

WHO PAYS?

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. THE FRONT ENTRANCE TO ZEITGEIST NIGHTCLUB - DAY.

The club is situated on a CITY CENTRE ROAD and is currently closed but a POSTER stuck next to the FRONT DOORS reads 'VALENTINE'S NIGHT BALL TONIGHT'. Smaller text underneath states that it is 'COUPLES ONLY' and that the price is '£100 - UNBEATABLE VALUE!'. JOE TARRANT, a young man of UNDERGRADUATE AGE walks past the entrance. He stops on noticing the sign. As he reads it he shivers. LISA BURGOYNE, a young woman of similar age to him walks past and stops on seeing him.

LISA
Chilly isn't it?

JOE
Hi, Lisa. Yeah, whose stupid idea was it to have Valentine's Day in February?

LISA
August would have got my vote.

JOE
In the middle of the vacs?

LISA
Exactly. A girl's gotta know she's not just a passing fancy.

JOE
Fair enough.

LISA
You got someone lined up for tonight then?

JOE
At that price on student money? Even if I could afford it she'd have to be a very special lady.

EXT. THE ENTRANCE TO A UNIVERSITY - DAY.

Joe and Lisa arrive at the entrance together and bump into DEBORAH LOVETT. She is their sort of age but her OUTFIT shows her to be more well off than the average student. She exudes self confidence.

DEBORAH
Hunky Joe! Hi!

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CONTINUED:

JOE
Hello Deborah. New coat?

DEBORAH
You bet, dream boat. Have cash, get
you what you want. I'll see you
later, hunk.

She swaggers off. Joe looks bemused.

LISA
Rich bitch!

INT. THE UNIVERSITY CANTEEN - DAY.

Joe and Lisa sit at a CANTEEN TABLE. They are trying to have
a conversation but Deborah's arrival interrupts them.

DEBORAH
So, hunk, be my Valentine tonight?

JOE
That question merits an answer. How
much? £100?

DEBORAH
(To herself)
Zeitgeist?
(To Joe)
Done!

LISA
Let's see it.

Deborah places a WAD OF NOTES on the table. Joe takes it.

JOE
Thanks but sorry. You're not my
type.

DEBORAH
No way I've paid! Oral contract!

JOE
That was the fee for answering your
question and you've got your
answer. Lisa, I've got the price of
a Zeitgeist ticket here. Are you
free tonight?

LISA
Oh, I'd love to! Thank you.

They kiss, exaggerating to rub it in. Deborah seethes.

FADE OUT.