

SARAH

1/5

START

FAN

Because she had broken the sacred code of the Baldroozen nymphs? I guess she had it coming, right?

JUSTIN

Um...actually I was inspired because I was commissioned from the movie studio. You see, the movie was already out, so...that's what I do. I just write down EXACTLY what happened...in the movie. It is what it is.

Hurt, the Fan turns to walk away. Justin sighs and signs the next book. A very pretty, tall blonde woman, SARAH (29) walks into the store.

SARAH

Surprise!

JUSTIN

Oh my god. Sarah?

She gives him a hug.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Sarah Anderson. Holy shit.

SARAH

It's actually Sarah Schipper now.

She shows him her ring finger.

JUSTIN

Wow, that's crazy. Congratulations. What are you doing here?

SARAH

My husband works across the street. I saw your name...thought I'd pop in to say hello to my old college boyfriend.

JUSTIN

Ha. Yup. Wow. Across the street?

SARAH

Hey, congratulations on everything. With the whole writing thing.

JUSTIN

Yeah it's not bad. Where does he work? At the Puma store?

(CONTINUED)

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SARAH

Oh. No. He's a...columnist.

JUSTIN

(putting it together)

At the Times?

SARAH

Yeah.

JUSTIN

The New York Times.

SARAH

Uh huh. Joel does international
correspondence. He's amazing.

JUSTIN

Joel? Joel Schipper? Not *the* Joel
Schipper. The...?

SARAH

Pulitzer prize winner. Yup. That's him.

Justin looks deflated. He looks at his "Teen Vampire"
books and banner, embarrassed.

JUSTIN

Nice. (beat) I'm planning on writing some
better stuff...some of my own stuff...at
some point. This is just a transition
job.

SARAH

I'm sure.

Beat.

JUSTIN

Wow. Huh. So you're married.

SARAH

Yeah. And you? What about you? You have a
family? Wife? Kids?

JUSTIN

Um...nope. Nope of the above.

SARAH

No? Not even a girlfriend?

JUSTIN

Nope.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

3/s

SARAH

Aw...well, there's still time to find THE ONE.

JUSTIN

Yeah. "THE ONE." Yikes.

Awkward laugh.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

You still doing the...uh...soccer for kids thing?

SARAH

You mean basketball for victims of domestic violence?

JUSTIN

You were so into that.

SARAH

But anyway no, that ended a long time ago.

JUSTIN

Oh.

SARAH

Yeah.

JUSTIN

Right.

Awkward beat.

SARAH

How are your parents doing?

Justin hesitates.

JUSTIN

They're...they got divorced after I left college, so it's kinda been awhile since...

SARAH

No! Are you kidding?! Oh man. They always seemed like they had the best relationship. I was always jealous. Wow. I'm honestly really shocked.

JUSTIN

Yeah. (Beat) So was Dad.

Awkward pause.

SARAH

Oh, guess where Joel and I are spending the summer?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

4/s
JUSTIN
Disneyworld?

SARAH
Espoo.

JUSTIN
(no idea what she's talking
about)

Um?

SARAH
Espoo.

He supresses his juvenile amusement. Still no idea.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Espoo. Where my whole family's from...Are
you kidding?

JUSTIN
No, of course I remember...Germany.

SARAH
It's in Finland. We talked about getting
married there?

Justin just awkwardly stares back at her.

SARAH (CONT'D)
It's nice to see you haven't changed at
all, Justin.

Super awkward beat.

SARAH (CONT'D)
I've actually always wanted to thank you.

Beat.

JUSTIN
Oh. You're welcome?

SARAH
(Genuine)
No, I mean it. You forced me not to
settle. And now I'm with someone who gets
me and listens to me. I couldn't be
happier. So...thank you, Justin.

JUSTIN
Right on. Well, that's good. Meant to be
I guess, cause, I'm pretty happy too.
Definitely looking to settle down...but I
have tons of options, so...

(CONTINUED)

5/5

SARAH

That's great. I really hope you find someone who appreciates you...and who you truly appreciate in return. Take care.

She turns and leaves. Justin watches her go.

~~STOP~~ *

10

INT. BRAZEN HEAD - NYC - EARLY EVENING

10 *

JUSTIN (PRE-LAP)

She was looking at me like I was the saddest piece of shit she'd ever seen. I mean...

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*

Justin is throwing darts. Eliot brings two beers over.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

...congrats to her that she found someone. But she didn't have to pin point the fact that I was a shitty boyfriend before she took off for poo poo town or wherever. The ONE? She said The ONE! "Oh, you didn't find The ONE yet?" Like there's supposed to be one girl out there who's perfect for me? That's insane.

ELIOT

It doesn't have to be THE one, dude. You just need to find a cool girl to date. You know what I mean?

JUSTIN

You have no idea how hard it is to meet girls. Cool girls. Now. It's not like it was in college. Here in the real world, you have two options. Option one: sheer fucking luck. Option two: have the balls to go up to one, unsolicited, at a bar...sorry, a "lounge", and risk complete public humiliation. And most of THEM are waiting for richer, better looking guys with more game.

ELIOT

Why don't you try one of those online dating sites? Doug Strowhouser met his wife on one of those things.

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JUSTIN

Strowhouser's out of jail?

*

Eliot nods.

(CONTINUED)