

It Only Happens In The Movies?

By Ellyn Heeley

ehkeley145@gmail.com

INT. BUSY OFFICE.DAY

[THE OFFICE IS DECORATED WITH RED/PINK LOVE HEARTS STUCK TO VARIOUS WALLS AND COMPUTERS. TWO WOMAN SIT NEXT TO EACH OTHER AT A DESK WITH A COMPUTER EACH. ROSE, TYPING, AND HOPE, QUIET, RESERVED, TYPING SLOWER WITH AN EMPTY SEAT NEXT TO HER. BOTH WEAR HEAD SETS.]

ROSE

You alright, Hope? The Valentine's Day buzz not getting you down?

HOPE

I'm fine.

Rose

Don't worry about it, it's just commercial rubbish, it'll be over tomorrow. [STOPS TYPING AND FACES HER] Bet it's weird without your man after working with him for so long. [HOPE GLANCES AT THE EMPTY SEAT] You know, everyone thought you two would get together.

Hope

They did?

Rose

You didn't?

Hope

Half of me might have thought so... when Dan left this morning, I thought something might happen but it's his teaching that's on his mind, not me...it's too late to do anything now, it's not like India's a bus ride away.

Rose

You should have made your move when you had him in your reach! Men like Dan don't come along every day! I wouldn't have let my Gareth slip out of my grip, he's my world, I-

Hope

Yes. Ok, I get the message.

Rose

You'll find someone new! There's Barry in IT, remember.

[THEY BOTH LOOK OVER AT A NERDY, AWKWARD MAN, TRYING TO FIX A PAPER JAM ON THE PRINTER, UNSUCCESSFULLY]

Hope

[UNCERTAINLY] Yes...there's Barry.

[A SKYPE REQUEST POPS UP ON HOPE'S COMPUTER; 'DAN CALLING'. HOPE EXCITEDLY SMOOTHS OUT HER HAIR AND CLICKS ON 'ANSWER'. DAN, WALL BEHIND HIM BUT NOTHING ELSE, WEARING A WHITE VEST TOP AND SWEATING APPEARS ON THE SCREEN]

Hope

Dan! Where are you? How are you getting on? What's it like?

DAN

[LAUGHING] It's great! Guess what! I've already got my eye on someone! Let me show you her. She's gorgeous.

Hope

[SADLY] Really?

[DAN, COMES THROUGH THE OFFICE DOOR BEHIND HOPE, SILENTLY, TURNS THE LAPTOP HE'S HOLDING AROUND SO HOPE SEES HER OWN BACK. THE OFFICE STAFF WATCH, AMUSED. HOPE LOOKS AND THE PENNY DROPS, SHE SPINS AROUND AND HUGS DAN. ROSE WATCHES AND SMILES.]

Hope

What are you doing here?

Dan

I got to the airport and just suddenly realized that I wasn't going towards my dream, I was getting further away from it. Because you, Hope- [PUTS LAPTOP DOWN] -are my dream. [HOLDS HER HANDS] You have been since the first time I laid eyes on you at the staff induction day, five years ago. You make it worth while to get up in the mornings to cold call people who don't care about whether we can offer ten percent off their bills. I have been stood out there in that hall, like an idiot, warning everyone who came in, Sally, Paul, Dean, Barry not to tell you I was here, the last hour was spent trying to Skype you and dipping my vest top in the office loo's sinks to make me look sweaty. [EVERYONE LAUGHS] I'd do all that for you a hundred times over, which is why today is perfect.

Hope

Today? The fourteenth of Febru- [SHE STOPS AS DAN GETS DOWN ON ONE KNEE AND PULLS OUT A RING]

Dan

Will you marry me, Hope? And make my dream come true?

[HOPE SQUEALS A YES, THE OFFICE STAFF CHEER AS DAN AND HOPE KISS, PASSIONATELY. OUT OF THE BACKGROUND A REAL LIFE DIRECTOR APPEARS]

DIRECTOR

Cut! [ALL THE CHARACTERS ARE ACTORS AND LISTEN TO THE DIRECTOR. 'DAN' AND 'HOPE' PULL APART] That was good but let's take it from the top, you need to look more in love. [TO 'HOPE'] I really need to believe that he's just given up his brand new career in India just because he loves you. [THE CHARACTERS MOVE BACK INTO THEIR ORIGINAL POSITIONS] Ok, ACTION!

END OF SCENE