

HOW CAN I FORGET

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

MADISON, 30, pretty if a bit plump, a party girl, faces CASSIE, 30, thinner, prettier, not such a party girl. They stand on the sidewalk in front of the local singles bar, a Mecca for party girls.

MADISON

Remember the rules. If you act up,
you're going home, understand?

CASSIE

I'll be good. I promise.

MADISON

You promised the last time.

CASSIE

That was different. He was an
asshole. You know that even if you
won't admit it.

MADISON

Keep your insights to yourself if
you want to stay and have fun.

Cassie uses her fingers to zip shut her lips.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Good girl.

INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

At the bar stand RICK, 30, good looking if a bit plump, party boy. Next to him, JOEL, thinner, just as handsome, not such a party boy.

They sip beer and watch the room fill with single MEN and WOMEN. TVs project sports from every angle.

RICK

For the desperate, there is nothing
like Friday night.

JOEL

Not all of them are desperate.

RICK

Don't go there, Joel. Remember what we talked about. You pull that crap and you're on your own.

JOEL

I know, I know, I'll be a good boy.

RICK

Make sure you are.

Madison and Cassie pass. Madison makes eye contact with Rick. The cat-and-mouse game begins.

INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

Madison and Cassie stand at a small, round table. A WAITRESS delivers a round of drinks and points to the bar.

At the bar, Rick raises his hand, taking credit.

Madison smiles, and Rick pushes off from the bar, sailing straight for Madison.

INT. SPORTS BAR - LATER

Madison, Rick, Cassie, and Joel stand around the small round table laden with empty glasses. The art of seduction is in overdrive.

RICK

So, I shoved the car in reverse, backed over the lawn, knocked the hell out of that damn fountain, and slid into the street just as a garbage truck turned the corner. I jammed it into drive and pounded the accelerator, missing that truck by maybe an inch.

MADISON

Oh my god, that was close.

Cassie and Joel half smile, having heard this story or one like it a hundred times.

RICK

That's when the monkey popped up in the back seat and started to piss on the back of my head!

Madison breaks into a full laugh, while Cassie and Joel chuckle.

RICK (CONT'D)
We need more beer. Who wants one?

They all hold up their glasses.

MADISON
I'll come with.

Rick and Madison head for the bar, leaving Joel and Cassie. They fake smiles, a bit uncomfortable.

JOEL
Like football?

CASSIE
Sometimes. Who's playing?

JOEL
(looking at TV)
Colts and Vikings.

Cassie turns to the TV.

CASSIE
I think the Colts are going to score on the next play.

JOEL
Wanna bet?

CASSIE
I don't want to take your money.

JOEL
What? Can't take the heat?

CASSIE
Loser buys the next round?

JOEL
You got it.

They watch as a long pass goes for a touchdown.

CASSIE
Pay up.

JOEL
Wait.

As they watch, the play is called back because of a penalty.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Free beer always tastes best.

Cassie digs into her purse for cash.

CASSIE
You wouldn't care to go double or
nothing would you?

JOEL
I really don't want to take your
money.

CASSIE
I don't mean football. Look
around, make a wager.

Joel studies her.

JOEL
Why not?

He looks around as Rick and Madison return with drinks.

JOEL (CONT'D)
See the woman in the red leather
jacket?

CASSIE
What about her?

JOEL
In about ten seconds she's going to
toss her drink in the face of that
guy dressed in green.

CASSIE
And he's going to slap her face.

Joel and Cassie look at each other.

JOEL
Which will cause the guy in orange
to throw a punch.

RICK
Joel, what are you doing?

CASSIE
Which will hit the man wearing the
beret.

MADISON
Cassie, You promised.

JOEL
Who will slosh his drink all over
the boobs of the woman with the
white wine.

CASSIE
She'll scream, and the bartender
will--

MADISON RICK
Cassie! Joel!

They stop even as the events they described happen, cascading
one into the other.

The Woman in Red tosses her drink.

The Man in Green slaps her.

The Man in Orange throws a punch that hits the Man in the
Beret.

Who sloshes his drink over the boobs of the Woman with White
Wine who SCREAMS.

As the Bartender SLAMS a sawed-off baseball bat on the bar.
The action stops.

CASSIE
(to Joel)
You knew.

JOEL
I always know.

