

INSTA-DREAM

Written by

Richard F. Russell

Wordmstr007@gmail.com
910-285-3321
Copyright

FADE IN:

INT. DINER - DAY

Think Denny's. Half full. Through the door comes NATALIE PERKINS, 30s, pretty and capable. She herds her two children, a boy, BILLY, 10, and a girl, ISABELLA, 8. They move down the aisle and slide into a booth.

TREVOR (O.S.)
Hey, Mrs. Perkins.

Arriving with menus is TREVOR, 30s, name tag on shirt. He's her waiter.

NATALIE
Hello, Trevor, and it's Natalie, remember?

TREVOR
Sure, Mrs...Natalie.

Trevor rubs the heads of Billy and Isabella.

TREVOR
You two look hungry.

NATALIE
They're always hungry.

TREVOR
(to Natalie)
How's everything?

NATALIE
Can't complain too much and you?

TREVOR
Same-o, same-o. I don't think you've seen dad's latest.

NATALIE
Where this time?

TREVOR
Bali.

Trevor fumbles through his pockets and pulls out a cell phone.

TREVOR
White beach, blue water, it looks perfect.

He taps the phone, and a photo of Bali pops up. He hands the phone to Natalie who studies the photo.

TREVOR
He sent several.

NATALIE
(swiping through pics)
Wow, these are great. He certainly knows how to travel, doesn't he?

TREVOR
First class all the way. That's my father.
(beat)
Do you mind?

Natalie smiles.

NATALIE
Of course not.

Trevor takes off his name tag and slides into the booth beside Billy and Isabella. He wraps an arm around them.

NATALIE
(focusing phone)
You know, you could get married and have a couple of your own.

TREVOR
Don't I wish. Who wants to marry a waiter working for quarter tips?

NATALIE
You're a writer.

She takes more than one photo, changing angles.

TREVOR
Name one thing I've had published.
I can't either.

NATALIE
There's someone for everyone.

Trevor stands and takes the phone which he hands to Billy. Then, Trevor slides in beside Natalie as Billy gets ready to shoot pics.

NATALIE
You just have to be honest.

Trevor wraps an arm around Natalie, and they smile as if totally in love. What a husband and wife. Billy takes photos.

TREVOR

I honestly can't afford new shoes.
How's that?

NATALIE

You know what I mean.

TREVOR

There are winners and losers in every game. Dad's a winner. His son is--

NATALIE

You're not a loser.

Trevor slides out of the booth and retrieves his phone from Billy.

TREVOR

Thanks, guys. The ice cream is on me.

He turns, heads away, studying the photo of him and Natalie. Perfect.

INT. ONE ROOM APARTMENT - DAY

Older hands hold a phone that displays the pic of Trevor and Natalie.

The hands belong to Trevor's DAD, 60s, looks older after a tough life. He sits in the only chair next to the single bed in this down-in-the-dumps apartment.

With gentleness, he touches the screen, making the faces of Trevor and Natalie larger, filling the screen.

A smile graces his face as he swipes the screen to reach a photo of Trevor and the children. He zooms in on the kids, so promising.

INT. TRAVEL STORE - DAY

Behind the counter, a WOMAN works on her computer. Door opens, and Dad enters, his clothes the worse for wear. He nods to the Woman who nods back in recognition.

Dad shuffles to a wall of posters--Europe, Caribbean, Egypt, Rio... He takes out his phone and studies the posters until he focuses on Prague, a city-scape.

Dad carefully focuses on the poster. He clicks the phone and examines the photo. Shakes his head and tries again. This time, he smiles at his creation.

INT. DINER - DAY

Natalie smiles at the photo of Prague on Trevor's phone.

TREVOR (O.S.)
Prague. Beautiful, isn't it?

NATALIE
Gorgeous.

Natalie hands the phone to Trevor who stands beside her. The children sit in the booth opposite Natalie.

TREVOR
Some day, after I make it, I'm going to meet him in Nepal. We're going to look at those gigantic mountains and share a drink. We both climbed bigger ones, and we're gonna drink and laugh, drink and laugh.

FADE OUT.