

BATTERED ROSES

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1 INT. ANNIE'S DINING ROOM - EVENING

[A ROOM DECORATED FOR VALENTINES NIGHT. THERE IS A LONG TABLE, LAID, WITH RED CANDLES. THERE IS A BOTTLE OF SPARKLING WINE AND TWO GLASSES. MUSIC PLAYS SOFTLY IN THE BACKGROUND. ANNIE IS LIGHTING THE LAST CANDLE. IT FLICKERS INTO LIFE AND SHE BLOWS OUT THE MATCH. SHE IS IN A RED DRESS, HER BLOND HAIR SWEEPED UP INTO A FRENCH TWIST. SHE SURVEYS THE TABLE, SMILING. THE DOOR BELL GOES AND SHE HURRIES TO ANSWER IT.]

2 INT. ANNIE'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

[ANNIE RUSHES DOWN THE HALLWAY AND PULLS THE FRONT DOOR OPEN. LEO, HER BOYFRIEND STANDS THERE, ARMED WITH BATTERED ROSES. HE IS HANDSOME WITH DARK EYES AND HAS A SLIM FRAME. THERE IS A DEEP CUT ON HIS FOREHEAD.]

LEO

Happy valentines! [PRESENTS HER WITH THE FLOWERS]

[SHE STARES, CONFUSED AT THE STATE OF THE FLOWERS. SHE LOOKS BACK AT HIM]

ANNIE

What have you done to your head?

LEO

What? Nothing! [GRABBING HER ARM] Come on, I've got a surprise for you.

[HE MAKES HIS WAY DOWN THE HALLWAY BUT IS LIMPING. SHE FOLLOWS]

3 INT. ANNIE'S DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

[LEO GRINS WHEN HE SEES WHAT SHE HAS DONE IN THE DINING ROOM.]

LEO

Oh Annie, this is perfect!

ANNIE

Perfect for what? [POINTING TO HIS LEGS] Why are you...?

LEO

[PLACING A FINGER ON HER LIPS] Shh! [HE DROPS TO ONE KNEE AND BRINGS OUT A SMALL BOX. ANNIE GASPS.] Annie. I love you more than anything else in the whole wide world. Even more than rugby...

[ANNIE SNORTS, HALF LAUGHING, HALF CRYING.]

LEO

[OPENING THE BOX TO SHOW A RING] Will you marry me?

[SHE LAYS THE ROSES ON THE TABLE AND PUTS HER HANDS TO HER FACE. SHE NODS. LEO JUMPS TO HIS FEET AND THEY SHARE A LONG AND PASSIONATE KISS. HE SLIPS THE RING ONTO HER FINGER. ANNIE STARTS TO SPEAK BUT THERE IS AN ABRUPT RING OF THE DOOR BELL.]

ANNIE

Just let me go and tell who ever it is to get lost.

LEO

Sounds fun, can I come?

4 INT. ANNIE'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

[ANNIE OPENS THE DOOR TO A POLICEMAN. LEO STANDS BEHIND HER. FOCUS TURNS TO ANNIE]

ANNIE

Can I help you?

POLICEMAN

Annie Goodman? [SHE NODS.] May I come in?

ANNIE

Erm... not a great time actually...

POLICEMAN

It's just...I'm very sorry. I've got some bad news about your boyfriend.

[ANNIE STARES AT THE POLICEMAN FOR A SECOND THEN WHIPS ROUND. LEO HAS GONE]

POLICEMAN

[VERY GENTLY] It was a hit and run. A quick blow to the head.

[ANNIE LIFTS HER HAND UP TO HER FACE. THE RING IS NO LONGER THERE.]

Policeman CONT'

It would have been quick, Miss Goodman. [PAUSE] He was carrying roses.

END

