Rick moves forward.

RICK  
Your wife's coming.

Kerry's eyes widen. He hands the roses to Rick and runs away.

INT. GARLAND AND RICK'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Garland paces, deep in thought. He looks down at a bunch of roses on the couch. He moves to pick it up and then puts it down. He takes a deep breath and picks it up again. He opens the door and leaves.

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

Garland walks down carrying the bunch of roses. He watches Pattie sitting on a bench reading a book. He goes up to the bench.

GARLAND  
Hi, Pattie.

Pattie lifts up her head, surprised.

PATTIE  
Hi, Garland.

GARLAND  
May I sit down?

PATTIE  
Of course.

Garland sits down. Pattie looks at the roses.

GARLAND  
I remember seeing you two years ago at my shop. You made a good impression on you. Nice and polite. Since then, I've wanted to make friends with you.

PATTIE  
You're a nice person.

GARLAND  
I've no guts and one thing prevents me from going further.

PATTIE  
What's it?



GARLAND

Take the roses and you'll see.

Garland takes a deep breath and hands the roses to Pattie, who takes it. Pattie's eyes go wide as Garland's whole face turns red.

PATTIE

Why's that?

GARLAND

I've no idea. when I gave roses to my girlfriend, I had pain in the face for a month. People called me monster and laughed at me.

Garland's face is getting red. Pattie notices it.

PATTIE

My God!

GARLAND

I'm willing to suffer from the pain and the laugh... because I find them worthwhile.

Tears in Pattie's eyes.

PATTIE

Garland!

GARLAND

Be my girlfriend?

Pattie nods. She moves to kiss Garland's cheek. A happy look on Garland's face. Suddenly, the red disappear gradually. Pattie is stunned by it. She takes out a small mirror from her handbag and hands it to Garland.

PATTIE

Take it.

Garland complies. He looks in the mirror.

GARLAND

(stunned)

It's gone. Your kiss defeated the red.

Pattie shakes her head.

PATTIE

Your courage defeated the red.

Garland nods. They get up and walk, hand in hand.

.