

"LIPS STICK"

Written by  
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INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

ALEC and CLARE, a perfect-looking 30-something couple, have been arguing. Alec aggressively signs the bill, Clare looks fed up. As Alec rudely brushes away a FLOWER SELLER Clare berates him for not being a gentleman. An OLD LADY in a white jacket finishes her meal next to them and pretends to not notice their row.

A WAITER appears with a camera and ushers the couple together for a photo. Looking disinterested, Alec and Clare lean in for the obligatory kiss on the lips. The flash is blindingly bright. Barely noticed, the Old Lady gets up leaves. The waiter disappears. Alec and Clare wonder why their kiss has lasted so long, as neither can pull away. Their lips are stuck together.

CUT TO:

Two WAITERS try and fail to pull the couple apart in a tug-of-war with several CUSTOMERS joining in. A CHEF with a lit blow-torch appears offering to help. Panicked, Alec and Clare manage to stand up and shuffle out of the restaurant.

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - NIGHT

Alec and Clare sit cross-legged on the table. A FEMALE DOCTOR looks on, puzzled. Then an idea hits her. She reaches into her pocket and takes out her camera-phone. Laughing, she takes a photo of the pair.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Alec and Clare shuffle onto the bus only to find there are no free seats, so they improvise.

CUT TO:

Clare is wrapped around Alec, her legs around his waist. They try to act natural amongst the disgusted PASSENGERS. As the bus rolls on Clare's mobile rings and she instinctively she answers it, offering only muffled replies. Alec looks bemused. At the back of the bus, un-noticed, is the old lady from the restaurant.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alec and Clare struggle to undress for bed. Their shoes come off easy, as does Alec's trousers and Clare's skirt. He coolly unzips the back of her top and casts it aside. As Clare tries to lift off Alec's jumper it gets stuck on their lips. Improvising, Clare fumbles around for a pair of scissors and cuts open his jumper, much to Alec's despair and Clare's relief. A moment of joy in a tense situation.

CUT TO:

Alec and Clare are both awake laying in bed and look moments away from strangling each other. Without thinking Alec rolls over, hurling them both over the side of the bed. Clare scowls, Alec stifles a laugh.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Unable to sleep Alec and Clare sit at the kitchen table in dressing gowns, ignoring each other. The clock shows it's almost midnight. Clare is texting while Alec completes a crossword in the paper. Suddenly he feels a tickle in his nose -- A sneeze is brewing and Alec's eyes start water. He tries to warn Clare by writing "sneeze" on the paper but she grabs the pen and starts writing "screw you". As she notices the agony on Alec's face he sneezes. The force crashes their heads together and they collapse onto the floor.

A beat.

The clock strikes midnight. Dazed, Alec and Clare stand up and dust themselves down.

ALEC

Are you okay?

CLARE

Yeah... I'm... Fine?

Alec and Clare notice they're no longer joined at the lips and embrace like they've just fallen in love for the first time but wisely, without a kiss. Through the kitchen window the old lady from the restaurant appears. She's smiles knowingly, mischievously and disappears in a flash.

FADE OUT.