

A Sweet Romance

"Charlie"  
le pages

GLORIA

Um, because we have no control over the position of the rotational axis of the Earth relative to the sun?

EMILY

It's cold outside and we are all sitting around eating the best ice cream in the world, right?

GLORIA

New Englanders eat more ice cream per capita than anywhere else in the country.

EMILY

Exactly. And we eat it year round. Why isn't the ice cream stand open?!

SUSAN

Because we always close for the Winter.

EMILY

Why?

SUSAN

It's just what we've always done.

GLORIA

That's silly. People still want ice cream.

EMILY

Well then, that's it! We'll open the shop. Ice cream for Christmas!

Off Emily's excitement...

CUT TO:

18

EXT. WHITE DAIRY FARM - CREAMERY - DAY

18

Emily stands behind the counter of the ice cream stand, drumming her fingers.

f41

Outside, a car pulls into the parking lot, but just to turn around and drive away. Emily sighs. She grabs a cloth to wipe the already spotless counter one more time.

Testa / Ystrom Casting

1/6

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

She perks up as another car pulls in. This one stops. The car door opens and someone gets out. Emily quickly smooths her apron and puts on her best smile.

The bell rings as the front door opens.

START →

EMILY

Welcome to White's Ice Cream...

Charlie enters.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Oh, it's you.

CHARLIE

I guess I deserved that.

Charlie looks around.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

No strays in here today?

EMILY

Oh, I wouldn't say that. I think one just walked in.

CHARLIE

I come in peace. Actually, you're exactly who I was looking for.

EMILY

If you're going to try to talk me into selling again...

CHARLIE

No, no you made yourself pretty clear on that. I'm just here to look around. I'm showing the buyers the facilities tomorrow, so I thought I should see them first.

EMILY

Well, don't let me slow you down. I've got a lot to do.

Charlie looks around at the empty shop.

CHARLIE

I can see that.

He stands at the counter, not leaving.

EMILY

Anything else?

Scene  
1

CHARLIE  
Well, while I'm here...

He peers at the menu.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
What's good?

EMILY  
Everything.

CHARLIE  
Okay.

He pulls out his wallet.

EMILY  
Okay, what?

CHARLIE  
Okay, give me a scoop of  
everything.

EMILY  
We have sixteen flavors.

CHARLIE  
And I want to try them all. With  
sprinkles.

Emily can't help but laugh.

EMILY  
Seriously?

CHARLIE  
Yeah.

EMILY  
Okay. One gigantic sundae, coming  
up.

She grabs her scoop and gets to work, as Charlie walks  
around, checking the place out.

END

19 INT. WHITE FARM - CREAMERY - DAY - LATER

19

Emily sets an enormous 16-scoop sundae on the table in front  
of Charlie.

CHARLIE  
Wow.

3/4

They dance more and she lays her head against his chest.

They've caught the attention of all the rest of the players in the room. Gloria elbows Susan.

And Edgar Samuels, the real estate broker who visited the creamery earlier, watches them dance from the shadows.

56 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD BARN - NIGHT

56

Emily and Charlie stroll among the Christmas lights outside the barn.

She's looped her hand through the crook his elbow.

Scene  
2

START →

CHARLIE

Want to know why I really came back?

EMILY

You mean you didn't come to help me bake pies?

CHARLIE

No, I did. I just... I was so happy to have an excuse to see you again.

EMILY

Really?

CHARLIE

Yeah. You, this place, the ice cream, your love for it. The passion you put into running the farm. I couldn't stop thinking about it.

She snuggles closer.

EMILY

I'm really glad you came.

CHARLIE

Me too.

EMILY

So, what are we going to do about it?

He stops and looks at her. She looks back at him hungrily... longingly. He shares her desire. They almost kiss, but then Charlie breaks the moment.

4/4

CHARLIE

Emily, there's something I should tell you.

EMILY

What is it?

CHARLIE

It's about the farm. Your sister, she...

Suddenly, Jingle Bells starts playing in the barn.

EMILY

Oh, shoot, I promised Gloria I'd be there for this. Her kids...

CHARLIE

It's okay. I need to get going. It's a four hour drive back to the city and I have to be at work in the morning.

EMILY

Back to reality?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

EMILY

When will I see you again?

CHARLIE

Well, one way or another, I guess we'll be back up here on Christmas Eve.

This stings a little. Charlie notices.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Remember, business is business, but family is family.

EMILY

I know.

CHARLIE

I wish you all the luck in the world on your crowd funding campaign. I really think you can make it. Don't give up on your father's dream. It's too important.

He turns and starts to walk away, but pauses.



CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
I'm rooting for you.

END

He leaves. Emily chokes back tears, both inspired and heart broken at the same time.

She runs back toward the barn.

57

INT. WHITE FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

57

Emily sits with her mother, Susan, on the couch. She's got a box of tissues and she needs it.

EMILY  
I'm such an idiot. How did I fall for him?

SUSAN  
You're only human and he's a charming man.

EMILY  
What did I think, that he was some sort of knight in shining armor who was going to swoop in and save the day? He's here to sell the farm, it's as simple as that.

SUSAN  
But I think he has real feelings for you.

EMILY  
He's more concerned with doing the deal. Getting a win/win.

SUSAN  
Well, think about it for a minute. What's the win/win scenario?

EMILY  
From our perspective? Dorothy gets her money, we get the farm. But I don't think they really care if we keep the farm.

SUSAN  
I think there is a third win here. I think Dorothy gets her money, we get the farm and you two get each other. If he's working to make that deal, what's his next play?

6/6