

COUPLES

Written by

David Bemis

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285 Lafayette Street Apt 4A
New York, NY 10012
917.750.2830
dfbemis@gmail.com

INT. BAR-CAFE - DAY

MAGGIE, a white woman, early thirties, sits in a secluded area of a bar/caf e. She is nursing a coffee/drink. Maggie stands up and walks over to an old jukebox in the corner. She looks at the selections, while sipping her drink.

BERNARD, a black man, late twenties, enters, puts his arm around Maggie's waist and looks at the jukebox selections. He has a drink in his other hand.

BERNARD

What looks good?

MAGGIE

You and Stevie Wonder, maybe?

BERNARD

(he sings)

Shoo-Be-Do-Be-Doo-Be-Do-Da-Day. Her feet may wonder, her heart may stray.

MAGGIE & BERNARD

(they harmonize)

Shoo-Be-Do-Be-Doo-Be-Do-Da-Day. You gonna send her baby, straight my way.

BERNARD

That's what I'm talking about.

They kiss and turn back to the jukebox.

HENRY, a white man, early thirties, comes up behind them, stands between them with both arms around their shoulders and peers at the selections on the jukebox.

HENRY

They have any Romones on this baby?

Henry backs up and does his Joey Romone imitation. Bernard and Maggie turn to watch him.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Rock Rock Rock Rock, Rock and Roll High School.

Maggie walks back to the table. Henry turns to Bernard.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Hey, how are you? I saw Carmella with Anton the other night. What's that about?

BERNARD

I've no idea.

HENRY

That Carmella is some sweet, sweet business.

BERNARD

Ancient history, man. Ancient history.

Bernard walks past Henry to the table and sits next to Maggie.

HENRY

I wouldn't have given that one up so easily.

BERNARD

Wouldn't you have? To each his own.

Henry walks toward the table.

HENRY

No, no, no, no, no. Would not have given that one up for sure. Even if I had something else going on, I'd keep that one on the line. You don't give up something that sweet. You don't, no you don't.

MAGGIE

You are so full of shit, Henry.

HENRY

You can say what you want, but I know what I know, and I like what I like.

BERNARD

What does Sasha have to say about that?

HENRY

What she doesn't know, doesn't concern her. I'm my own man. Free and clear. Finding my own way. No strings attached. She knows and respects that. We have an understanding. Anything goes.

MAGGIE

Anything?

HENRY

Sky's the limit. No holes barred.

(he sings)

Fly like an eagle in the sky, fly
like an eagle let the spirit be my
guide.

MAGGIE

That's not how the song goes. The
eagle flies to the sea, and its let
the spirit carry me.

HENRY

Just improvising, baby. Just
improvising. And forget the spirit.
Let me be your guide.

Henry steps to the table and takes Maggie's hand. She pulls
it away.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Don't be shy now.

SASHA, black woman, late twenties, grabs Henry from behind
and gives him a squeeze.

SASHA

Shy? No way baby.

Henry flinches, and Sasha spins him around to face her.

SASHA (CONT'D)

And what's this about a guide? You
taking up canoeing and heading for
the woods? Well, give me a big kiss
before you go, baby.

Sasha locks onto Henry with a passionate full body kiss.
Henry tries to stay cool and aloof, but just as she brings
him into it, Sasha steps back. She turns to Maggie and
Bernard.

SASHA (CONT'D)

And aren't you two something else.
Romance is in the air. It's
contagious.

Bernard puts his arm around Maggie and pulls her close.

Sasha sits at the table across from Bernard. Henry hesitates,
then sits next to Sasha across from Maggie.

BERNARD

That's right, I've got it bad.
Maggie's working her magic, and I'm
all the way gone.

Bernard and Maggie look closely into each others eyes.

Sasha slowly turns to Henry and gives him a look that says,
"Where's mine?"

HENRY

What?

SASHA

You know what.

Bernard kisses Maggie.

Henry looks over at them, then puts his hand on Sasha's
cheek, caresses her neck. She pulls away. He pulls her back
to him for a long kiss.

Both couples are lost in the kissing.

Bernard and Henry eye each other and compete to raise the
temperature of the moment.

Sasha and Maggie break away after both Bernard and Henry
start pushing the envelop.

Sasha and Maggie stand up, rearrange themselves and head back
to the jukebox.

SASHA (CONT'D)

Give it up a little and its like a
ring in the nose. You can lead them
anywhere.

MAGGIE

To a point. Then watch out, tables
will turn.

SASHA

Ohooo, words of wisdom. Look out
for you, girl. Step aside.

Sasha lets Maggie lead the way to the jukebox.

Henry has turned to watch the women, and he turns back to
Bernard.

BERNARD

Who are you kidding, man. Sasha has got you tied up, salted, and stashed in her back pocket.

HENRY

I let her think so. No matter how you shuffle the deck, I always cut to aces.

The women start to dance.

BERNARD

A natural talent.

HENRY

Absolutely. Always have been, always will be.

Henry turns to watch the women dance.

Bernard joins them and they dance as a threesome.

Henry plays it cool for a bit, then jumps up and grabs Sasha to dance with him.

MAGGIE

What a dick.

BERNARD

It's hard work being him.

Henry picks up the tempo and swings Sasha rhythmically.

Maggie and Bernard watch Sasha and Henry kick it up a notch. They are really in sync when abruptly, Henry breaks away and pulls Maggie to him. He sweeps her away leaving Bernard and Sasha alone.

Bernard and Sasha start to dance.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

How's things Sasha? You're as fine as ever.

SASHA

Keep it up, Bernard. I like the sound of that. I'm good. I'm always good.

Sasha glances over at Henry.

SASHA (CONT'D)

Truth is, Mr. Rambunctious over there has been getting on my nerves lately. Thinks he's god's gift or some shit. It's annoying.

BERNARD

I've been wondering about him myself. Needs a good kick in the ass is all.

SASHA

A swift kick in the head, wouldn't hurt.

Bernard and Sasha get into dancing together.

Henry notices and presses on with Maggie.

HENRY

No, I mean it. I haven't been able to take my eyes off you lately. Bernard being my best friend and all, I've kept it under raps, but I'm telling you. You are knocking me out.

MAGGIE

You think I'm buying that for even an instant, you have lost your mind.

HENRY

It's god's truth. I'm not lying.

MAGGIE

Nice try.

Henry urges Maggie to step it up. When she looks over to see Bernard and Sasha getting into it, she responds in kind.

Bernard ups the ante and Henry responds, until the two couples are really working it.

Sasha and Maggie humor the men a bit longer and then break away to dance together slowly.

Bernard and Henry watch the women dance.

HENRY

Now that is hot.

BERNARD

Two can play at that game.

Bernard starts to dance next to Henry.

HENRY

What? You crazy? Not my thing. No way, no how.

BERNARD

It really get's them going. Show your vulnerable side. Live dangerously.

HENRY

I don't think so. Who told you that shit?

Bernard starts to dance in front of Henry.

BERNARD

Not man enough?

HENRY

Watch out now.

Henry starts to dance with Bernard. They get into it. Maggie and Sasha pour it on to compete, back and forth raising the bar between the couples.

Bernard puts his hand on Henry's hip. Henry pushes it away.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Hands off, Slick.

Maggie and Sasha get close and caress each other. Henry grabs Bernard and pulls them together.

Maggie and Sasha make like they are going to kiss. Bernard moves to kiss Henry. Henry pulls away and then breaks free.

They all stop dancing, go back and sit at the table. They look at each other seriously.

HENRY (CONT'D)

What the fuck.

They all break out laughing and cutting up.