These two strange souls gaze into each other's eyes, two
people who suddenly find someone like them.

MADISON
Don't. Just don't. No good comes
of it, so don't do it. Don't.

Joel takes Cassie's hand.

JOEL
Let's get out of here.

Cassie grins, and they weave into the crowd.

RICK
(to Madison)
She's like him?

MADISON
Apparently. You can't take them anywhere.

RICK
Tell me about it. Last time I took pity on him he--

EXT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

Cassie and Joel stand on the sidewalk.

CASSIE
How far ahead can you see?

JOEL
Minute or two, you?

CASSIE
Same.

JOEL
Does it always work?

Together, they take one step to the right.

CASSIE
No, not always, you?

The Man in Orange is tossed out the front door, landing precisely where they had been standing.

JOEL
No, I have to concentrate if I want to get the details right.

CASSIE
And if you use it, everyone thinks you're weird?

JOEL
No one will play poker with me.

They move to the left and climb two steps on the stoop of the next building.

CASSIE
My friends hate it when I hand them the phone before it rings.

JOEL
How about long term? See anything out ahead?

CASSIE

Sometimes. Like right now, I know
Madison and Rick won't last past
tonight.

JOEL

Yeah, I got that too.

A taxi races past, hitting a puddle that splashes the two steps Cassie and Joel just climbed.

JOEL (CONT'D)

I just quit a great job because in
three months the company goes down
the toilet.

They step down onto the wet sidewalk and stroll away.

CASSIE

The farthest I've ever seen was a
year. I pleaded with my boss not
to take that business trip.

JOEL

Ouch.

CASSIE

Yeah, like that. Still, I got his
position.

They reach a corner and pause, just before a man on a bicycle zips past, avoiding a collision.

JOEL

Do your visions always come true?
Mine don't sometimes.

CASSIE

The times you intervene?

They turn the corner and walk.

JOEL

Sometimes, you have to try, don't
you?

CASSIE

How often does anyone listen? I
mean, you tell them what will
happen, and they just laugh.

JOEL

Seeing isn't always a blessing.

CASSIE
Tell me about it.

They stop and smile at each other.

Half a block ahead, a car brakes, skids, and takes out a hydrant. Water gushes into the air. They step to the curb as a window above them opens. Someone knocks off a flower pot that smashes the sidewalk where they had been standing.

They pay no attention.

JOEL
(smiling)
You know, you're the first girl
I've ever met who was like me.

CASSIE
Same here. I thought I was the
only freak in the universe.

JOEL
We could try to make a go of this.
I mean, you're very attractive and--

CASSIE
We have so much in common, and--

JOEL
Neither one of us has had a real
love interest in a long time, and--

CASSIE
It would be fun not to have to hide
all the little visions running
around inside our heads, and--

JOEL
Going to the store for beer without
being told and--

CASSIE
Finding the wine already poured and--

JOEL
Being on the same page when we go
to bed and--

CASSIE
Knowing just what you want me to do
and--

They stop and embrace and kiss, a lovers' kiss.

Without breaking the kiss, they move toward the building as a Police cruiser hits the curb and bounces over where they had been standing.

They break the kiss as two POLICEMEN hop out of the cruiser and run for the wreck and the hydrant.

JOEL
They don't have to run.

CASSIE
No one's hurt.

Joel takes her hand and kisses it.

JOEL
We could try.

She caresses his face.

CASSIE
We could.

JOEL
But it won't work out, will it?

She shakes her head.

JOEL (CONT'D)
I was hoping you'd see things
differently.

CASSIE
We could lie to ourselves.

JOEL
(laughs)
You think I haven't tried that?

CASSIE
It almost worked for me.

They spend another moment looking at each other, wondering if somehow they can cheat fate.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Rick and Madison are getting ready
to leave.

JOEL
Yeah, we should head back.

They turn around and walk for the bar, holding hands.

JOEL (CONT'D)
We could date for a while.

CASSIE
Two dates. Because the third one--

JOEL
Don't remind of the third one.
It'll be awful.

CASSIE
Do you think we'll ever...

JOEL
I can't see that far ahead.

CASSIE
I love the way you're going to do
that thing with your tongue.

JOEL
That doesn't come till dawn,
remember?

CASSIE
How can I forget?

FADE OUT.