HOW CAN I FORGET

Written by

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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
Cassie!

RICK
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.