

WHITE ROSE

Written by

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INT. BEDROOM - DAY - VALENTINE'S DAY

A huge bouquet of red roses, one white rose in the centre, in a vase on the dressing table. Lingerie, black PVC, pink silk, purple lace, covers the bed.

TRISH (40s) wrapped in a towel, blow dries her hair.

JOHN (V.O.)

Today's the day. Our special day.  
The day we met. Bought you a purple  
rose, for love at first sight.

Trish dresses in matching purple - lace bra, knickers, high heels - hot, hot hot - but too hot?

JOHN (V.O.)

Your demure appearance belied your  
adventurous nature, you always  
surprised me.

Trish pours herself into a black PVC basque and thigh high boots. Checks herself out in the full-length mirror - a mistress in charge - but not for today.

Trish rummages in her wardrobe, she emerges with a white box.

JOHN (V.O.)

Happiest day of my life. My  
buttonhole and your bouquet -  
white roses. Our eternal love.

Trish in white bustier, panties, stockings, slips on a garter. Allows herself a smile in front of the mirror.

JOHN (V.O.)

We talked about who would go first.  
I said you, and you said you, then  
you cried and I held you tight.

Trish slips into a little black dress, next hair and make up.

JOHN (V.O.)

Ten years. I never said 'too  
long'. Never joked you were just my  
'first' wife. Never mentioned you  
could 'get less for manslaughter'.

Trish - done. Checks her reflection - PERFECT.  
Deep breath. Ready.

EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

Trish navigates around buckets of roses that swamp the pavement. Newsagents' windows festooned with balloons, cards, teddy bears, chocolates. An explosion of red hearts.

EXT./INT. HOSPITAL ENTRANCE - DAY

Trish traipses past the concessions. "Lover's coffee" at the cafe. "Be Mine" balloons buffet against each other. "Look after your heart" posters cover the walls.

INT. FLORIST, HOSPITAL - DAY

Roses in buckets full to the brim, red, white, pink, yellow.

Trish picks out individual ones, inspects them, puts them back, over and over, it has to be perfect.

JOHN (V.O.)  
You waited a long time for me.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

Trish carries a single white rose.

A DOCTOR greets her with a hug.

JOHN (V.O.)  
I'm sorry I put you through this.

INT. PRIVATE ROOM, HOSPITAL - DAY

Trish enters the room, the Doctor follows.

JOHN (40s) comatose in bed, tracheotomy tube attached to a ventilator, breathes for him. Pale lips.

Heart monitor beeps - steady, slow.

Ventilator pumps - up and down, up and down.

Trish lays the white rose on the bed next to John's hand, she trembles. All over.

She signals to the Doctor.

Trish kisses John full on the lips - she holds the kiss.

JOHN (V.O.)  
Till death do us part.

The Doctor switches off the ventilator.

Moments pass.

Flat line on the heart monitor - a continuous beep.

FADE TO BLACK.